

# **The History of the Assmann Family**

## **Part 1**

**By**  
**Shelley Kloczko and Judith Silverthorne**

The History of the Assmann Family. Part 1.

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*The village of Henau in the German Hunsrück region, where our ancestors came from  
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*The Assmanns - a family history that spans two continents and stretches over thousands of kilometres (Image: Google Maps).*

## Preface

This incredibly illuminating book is what happens when two individuals who have a deep love of exploring family connections and genealogical research combine their talents for a common goal. Although related – our grandfathers were brothers – we didn’t actually know about each other’s shared interests until 2016.

From Shelley: I always tell people that I met you 30 years ago at a book launch at the bookstore on South Albert St. Then it took Richard Piller to reacquaint us by telling you that I was doing family research. All I remember from the first meeting in 2016 that we hit it off right away and talked for 2 hours. Then I said, “now what?” We agreed – you can write, and I can to genealogical research. A match for sure! Here we are years later.

Shelley Kloczko is a graduate of The National Institute for Genealogical Studies, University of St Michael’s College in the University of Toronto. She has certificates in Genealogical Studies: General Methodology and Genealogical Studies: Canadian Records. She has published several articles for the Saskatchewan Genealogical Society, Regina Branch newsletter – Now and Then. She was the 2020 Saskatchewan Genealogy Society, Heritage Award recipient for her support and preservation of family history and genealogy in Saskatchewan, through indexing projects, presentations, interviews and volunteering on executives. She has done extensive travelling to conduct research on her own, including several trips to the US to gather information on our relatives there.

From Judith: I remember Edward (Eddy) Assmann coming to my grandparent’s farm when I was about 12 years old. He was doing family research, and I was fascinated. Years later, I fired up that inspiration and in the late 1970s and early 1980s began tracking our ancestors, ironically inheriting Eddy’s original research materials after he passed. Other research was done through a multitude of letters to everyone I could think of in North America, and luckily there were still grandparents and great-grandparents and great-aunts and uncles I could ask. I sometimes hired researchers to look up something obscure for me, and I spent hours typing up the information on a typewriter until I had a booklet and a family chart that I hand photocopied and distributed to family members at cost. Life intervened with raising a family and I let everything lapse. Then I met Shelley, and I was instantly hooked again.

We are thrilled to work together in producing this book. While there is more information available even at one’s fingertips compared to the days when I started, there are still things we haven’t been able to find, but the challenge is exhilarating and the discoveries fascinating as we piece the lives of our families and ancestors together. The journey has been incredibly rewarding!

We made some profound discoveries and continued to do so over time, leading us to believe and say many times when we discovered something wonderful, “See our ancestors want us to find them.”

We were fortunate to travel to Ukraine in 2017 to locate the ancestral villages of our great-grandparents and those generations who lived there before them from the late 1700s to 1800s. We managed to find many of their home locations, although names and borders are changed now, and in more than one instance the villages no longer exist. When our ancestors lived in the region that is now known as Ukraine, their address was Galicia, Austria, until they moved across the border into Volhynia, Russia. What an experience that was to see the homelands of those who had gone before us.



We continued tracing our family lines farther into the past. The following year, we travelled back to the land of our earliest known relatives to stand on the soil and in the villages in Germany where the Assmann family originated as far as we could decipher. There we connected to a branch of our family that had never left Germany and met another cousin – Jutta Altmeyer.

In fact, Jutta and her family reside in the same village where our ancestors have lived for at least four hundred years and maybe much longer. Her and our great-grandfathers 7 times back were brothers: Johann Lorenz Assmann (1678) and Johann Peter Assmann (1680). You'll find information about them all in this book.

In 2019, Judith was on a European book tour where she made a personal connection with another distant cousin in Vienna, Austria – Barbara Denscher. Barbara was from a branch of the family that stayed in Austria when our ancestors left for North America. Our great-great-great-grandfathers were brothers: Georg Jakob Assmann (1798) and Georg Assmann (1802). They too are featured in this family history.

Along the way we made so many other wonderful and valuable connections to family members, researchers, and others who have helped enrich this project with details and contributions for which we are so grateful. Especially to Barbara, who helped us immensely with translations, locating citations, photographs, maps and provided all kinds of insights historical and contemporary unknown to us in North America.

Thousands of hours have been devoted to compiling our family's information and we are grateful too for everyone's contributions of their stories and other information. We are so very pleased to be able to share it with you and to leave a legacy for those who may wish to continue the legacy for future generations.

We are also humbled and thankful to our ancestors for all that they forged for us. Without the tenacity, integrity, and stoic resilience, and yes, desperation (and then the miraculous opportunity to provide a better life for their families), our ancestors would not have provided the basis of where we are living today in the relative harmony of North America.

Whether we go back 50 years, 150 years, or 450 years, we find that conflicts between political powers over land and religious leanings determined the ever-changing face of country boundaries and their rulers in Europe. With it came heartache, poverty, religious persecution, ethnic stigmas, cultural oppression, and devastating change and hardship, which our ancestors certainly faced throughout their lives.

These upheavals affected language, culture, religion, education, work, ownerships, and society-at-large to such a large degree that the countries from which our ancestors first lived became unrecognizable to later generations and certainly to us. Our forebears were forced to move, often travelling under diligent restrictions and duress, arriving only to find conditions not as advertised. Over time they would once again find themselves forced to pull up roots and venture forth in search of safety and sanctuary. The continuity of oppression throughout much of our ancestors' existence seems to have created a strong sense of endurance and stamina in our stock. Certainly, as we learn about the ongoing line of generations, their perseverance and determination are evident.



*Shelley Kloczko*



*Judith Silverthorne*

There is no telling where the very early origins of our ancestors may have derived. Often wars and its accompanying destruction obliterated records. At the time of this writing, we were only able to trace our lineage to a certain time in history through diligent research sources that are luckily still available. These parameters form a designated place to start in the history of our ancestors, though this doesn't mean the work will end.

Our story for now then, begins in Germany.  
Shelley & Judith

Sadly, Shelley Kloczko passed on 25 May 2024 before we had completed this project together. I am determined to bring our family history to a conclusion with what we had gathered so far, as a legacy for someone to carry forward, and as a tribute to Shelley.  
Judith

# Acknowledgements

## Family Members/Researchers:

Edward Assman – an inspiration for Judith from the time she was ten years old, and later in the 1980s when she embarked on continuing his research.

Barbara Denscher  
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Gail McConnachie  
Sandra Krywchuk

## Family Members/Interviews:

Freida Saustanik  
Elaine Iles  
Mary Shpak  
Raymond Assman

And thank you to the many, many family members who provided information and otherwise contributed to make this a successful and all-encompassing family history.

## Also thanks to researchers, interpreters, etc

Veronika Lankeshofer  
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Saskatchewan Genealogical Society  
Family Search Centre-Regina

Collection of Galizien Village Family Books distributed by the Galizien German Descendants Organization on behalf of Manfred Daum.



# Introduction

This book is a labour of love, contributed to over the years by many enthusiastic people who have gathered information that is phenomenally complex to find, but equally rewarding. In order to make some semblance of the mountains of material we've gathered, we have chosen a structure that we hope makes the most sense to those reading about our families and their histories for the first time.

We have tried to be as comprehensive as possible to give an overall flavour of the context in which our ancestors lived, yet with documented facts brief enough to be of interest to appeal to a wide variety of enthusiasts, plus citations and references for where to find more information for those who choose to do so.

Above all, we have tried to use consistent formats throughout the book, and followed appropriate citation parameters, according to standard genealogical accepted practices. Below, you will find information about the rationale we used throughout the book for the spellings of names and places, followed by an overview of the contents covered.

## Spelling of People Names

As in all genealogical research the spelling of a surname can vary considerably throughout the ages, and so has our family name. In the period of our research from the 1600s to the current time, we have found these spellings: Assman, Assmann, Aßmann, Asman, Asmann, and some descendants later purposely and officially changed the spelling to Ausman, Ahsmann or Osman.

Throughout the earlier centuries, the name was found recorded in several documents, including as a first name. These spellings were found in the following centuries as a last name: in 1463 as Aßmann; in about 805 as Osmannus, and in the 10th century as Asmon. These two spellings, Ahsmann and Assmussen, were common through several eras and in 1445, it was used both as a last name spelled Aßmann and a first name with the examples of Eraßmann Jünger and in 1565 as last names Aßmann and Aßmus and in this person's first name, Eraßmus Winke. As well, the name was used much earlier as a Rufname (call name), such as in Old Saxon either As or Os, meaning 'god'. In Low German spelling in 1414 the name was Assemann, which was a professional name referring to an 'Axis Maker'. The Middle Low German word for axis is "asse", hence Assemann.<sup>1</sup>

There are several different possibilities for the origin of the name "Assmann":

- 1) It is thought to have derived from the Greek word "erasmos", meaning "loved" and was initially a first name. It was most likely originally borne as a surname by the son of someone named Assmann or a variation of it.<sup>2</sup> It may also be a much altered pet form of the first name Asmus. This first name could be "Erasmus" (as with the famous philosopher Erasmus of Rotterdam) or, in a shortened form, "Asmus".<sup>3</sup> At some point, the Latin-sounding suffix -mus was changed to the German -mann.
- 2) It referred to an axemaker: Assemann (see above)
- 3) It referred to someone coming from Asse, which is a region in Germany.<sup>4</sup>

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1 Dieter Assmann, „Familie Assmann aus Gehlweiler und Kellenbach“, p. 1; report to Judith Silverthorne, Regina, Saskatchewan; 1 Nov 2018; pdf.

2 "Assmann History, Family Crest & Coats of Arms", article. House of Names. (<https://www.houseofnames.com/assmann-family-crest> : accessed 30 Apr 2024).

3 "Assmann Family History", article. Ancestry. <https://www.ancestry.com/name-origin?surname=assmann> : accessed 7 Dec 2018).

4 "Asse (hills)", article. Wikipedia (<https://en.wikipedia.org/> : accessed 06 Jan 2023).

All three explanations are plausible, there is probably not a single origin of the name. Some Assmanns were named after „erasmos“, others were axle makers and perhaps some came from Asse.

The spellings of names, especially surnames, we found in the course of our research in the last four hundred years might have changed for a variety of reasons, such as the person recording the information having a different language base. For instance, government officials or clergy often recorded vital information according to their different cultural backgrounds, or perhaps they were required to record the information in a certain language, which depended on the ruling authority. Sometimes names were written in German or in Latin as was once the common practice, especially when they migrated to Austria where there might be Polish language officials recording the information for Austrian governing bodies about German colonists.

In the case of North America, English-speaking administrators knew little about Eastern European cultures, and probably couldn't understand the names being told to them by those who came from those countries. Sometimes surnames were written phonetically in the way the person recording might have understood the name being given orally, and if they had no understanding of the original language, mistakes were often made, or original spellings changed. Therefore, information in church registry books or in official government documents may be different for first and last names.

Then there was the common problem with indecipherable handwriting of the clergy, as well as the different alphabet and ways letters were written, including the umlauts, indicated by the diacritic marks placed over vowels, such as ä, ö, ü, ÿ, and the Eszett (ß, German symbol for double s as in Aßmann).

Sometimes there were also changes in language and spellings for the first names, such as Johann/Hans "John" or Georg/Jörg "George" or Karl/Carl/Charles "Charlie." In fact, many of our male ancestors had the first name Johann/Johannes preceding their common name. Johann was a typical biblical (Christian or baptismal) name often given before the everyday name used. For women, Anna and Maria were considered biblical names and frequently used along with an everyday appellation name.<sup>5</sup>

As far as personal names go, there could be several forenames given to a child shortly after birth or at the time of baptism. German given names are all considered equal, so you cannot assume the first name written is the one that was commonly used, as we do in America. One of them would be intended for everyday use even though it was sometimes the second or third name in the sequence of given names on official records.<sup>6</sup>

All given names were considered the first name; German names did not usually include a middle name. For example, Johann Ludwig Assmann's first name is Johann Ludwig. His call name (Rufname) or preferred name is the name he was commonly called or the name he chose to use – Ludwig. Ludwig is considered his call name or preferred name. All of these things added together made researching a particular individual challenging and meant various forms of verification were needed to follow the trail to link our forebears.

For the most part, we have chosen to spell names consistently throughout the writing of the chapters of this book regardless of the spellings found and otherwise noted in documents, transcriptions or in footnotes, to avoid confusion when the names changed from one record to another for the same person.

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5 "German Names", article. Wikipedia. ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/German\\_name](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/German_name) accessed: 30 Apr 2024).

6 Charlotte Champenois BAFamily Search, "German Handwriting Seminar, Day 2", Family History Library Classes and Webinars, 27 Oct 2020.

The German spelling of Assmann can be either Assmann or Aßmann. The German symbol (eszett) ß is translated as double s and the name includes a double n so we have decided to use this form – Assmann – for all members of the family from Eastern Europe. For those migrating to North American and their families born there, the second n was regularly dropped, and we will use the Assman with one n spelling in all cases, except when a member of the family has formally kept or changed to another form of the name.

The first names will be spelled as they were given at birth (translated into English) when they are introduced in each chapter. In the case of two first names, the name in which the person was usually called, their call name will be underlined and thereafter will be used. For example, Johann Ludwig Assmann will be called Ludwig Assmann throughout the rest of the book. Any other exceptions will be explained when the person is introduced. Women will be referred to by their maiden name, if known. If a name is not known, the initials N.N.<sup>7</sup> will be used.

### Place Names: Where Did Our Ancestors actually Live?

So many names have been cited about where our ancestors came from in the “Old Country,” whether they actually immigrated from Germany, Austria, or Russia. In Germany, they came from what is known as the Rhineland (German “Rheinland”), a region in western Germany, located on both banks of the Rhine River. It lies east of the German border with France, Luxembourg, Belgium and the Netherlands.

The Rhineland was historically always a very controversial area. For example, during the time when the Romans ruled there (55 BCE–461 CE), it served as a buffer zone between Gaul and the Germanic peoples. It was then incorporated into the Frankish kingdom, later on divided among the duchies of Lorraine, Saxony, Franconia and Swabia, and since the European Late Middle Ages the Rhineland had been the seat of numerous territorial principalities. Parts of the Rhineland belonged to France for a time, and from 1815 Prussia was the dominant power in the region.<sup>8</sup> Our direct ancestors had left the Rhineland by 1783.

There are also inconsistencies when they lived in Austria and Russia. Various documents about one person might be different, because even our ancestors were not always sure of how to record where they came from or what their nationality was. This happened because of the changing political sovereignties, (Austria became Austria-Hungary in 1867) and which languages may have been used by those recording the information, as well as the fact that they may have been born in one location (Galicia, Austria), but moved to another (Volhynia, Russia). Sometimes they were subject to certain governing laws that required names be written in a particular language. For example, usually Latin rather than German entries were made, but Polish or Russian might be used too, as the land originally belonged to Poland, before the regions our ancestors lived in were split between Austria and Russia.

This was further confused with the language barrier when they emigrated to North America and were asked what nationality or race they were, or their country of origin. Sometimes they were uncertain as to whether these questions meant their ethnicity, their citizenship, or the country from which they had last lived. For their race, they may have said, or the person recording may have assumed, they were Galician or Austrian or Russian, when really, they were German, even though they had recently resided in these other countries or regions. The answers to these questions were further complicated when they were still able to retain their Austrian citizenship even when they had moved to Russia so that their nationality was uncertain to many.

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<sup>7</sup> N.N. is an abbreviated form of the Latin term “Nomen nescio” which is used to signify an anonymous or unnamed person. “Nomen nescio” literally means “I do not know the name”.

<sup>8</sup> “Rhineland”. Britannica Academic, Encyclopædia Britannica.

## Village Names

It is important to note that village place names also were spelled and pronounced differently depending on the nationality and languages used by the people keeping track of the records and making the maps, and again in later years, according to the presiding ruling countries. For example, the current spelling of the city L'viv is Ukrainian. However, our German ancestors would have called it Lemberg, while the Polish knew it as Lwów. Most of the original German village names in Galicia today have been altered into Ukrainian names, or changed totally. Some no longer exist. *(See Place Names in the Appendices for a list of original names and current names and locations, including GPS coordinates.)*

## Overview of Contents

This Assmann family history is written in chronological order. The content attempts to cover a broad yet brief range of information which we hope will be easy to read and to search.

There is a brief opening chapter for those who are interested in knowing about the existence of our ancestors from their earliest genetic origins thousands of years ago, which follows their migratory journey to the area we know as Germany and how it became the country of today where some of our ancestors still live.

The main chapters follow sequentially, starting with the first known direct ancestor found in Germany in the 1600s, proceeding to each individual of the next generation in our direct ancestral line. We will take you through their lives in Germany to their migrations, first to Galicia, Austria, in the late 1700s, then to Volhynia, Russia, in the mid-to-late 1800s and eventually to North America in the 1890s.

There are chapters on the family members who went to the United States, as well as for several who came to Canada, in particular Karl Assmann, our great-grandfather, as the two researcher-authors of this family history. Karl Assmann was the father of Carl Assman, Shelley's grandfather and Adolf Assman, Judith's grandfather. There will also be chapters on each of Karl Assmann's offspring and their families, although current living family members will not be included unless permission has been given.

After the main chapters there is an appendix which contains various resources, including a list of village names and locations.

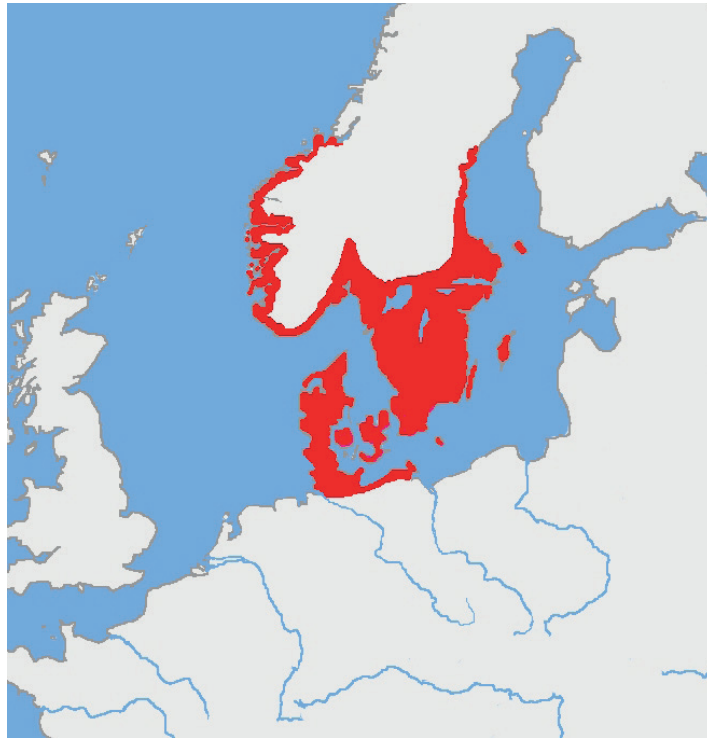
### ***TIMELINE OF MIGRATION***

1620	1784	1871-72	1884
Germany	To Galicia, Austria	To Volhynia, Russia	To North America
Bernhard Assmann	Ludwig & Marie Assmann	Jakob & Marie Assmann	Karl & Katharina Assmann

## Our History: Origins of Germany

Our Germanic origins and the history of Germany is complex, going back thousands of years. Today, Germanic influences underpin almost every current European country. How did this happen and when?

Most resources reflect only the previous 2,000 years when many Germanic tribes were said to have lived in Northern Europe of present day Scandinavia, Netherlands, northern Germany and parts of Switzerland. Apparently these mostly tall, fair-haired exploratory peoples were referred to as Teutonic at the time, and sources note that they were identified by their use of Germanic languages, which is considered one of the Indo-European ethno-linguistic groups.<sup>1</sup>



*Map of the Nordic culture of the Bronze Age around 1,200 BC with archaeological and linguistic evidence of the Germanic tribes in present-day Denmark, in the north of present-day Germany, in the south of Sweden and Norway.<sup>2</sup>*

Delving deeper, one finds that centuries earlier, these Germanic peoples most likely had origins from the steppes of central Asia. In fact, our human history starts around 40,000 BCE. At this time, “Europe was occupied by the Paleolithic Homo Sapiens, our earliest human ancestors...” who sometime after the last ice age, between 20,000–10,000 BCE, reached Scandinavia and the frozen areas of Poland and Russia, eventually spreading everywhere into Europe, from Spain to Russia, and from Scotland/Scandinavia to Greece.<sup>3</sup>

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1 The Indo-European languages are a language family of several hundred related languages and dialects. “Indo-European languages”, article. Wikipedia ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indo-European\\_languages](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indo-European_languages) : accessed 30 Apr 2024).

2 “Germanic peoples”. Wikipedia Commons ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Germanic\\_peoples](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Germanic_peoples) : accessed 30 Apr 2024).

3 “Who lived in western Europe before the Germanic tribes overran the Roman Empire? Did they look white or Mediterranean /Middle Eastern / African?”, article. Quora. <https://www.quora.com/Who-lived-in-western-Europe-before-the-Germanic-tribes-overran-the-Roman-Empire-Did-they-look-white-or-Mediterranean-Middle-Eastern-African> : accessed 17 Oct 2017).





*Palaeolithic living scene.<sup>4</sup>*

In about 6,000 BCE a new wave of people from the Anatolia region (present day Turkey), spread into Western Europe, bringing excellent agriculture methods with them and merging with the earlier peoples, who excelled in warfare. Two thousand years later, in about 4,000 BCE, another new and last wave of people, who were known for their metal-working prowess, started arriving in Europe from Southern Russia (including present day Ukraine, which ironically is where our more recent ancestors migrated to before coming to Canada). This last wave of peoples invaded and spread all over the continent, displacing and merging with the previously amalgamated Germanic tribes and they reportedly were the ones that introduced the Indo-European languages. The integration over time of these three main original groups formed our current Germanic heritage with the Indo-European language becoming predominant.<sup>5</sup>

From these origins then, our ancestors ended up congregating heavily in northern Europe and Scandinavia those two thousand years ago. Sometime around 1,600 BCE, they integrated with tribes from the Northern Megalithic culture (a culture related to the builders of Stonehenge). These combined core tribes eventually started expanding southward, most likely due to overpopulation and the need for new farm lands and thus the need to establish control of new territories in Europe. Some sources believe that climatic changes between 850 BCE and 650 BCE may also have triggered migrations farther to the south. This migration brought the Germanic tribes into contact with the vast settlements of the Celts, who taught them how to extract bog iron from peat bogs at what heralded as the beginning of the Iron Age. The Celts, a group of Caucasian tribes, had emerged about 1,200 BCE from the area known now as Austria, again ironically, a region where our more recent ancestors migrated in the late 1700s.

By the 2nd century BCE, the number of Germanic peoples was significantly increasing and nearly every Germanic tribe was actively on the move as were their Celtic neighbours.

<sup>4</sup> "Sesshaftigkeit", article. Planet Wissen (<https://www.planet-wissen.de/layout/sucheplanetwissen102.jsp?q=sesshaftigkeit> : accessed 30 Apr 2024.)

<sup>5</sup> Thayer Watkins, "The Early History of Germanic Tribes," article. San José State University. (<http://www.sjsu.edu/faculty/watkins/ancientgermans.htm> : accessed 21 Oct 2017).



*This map shows the various Celtic (blue) and Germanic (light-brown) tribes around circa 52 BCE<sup>6</sup>*

The largest of these migrating Germanic groups became known by various other names. The Goth group migrated southeast to the area north of the Black Sea, eventually dividing into Ostrogoths and Visigoths to conquer the north shore of the Mediterranean Sea as far west as the Iberian peninsula. “Later those known as the Franks left from what is now Germany and moved west to conquer the Low Lands and Roman Gaul (Celts), giving it their name of France. The Angles and Saxons, along with Jutes, invaded Britain and created England, [integrating with the Celts, who migrated to Great Britain and Ireland sometime earlier]. Another Germanic tribe, the Lombards (long beards), invaded and conquered what is now northern Italy. The Burgundians from the region, which included the Baltic Island of Bornholm, moved southward and ended up establishing the Kingdom of Burgundy in what is now southeast France. Still later, Germanic tribes invaded the territory of the Prussians, a Slavic people, and conquered them so thoroughly that Prussia came to be identified as the epitome of Germanness.”<sup>7</sup>

While the Germanic tribes were moving into the region that is now southwestern Germany, the Romans were busy conquering Gaul, the most prominent of Celtic lands. While the Roman Empire had begun in 753 BCE, it seems it was not until about 100 BCE, that the Germanic tribes clashed with the Romans. This is around the time when the Romans coined the Latin term “Germani” for these invaders. They called the geographical region, Germania. The name, although changed slightly over the years, was not necessarily based upon language, but referred to the tribal groups and alliances that lived in the regions of modern-day Luxemburg, Belgium, Northern and central France, Alsace, Poland, Austria, the Netherlands, and Germany.<sup>8</sup>

6 Map of Celtic and Germanic Tribes. World History Encyclopedia (<https://www.worldhistory.org/image/3687/map-of-celtic-and-germanic-tribes/> : accessed 30 Apr 2024).

7 The Early History of Germanic Tribes,” article. Home Page of Thayer Watkins; Home Page of applet-magic, San José State University. (<http://www.sjsu.edu/faculty/watkins/ancientgermans.htm> : accessed 21 Oct 2017).

8 “Germans”, article. Wikipedia (<https://en.wikipedia.org> : accessed 30 Apr 2024).





Map of the Germanic tribes, circa 15 BCE<sup>9</sup>

Over time, the Germanic peoples spread even farther afield and became one of the great ethnic groups of ancient Europe. Not only were the Germans a basic stock in the just mentioned countries, but also in the composition of the modern peoples of England, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Iceland, Switzerland, North and Lowland Scotland, and Northern Italy.

The Germanic tribes did not see themselves as a unit and did not call themselves Germans. The term originates, as most scholars nowadays assume, from Celtic and means “neighboring people”.<sup>10</sup> Above all, however, it was the Romans who used and spread the term “Germani”. It is therefore an exonym, a non-native term coined not by the peoples themselves but by their enemies. “Germani” was thus a very generalizing term that grouped together the different and often rival tribes and peoples on the basis of the jointly settled territory and the related Germanic languages. So one cannot speak of the Germanic peoples as a large community or a closed form of state – one must speak of the various Germanic tribes in a much more differentiated way.

These early nomadic German tribes were clan-based, eventually coming to live “intermittently in settled forest clearings called hamlets, engaging in mixed subsistence cultivation of crops and animals. Cultivation was rudimentary given the hard clay soil and use of implements more suited to Mediterranean areas. There were no food surpluses, so populations remained small, around one million. Without much occupational specialization, they were an iron-age culture emphasizing war.”<sup>11</sup>

There was no real government beyond the clan, and divisions into numerous small tribes meant a lack of political cooperation. Poverty ensured poor armour and weapons and they had

9 “Germanic Tribes,” image. Dinosaurs and Barbarians: Articles and artwork on history and paleontology. (<https://dinosaursandbarbarians.com/> : accessed 30 Apr 2024).

10 “Germanic Peoples,” article (<https://en.wikipedia.org> : accessed 2 Jan 2023).

11 “The Germanic Tribes to 375,” article. Spark Notes. (<https://www.sparknotes.com> : accessed 20 Oct 2017).



limited tactics, consisting of ambushes and a mass charge. However, the tribes changed from 100 BCE over the next 250 years, with older successful warrior chieftains taking on younger aspirants, who then raided and shared the booty with each other. This arrangement produced a professional, more lethal warrior group, where bonds were now between man and lord, the latter signaling the beginning of a small aristocracy. At the same time, tribes began electing fewer, longer serving war-chiefs. They also became more stationary, forming their own regions.<sup>12</sup>

By the late fourth century CE, the Huns rampaged through Europe, causing a mass migration of the Germanic tribes to the borders of the Roman Empire. This led to more conflicts and attacks between the Germanic tribes and the Romans, who by this time were already in a weakened economic and political state.<sup>13</sup> One of these tribes, the Franks, invaded the western Roman Empire in the fifth century. “In 476 CE, Romulus, the last of the Roman emperors in the west was overthrown by the Germanic leader Odoacer, who became the first ‘Barbarian’ to rule in Rome.”<sup>14</sup> Odoacer was probably of Scirian descent, an East Germanic tribe of



*Europe at the Fall of the Western Roman Empire, 476 CE<sup>15</sup>*

After the end of the Roman Empire (476) and after the death of Odoacer (493) Italy and some neighbouring regions were ruled by the Germanic tribe of the Ostrogoths, it was the “Ostrogothic Kingdom” (493–553); then it was the kingdom of the German Lombards – until 774, when the Lombards were defeated by the Franks under Charlemagne, who had been king since 768. Then it became part of the Kingdom of the Franks.

12 “The Germanic Tribes to 375”, article. Spark Notes. (<https://www.sparknotes.com> : accessed 20 Oct 2017).

13 “8 Reasons Why Rome Fell”, article. History (<http://www.history.com><http://www.history.com/news/history-lists/8-reasons-why-rome-fell> : accessed 28 Oct 2017).

14 “The Fall of the Roman Empire”, article. Ancient Civilizations (<http://www.ushistory.org> : accessed 28 Oct 2017).

15 “Germanic peoples”, article. Wikipedia([https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/0/0b/Europe\\_and\\_the\\_Near\\_East\\_at\\_476\\_AD.png](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/0/0b/Europe_and_the_Near_East_at_476_AD.png) : accessed 30 Apr 2024).

On Christmas Day of the year 800 Pope Leo III made Charlemagne emperor; the first European emperor since the end of the Roman Empire. In this way, the Pope, whose position was weak for various reasons, secured Charlemagne's support – and thus confirmed the political power of the Franks in Europe. The Frankish kings subsequently increasingly referred to their status as successors to the ancient Roman emperors and they emphasized that their position was God-ordained. Therefore, from the Middle Ages onwards, their empire (and the empire of subsequent German rulers) was called the “Holy Roman Empire”.

Charlemagne encouraged colonization. At the start, it encompassed present-day Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg, Switzerland, Austria, the Czech and Slovak Republics, as well as parts of eastern France, northern Italy, Slovenia, and western Poland.

Under Charlemagne's successors, the Frankish Empire disintegrated. The western part later became France, the eastern part became the basis of the “Holy Roman Empire”. The most important figure in this context is Otto I (Otto the Great), who became ruler of the Kingdom of the East Franks in 936. Otto I was able to considerably expand and consolidate the rule of the Franks. In 962 he was summoned by Pope John XII to Rome, which was shaken by political unrest. Otto I assumed the role of protector of the Church and the papacy, and in return he was crowned Emperor on 2 February 962.

Otto I's coronation is considered the actual birth of the “Holy Roman Empire”. However, the term “Holy Roman Empire” was only used later (first verifiable mention in 1254). From the late 15th century, the term “Holy Roman Empire of the German Nation” was also used. However, this does not mean that the empire was a nation state in the modern sense, but rather a multinational, multi-ethnic entity.



Map illustrating the emergence of the Holy Roman Empire as a loosely integrated union of German states and cities under the rule of Otto I<sup>16</sup>

16 “The Rise of the Holy Roman Empire in 4 Maps”. World History Encyclopedia ([https://www.worldhistory.org/collection/209/the-rise-of-the-holy-roman-empire-in-4-maps/4/#gallery\\_wrapper](https://www.worldhistory.org/collection/209/the-rise-of-the-holy-roman-empire-in-4-maps/4/#gallery_wrapper) : accessed 1 May 2024).

Over its 844 years of existence (962–1806), the Holy Roman Empire encompassed a large portion of the European continent. The size of the empire varied greatly over time, there have never been clearly defined borders. The core areas were always the territories of present-day Germany, Austria and the Czech Republic. At various times, however, today's Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg, Switzerland, the Slovak Republic, parts of eastern France, northern Italy, Slovenia and western Poland also belonged to the empire. The Holy Roman Empire was never a state in the modern sense, but a federation of kingdoms and principalities. As ruler, the emperor was at the head of the Holy Roman Empire, but there were also other rulers, often very powerful, who ruled their own lands within the Empire.

The position of emperor of the Holy Roman Empire was not hereditary, but the emperor was elected by the so-called "prince-electors" (German "Kurfürsten"). This often led to differences due to divergent power-political interests. The prince-electors were the most powerful ecclesiastical and secular dignitaries, such as the archbishops of Mainz, Trier and Cologne, the King of Bohemia, the Count Palatine of the Rhine, the Duke of Saxony and the Margrave of Brandenburg.<sup>17</sup> From 1438 until the end of the Holy Roman Empire in 1806, the House of Hapsburg, also called the House of Austria, ruled the Holy Roman Empire. They held the throne for almost the entire time, only from 1742 to 1745 Charles 7 of the House of Wittelsbach was Holy Roman Emperor.

In the later centuries, the Holy Roman Empire was in name only, providing merely a semblance of German unity with no real value as the empire was so widespread. Within the Empire, German princes warred against one another as before. Subsequent grabs for power and quarrels with the Church eventually contributed to the Empire's demise and even less unification for the German states.<sup>18</sup> One of the main reasons for the downfall of the Holy Roman Empire was the Protestant Reformation, which is acknowledged as being initiated in 1517 by Martin Luther with his presentation of Ninety-Five Theses. This action deprived Germany of even its religious unity, leaving its population divided between Roman Catholic, Lutheran, and Calvinist. The underlying cause was the development of the Gutenberg typesetting process in the 1400s, which led to the publication of several versions of the Bible. This "provided the opportunity for many educated people to have access to what was up until this time reserved for the church priests and scholars. Thus, members of the congregation began to question some of the 'rules' of the (Roman Catholic) Church."<sup>19</sup>

The initial Reformation movement in Germany eventually led to the horrific Thirty Years' War of 1618–1648, which left mainly Germany and much of Central Europe devastated and with casualties of over eight million. This represented over 90% of the people, and led to many vital records being wiped out, plus the disappearance of many towns, including some of those of our ancestors. At this same time as the Thirty Years' War, witchcraft persecutions began and reached peak hysteria.

This is the time frame to which we have managed to trace our earliest forebears and found evidence of their existence. More information about this devastating period is found in the chapter on Early Assmann Ancestors in Germany. Details of the remaining history will be found in subsequent chapters of our direct line until they left Germany. The year 1683 saw the start of German group immigration mainly from Pfalz to Georgetown, Pennsylvania, North America. Many persecutions forced mass flight of the German population to other parts of the world over the next two centuries. We are unaware of any of our ancestors being part of this first movement.

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17 "Prince-electors", article, Wikipedia (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prince-electors> : accessed 6 Jan 2023).

18 "Reason(s) the Holy Roman Empire Collapsed after 840 years", article. Reddit (<https://www.reddit.com> : accessed: 28 Oct 2017).

19 "Historical Events 1400-1917", article. Foundation for East European Family History Studies (FEEFHS). (<http://feefhs.org> : accessed 9 Dec 2017).



## The Formation of Germany

By the time the Peace of Westphalia was signed in 1648, the area of German-speaking Europe was divided into more than three hundred political entities, many quite small, including duchies, principalities, free cities, and ecclesiastical states.<sup>20</sup> They ranged in size from small to complex and well-defined territories.



*The Holy Roman Empire in 1648 (shows the numerous small political entities in the centre)<sup>21</sup>*

After the fall of the Holy Roman Empire in 1806, the two largest of these German states, Austria and Prussia, jockeyed for dominance. "The smaller states sought to retain their independence by allying themselves with one, then the other, depending on local conditions."<sup>22</sup> Meanwhile, "the Kingdom of Prussia was the leading state of the German Empire between 1701 and 1918 and included parts of present-day Germany, Poland, Russia, Lithuania, Denmark, Belgium, and the Czech Republic. From the mid-1790s until Prussia, Austria, and Russia defeated Napoleon at the Battle of Leipzig in 1813 and drove him out of German territory, much of the area was occupied by French troops. Napoleon's officials had abolished numerous small states; as a result, in 1815, after the Congress of Vienna, German territory consisted of only about 40 states."<sup>23</sup> From 1815 until 1848 and again from 1850 to 1866, a German Confederation was formed

20 "Historical Events 1400-1917", article. Foundation for East European Family History Studies (FEEFHS). (<http://feefhs.org> : accessed 9 Dec 2017).

21 "Holy Roman Empire", article. Wikipedia (<https://en.wikipedia.org> : accessed 25 Oct 2018).

22 "House of Hapsburg", article. Wikipedia (<https://en.wikipedia.org/> : accessed 28 Oct 2017).

23 Ibid.

with the remaining states which replaced the Holy Roman Empire and served to coordinate the economies of the different German-speaking lands. The Confederation was interrupted from 1848 to 1849 by the formation of the German Empire, but several larger states, including Prussia, declined the terms and forced the dissolution.<sup>24</sup>

Prussia eventually became so large and powerful, that it was the driving force behind the unification of Germany on 18 January 1871, following the defeat of France in the Franco-Prussian War. At this time, the various princes of quite a number of German states united and proclaimed Wilhelm I of Prussia as Emperor of the German Empire with a conservative Prussian aristocrat, Otto von Bismarck, as the Chancellor.



*The German Empire 1871–1918<sup>25</sup>*

The German Empire remained in force until the end of World War I. This was when the monarchies in both Austria-Hungary and Prussia were abolished. Prussia became a republic and a dominant state, forming an unofficial historical designation, the Weimar Republic, which existed from 1918 until 1933.

The Weimar Republic's constitution provided for a parliamentary democracy, which meant the government, was ultimately responsible to the people. However, antidemocratic parties with conservative politicians formed a new government in January 1933 with Adolf Hitler

<sup>24</sup> "German Empire (1848-49)", article. Wikipedia (<https://en.wikipedia.org> : accessed 28 Oct 2017).

<sup>25</sup> „Deutsches Reich“, map. Wikimedia Commons ([https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Deutsches\\_Reich\\_\(1871-1918\)-en.png](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Deutsches_Reich_(1871-1918)-en.png) : accessed 6 Jan 2023).



as chancellor. While other parties worked to replace the republic with an authoritarian government, in 1933, Nazi Germany rose up under the dictatorship of Adolf Hitler and his Nazi Party (National Socialist German Workers' Party, abbreviated as NSDAP). Hitler transformed Germany into a totalitarian state called the Deutsches Reich (German Reich from 1933 until 1943 and "Greater German Reich" from 1943–1945) with the period to become known as the Third Reich (Drittes Reich) in which the Nazi party controlled all aspects of life.<sup>26</sup> He would go on to try to control the world with his ideology, racism, and devastating attempt to conquer the world. "Only in 1945 did a military alliance of dozens of nations succeed in deposing him, and only after his regime and the nation it ruled had committed crimes of unparalleled enormity known as the Holocaust."<sup>27</sup>

As World War II reached conclusion, Germany was defeated by the Soviet Union forces from the east and the Allied powers from the west. During the aftermath, the victorious Allied powers occupied the country and began denazification. But geopolitical tension between powers in the Eastern Bloc (the Soviet Union and its satellite states) and the powers in the Western Bloc (the United States, its NATO allies and others) erupted into a Cold War.<sup>28</sup> This eventually led to the division of the country into two states. On 23 May 1949, West Germany officially became the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG). East Germany became the German Democratic Republic (GDR).

East Germany struggled economically to meet the needs of the Soviet Union, and with the secret police (Stasi) controlling everyday life and the building of the Berlin Wall in 1961, the country stagnated and deteriorated.<sup>29</sup> West Germany went on to experience rapid economic expansion and became the dominant economy in Western Europe, one of the world's richest nations within two decades of its defeat.

Germany was reunited, effective 3 October 1990, as the Federal Republic of Germany with 16 constituent states. Today, Germany is the most populous member state of the European Union and the second most popular immigration destination in the world.<sup>30</sup>



*Germany in its present-day borders<sup>31</sup>*

<sup>26</sup> "Nazi Germany", article. Wikipedia. (<https://en.wikipedia.org> : accessed: 11 January 2018).

<sup>27</sup> "Outline of Germany's History", article. Nations on Line (<http://www.nationsonline.org/oneworld/History/Germany-history.htm> : accessed 11 January 2018).

<sup>28</sup> "Cold War", article. Wikipedia (<https://en.wikipedia.org/> : accessed 11 January 2018).

<sup>29</sup> "History of Germany, (1945-90)", article. Wikipedia ([https://en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/)) : accessed 11 January 2018).

<sup>30</sup> "Germany", article. Wikipedia ([https://en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/) : accessed 11 January 2018).

<sup>31</sup> „Deutschlandkarte“, iStock by Getty Images / zlato, Stock-Illustration-ID:930594516.

# Our History: Our Ancestors

## BERNHARD ASSMANN & MARIA N.N.

Bernhard Assmann is thought to be our first Assmann ancestor found to date. His birth is calculated as probably sometime between 1620 and 1625<sup>1</sup> in the region of Womrath, County of Sponheim (today Womrath, Rheinland-Pfalz, Germany), and we believe his wife was Maria, though her last name is unknown at this time.<sup>2</sup>

The couple, or at least Bernhard, is thought to have lived in the village of Womrath, even though he and Maria's son, Johann Adam Assmann, seems to have been born about 1647<sup>3</sup>, in the neighbouring village of Gehlweiler. Both were charming villages, not many kilometres apart, three as the crow flies, but eleven going by roads that cross the intervening rivers.

Although we don't have conclusive documentation, Bernhard Assmann is the first ancestor we have found to be in any kind of record connected to our current research. This was found in a compilation of extracted Catholic and Protestant church records, a copy of which is housed in the museum in Kirchberg, once the seat of the parish where our ancestors lived. The compilation was created by Wolfgang Grabe some years ago. We have not found the actual records where this information came from to date.

While gathering the story of our early ancestors in Germany, it became clear that research for European documentation was scarce and mostly no longer existed before the early 1600s.



There are a number of factors, but a large reason is due to the destruction of churches, villages, and administrative centres, that occurred during the many wars throughout Germany's earlier history and well into the mid-1900s.

We have discovered the Assmann name was very widespread in the 1600s in the areas of Womrath, Gemünden, and Gehlweiler, which are the villages where we have traced the origins of our ancestors so far. There is also another branch that we have noted in nearby Dickenschied and we suspect if we could find the records, we would be related to them as well, albeit maybe a few generations earlier.

*The villages of Womrath, Gemünden, Gehlweiler and Dickenschied are only a few kilometres away from each other<sup>4</sup>*

1 Bernhard's year of birth is estimated, projecting that he would have been between 20 and 25 years of age at the time of his son Johann Adam's year of birth, which was calculated by the clergyman in the records at the time of his death.

2 Wolfgang Grabe, "Familienbuch der Katholischen Pfarrei Vierzehn Nothelfer Dickenschied 1657-2000" (digital, 1995 and 2017, Archive Registry Office, Kirchberg, Rhein-Hunsrück-Kreis), p. 1. This information was extracted by Dieter Assmann but Grabe admits is unproven.

3 Ibid.

4 Via Michelin (<https://www.viamichelin.at/> : accessed 3 May 2024).

The names of the villages where our early ancestors lived – Gehlweiler, Womrath, Dickenschied and Gemünden – are ‘speaking names’, and they tell us a lot about the area in which they lived. Namely that it was densely wooded and dotted with small villages. This is because the suffix ‘-weiler’ (as in Gehlweiler), which frequently appears in German place names, denoted a very small settlement, usually just a few houses. The suffix ‘-rath’ (or ‘-roth’) comes from the German word ‘roden’, which means ‘to clear a forest’; places like Womrath are therefore located in an area that used to be forested. The same applies to ‘-schied’, which means that part of the forest was cut off (‘ausgeschieden’) and cultivated. Gemünden’ means that the place is located at a point where one stream or river flows into another (German ‘münden’).



*The region of Gehlweiler, Womrath, Dickenschied and Gemünden lies around 90 kilometres west of Frankfurt<sup>5</sup>*

While we know little about the everyday life of Bernhard and Maria, we do know some about the conditions of what it must have been like at the time. The village of Gehlweiler where Bernhard and his family lived was situated in the Rhineland region, which was one of the prime combat areas during The Thirty Years’ War. Bernhard would have been a young child living in fear when this devastating warfare first began in 1618 and a grown man starting a family of his own by the time it ended. He may even have been called up to fight as a young man, given that the area was under the feudal lordship of the Sponheim family who owned vast parcels of land and defending the holdings would have been part of Bernhard’s requirements as a tenant or the son of a tenant.

The Rhineland is the region along the river Rhine (Rhein). Throughout history, this culturally important area belonged to various states. Today, the area where our ancestors lived belongs to Rheinland-Pfalz (Rhineland-Palatinate), which is one of the 16 German federal states. Rheinland-Pfalz is situated in the west of Germany, bordered by France, Luxemburg, and Belgium. Within this federal state, there is a district which was named the Rhein-Hunsrück-Kreis in 1969. Sometimes shortened to Hunsrück, referring to the Hunsrück Mountains in the region; branches of our family still reside there.

The Hunsrück, with its verdant valleys, rivers and waterways and forests, was a prime region for wine-growing, slate mining, forest industries, and in the meadows, some agriculture. Today the region is known for the many specialized crops of its river valleys. Viniculture continues to occupy a predominant place and the famous vineyards along the Rhine, Moselle, and Nahe rivers are the source of most of Germany’s wines.

<sup>5</sup> Via Michelin (<https://www.viamichelin.at/> : accessed 3 May 2024).





*The village of Gehlweiler in the Hunsrück landscape<sup>6</sup>*

The Sponheims had been the rulers of this idyllic Rhineland region, which was part of the vast Holy Roman Empire since the 11th century. Over time, the Empire had become a decentralized union of many states, which only acknowledged the nominal superiority of the emperor.<sup>7</sup> When the County of Sponheim instituted the Reformation in 1557, it became an important outpost of Protestant territory, for the most part able to withstand the warfare with neighbouring Catholic states for some decades. This was lucky at first for our ancestors, who seem to have become Protestants at some point during this time.

However, serious disruptions erupted in this once perfect place in the lush Hunsrück countryside with its moderate temperatures and various conducive landscapes. Living as they did in the Womrath and Gehlweiler areas, Bernhard and Maria faced many hardships as various wars and conflicts raged around them. As youngsters they grew up with it, not having any idea that it would be so long and become known as the most devastating and horrendous of wars, the consequences of which influenced their entire lifetimes.

<sup>6</sup> Hunsrück, article (<https://de.wikipedia.org/> : accessed 3 May 2024).

<sup>7</sup> "What is the difference between Germany, Prussia, and the Holy Roman Empire", question. Quora. (<https://www.quora.com/> : accessed 25 Oct 2018).

## The Thirty Years' War (1618-1648)

The Thirty Years' War, started as a religious war between Protestants and Catholics, was fought principally on the territory of today's Germany, though it involved many European realms. These clashes and disputes over religions precipitated the first mass immigrations to other countries, including overseas. At the onset of the war in 1618, it is estimated that between 65,000 and 100,000 German-speaking people left for the United States of America.<sup>8</sup> However, none of our known ancestors seem to have been among this first group, at least not that we have found so far. Those that remained in Germany, like our families, saw the war gradually swell into a more general conflict between the major European powers, vying for power, not just over religion.



*Ernest Crofts: Wallenstein. A Scene of the Thirty Years War<sup>9</sup>*

Even though our ancestors were probably civilians, the men would have been forced into serving the armies of their lieges, and there is no doubt some of the members of Bernhard's family numbered among the many who succumbed as a casualty during the fighting or from the many illnesses and diseases that prevailed, throughout the years of the battles. Those who survived witnessed the destruction of their homes and villages. By the time the war ended, there were an estimated eight million casualties, mainly from Germany and Central Europe, which represented over 90% of the people. One-third of the country's towns and villages were wiped from the map, burned and scavenged bare by the foraging armies.<sup>10</sup>

At one point in the war, it was said that in nearby Dickenschied there was "neither chicken nor goat to be found anymore".<sup>11</sup> No doubt, the people of Womrath and Gehlweiler faced a similar fate. They also would have faced crop failures, widespread famine and chronic plagues (a typhus - called Hungarian Fever, Bubonic Plague, scurvy, and dysentery), which resulted in more than

<sup>8</sup> "Why did German immigrants come to America?" article. Reference. (<https://www.reference.com/history?qo=homepageTaxonomyLeft> : accessed 8 Sept 2017).

<sup>9</sup> Ernest Crofts: "Wallenstein. A Scene of the Thirty Years War". Wikimedia Commons: Thirty Years War in art ([https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Category:Thirty\\_Years\\_War\\_in\\_art](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Category:Thirty_Years_War_in_art) : accessed 3 May 2024).

<sup>10</sup> "The Thirty Years' War: the first modern war?" article. Humanitarian Law & Policy. (<https://medium.com/law-and-policy/the-thirty-years-war-the-first-modern-war-ced0b695172b> : accessed 8 Aug 2017).

<sup>11</sup> "Dickenschied", article. Wikipedia (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dickenschied> : accessed 4 May 2024)



50% of the European population dead. Some places suffered 75% or more loss, with rural areas hit the worst. For instance, the German city of Magdeburg “in 1618, had a population of 25,000 with a further 35,000 in the surrounding rural area. In 1635, there were only 400 homes left standing in the city and by 1644, its population had fallen to 2,464”<sup>12</sup>.



*Sebastiaen Vrancx: Soldiers plundering a farm*<sup>13</sup>

The horrendous upheaval and aftermath of the Thirty Years' War, including the economic regression, took more than 100 years to recover from what is considered one of the worst wars in modern European history. People were destitute and displaced. The hardship and turmoil the conflict had produced among the general population and peasants, plus colder temperatures that froze crops, prompted them to look for someone to take responsibility. They turned to the supernatural.

### Witchcraft Persecutions

Many attributed pestilence, famine, crop failures, and other calamitous conditions in the early 1600s and during The Thirty Years' War to supernatural causes. This led to a witch hysteria that began in south-east Germany in 1626 and quickly spread to other parts of the country. The peak occurred between 1629 and 1631, but continued sporadically until about 1680. What began with over 1,000 people perishing as witches in Wurzburg, spread to other regions to see mass burnings of several thousand more.<sup>14</sup>

12 “Population and the Thirty Years War” article. History Learning Site ([https://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/the-thirty-years-war/the-social-and-economic-impact-of-the-thirty-years-war/population-and-the-thirty-years-war/?utm\\_content=cmp-true](https://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/the-thirty-years-war/the-social-and-economic-impact-of-the-thirty-years-war/population-and-the-thirty-years-war/?utm_content=cmp-true) : accessed 4 May 2024).

13 Sebastiaen Vrancx: Soldiers plundering a farm (circa 1620). Wikimedia Commons: Thirty Years War in art ([https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Category:Thirty\\_Years\\_War\\_in\\_art](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Category:Thirty_Years_War_in_art) : accessed 3 May 2024).

14 “Thirty Years' War”, article. Wikipedia. ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thirty\\_Years'\\_War](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thirty_Years'_War) : accessed 8 Sept 2017).

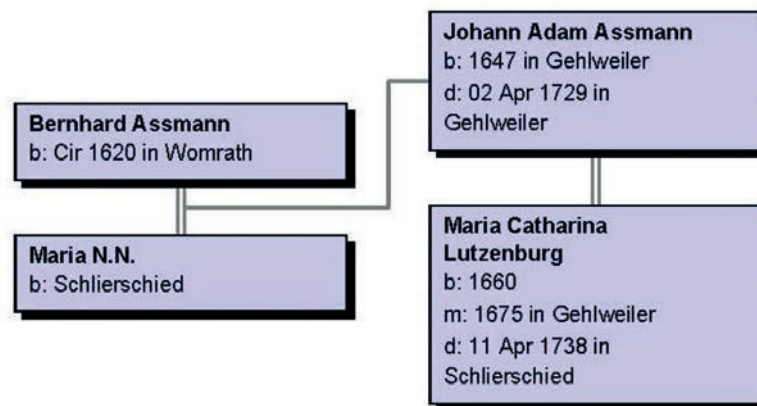
Neighbours and fellow citizens pitted allegations against one another in fever-pitched fear of witches – people who had supposedly allied themselves with the devil.<sup>15</sup> No one was safe from the relentless purges regardless of their station in life, not even nobility or clergy. Thousands of men, women, and children were burned, tortured and otherwise executed. There seems no way of knowing whether any of our ancestors numbered among the accused or accusers or simply folks trying to survive amid chaos.



*Burning at the Stake<sup>16</sup>*

While the effects of Thirty Years' War and the pursuit of witches may have dwindled, religious persecution continued for years. More importantly churches and records, including those that held records of our ancestors, were destroyed.

Such were the conditions our ancestors faced. Somehow, they endured, and although maybe not prospering, at least produced progeny that continued to live there, some of whom eventually migrated to other places, the results of which we are following today. Of those that survived at the time, was one of our direct predecessors, the son of Bernhard and Maria Assmann, Johann Adam Assmann.



<sup>15</sup> "Witch-hunt", article. Wikipedia. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Witch-hunt> : accessed 4 May 2024).

<sup>16</sup> "Hexenverbrennung". From the collection of Johann Jakob Wick. © Zürich, Zentralbibliothek / Zurich, Central Library (<https://www.zb.uzh.ch/> : accessed 4 May 2024).

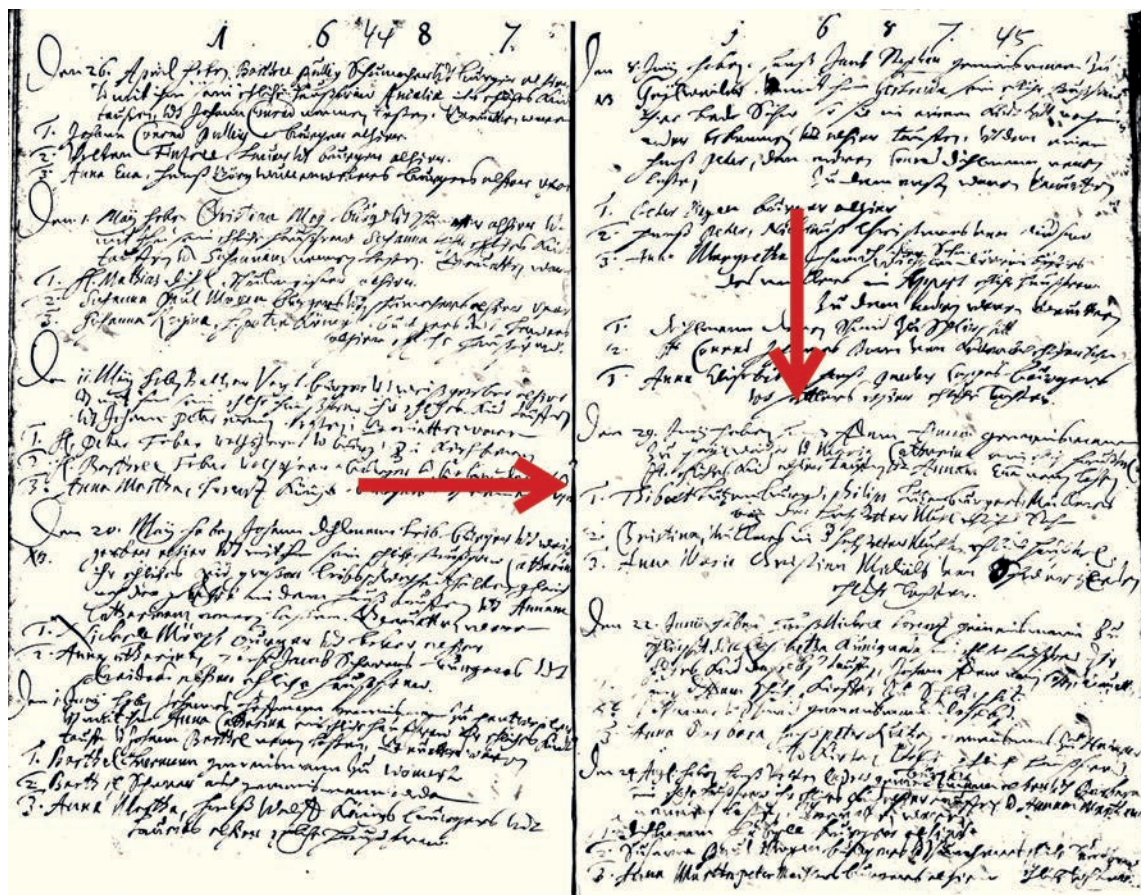


## JOHANN ADAM ASSMANN & MARIA CATHARINA LUTZENBURG

**Johann Adam Assmann** is thought to be the son of Bernhard Assmann and Maria N.N.<sup>1</sup> His birth year is about 1647<sup>2</sup> at Gehlweiler, County of Sponheim (today Gehlweiler, Rheinland-Pfalz, Germany.) He married **Maria Catharina Lutzenburg**<sup>3</sup> in 1675 at Gehlweiler when he was in his later twenties. He died 2 April 1729, Gehlweiler<sup>4</sup>.

Maria Catharina Lutzenburg was born about 1660. Of Maria Catharina little is known except her last name, and only because her brother was noted as a witness to a baptism of one of their children, Annamaria Eva.<sup>5</sup> They had at least four children of which we are aware.<sup>6</sup> Maria died 11 April 1738 in Schlierschied, County of Sponheim<sup>7</sup>.

The following is an example of a baptism record. This record is for the third child born to Hans Adam Assmann and Maria Catharina Lutzenburg.



1 Wolfgang Grabe, "Familienbuch der Katholischen Pfarrei Vierzehn Nothelfer Dickenschied 1657-2000" (digital, 1995 and 2017, Archive Registry Office, Kirchberg, Rhein-Hunsrück-Kreis), Assmann family #6, [pages unnumbered]

2 Werner Zwiebelberg, Die Einwohnerschaft von Gehlweiler bis 1800 (Gemünden, Germany: self-published, 1967), p.2 [unnumbered], Assmann, Hans Adam.

3 Archiv der Evangelischen Kirche im Rheinland, Kirchenbücher der Archivstelle Boppard (Archives of the Protestant Church in the Rhineland, church records at the Boppard archives), Kirchengemeinde Gemünden, Filialgemeinde Gehlweiler.

4 Ibid.

5 Ibid.

6 Cf. above: Zwiebelberg.

7 Assmann, "Familie Assmann aus Gehlweiler und Kellenbach", p. 1.

Den 29. Junij haben Hans Adam Asmann gemeinsmann  
 zu Geylweiler und Maria Catharina seine eheliche Haußfraw  
 ihr eheliches Kind allhier taufen als Annam. Eva namens lassen  
 1. Thibolt Lutzenburg, Philips Lutzenburgers Müllers  
 bey dem Anzenvelder Mühlhauses ehelicher Sohn  
 2. Christina, Müllers in der Anzenvelder Mühle eheliche Haußfraw  
 3. Anna Maria Christian Michäls von Schwarzerden  
 eheliche Tochter

#### German Transcription:

Den 29. Junij haben Hans Adam Asmann gemeinsmann  
 zu Geylweiler und Maria Catharina seine eheliche Haußfraw  
 ihr eheliches Kind allhier taufen als Annam. Eva namens lassen  
 T. Thibolt Lutzenburg, Philips Lutzenburgers Müllers  
 bey dem Anzenvelder Mühlhauses ehelicher Sohn  
 2. Christina, Müllers in der Anzenvelder Mühle eheliche Haußfraw  
 3. Anna Maria Christian Michäls von Schwarzerden  
 eheliche Tochter

#### English Translation

On June 29 Hans Adam Asmann, member of the local council  
 at Geylweiler [Gehlweiler] and Maria Catharina his wedded wife  
 have had their legitimate child baptised here with the name of Annam. [= Annamaria] Eva  
 T [=witnesses]. Thibold Lutzenburg, the miller Philip Lutzenburger's  
 of the Anzenvelder millhouse legitimate son  
 2. Christina, the miller's at the Anzenvelder mill wedded wife  
 3. Anna Maria Christian Michäl's of Schwarzerden  
 legitimate daughter

In Gehlweiler, Adam seems to have been a "Gemeindsmann". „Gemeindsmann“ is a term that no longer exists in German.<sup>8</sup> In Adam Assmann's time, it referred to someone who held an office in a village or town – either as a member of the local council or as mayor. This means that he obviously had a respected position within the community.

Little else is known about Adam's everyday life, but he was born at the end of the catastrophic Thirty Years' War, in which more than a quarter of the entire population and half of the male population in the German states were killed. No doubt his survival following the devastation left in the wake of the war would have been a struggle given that the region where he and his family lived was particularly hit hard. Slate mining would have been available and perhaps industries related to the forest, since villages and homes had to be rebuilt, plus there might be work in the maintenance and harvest of the vineyards, and many of our ancestors might have relied on agriculture, but for the most part the region was poverty-stricken. Extremely cold weather, due to what was the time of the so-called Little Ice Age, killed crops, and various plague and other illnesses, also came into play through the years of his life.

8 Deutsches Wörterbuch von Jacob Grimm und Wilhelm Grimm, Bd 5, Sp 3270.



Foods in the 1600s for our ancestors at this time would most likely have been preserved using the Old World techniques of salting, smoking, curing, or pickling, which is still a common way of preparing fish, meats, and vegetables. German people have always loved their roasted meats; parsley, celery, and dill were the earliest spices in German cuisine, also still used today.<sup>9</sup> Breads made from rye would have been popular.

By the end of the Thirty Years' War, the political situation in Europe had changed considerably. What did not change was that the people practicing the Protestant faith were still persecuted in Catholic countries – and vice versa: Catholics faced similar repression in Protestant countries (e.g. in Sweden, the Catholic religion was officially forbidden until 1781 and was punished with deportations and death sentences). Adam and Maria, who were practicing Protestants, would have found this to be a concern in their lifetimes, even with the protection of the Sponheim counts, a German noble family, who were strong advocates for Protestantism.

Among the hardships Adam, Maria and their children had to face was a severe outbreak of the plague, which reached its peak from 1708 to 1712. It raged all around their area, and left many farms and villages completely desolated.



*Lodovico Burnacini: Lazaretto for plague patients in Vienna, 1679<sup>10</sup>*

As well, the winter of 1708-1709 was exceptionally long and severe, and resulted in the winter seed freezing in many parts of Europe. Known as the coldest European winter during the past 500 years,<sup>11</sup> it was necessary to plow and till the soil again in the spring. Meanwhile people were starving and freezing in temperatures that dropped down to  $-15^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $5^{\circ}\text{F}$ ) at a time when nothing usually froze. It is reported there were 600,000 people who died that winter from the

9 "Introduction to German Food", article. The spruce eats. (<https://www.thespruceeats.com/introduction-to-germany-and-german-food-1446969> : accessed 23 Oct 2018).

10 Lodovico Burnacini: Spital mit Pestkranken. Wien Museum (<https://sammlung.wienmuseum.at/> : accessed 4 May 2024).

11 "Great frost of 1709", article. Wikipedia (<https://en.wikipedia.org> : accessed 9 Nov 2018).

time the temperature first dipped on 6 January 1709 until it ended three months later.<sup>12</sup> Birds froze and fell from the air, livestock died from cold in their barns, trees exploded, and travellers froze to death on the roads.<sup>13</sup> Adam and Maria survived this winter.



Twenty years later, Adam died in Gehlweiler on 2 April 1729 at the age of 82. He was buried two days later in the Gehlweiler cemetery. His death was noted in the nearby Protestant Church records in Gemünden.<sup>14</sup>

Maria died nine years after Adam on 11 April 1738. Although Maria's death is noted as being in the small village of Schlierschied, her home was still listed as Gehlweiler, about three kilometres away.

*Gemünden, Gehlweiler, Schlierschied*<sup>15</sup>

The well-used cemetery at Gehlweiler is located across what is now a main highway (B421), and it is still considered part of the village, though it would probably have been a road in or part of the village several centuries ago. This cemetery would have been where our ancestors were buried, though no headstones remain as those cemetery plots in Gehlweiler for which no one is responsible are reallocated after twenty-five years. This is not the case everywhere. There are many different deadlines before graves are abandoned. And if someone pays a fee, graves can remain for hundreds of years.



*Gehlweiler Cemetery*<sup>16</sup>

Adam and Maria had at least four children that have been identified from church records, all born in Gehlweiler. The first known child of Adam and Maria's was **Johann Jacob Assmann**.

<sup>12</sup> "Coldest Winter", article (<http://www.frenchlanguagesalon.com/2018/03/07/coldest-winter-france/> : accessed 9 November 2018).

<sup>13</sup> "1709: The year that Europe froze", article. NewScientist. (<https://www.newscientist.com> : accessed 9 Nov 2018).

<sup>14</sup> Evangelical Reformed Church (Gemünden, Kr. u Simmern, Deutschland), Rhineland, Lutheran Baptisms, Marriages, Burials, 1533-1950, "Taufen, Heiraten, Tote, Konfirmationen u Kommunionen 1675-1798", Johann Adam Assmann, img 169.

<sup>15</sup> Via Michelin (<https://www.viamichelin.at/> : accessed 5 May 2024).

<sup>16</sup> "Gehlweiler Cemetery", photo. Judith Silverthorne Collection. September 2018.



While his exact year of birth is unknown, he was confirmed in 1685<sup>17</sup>. As this usually occurred when children had reached the age of fifteen, he is calculated as likely being born about 1670, i.e. prior to Adam and Maria's marriage.

A second son, **Johann Peter Assmann**, born 5 December 1680, married twice. His first wife Maria Angela died in January of 1734. In June of that same year, he married **Anna Elisabetha Hermann** in Gemünden. So far, no records of children have surfaced with his first wife, though there may have been some as they were married for over thirty years before she died. With his second wife, Johann Peter had four sons and two daughters. Their family, and a number of their descendants, remained in Gehlweiler for their lifetimes. Peter and Anna still have descendants living in Gehlweiler, one of whom, Jutta, the authors met in September 2018. It is interesting to note that the family line remained in the same village for over 370 years. (*Information about this family line follows in the chapters: Johann Peter Assmann & Maria Angela N.N. & Anna Elisabetha Hermann and Hermann Jacob Assmann & Elisabeth Martha Müller*)



*Jutta Assmann and her husband Jörg Altmeyer on the front step of their grandparents' home in Gehlweiler (left)<sup>18</sup>; Cousins: Judith, Shelley, and Jutta Altmeyer (née Assmann), in Gehlweiler (right)<sup>19</sup>*

Johann Adam's and Maria's daughter **Annamarie Assmann**<sup>20</sup> married Hans **Georg Hammen** from Kuldenbach. They had at least two sons and one daughter between 1710 and 1715 in Gehlweiler: **Johann Wilhelm Hammen** (born 4 February 1710; died 26 August 1776 in Gehlweiler), **Johann Adam Hammen** born 14 December 1712, and **Susanna Catharina Hammen** born 15 February 1715.

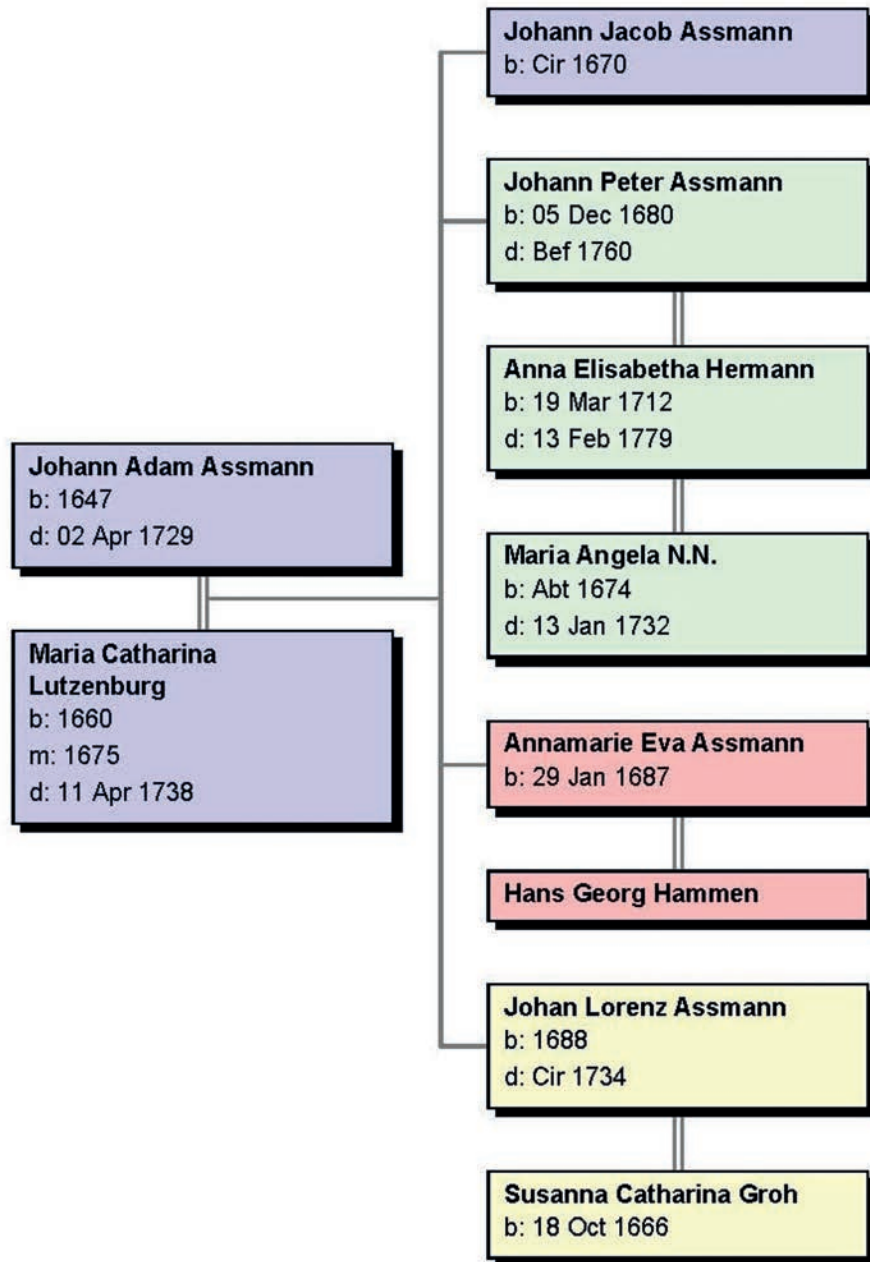
Johann Adam's and Maria's son **Johann Lorenz Assmann** is our direct ancestor, born 1688, married **Susanna Katharina Groh**. (*Their story is in the chapter Johan Lorenz Assmann & Susanna Katharina Groh*)

17 Cf. above: Zwiebelberg

18 "Jutta Assmann and her husband Jörg Altmeyer", photo. Judith Silverthorne Collection, Sept 2018. Permission to use.

19 "Cousins: Judith, Shelley and Jutta", photo. Judith Silverthorne Collection, Sept 2018. Permission to use.

20 Archiv der Evangelischen Kirche im Rheinland, Kirchenbücher der Archivstelle Boppard (Archives of the Protestant Church in the Rhineland, church records at the Boppard archives) Kirchengemeinde Gemünden, Filialgemeinde Gehlweiler.





## Gehlweiler

Gehlweiler is nestled on the Lützelsoon plateau on the western slope of the forested, low mountain range of Soonwald, which forms part of the Hunsrück mountains. The picturesque Simmerbach River flows through the village, which is entered by a beautiful old three-arched quarry stone bridge thought to have been built in the 17th or 18th century, at a time when our ancestors would have rumbled their carts over it.



*Bridge over Simmerbach River into Gehlweiler<sup>21</sup>*



*Shelley Klotzko at the Gehlweiler Bridge<sup>22</sup>*

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21 "Bridge over Simmerbach River into Gehlweiler", photo. Judith Silverthorne Collection. September 2018.

22 "Shelley Klotzko at the Gehlweiler Bridge", photo. Shelley Klotzko Collection, September 2018.

Gehlweiler's first recorded history goes back to at least the 9th and 10th century when a descriptive mention was entered in the documents at Saint Willigis's Church near Auen.<sup>23</sup> The first official documentation of Gehlweiler was in 1317, when it was spelled Gelwilre.<sup>24</sup> In the early 1700s, the village was spelled Geyleweiller in some church books.

Gehlweiler was a holding of the powerful Sponheim dynasty, a family documented since the 11th century.<sup>25</sup> The County of Sponheim was an independent territory in the Holy Roman Empire that lasted from the 11th century until the early 19th century, though it did come under the jurisdiction of the French and of Prussia at various times through the years.

Gehlweiler was an outlying village in the Koppenstein Mountain area in the Hunsrücks, and when the Sponheims built their Castle Koppenstein in 1325<sup>26</sup>, the village became tightly bound to it, and thus our ancestors would have been beholden to the Counts of Sponheim. Today the Koppenstein Castle is in ruins. Gemünden was also close by and today the easiest way to get to the castle ruins is through this village.



*Reconstructed Koppenstein Castle Diagram.<sup>27</sup>*



*Old Well at Koppenstein Castle Ruin (H on the diagram-see arrow).<sup>28</sup>*

23 "Gehlweiler", article. Wikipedia (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gehlweiler> : accessed 5 May 2024).

24 Ibid.

25 "County of Sponheim", article. Wikipedia. ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/County\\_of\\_Sponheim](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/County_of_Sponheim) : accessed 18 Oct 2018.)

26 "Burg Koppenstein", article. Wikipedia. ([https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Burg\\_Koppenstein](https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Burg_Koppenstein) : accessed 5 May 2024.)

27 "Reconstructed Koppenstein Castle Diagram", photo. Judith Silverthorne Collection, September 2018.

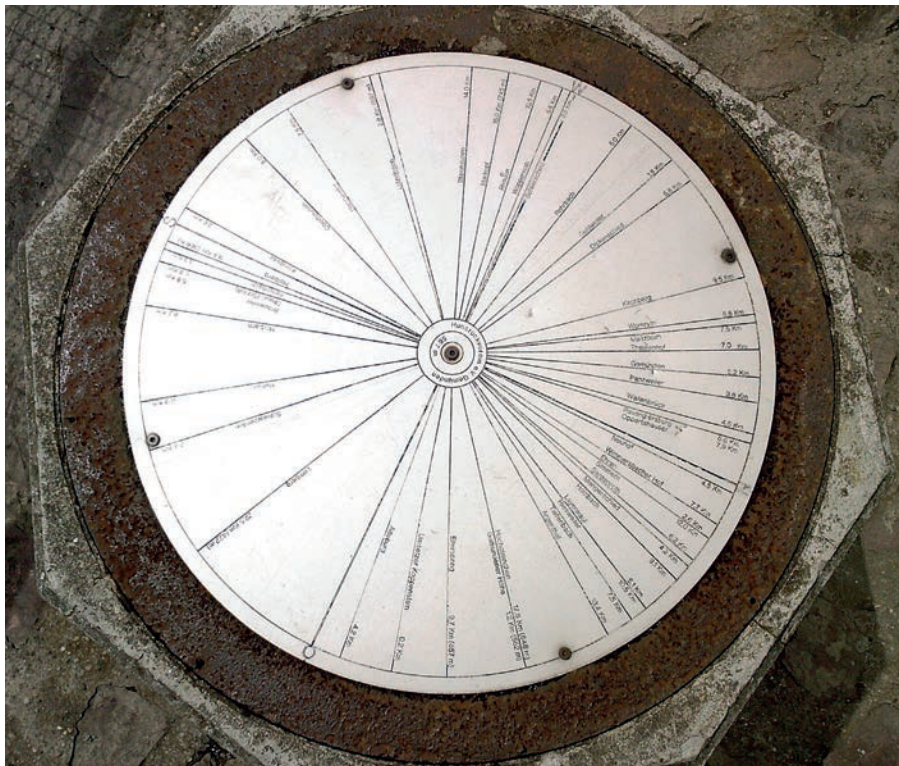
28 "Old well at Koppenstein Castle Ruin", photo. Judith Silverthorne Collection, September 2018.





*View of Gehlweiler, Gemünden, and Dickenschied from Castle of Koppenstein tower<sup>29</sup>*

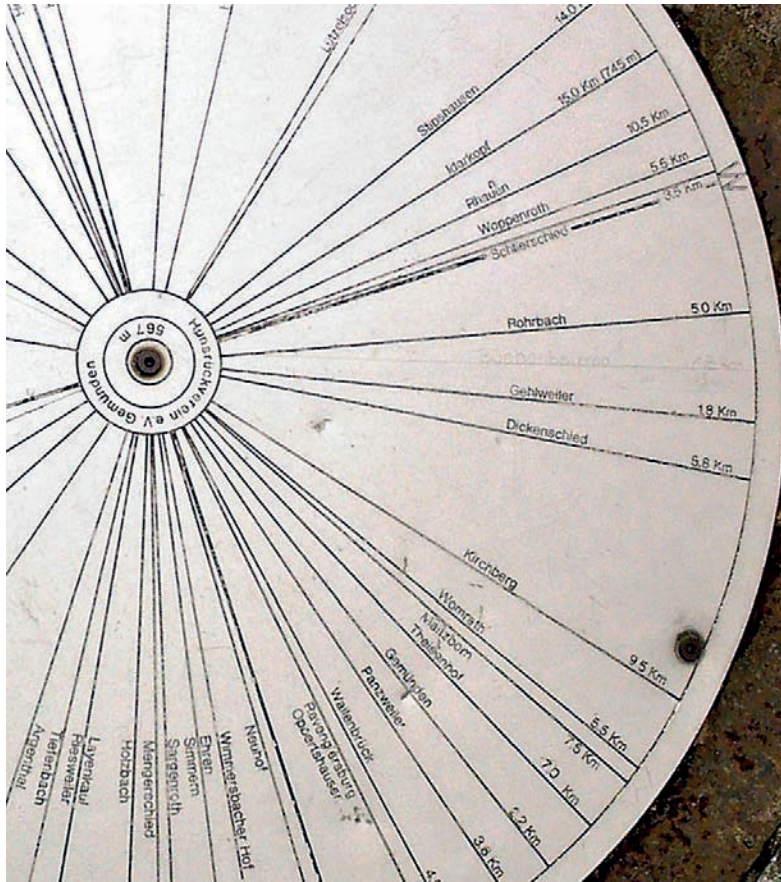
Many villages in the surrounding area can be seen from the top of the tower of the castle ruins. The dial indicates which direction and how far villages are from the Koppenstein Castle. The sight would have been impressive and also a great way to keep watch over any potential invading armies.



*Dial at Koppenstein Castle Ruins<sup>30</sup>*

29 "View of Gehlweiler, Gemünden, and Dickenschied from Castle of Koppenstein tower", photo. Judith Silverthorne Collection, Sept 2018. (taken by Veronika Lankeshofer).

30 „Burg Koppenstein. Entfernungen", photo. Wikimedia Commons.



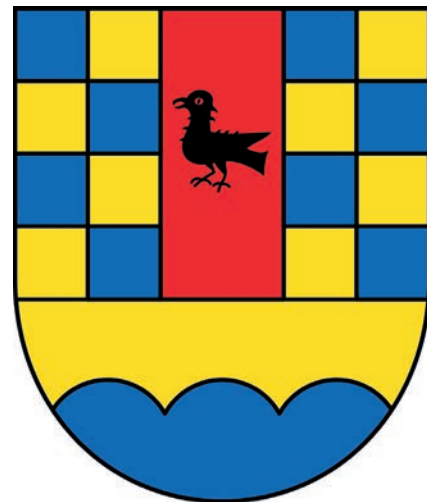
Our ancestors would have lived with the imposing spectre of the Koppenstein Castle looming over them, and some of them in earlier times may well have found work there, though the castle fell into disrepair by the 16th century.

Today Gehlweiler still has the coat of arms from that time. The “chequy” pattern and the raven charge are drawn from the arms formerly borne by the Knights of Koppenstein. Gehlweiler belonged to the Sponheim Amt (administrative division) of Koppenstein, which for a while was pledged to the Knights. After Castle Koppenstein had fallen into disrepair, the Koppenstein custodian (Amtsschultheiß) lived in Gehlweiler.

Gehlweiler from the earlier times, after the Sponheim ownerships until about 1575, was assigned to the Parish of Getzbach (called Seesbach today) and after that to the Amt of Gemünden. When it fell under the rule of Sibylle of Saxe-Lauenburg, Margravine of Baden-Baden, in 1707, there were few changes for the residents. This was a different story by 1794, when it lay under French rule, and then again when it was assigned to the Kingdom of Prussia in 1815.

Since 1946, Gehlweiler has been part of the German Rhineland-Palatinate state that had just formed, and from 1970 it also came under the Parish of Kirchberg. Wonnitz, Dickenschied, Gemünden, Gehlweiler, and other villages from which our ancestors came, all fell under the jurisdiction of the Parish of Kirchberg at that time.

The mayor of Gehlweiler for some years, and in 2017 and 2018, has been Kurt Assmann. His line seems to also be that of Johann Peter Assman (1680-1760), our Adam Assman’s brother, though Kurt Assmann’s line branches off from Jutta’s line at least six generations back.



*Coat of Arms of Gehlweiler<sup>31</sup>*

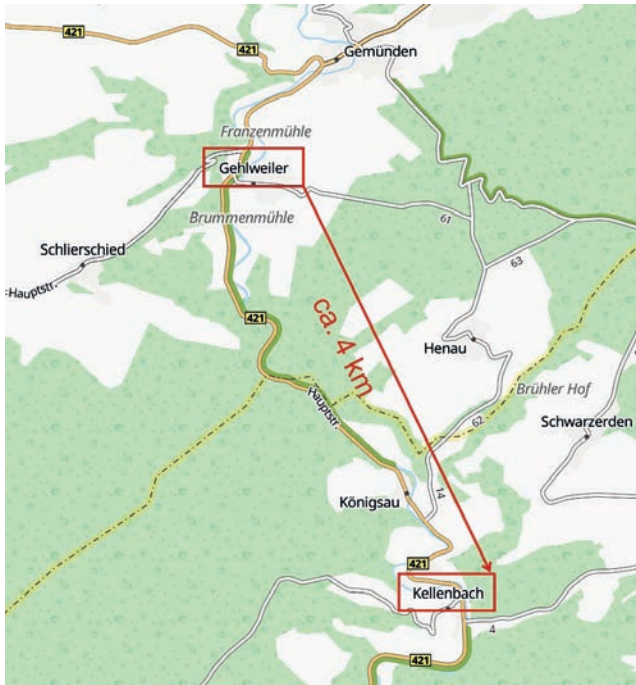
31 “Coat of Arms of Gehlweiler”, image. Wikipedia. (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gehlweiler> : accessed 8 May 2024).



## JOHAN LORENZ ASSMANN & SUSANNA KATHARINA GROH

**Johan Lorenz Assmann** born in 1688, Gehlweiler<sup>1</sup>; married **Susanna Katharina Groh**<sup>2</sup>; died between 1734 and 1738, Kellenbach<sup>3</sup>.

Johan Lorenz Assmann, our next direct ancestor, was a son of Johann Adam and Maria Catharina (née Lutzenburg) Assmann<sup>4</sup>. He was possibly born in Gehlweiler in 1688 and baptized at Easter time<sup>5</sup>. At some point, he moved to Kellenbach, perhaps due to marriage, as often the grooms at the time moved to the home villages of their brides.



*Map of Gehlweiler and Kellenbach<sup>11</sup>*

According to information found in the compilation of information collected by K. Herbert Küstner, members of the Assmann family had been living in Kellenbach before the beginning of church books. The family spread from there to Hochstetten, Weitersborn and Martinstein.<sup>6</sup> This could mean that Lorenz had family already there, before he married.

He married Susanna Katharina Groh on 27 November 1703 in the Protestant Reformed Church of Kellenbach (Evangelisch Reformierte Kirche).<sup>7</sup> She was the daughter of Johann Adam<sup>8</sup> and Elisabeth Margaretha<sup>9</sup> Groh. Susanna was born 18 October 1686 in Kellenbach<sup>10</sup>.

1 Werner Zwiebelberg, Die Einwohnerschaft von Gehlweiler bis 1800 (Gemünden, Germany: self-published, 1967), p.2 [unnumbered], Assmann, Hans Adam.

2 Rhineland, Lutheran Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials, 1533-1950 (Kellenbach, Rhineland,) p. 8

3 K. Herbert Küstner, Die Einwohner von Kellenbach (The Inhabitants of Kellenbach) 1685-1890, 6 (Haan, Germany: Kirn Land Association, 1993). 6: 3, Assmann 8/1.

4 Archiv der Evangelischen Kirche im Rheinland, Kirchenbücher der Archivstelle Boppard (Archives of the Protestant Church in the Rhineland, church records at the Boppard archives) Kirchengemeinde Gemünden. Anna Eva Assmann [indexed as Annam. = Annamaria Eva Assmann]. Evidence of surname because Hans Theobald Lutzenburg was noted as being a baptismal sponsor of Maria Assman's daughter, Anna Eva, according to Dieter Assmann. img 30; digital images, Ancestry (<http://ancestry.com> : accessed 24 September 2019).

5 Assmann, "Nachkommen der Familie Assmann." p.4. The article "Computus," at Wikipedia states, the Gregorian Easter has been used [in Germany] since 1583 by the Roman Catholic Church and was adopted by most Protestant churches between 1753 and 1845. German Protestant states used an astronomical Easter based on the Rudolphine Tables of Johannes Kepler between 1700 and 1774. The particular date of Easter in 1678 is unknown; however would have been in either March or April.

6 Küstner, Die Einwohner von Kellenbach.. Vol. 6: 3.

7 Rhineland, Lutheran Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials, 1533-1950 (Kellenbach, Rhineland,) , p. 8, marriage of [indexed as] Sunt. Lorentz Asman and Susa Kat. Adams; FHL microfilm 493,207.

8 Ibid.

9 Küstner, Die Einwohner von Kellenbach.. Vol. 6: 3, Groh 95/4.

10 Ibid. Vol. 6: 3, Assmann 8/1.

11 Via Michelin (<https://www.viamichelin.at/> : accessed 16 May 2024).



*Kellenbach: The Protestant Heilig Geist Kirche (Holy Spirit Church)<sup>12</sup>*

The church where they were married was the same church where Susanna had been baptized on 18 October 1686 in the presence of her parents Johann Adam Groh and Elisabeth Margaretha N.N. There was only one Protestant church in the village, from which the records all seem to stem, so we can be certain of this. The Groh family had lived in Kellenbach for several generations. In fact, the family seems to have been living in Kellenbach from the time when the first Church Book was kept. They family is noted much further back living in Gemünden and Kirchberg.<sup>13</sup>

The church in Kellenbach was already mentioned in documents as early as 1314, making it one of the oldest in the municipality. It still has two bells from that earlier time, though its tower and other parts of the building suggest it may have been 200 years older. Research proposes, it originally may have been consecrated to Saint Vitus, a martyr from Sicily who died during the persecution of Christians in 303 CE.<sup>14</sup>

There is no exact date for the introduction of Protestantism in Kellenbach, but it can be assumed that this happened in 1557, as in the entire county of Sponheim, to which Kellenbach belonged. This is supported by the preparation of a parish clause (Ordinance on Organizational and Financial Affairs of the Church) in 1558. At first Kellenbach, like the whole area, was Lutheran-Protestant, later it became Reformed-Protestant. Unfortunately, the church books from the time before the Reformation were not preserved, nor were the first Protestant church books. Fortunately, the Reformed church books from 1685 to 1883 are in existence, though there are many gaps due to the frequent changes of the pastor.<sup>15</sup>

<sup>12</sup> Evangelische Kirche (Kellenbach), Wikimedia Commons (<https://commons.wikimedia.org/> : accessed 16 May 2024).

<sup>13</sup> Küstner, Die Einwohner von Kellenbach.. Vol. 6: 3, Groh family 95.

<sup>14</sup> "Kellenbach", article. WikiVividly. (<https://wikivividly.com> : accessed 3 Nov 2018).

<sup>15</sup> Küstner, Die Einwohner von Kellenbach.. Vol. 6:1, Introduction, p.1



Subsequently, the church was until 1689 the sole possession of the Protestants, then until 1911 in the co-possession with the Catholics. Of the original building, only the Romanesque tower remains. The Gothic choir was probably rebuilt in the 15th century, which can be concluded from a letter of the knight Nikolaus von Kellenbach. In the 18th century, the choir was revamped again, and the nave renewed. The year 1765 above the portal on the south side of the nave indicates the completion of the construction work.<sup>16</sup>

Although Lorenz and Susanna did not live to see it, the church was refurbished in 1756 according to members of the congregation when research was conducted in September 2018. At that time, the church was called Evangelisch-Reformierte Kirche (Protestant Reformed Church), Kellenbach, Kreis (district) Simmern. Today it is a Protestant Church called Heilig Geist Kirche (Holy Spirit Church) and is listed as being in the Rhein-Hunsrück-Kreis region within the Bad Kreuznach district. This was also the same church where Lorenz and Susanna Assmann's children were baptized, and where Lorenz served as a Kirchenältester (church elder or member of church council).<sup>17</sup> Lorenz and Susanna seem to have lived their whole lives in Kellenbach where they raised at least ten children. Lorenz was listed as a Gemeindsmann und Schmied<sup>18</sup> (member of the local council and smith).



Lorenz Assmann died in Kellenbach between 1734 and 1738 aged between 56 and 60. Susanna's death information is unknown at this time. Both would have been buried in the Kellenbach cemetery, next to the Protestant church.

*Kellenbach Protestant Cemetery*<sup>19</sup>

Children of Lorenz Assmann and Susanna Groh were as follows:

Lorenz and Susanna's oldest daughter, **Maria Ester Assmann**, born 7 October 1704, was married on 2 February 1734 to Johann Peter Mohr, born 2 January 1709, Kellenbach. He was the son of Johannes Mohr, and his second wife, Anna Elisabetha Bauer<sup>20</sup>, and he died 13 March 1753<sup>21</sup>. They had three sons and three daughters, two daughters of whom lived to adulthood, although they only made it to 19 and 38, respectively. The other children died at the ages of two, three, and nine, and one daughter's age is unknown.<sup>22</sup>

16 Walter Glöckner, compiler, Einiges Wissenswertes über Kirche und Gemeinde zu Kellenbach, information brochure, Kellenbach Evangelische Kirchengemeinde (Kellenbach, Rheinland-Palantine, Germany), p. 1.

17 Küstner, Die Einwohner von Kellenbach.. Vol. 6: 3, Assmann 8/1.

18 Ibid.

19 "Kellenbach Protestant Church Cemetery", photo. Judith Silverthorne Collection, September 2018.

20 Küstner, Die Einwohner von Kellenbach.. Vol. 6: Mohr 201/4.

21 Ibid. Vol. 6: Mohr 201/10.

22 Ibid.

Of the second daughter, **Maria Eva**, little else is known except her birth on 12 November 1707<sup>23</sup>. This is also the same for Lorenz and Susanna's daughters, **Elisabetha Margaretha Assmann**, and **Maria Margaretha Assmann**. Only the birth and confirmation dates are known for **Maria Katharina Assmann** and their son **Johann Christophel Assmann**. They were about fifteen years old when they were confirmed which is traditional today.<sup>24</sup>

**Johann Peter Nickel Assmann**, the third known child, married Elisabeth Katharine Spreuer on 2 January 1735 in Kellenbach. She was the daughter of Peter Spreuer and Anna Elisabetha Schneider, born 14 April 1715 in Weitersborn, Rheinland-Pfalz. They had seven daughters, all baptised in Kellenbach. The oldest two died in 1740 at the ages of four years and six months,<sup>25</sup> most likely from one of the pestilential diseases that prevailed over all parts of the known world between 1740 and 1744.<sup>26</sup> Typhus was especially rampant in Central Germany in 1740 and influenza all over the country.

**Johannes Assmann**, the third known son, born in 1718, married Anna Catharina Lanz; died 9 October 1791 in Kellenbach, is our direct relative<sup>27</sup> (*See: Johannes Assmann & Anna Catharina Lanz.*)

Another son, **Johann Philipp Assmann**, born in 1720, married Dorothea Luise Cullmann on 17 February 1750 in Hochstetten-Dhaun, Rheinland-Pfalz. Records for two of their children exist, one a daughter, Maria Christina, born about 1751, and the other a son, Johann Reichart born 27 October 1754, who married Anna Elisabetha Schneeberger,<sup>28</sup> and they had at least five children.<sup>29</sup>

The final son born to Lorenz and Susanna was **Johann Adam Assmann**, who married three times and lived in the nearby village of Schwarzerden, where he was a Handwerksbursche (craft apprentice). He also worked in Meisenheim, probably when he was an apprentice as travelling to gain as much experience as possible was required before they were considered journeymen. Johann Adam had eight children with his first wife, Maria Elisabetha Kehl, six were sons and two daughters. Maria died on 17 January 1773, six months after the last baby was born. Their last two children, a girl and a boy, died five years later on the same day, 28 February 1778. Johann Adam went on to marry Anna Margaretha Kreuscher on 31 August 1773, and they had one daughter and two sons together, before she died in 1781. Their third child died at two years of age in 1778, possibly from influenza, as there was another epidemic in Europe at that time. With his third wife Anna Catharina Euler, Johann Adam had another two children, a daughter and a son.<sup>30</sup>

## Kellenbach

Today Kellenbach is a local community with a population around 265 located in the municipality of Kirn-Land in the Bad Kreuznach district of the state of Rhineland-Palatinate. This is the district just south of the Rhein-Hunsrück district within the state.

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23 Küstner, Die Einwohner von Kellenbach.1685-1890. Vol. 6, 2, Assmann 8/1.

24 Ibid.

25 Assmann, „Familie Assmann aus Gehlweiler und Kellenbach,” p. 10, 11.

26 “A brief history of epidemic and pestilential diseases,” article. Evans Early American Imprint Collection. (<https://quod.lib.umich.edu/cgi/t/text/text-idx?cc=evans;c=evans;idno=N27531.0001.001;node=N27531.0001.001%3A12;rgn=div1;view=text;q1=Epidemics%20--%20History> : accessed 4 Nov, 2018.), p 236.

27 Assmann, “Familie Assmann aus Gehlweiler und Kellenbach,” p 11, Johannes Assmann.

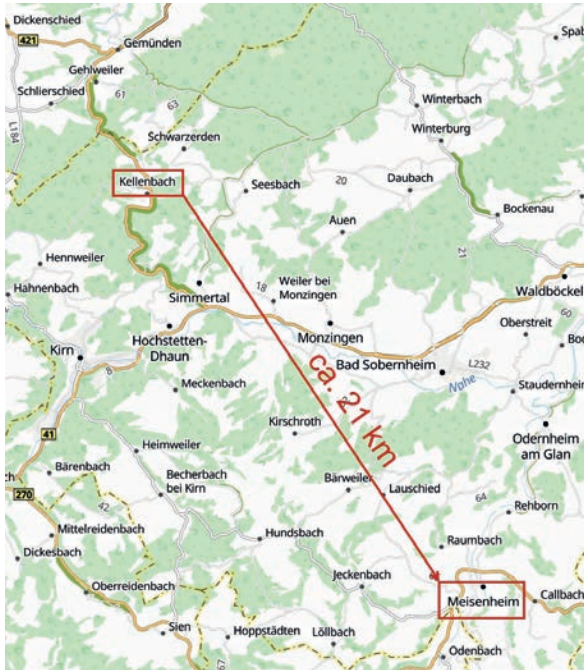
28 Ibid. p. 12, Johann Philipp Assmann.

29 Ibid. p. 25, Johann Reichart Assmann.

30 p. 12-14, Johannes Adam Assmann.



The name Kellenbach is believed to derive from a combination of words, the last part being the German word Bach, which means “brook”. The word kela is an Old High German word, but in Modern High German, the form is Kehle, which means “channel”, “gorge” or “groove”, though the meaning is believed to have come to mean “narrow dale.”



A brook with the same name as the village of Kellenbach runs through the village, emptying downstream near the Simmertal into the Nahe, making it another prime location for very early and continued settlement, verified by archaeological findings. During severe winters, ice jams have caused havoc on the river and no doubt our ancestors had to contend with this problem through the centuries, even though they would have enjoyed all the benefits of being close to a source of the water during the rest of the year.

Kellenbach is first mentioned in documentation in 1200, but traces of pre-historic and early historical settlements indicate people were settled there during earlier times.

*Map of Kellenbach to Meisenheim<sup>31</sup>*



*Village of Kellenbach (with the brook running beside it to the right)<sup>32</sup>*

In fact, members of the Assmann family are thought to have lived there before the beginning of the formal creation of Kellenbach as a community or hamlet. This is according to a compilation of history produced by K. Herbert Küstner in 1993 as part of a folklore series<sup>33</sup>:

31 Via Michelin (<https://www.viamichelin.at/> : accessed 16 May 2024).

32 “Village of Kellenbach”, photo. Judith Silverthorne Collection, September 2018.

33 Küstner, *Die Einwohner von Kellenbach*, third page [unnumbered].

*“Aßmann. Saßen schon vor Beginn der KB in Kellenbach. Die Familie hat sich von Hier nach Hochstetten, Weitersborn u Martinstein ausgebreitet.” = “Assmann. Settled even before the beginning of KB [Kirchenbücher = church records] in Kellenbach. The family has spread from here to Hochstetten, Weitersborn and Martinstein.”*

At the village, in about 1200, a castle house was built by Theoderich vom Stein, said to have been the father of the Lords of Kellenbach line. It can still be seen there as a ruin. The family back then was also known as the Knights of Callenfels, and in fact, they built three fortresses on the ridge “one above the other like eagles’ nests.” This family of ancient fame was very powerful, said to have never been captured, nor conquered. They were notorious for their ferocity, love of war, and highway robberies.

From the Middle Ages to early modern times, learned men in law created and issued legal proclamations, and in Kellenbach one was developed in 1560, called the Kellenbacher Weistum. In this one, the Lords of Steinkallenfels and their coheirs were named as lords of the court at the Kellenbach High Court.<sup>34</sup>



Above: Kellenbach Coat of Arms on Village Sign<sup>37</sup>  
Right: Kellenbach Coat of Arms<sup>38</sup>.

The coat of arms was thought to have developed about 1200 AD when the first mention of the town was found.



Our ancestors would have found Kellenbach a somewhat bustling and sometimes disconcerting place, as Kellenbach was both the seat of the court and administrative region from these previous times until the early 18th century. The neighbouring villages of Henau, Königsau, Schwarzerden and, for a time, Weitersborn, were part of this region. Over time the Kellenbach High Court became a joint lordship and holding divided into four lordly shares by division of inheritance, sale, divorce, and feudal orders (enfeoffment).<sup>35</sup> One quarter each went to the Lords of Kellenbach, the Knights of Stein-Kallenfels, the Knights of Schmidzburg, and another to the Amt (district) of Koppenstein. The latter “share had been acquired by Count Simon III of Sponheim in 1403 from Johann von Treis.”<sup>36</sup> Each had joint high jurisdiction. The last Lord of Kellenbach died in 1798.

<sup>34</sup> “Kellenbach”, article. Kirn-Land. ([https://www.kirn-land.de/vg\\_kirn\\_land/Startseite/](https://www.kirn-land.de/vg_kirn_land/Startseite/) : accessed 24 Oct 2018.)

<sup>35</sup> Enfeoffment word meaning: under the feudal system, the deed by which a person was given land in exchange for a pledge of service. Vocabulary.com (<https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/enfeoffment> : accessed 24 Oct 2018).

<sup>36</sup> “Kellenbach”, article. Wikipedia. (<https://en.wikipedia.org> : accessed 24 Oct 2018).

<sup>37</sup> “Kellenbach Coat of Arms on Village Sign”, photo. Shelley Kloczko Collection, September 2018.

<sup>38</sup> See footnote 36.



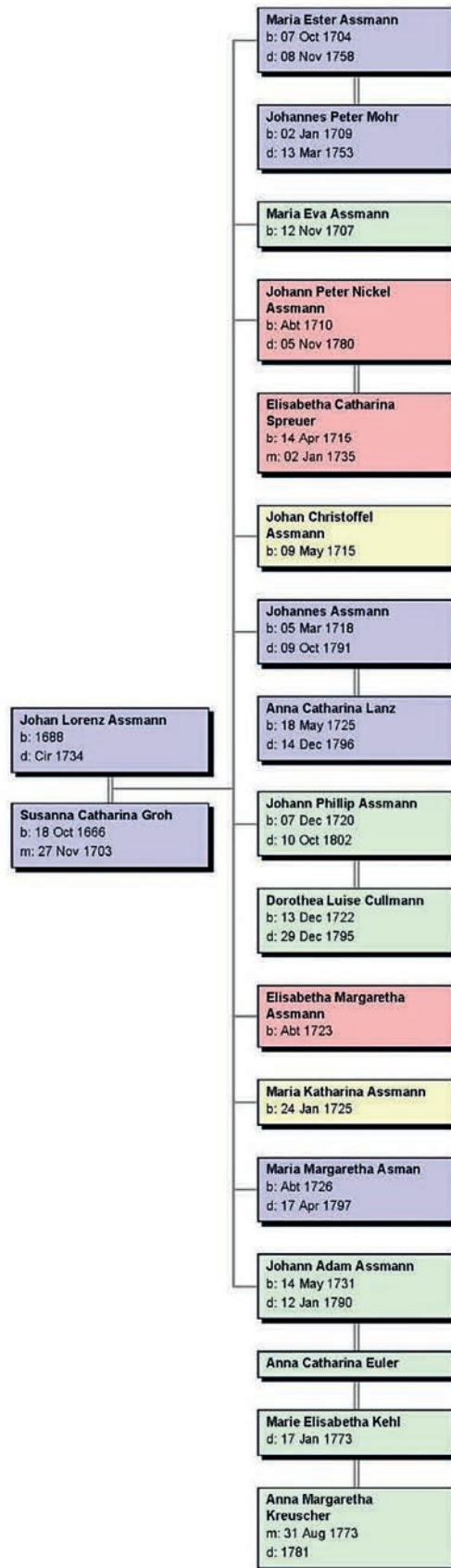
Over the centuries, there would have been continual changes to the demands of our ancestor's lives and requirements of liege to their lords. Beginning in 1707, the landlord was the Margrave of Baden as heir to the Sponheim holdings.

Subsequent generations of our ancestors lived in other villages in this region, moving when they married or otherwise went about making decisions about their daily lives. Changes over time and circumstances no doubt dictated to their well-being and their best abilities to cope, given their often impoverished state, the sometimes drastic weather conditions that affected crops, and the many flu and other epidemics that erupted over the years. "At the end of the 17th century, the slogan 'I can not [sic] do more' made the rounds [...] and reflected the exhaustion of the inhabitants of the Palatinate."<sup>39</sup>

For Lorenz and Susanna, life in Kellenbach quite possibly was a struggle. Although we know little of their day-to-day lives, they were living at a time when they would most likely have been considered sturdy peasant stock, but at the whim of whoever was their most recent landlord, or ruling regime. For information on what rural life was like for peasant, see the following chapter, of their son and our direct ancestors, Johann Assmann & Anna Catharina Lanz.

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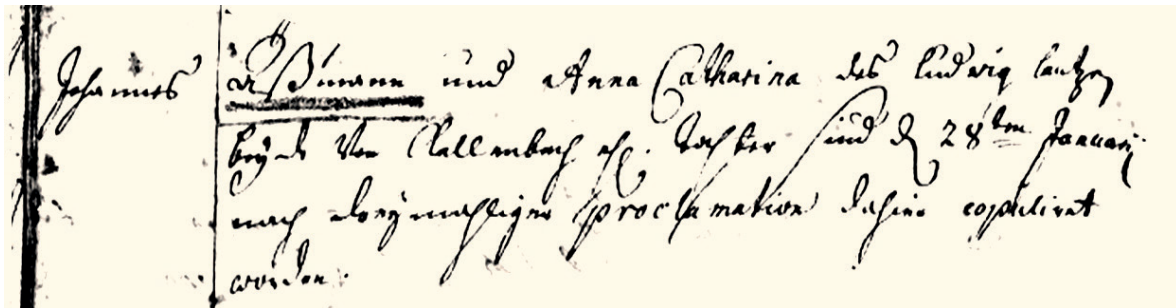
39 Hans Christian Heinz „There is nothing to be gained in Poland. Notes on emigration from the Palatinate to Galicia and the German settlements there," article. Galizien-Deutsche. ([https://www.galizien-deutsche.de/hochgeladen/dateien/Historischer\\_Abriss\\_ENGLISCH.H.C.Heinz.pdf](https://www.galizien-deutsche.de/hochgeladen/dateien/Historischer_Abriss_ENGLISCH.H.C.Heinz.pdf) : accessed 16 Jan 2023.)



## JOHANNES ASSMANN & ANNA CATHARINA LANZ

**Johannes Assmann** was born on 5 March 1718 in Kellenbach; married **Anna Catharina Lanz**; died 9 October 1791 in Kellenbach.<sup>1</sup>

Johannes Assmann, third son born to Johan Lorenz Assmann (1678-1734/8) and Susanna Katharina Groh (b. 1686)<sup>2</sup> and our next direct forebear, was born on 5 March 1718 and baptized on 9 March 1718 in Kellenbach.<sup>3</sup> He was raised in Kellenbach where he eventually met his future wife Anna Catharina Lanz. She was the daughter of Johann Ludwig and Maria Katharina Lanz, née Hermann (b: 1725)<sup>4</sup>. Johannes Assmann married Anna Catharina Lanz (or Lantz)<sup>5</sup> on 28 January 1744 at Kellenbach. Johannes died before Anna on 9 October in 1791. Anna passed five years later on 14 December 1796. Both were buried in Kellenbach.



Marriage registration of Johannes Assmann and Anna Catharina Lanz<sup>6</sup>

German transcription of the marriage registration:

*"Johannes Assmann und Anna Catharina des Ludwig Lanzen  
Bürgers von Kellenbach ehel. Tochter sind den 28ten Januar  
nach dreyimaliger proclamation dahier copuliert  
worden"*

English translation:

*"Johannes Assmann and Anna Catharina, daughter of Ludwig Lanz,  
inhabitant of Kellenbach, have been married here on the 28th January  
after three times of proclamation [marriage banns]"*

1 Archiv der Evangelischen Kirche im Rheinland, Kirchenbücher der Archivstelle Boppard (Archives of the Protestant Church in the Rhineland, church records at the Boppard archives) Kirchengemeinde Kellenbach.

2 Küstner, Die Einwohner von Kellenbach. Vol. 6: 3, Assmann 8/1.

3 Archiv der Evangelischen Kirche im Rheinland, Kirchenbücher der Archivstelle Boppard (Archives of the Protestant Church in the Rhineland, church records at the Boppard archives) Kirchengemeinde Kellenbach.

4 Küstner, Die Einwohner von Kellenbach.. Vol. 6: Lanz 169/1.

5 The exact spelling of the name varies: Lanz or Lantz, but the pronunciation is the same in both cases. Since there were no strict orthographic rules in German before the beginning of the 20th century, the same word was often spelled differently.

„Lanzen“ (or „Lantzen“), which also occurs in some places in the documents, is not another form of name. It is the grammatical form that was often used in the past with some German words for the genitive, dative and accusative cases. It corresponds to the English ,s. E.g. „die Tochter von Ludwig Lanzen“ is to be translated as „Ludwig Lanz’s daughter“.

6 Archiv der Evangelischen Kirche im Rheinland, Kirchenbücher der Archivstelle Boppard (Archives of the Protestant Church in the Rhineland, church records at the Boppard archives) Kirchengemeinde Kellenbach.



For those who wish to know the literal English translation, the actual the word by word, line after line translation would be:

*"Johannes Assmann and Anna Catharina Ludwig Lanz's  
inhabitant of Kellenbach [and] married daughter have been on the 28th January  
after three times of proclamation married."*

(Note that the first "married" ("ehel.") refers to Ludwig.)

Marriage customs and laws in the 1700s varied from one independent kingdom, duchy, or other large and small entities in the German Empire. Johannes and Anna would have had to follow the appropriate ones in order to marry. Usually it took place in the bride's home parish and her family was required to buy certain quantities of alcoholic beverages from the local tavern. Intent to marry was proclaimed two to three times (banns) in each person's home town or parish of residence, or sometimes place of birth. A price could be paid to dispense with this formality if a couple already had a child or were planning to emigrate.<sup>7</sup>

Of course, they had to have permission from the lord of the manor, if either party was a serf tied to the land, and parental permission for first marriages. Soldiers could not marry until they were discharged, and journeymen had to finish their travelling requirements for their apprenticeships first. Often men married girls in the town where they received their training. Proof of compliance, permissions, birth or baptismal certificates and income or ownership might also be requested. As well, there were other stipulations for those remarrying, or if one were divorced, and a town council could deny permission to marry.<sup>8</sup>

Johannes Assmann and Anna Lanz seemed to have lived their entire lives in Kellenbach, where all their children were born. They would have begun raising them during the Seven Years' War between 1756 and 1763.



*Scene from the Seven Years' War: The Battle of Nauheim (ca. 100 km north-east of Kellenbach), 30 August 1762<sup>9</sup>*

7 "German Genealogy: Marriage Customs, Laws and Records", article. Genealoger. ([https://www.genealoger.com/german/ger\\_marriage.htm](https://www.genealoger.com/german/ger_marriage.htm) : accessed 15 Nov 2018.)

8 "Ancestors in the Records: Parish Records: Using German Parish Marriage Records", article. Understanding Your Ancestors (<http://www.understandingyourancestors.com/ar/parishMarriage.aspx> : accessed 15 Nov 2018). "German Genealogy: Marriage Customs, Laws and Records," Genealoger.

9 A. Fauré: Bataille de Nauheim. Wikimedia Commons (<https://commons.wikimedia.org/> : accessed 18 May 2024).

The family would have been concerned about their futures, given this was a global conflict that spanned five continents and involved every European great power at the time, with no definite end in sight. The conflict split Europe into two coalitions. Prussia, the state of Hanover and several other smaller German states aligned with the Kingdom of Great Britain in the lead on one side against the Kingdom of France, the Austrian-led Holy Roman Empire, the Russian Empire, Bourbon Spain and Sweden on the other.<sup>10</sup> Conflict also affected the Americas, West Africa, India, and the Philippines, as European powers vied for global rights.<sup>11</sup>

Johannes and Anna and others in our related families may have been affected in some way as many are when there are wars in the regions and countries around them, as the religious and political struggle left much of Western Europe in dire economic and social conditions. NB: The Rhineland was not part of Prussia at that time. So there was no danger that they would have had to join the Prussian army.

Life for Johannes and Anna would have been similar to previous generations. They would have lived under a feudal system where lords of the manor had almost absolute control over the peasantry. Only towards the end of their lives, when the emancipation began in about 1780, did this start to change.

Children of Johannes Assmann and Anna Catharina Lanz were as follows:

**Johann Ludwig Assmann** our next direct ancestor was born in Kellenbach on 5 September 1745.<sup>12</sup> He married Maria Elisabetha Steffen in 1766.<sup>13</sup> (*See Johann Ludwig Assmann & Maria Elisabetha Steffen for their story.*)

Of Johannes and Anna's next known son **Johann Nikolaus Assmann** little is known except that he was born on 7 November 1748 and baptised three days later, also in Kellenbach.<sup>14</sup>

**Johann Conrad Assmann** was born on 11 Sept in 1751. He is listed as being a cobbler. He married Anna Catharina Grein, the daughter of Johann Thielmann Grein and Anna Margaretha Groh on 1 April 1777 in Kellenbach. Anna Katharina had been born in Henau on 1 August 1754. They had eight children, three of whom were boys. Three of their children died between the ages of one and three years old.<sup>15</sup>

**Elisabetha Katharina Assmann**, born 13 April 1754; baptized two days later, at Kellenbach; unmarried; died 16 January 1834.<sup>16</sup>

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10 "Seven Years' War", article. Britannica. (<https://www.britannica.com> : accessed 4 Nov 2018).

11 "Seven Years' War", article. Wikipedia (<https://wikipedia.org> : accessed 21 Aug 2017).

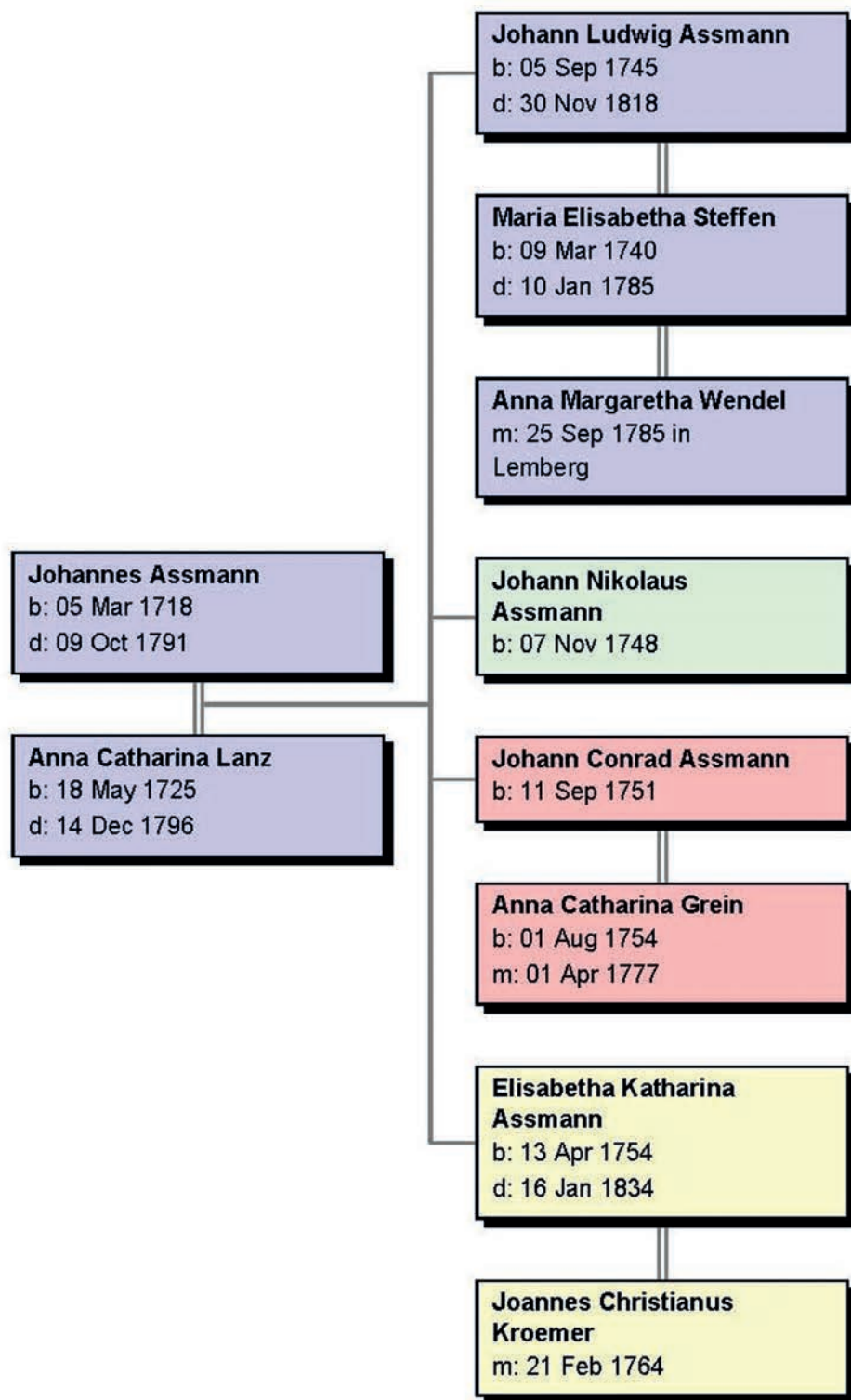
12 Hilfskomitee der Galiziendeutschen, Ortsfamilienbuch Zimna Woda 1784-1900; PDF download, Galizien German Descendants (<http://www.galiziengerm descendants.org> : downloaded 17 Apr 2017), family 34.

13 Archiv der Evangelischen Kirche im Rheinland, Kirchenbücher der Archivstelle Boppard (Archives of the Protestant Church in the Rhineland, church records at the Boppard archives) Kirchengemeinde Kellenbach.

14 Hilfskomitee der Galiziendeutschen, Zimna Woda 1784-1900, family 33.

15 Küstner, Die Einwohner von Kellenbach, 8/6 Aßmann.

16 Hilfskomitee der Galiziendeutschen, Zimna Woda 1784-1900, family 33.





## Serfdom and Peasant Life

At the time our ancestors lived in Germany in the 1700s, about 80% of Germans lived in rural areas, the rest in urban trade centres. Most of those who were farmers did not own the land they cultivated, “but had usufruct, the legal right to use the product of the land.”<sup>17</sup> Very few were able to support their families from the harvests because much of the yield had to be paid to the authorities, who were mostly noblemen. Sometimes their rent had to be paid with animals or cash, if they had any to give. Most were like this, though there were a few who were well-to-do.

The rare “farmers with horses and servants to help them with chores were the lucky ones. They were able to work their own farm and supply services required of them by their sovereign lords. People without land to cultivate were forced to pick up work outside the village community (Wanderarbeit).”<sup>18</sup>



*Left: Typical 1700s-style German House. Right: Interior of 1700s-style German House<sup>19</sup>*

Conditions for our forebearers, who were most likely among the majority of poor farmers, probably would have become unbearable under each of the different landowners. They were most likely treated like serfs. These landlords were usually tyrannical, imposing fiscal burdens and mobility restrictions, although this could sometimes be waived for a fee in later years.<sup>20</sup> As already noted, sovereign landlords would not allow them to marry without consent, nor could they move anywhere else, or sell or obtain land. Sometimes the peasants were required to work for the landlord a certain number of days each year, and be ready to take up arms for any conflicts or combats that developed. Those farmers fortunate enough to be put in charge of land or a working farm were allowed to pass it to their successor, provided the successor was able to provide the same care and yield as the previous person.

“If a farmer died, several scenarios could take place. The farmland could be divided among all heirs or be given to the oldest or youngest son while other brothers and sisters received monetary compensations. If a farmer had no heir, the sovereign or manor lord took back the

17 “Work in Rural Germany, 1600-1800”, article. Family Search Blog. (<https://www.familysearch.org/blog/en/> : accessed 10 Nov 2018).

18 “Work in Rural Germany, 1600-1800”, article. Family Search Blog. (<https://www.familysearch.org/blog/en/> : accessed 10 Nov 2018).

19 “Typical 1700s-style German House”, “Interior of 1700s-style German House”, photos. Flowergardengirl (<https://flowergardengirl.com/> accessed 9 Nov 2018. Used with permission).

20 “Serfdom”, article. Encyclopedia.com. (<http://www.encyclopedia.com/history/modern-europe/heraldry-knighthood-and-chivalry/serfdom> : accessed 23 Aug 2017).

property and gave it to another farmer who could be a relative of the deceased.”<sup>21</sup> Only the male lines could inherit, according to strict German inheritance laws. The land would be divided and subdivided for every generation, but over time, the tracts and parcels of land became smaller and smaller and were no longer viable to sustain a family. This was often the case for younger sons in a family, such as with our Assmann families. And with sixteen million people in Germany in 1700, there was no more land to be had.<sup>22</sup> In some cases, the landlord deemed the property indivisible, and many sons had to look for other employment or emigrate if they were not in line to inherit a farm.

The farmland was divided into narrow strips of land that was not easily accessible. It was usually beneficial to work in cooperation with the neighbour in planting the same crop, and for accomplishing other daily activities, such as pasturing cattle without disrupting growing crops. When a crop failed, obtaining cheap grain from other regions was difficult, and usually only larger farms had sufficient supplies for next years’ sowing.<sup>23</sup> Their livelihood depended on the success of the harvest, which was at the whim of the weather, the type of soil they had, the availability of fertilizer and seed and the ways of transportation to be able to sell the grain. Mediaeval Manor, showing example of strip farms.

The size of the farmland and amount of personal property determined the social hierarchy of a village. Those with little or no property ended up on the bottom of the social strata. The number of people in this situation, working as labourers or seasonal workers, grew steadily for over a hundred years from the time the Thirty Years’ War had ended in 1648. The women often bought looms and made money by weaving, hoping to sell mostly outside their communities.

“Peasants continued to center their lives in the village, where they were members of a corporate body, and to help manage the community resources and monitor the community life.... Peasant leaders supervised the fields and ditches and grazing rights, maintained public order and morals, and supported a village court which handled minor offenses. Inside the family the patriarch made all the decisions, and tried to arrange advantageous marriages for his children.



*Loom inside 1700s-style German house<sup>24</sup>*

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21 “Work in Rural Germany, 1600-1800”, article. Family Search Blog.

22 “18th-Century History of Germany”, article. Wikipedia. (<https://en.wikipedia.org> : accessed 9 Nov 2018).

23 “Work in Rural Germany”, article. Family Search. (<https://www.familysearch.org/blog/en/> : accessed 9 Nov 2018).

24 “Loom Inside 1700s-style German House,” photo. Flowergardengirl (<https://flowergardengirl.com> : 9 Nov 2018. Used with permission).

Much of the villages' communal life centered around church services and holy days. In Prussia, the peasants drew lots to choose conscripts required by the army. The noblemen handled external relationships and politics for the villages under their control, and were not typically involved in daily activities or decisions."<sup>25</sup>

Even though the agrarian reforms in northwestern Germany in the era 1770-1870 led to the abolishment of feudal obligations, and many Catholic monasteries were dissolved and sold off, conditions were not good for the rural proletariat. For sure it was good news for our ancestors when the collectively owned common land was divided into private parcels. However, this sometimes caused worse conditions for those who suddenly found themselves displaced. At first things seemed rosy, as the peasants were now ex-serfs and could own their land, buy and sell it, and move about freely. The end of serfdom also raised the personal legal status of the peasantry. The nobles approved too, for now they could buy land worked by the peasants. In fact, a bank was set up so landowners could borrow government money to buy land from peasants (the peasants were not allowed to use it to borrow money to buy land until 1850). Johannes and Anna would have been dismayed at the result which saw wealthier peasants and the large landowners with larger estates, leaving the common people without land.<sup>26</sup> Many peasants became landless tenants like some of our ancestors may have been.

Although the peasants were no longer tied to the same land as serfs had been, the old paternalistic relationship lasted into the 20th century.<sup>27</sup> The customs and traditions continued largely unchanged, including the old habits of deference to the nobles whose legal authority remained quite strong over the villagers. Our ancestors most likely were still under obligation to others for work and subsistence. If they could not find work, they had no choice but to move to the cities, to America, or to other countries that welcomed them.

In Germany, "serfdom remained a vital institution throughout the early modern period [...] and the institution persisted in its tenurial and territorial forms until abolished in the various German states over the years between the revolutions of 1789 and 1848."<sup>28</sup> Our early known ancestors would have been subject to these conditions for most of their lives while living under the rulers in the various German states. These sometimes unbearable circumstances would prove to be a motivation when the opportunities to emigrate came open.

As their landlords gradually shifted their position and allowed them to leave, as early as 1683 and into 1820, emigrants left Germany in various waves to escape further economic hardships, including unemployment and crop failures and to avoid wars and military service. Many of these emigrants, including our ancestors, were the particularly vulnerable Protestants from Southwestern Germany, primarily the Rheinland, Westfalen, Hessen, Baden, Württemberg, and Elsaß-Lothringen [Alsace-Lorraine].<sup>29</sup> Some migrated to North America, Russia, England, Scotland, and Ireland in the late 1600s to early 1700s.

Our ancestors must have seriously considered these options as the years rolled by, but they endured and persevered in their stifling conditions for another sixty or more years, as far as we

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25 "History of Germany", article. Wikipedia. (<https://en.wikipedia.org> : accessed 9 Nov 2018).

26 Ibid.

27 Ibid.

28 "Germany Emigration and Immigrations", article. Family Search Wiki ([https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Main\\_Page](https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Main_Page) : accessed 27 Aug 2017).

29 "Germany Emigration and Immigrations", article. Family Search Wiki ([https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Main\\_Page](https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Main_Page) : accessed 27 Aug 2017).

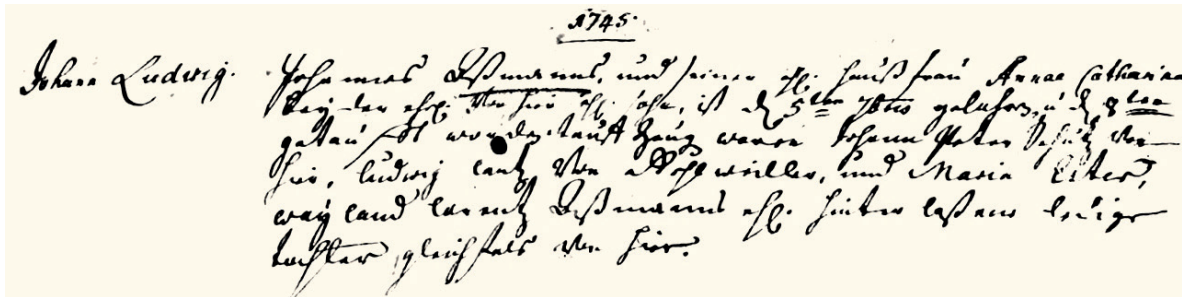


can ascertain, until the late 1700s. At that time many people migrated mainly to Southeastern Europe, some to Russia, and specifically for our ancestors, to Austria when the area known at the time as Galicia was opened for settlement. This delay for any of our ancestors leaving, may have partially been due to the conditions of their life situations as peasants, when some landlords of the time still would not allow them to leave.

Although Johann Ludwig Assman, our next direct ancestor, and his wife Maria Elisabetha Steffen and their family lived in Kellenbach for a number of years, they chose to emigrate to another country to find what they thought would give be a better way of life. *(See their story in the chapter: Johann Ludwig Assman & Maria Elisabetha Steffen.)*

## JOHANN LUDWIG ASSMANN & MARIA ELISABETHA STEFFEN

**Johann Ludwig Assmann**, born 5 September 1745, in Kellenbach;<sup>1</sup> married **Maria Elisabetha Steffen (Stephan)**<sup>2,3</sup>; married **Anna Margaretha Wendel**,<sup>4</sup> died 30 November 1818, Zimna Woda, Galicia, Austria (today Ukraine)<sup>5</sup>.



Johann Ludwig Assmann, entry in the baptismal register<sup>6</sup>

German Transcription:

1745

*Johann Ludwig*    *Johannes Aßmanns und seiner ehl. Hausfrau Anna Catherina beyder ehel. von hier ehl. Sohn, ist den 5ten 7bris geboren u. d. 8ten getauft worden. Zeugen waren Johann Peter Schütz von hier, Ludwig Lantz von Gehlweiler, und Maria Ester, weyland Lorentz Aßmanns ehl. hinter laßene ledige Tochter gleichfalls von hier.*

English Translation:

1745

*Johann Ludwig*    *Johannes Assmann's and his his lawful wedded wife Anna Catherina's, both from here, legitimate son was born the 5th September and baptized the 8th. Witnesses were Johann Peter Schütz from here, Ludwig Lantz from Gehlweiler, and Maria Ester, of the late married Lorentz Assmann's unmarried daughter also from here.*

**Johann Ludwig Assmann**, the son of Johannes Assmann and Anna Catharina Lanz, was born on 5 September 1745 in Kellenbach. He was baptized there on 8 September 1745.<sup>7</sup> He grew up in Henau. He married **Maria Elisabetha Steffen** on the 24 June 1766, in the Protestant Reformed

1 Archiv der Evangelischen Kirche im Rheinland, Kirchenbücher der Archivstelle Boppard (Archives of the Protestant Church in the Rhineland, church records at the Boppard archives) Kirchengemeinde Kellenbach.

2 Ibid.

3 The exact spelling of the name varies: Steffen or Stephan, the difference in pronunciation is minimal and barely audible in everyday speech. As there were no strict orthographic rules in German before the beginning of the 20th century, one and the same word was often spelled differently.

4 Hilfskomitee der Galiziendeutschen, Ortsfamilienbuch Zimna Woda 1784-1900; PDF download, Galizien German Descendants (<http://www.galiziengermansdescendants.org> : downloaded 17 Apr 2017), family 35.

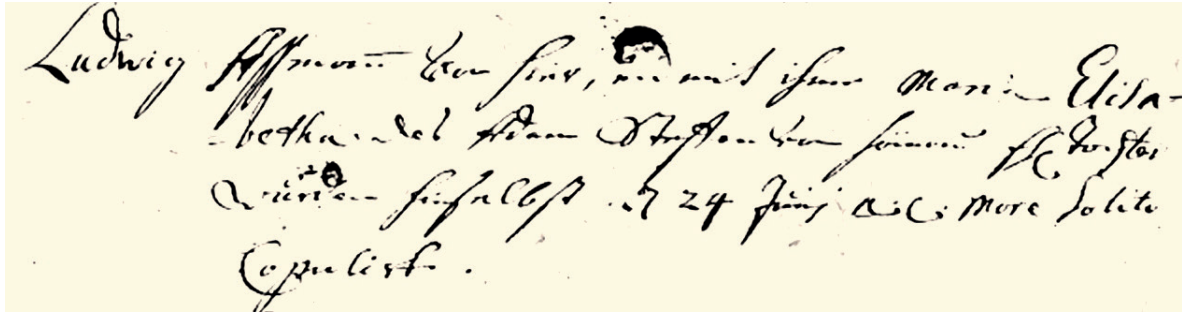
5 Ibid., family 34, p 23.

6 Archiv der Evangelischen Kirche im Rheinland, Kirchenbücher der Archivstelle Boppard (Archives of the Protestant Church in the Rhineland, church records at the Boppard archives) Kirchengemeinde Kellenbach.

7 Ibid.

Church in Kellenbach,<sup>8</sup> which a year earlier had been refurbished and a new pulpit installed (for more details on the history of this church, see the previous chapter, Johann Lorenz Assmann & Susanna Katharina Groh, where it was first mentioned).

Maria was born on 9 March 1740 in Henau, Rhineland, to Johann Adam and Elisabetha Catharina (née N.N.) Steffen. She died 10 January 1785, Lemberg, Galicia, Austria (today Ukraine).



Ludwig Assmann von hier, mit ihm Maria Elisabetha des Adam Steffen von Hanaeu ehel. Tochter wurden hieselbst d. 24. Juni a.c. more solito copulirt.

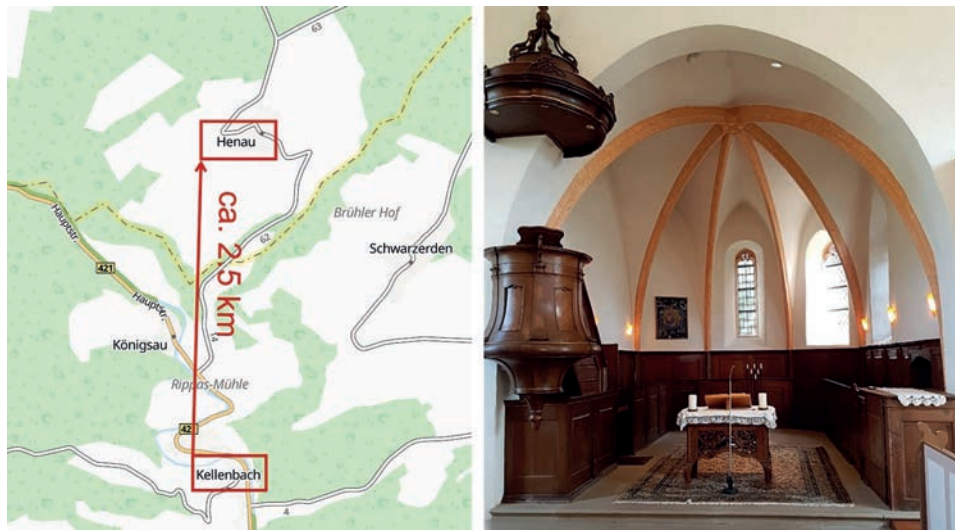
Marriage registration of Johann Ludwig Assmann and Maria Elisabetha Steffen<sup>9</sup>

German Transcription:

*Ludwig Assmann von hier und mit ihm Maria Elisabetha des Adam Steffen von Hanaeu ehel. Tochter wurden hieselbst d. 24. Juni a.c. more solito copulirt.*

English Translation

*Ludwig Assmann from here and with him Maria Elisabetha Adam Steffen's from Henau conjugal daughter were married here on the 24 June of this year in the usual way.*



Left: Map of Kellenbach to Henau<sup>10</sup>. Right: Interior of the Protestant Reformed Church in Kellenbach where Ludwig and Maria were married<sup>11</sup>

8 Ibid.

9 Ibid.

10 Via Michelin (<https://www.viamichelin.at/> : accessed 16 May 2024).

11 "Interior of the Protestant Church", photo. Shelley Kloczko Collection, Sept 2018.



At the time of their marriage, Ludwig was 20 years of age and Maria 25. Ludwig and Maria's first seven of their eight known children were born in Henau. They were all baptized in nearby Kellenbach, most likely at the same church of their marriage, and the village where their families still lived.



*Henau*<sup>12</sup>

Henau (pronounced like hay-now), where Ludwig and Maria were raised, was a community situated on the western edge of a heavily wooded section near the low Hunsrück mountain range in the state of Rhineland. This area belonged to the Kirchberg municipality, where the lower district court was located.<sup>13</sup> Their town had existed there from at least 1316, according to a document from the Sponheim Court, but there is archeological evidence of much earlier occupation.<sup>14</sup>

In the following centuries the fortunes of the village of Henau were closely connected with the history of the high court Kellenbach. The Koppenstein Castle, founded probably in the 10th century, held the rights of the town from 1330 until the castle fell into disrepair sometime in the 16th century. In the middle of the 15th century, after the extinction of the counts of Sponheim, the village was burned by Ludwig I von Zweibrücken in a feud with his cousin over ownership.

Unfortunately for Ludwig and Maria, of their first four children, only their first-born, a son they named Johann Georg, lived to adulthood. Three daughters after him all died at a young age; two in February of 1770, most likely of bubonic plague (also called Russian plague) prevalent between 1770 and 1772, and one in February of 1776, potentially from smallpox or an influenza, both of which ran rampant during these early years. The dangers of other plagues and virulent diseases would have haunted their lives.

Besides several of their children dying, life for Ludwig and Maria would have been difficult and fraught with many other challenges from natural catastrophes, like extreme weather and crop failures, plus cattle diseases, and the dire economic situation of the times, including the imposition of export restrictions and heavy taxes.

<sup>12</sup> "Henau" photo. Wikimedia Commons (<https://commons.wikimedia.org/> : accessed 19 May 2024).

<sup>13</sup> "Henau", article. Myers Gazetteer. (<https://www.meyersgaz.org> : accessed 15 Aug 2017).

<sup>14</sup> "Henau", article. Wikipedia. (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki> : accessed 12 August 2017).



*Henau Cemetery (where Ludwig and Maria's first children were buried)<sup>15</sup>*

Wars and hostilities between countries would have been waged around them, as well. They would have been searching for some way of making ends meet and providing a decent living in which to raise their young family and for future benefits for their children as adults.

Ludwig and Maria most likely had been aware of the potential opportunity to emigrate to other places at some points in time. Small numbers had gone to the United States since 1670, and our ancestors might have considered this, but then the War of Independence broke out in 1775 and the U.S. suspended all immigration until after 1783. Ludwig and Maria also faced other constraints, because landlords would not release their tenants from feudal obligations. Although there were impoverished peasants wanting to emigrate, there were also more well-off farmers, some of whom had farmed the land of feudal lords, and who had been subjected to heavy taxation and military conscription.

Another opportunity presented itself to Ludwig and Maria when Empress Maria Theresia, a Hapsburg ruler, who reigned over Austria and Hungary, opened up areas in southwestern Hungary to German settlers starting in 1711. Settlers were offered inducements, such as free agricultural land, homesites, construction materials, livestock, and exemption from taxes for several years. Maria Theresia favoured the Germans as they were admired for their agricultural skills. However, she also limited immigration to the Catholics of the southwest German states for the most part,<sup>16</sup> and Ludwig and Maria were Protestants. Miraculously, after Maria Theresia died in 1780, her son Joseph II, opened up the immigration to Hungary to Protestants as well.

Ludwig and Maria would have given this possibility careful consideration over the next couple of years. Then a third consideration came their way, when Joseph II issued an invitation targeting Protestants and German farmers also from southwest Germany to settle in the under-populated region of Galicia in Austria. This area had been acquired after the Partition of Poland in 1772.

No doubt, Ludwig and Maria would have seen one of the proclamations Joseph II had posted in every town, village, and hamlet in the region extolling the many attributes of such a move. They may have visited one of the many recruiting offices set up, or encountered the Austrian official

<sup>15</sup> "Henau Cemetery", photo. Judith Silverthorne Collection, September 2018.

<sup>16</sup> "History of German Settlements in Southern Hungary", article. Foundation For East European Family History Studies (<https://feefhs.org/region/banat-german-settlements> : accessed 27 Sep 2019).

Johann Lem, who rode through the countryside on horseback to talk to the rural people in the Rhine-Main areas in the spring of 1782 in person about Joseph II's ten point requirement plan.

### Galicia, Austria – Joseph II's Invitation & Conditions

Today Galicia does not officially exist on modern maps, although at the time our ancestors lived there, it became one of the largest and most populous states of Austria. Previous to this, in 1130, the land had first been a Ruthenian principality, then had been fought over and changed hands several times until it came to belong to Poland in 1340, where it remained for over four centuries.

However, in the course of the so-called „Polish Partitions“ of 1772-1795, the territory of Poland and Lithuania was divided between the three great powers of the time, Russia, Prussia and Austria. The south-western part, i.e. Galicia, became part of the Austrian Empire under the name „Kingdom of Galicia and Lodomeria“, but retained a certain autonomy.

While in 1774, Empress Maria Theresia invited Catholic merchants, artists and tradesmen from Germany to settle in Austria, she wanted immigrants to settle mainly in the cities. This was of no help to our farming ancestors. However, when the empress died, her son Joseph II offered a much more beneficial Settlement Patent and invitation for farmers, including Protestants, to settle in the rural areas of Galicia in 1782. Today what we consider the Galicia of our ancestors is partly in Poland, while over half of it belongs to Ukraine, and it is only superficially added to maps.



*Galicia location relative to present borders<sup>17</sup>*

Joseph II made Johann Lem the head of the campaign, and had him post proclamations throughout south-western Germany. Many of emigrants he recruited were “Protestants from Rheinland, Westfalen, Hessen, Baden, Württemberg, and Elsass-Lothringen.”<sup>18</sup> Lem extolled the points of the so-called Settlement-Patent, which on the face of it seemed ideal, as noted below. However, there were catches or conditions that were later revealed, but by the time this was realized, our ancestors had already moved. When they read the promises outlined in the patent, they would have found it difficult to resist.

<sup>17</sup> Region of Galicia in modern Europe map. Wikimedia Commons ([https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/2/2f/Region\\_of\\_Galicia\\_in\\_modern\\_Europe\\_map.png](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/2/2f/Region_of_Galicia_in_modern_Europe_map.png) : accessed 21 May 2024).

<sup>18</sup> “Germany Emigration and Immigration”, article. Family Search.org. ([https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Germany\\_Emigration\\_and\\_Immigration](https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Germany_Emigration_and_Immigration) accessed: 23 Dec 2017).



The Settlement-Patent was issued by Joseph II in Vienna on 21 September 1782.<sup>19</sup> It contained the following guarantees:

Firstly, complete freedom of conscience and religion; as well as the provision of every authorised religion with the necessary clergy, teachers and all other necessities.

Secondly, each family receives a new, spacious house and a garden.

Thirdly, farmers receive the land necessary for each family, consisting of good fields and meadows; as well as the necessary draught and breeding animals and the equipment for field work and household needs.

Fourthly, craftsmen only receive equipment for household needs, but receive 50 gulden in cash to purchase the tools they need for their professional work.

Fifthly, the eldest son of each family is and remains exempt military recruitment.

Sixthly, each family receives free transportation from Vienna to the place of settlement, for which they are paid the necessary travel expenses. After that, the support lasts until the family is able to cover the cost of living themselves. Should a family fall into a misfortune through no fault of their own after this period of support, they will receive further support, which only has to be repaid after three years

Seventhly: In order to help new arrivals who fall ill during their journey or due to the different climate or for other reasons to recover as quickly as possible, hospitals are set up in which the sick are cared for free of charge and as effectively as possible.

Eighthly: Finally, immigrants are guaranteed exemption from all taxes and financial charges from the day of their settlement and for the following ten years. After these ten years, however, they are obliged to pay the customary taxes, as are all inhabitants of the country.

In exchange for these benefits, Emperor Joseph II also had some qualifying requirements. Any man could own land when he was eighteen, but he had to be married. By the time they decided to go in 1784, Johann Ludwig's oldest son, Johann Georg Assmann, was barely eighteen, and most likely not eager to rush into marriage just for the sake of owning land. No doubt, he was also needed at home to help with this resettlement opportunity in a new country. However, from 1782 to 1784, there was a flurry of hasty marriages which took place between those who knew one another either from the same or neighbouring villages, or with extended families.

In addition, those leaving Germany were required to pay a tax to their ruling noble for their release from serfdom and feudal obligations in order to be allowed to leave their landlord's holdings. This was usually ten percent of the value of their property, although not ideal, still worth deliberating. The time to accept the Austrian offer was ripe for our ancestors, many of whom were farmers. In Germany at the time, there were three classes of farmers: 2-3% were rich farmers; 7-8% were poor farmers, and the majority were in-between. The population continued to grow, and many, like our ancestors, were on small plots of land under the limitations of their

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<sup>19</sup> "Ansiedlungspatent Josephs II." pdf, ([https://www.galizien-deutsche.de/hochgeladen/dateien/Ansiedlungspatent,Wortlaut-\(2\).pdf](https://www.galizien-deutsche.de/hochgeladen/dateien/Ansiedlungspatent,Wortlaut-(2).pdf) : accessed 22 May 2024).

feudal landlords. Customarily, as their sons grew to adulthood, each family had subsequently divided the land for their use.

This “Realteilung” was a principle of real division where particular land ownership or tenancy is shared equally among the beneficiaries. The division for each inheritance creates an increase in the number of small parcels.<sup>20</sup> So by the third or fourth generations, the land was too small for their male offspring to produce a livelihood for themselves and their expanding families. Besides, escape from tyrannical control over their lives, and the abhorrent penury conditions they faced, the opportunity to go to Galicia as colonists meant they all could be landowners and there would be opportunities for their expanding families to live and survive.



*“Ein Bauernhof” (“A farm”) Painted in 1794 by Johann Ludwig Ernst Morgenstern<sup>21</sup>*

Austria felt attracting well-skilled farmers would help improve the agriculture and business of all inhabitants. For cities, it was good business to sell and fill land with the colonists, if they had it. In some cases, there was space to fill nearby, and the settlers who preferred the rural life were to be annexed to current villages, while in other cases, new villages were created, which were the decision of the local authorities.

<sup>20</sup> “Realteilung,” article. Wikipedia. (<https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Realteilung> : accessed 6 Jan 2018).

<sup>21</sup> Wikimedia Commons

## Preparations for Travel

All of this would have appealed to Ludwig and Maria as a fresh start for their growing family. Although the travel to Galicia didn't mobilize until mid-1783, and Ludwig and Maria didn't leave until the middle of the following year, they were the first of our direct line of ancestors known to accept the challenge of a new future in a different country.

Once Ludwig and Maria Assmann made the decision to emigrate, they would have first sought permission to leave from the authority in their community. Some peasants hoped to have themselves declared free, but most would have had to pay a fee, which amounted to 10%. Generally, the presiding lord or landowner would have requested ten percent of the sale of their land to allow them to go. Some might have even deserted without permission or legal papers, rather than pay.<sup>1</sup>

Those wishing to take advantage of this generous invitation registered at local recruiting offices either in person or in writing. Then they scrambled to sell their furniture and other belongings in order to raise the necessary surcharge to be able to leave and to have some funds for their travel. After they deducted the landowner's portion, they would have taken their money in coins, not bills, to the Austrian recruitment authority near their home. They would have received a receipt for the remaining amount, so that when they moved into their new villages, they could get an exchange of their money back in Austrian coins from the officials in Galicia.

With this accomplished, most could choose which settlements they would go to in Galicia. They were then given travel documents that outlined the route they were to travel. Most likely they would have consulted their families, neighbours and friends, some of whom might also be travelling with them. Leaving many of their relatives and associates behind would have been a difficult decision, as there was every possibility, they would never to see them again. How many other from their community travelled with them is unknown at this time, but often whole families and villages went at the same time. As much as possible those travelling together from the same communities were to be settled in the same colony. So far, we don't have any indication that other members of our Assman family left at this time.

Ludwig and Maria Assmann would have packed their personal essentials, clothes, maybe a few mementos, a few cooking utensils, and whatever else they felt they could manage for use along the way or could safely transport by whatever means were available to them. They most likely had to sleep rough, rain or shine, as they would not have wanted to waste their money on staying in inns along the way. The plan was that they would be given or be able to purchase tools and other household necessities on their arrival in their new homeland. They had to incur their own expenses for food for the trip at least until they caught the boats that were provided for their transportation down the Danube River as far as Vienna, where they were to complete the registration process. They were guided by Austrian soldiers. Sometimes covered wagons, which followed the Danube, were also used for transportation.<sup>2</sup>

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1 "The Settlement of German colonists in Galicia", article. Galiziendeutsche. ([https://www.galizien-deutsche.de/hochgeladen/dateien/Historischer\\_Abriss\\_ENGLISCH.H.C.Heinz.pdf](https://www.galizien-deutsche.de/hochgeladen/dateien/Historischer_Abriss_ENGLISCH.H.C.Heinz.pdf) : accessed 24 Apr 2020).

2 "History of German Settlements in Southern Hungary", article. Foundation For East European Family History Studies (<https://feefhs.org/region/banat-german-settlements> : accessed 27 Sep 2019).



## Travel and Transportation to Vienna, Austria

Some might have had the luxury of horse or oxen drawn wagons to carry their bundles of belongings, or been able to afford the passage down the Simmerbach or Nahe rivers towards their destination. The prescribed route for the German colonists from southwest Germany leads first to the Danube, either from the Mannheim through the Kraichgau region, along the rivers Neckar and Fils, over the Swabian Alb mountain range to Ulm or Günzburg – or from Frankfurt-on-Main via Würzburg and Nuremberg to Regensburg.

The many emigrants, and possibly Ludwig and Maria Assmann, had to walk several days to one of the three ports available on the Danube River closest to their home. So many people heading off, jostling groups coming together from all directions, walking the dirt roads, carrying their meagre bundles, would have been an incredible sight to behold.



The choice of ports would have been either the one in Ulm or Regensburg in the old large cities that were independent, or the small one at Günzburg. The one that made the most sense for our ancestors was to travel overland about 286 kilometres from Henau to the port at Ulm, as the mouth of the Danube was in the southwest of Germany. If they had been able to cover twenty kilometres per day, Ludwig and Maria would likely have taken fourteen days to get to Ulm, depending on the cooperation of the weather.

*Henau to the Danube port at Ulm<sup>3</sup>*

Once Ludwig and Maria Assmann reached the port with their travelling companions, they probably would have waited some time, even days, to board the boat or barge as there would have been many families wanting transport and not enough capacity to accommodate them immediately.



*Ulmer Schachtel<sup>4</sup>*

<sup>3</sup> Henau-Ulm, walking. Google maps (<https://www.google.at/>: accessed 22 May 2024).

<sup>4</sup> "Ulmer Schachtel", photo. Judith Silverthorne Collection, Sept. 2018 (model in Danube Swabian Museum, Ulm).

The trip down the Danube would have taken five or six days to Vienna if the weather was good, much longer, if not. Our ancestors most likely sailed down the Danube on one of the so-called “Schwabenplätten”. “Plätten” are keel-less, largely box-shaped wooden boats that were widely used in the Danube region (the addition “Schwaben-“ refers to the region where the journey began, Swabia). The most common form of this type of boat is the “Ulmer Schachtel” (Schachtel = box). “The boat has a flat bottom, pointed in front with a flat stern. In the middle of the boat is a small roofed house, completely enclosed with a simple door both front and back. Windows exist port and starboard. Built around the house is a superstructure which in the shape of a flat ,I’ along the length of the boat. A ladder in the bow permits access to this area. Unique are four large steering oars which can be controlled from the superstructure, two pointing fore and two aft.”<sup>5</sup>



*Above: Replica of an Ulmer Schachtel, (outside the Danube Swabian Museum, Ulm, Germany)<sup>6</sup>*

*Below: Ulm, Germany, along the Danube<sup>7</sup>*



At Ulm they would have seen the great Muenster– the largest Protestant church in Germany, although they wouldn’t have see the famous high steeple at the time because it was only build in the 1880s. They would have wound past the other ports in Germany, including at Regensburg, which most likely was a place they had never seen or been before. There would have been several other stops along the way, but the trip would not have been very pleasant in the cramped and unstable conditions of the winding river

buffeted by all kinds of weather. Today there is a monument on the bank of the Danube at Ulm to commemorate all the German emigrants who left to start a new life in Galicia or other places.

5 Heil, Rick: “History: Ulmer Schachtel,” article. RootsWeb.com. (<https://lists.rootsweb.com/hyperkitty/list/ba-nat@rootsweb.com/thread/10916551/> : accessed 7 Sep 2017).

6 “Replica of an Ulmer Schachtel”, photo. Judith Silverthorne Collection, Sept. 2018.

7 “Ulm, Germany, along the Danube” photo. Judith Silverthorne Collection, Sept. 2018.



## Arriving and Registering in Vienna



*Henau - Ulm - Vienna<sup>8</sup>*

Records indicate that Ludwig and his family reached Vienna about 8 July 1784.<sup>9</sup> They would have been guided from the river wharf with all the other emigrants to the registration office, the Vienna Court Chamber, which was located in the imposing Court Agency building in the centre of the city. Also known as the Bohemian Court Chancellery, the building is still in use and today houses the Austrian Administrative Court.



*Former Bohemian Court Chancellery, now seat of the Austrian Administrative Court<sup>10</sup>*

<sup>8</sup> Google Maps (<https://www.google.at> : accessed 19 May 2024)

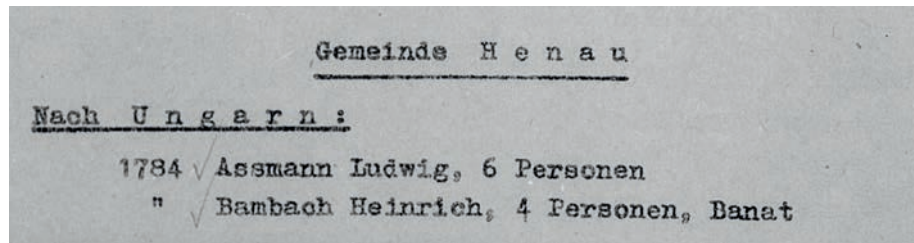
<sup>9</sup> „Ansiedlerakten [Settlers], 1782-1805,” Card file A - Bohm, Ludwig Assmann card; Vienna, Hofkammerarchiv; FHL microfilm 1,326,450

<sup>10</sup> Former Bohemian Court Chancellery, photo, 2018. Wikimedia Commons, © C.Stadler/Bwag; CC-BY-SA-4.0.



While everyone was supposed to register in Vienna, it's estimated that only 80% did. It is believed, countless other Germans also travelled to Galicia „at their own peril“ without travelling to Vienna for a proper pass.<sup>11</sup> Of these, some probably had not fulfilled their military commitment and had to sneak out of Germany to join their families later. During one summer when the influx became overwhelming, there were also those who were diverted to other places to register, usually southeast of Vienna, or sometimes to Hungary unless it was full, but no passports were issued there, nor statistics taken.

There is an interesting document in the archive of the former Bohemian Court Chancellery on which Ludwig Assmann and his family are listed as settlers in Hungary (Nach Ungarn = To Hungary).



*Extract of the list of emigrants from Henau in the district of Simmern (Hunsrück) 1784<sup>12</sup>*

However, this does not mean that they wanted to emigrate to Hungary. But as the rush of emigrants to Galicia was much greater than had been expected, many of them were redirected to Hungary, to the Banat region. Only those who could prove that they had all the necessary official permits were allowed to enter Galicia.<sup>13</sup> Ludwig Assmann was apparently able to do this, as further documents in the archive confirm that he and his wife, with four children, two sons and two daughters, plus an unknown relative were listed as bound for Neu-Kaltwasser, near Lemberg, the capital of Galicia.<sup>14</sup>



*Map of Vienna to Lemberg<sup>15</sup>*

11 cndirene.(creator of Ancestry Family Tree Steidel~Stadel~Stedel) "Recruitment of German Colonists for Galicia", article. Ancestry by subscription. ([https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/tree/60662865/story/ee5e89f8-6cae-404e-93d7-be74f9cf3aed?pid=&pgn=32798&usePUBJs=true&\\_phsrc=uVh1573](https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/tree/60662865/story/ee5e89f8-6cae-404e-93d7-be74f9cf3aed?pid=&pgn=32798&usePUBJs=true&_phsrc=uVh1573) : accessed 5 Jan 2018).

12 „Ansiedlerakten [Settlers], 1782-1805,“ Card file A - Bohm, Ludwig Assmann card; Vienna, Hofkammerarchiv; FHL microfilm 1,326,450

13 Horst Glassl: Das österreichische Einrichtungswerk in Galizien 1772-1790. Wiesbaden 1975, p. 233.

14 See footnote 12.

15 Via Michelin (<https://www.viamichelin.at/> : accessed 19 May 2024).

At the Court Agency in Vienna, our ancestors would have provided their personal information: name, place of origin, including the previous landowner's name or estate, date of emigration, occupation, destination, and who was accompanying them. They were then given their official immigration documents and passports and information on how to proceed and where to go before leaving on their final leg to Galicia.

Joseph II is said to have cared for his people, and while they were in Vienna, new arrivals were each given free bread and three or four kreuzers (pennies) per day to buy food. This generosity continued while they waited several days for paperwork to be complete before and for when they travelled. Emperor Joseph II also wanted to see his people before they left for Galicia when he was in residence in Vienna, which was usually about 250 days each year. They visited with him in groups. He would speak to them for about a half hour, welcoming them and telling them what he expected of them.

Once the colonists's arrivals were processed in Vienna, an agent would inform government officials in Galicia of the expected arrivals and provide directions for where their settlements were. They would be outfitted with the necessary provisions and the long journey from Vienna to Galicia began. Government officials were on hand at various cities en route to provide further guidance. The most heavily settled areas were in the districts of Eastern Galicia. Today this area is mostly in western Ukraine.

Once leaving Vienna, it took the colonists two or three weeks to travel through Moravia and Austrian Silesia<sup>16</sup> to get to the larger cities where they would be lodged until going on to their final destination. In general, travel was along the rivers in something like a covered barge, then in wagons similar to a stagecoach or Conestoga wagon. When the colonists arrived at their designated drop-off point, they had to continue on foot to their next destination.<sup>17</sup>

Although there were also many poor among the immigrants who with scant belongings used pulled carts drawn by dogs into the country, the vast majority of Galicio-German settlers were wealthy and were endowed according to their assets, so provided with land allocation. However, the long waiting period until the placement of many of them siphons off a considerable part of their money.<sup>18</sup>

Immigrants were usually lodged only ten to twenty kilometres from their new settlements. These new settlements were often placed adjacent to already existing villages, with a separate arrangement of plots; however, the first major disillusionment came upon arrival when the immigrants discovered arrangements for their reception and settlement had not been made. There were no places to live.

The response to Joseph II's invitation had been overwhelming and the Austrian authorities were barely able to cope with the sheer numbers. Although they steadily accepted colonists for Galicia between 1782 and 1785, with only a temporary interruption, this first campaign was closed in 1789. They did allow the settlers to establish daughter settlements afterwards.

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16 "Historischer Abriß", Galiziendeutsche . Heinz, Hans Christian. ([https://www.galizien-deutsche.de/hochgeladen/dateien/Heinz,%20Hist\\_Abriss\\_kurz.pdf](https://www.galizien-deutsche.de/hochgeladen/dateien/Heinz,%20Hist_Abriss_kurz.pdf) : accessed 12 Nov 2017).

17 The Settlement of German colonists in Galicia", article. Galizien Deutsche. (<http://www.galizien-deutsche.de/history-of-settlement/the-settlement-of-german-colonists-in-galicia.htm> : accessed 25 Dec 2017).

18 "Historischer Abriß", Galiziendeutsche. Heinz, Hans Christian. ([https://www.galizien-deutsche.de/hochgeladen/dateien/Heinz,%20Hist\\_Abriss\\_kurz.pdf](https://www.galizien-deutsche.de/hochgeladen/dateien/Heinz,%20Hist_Abriss_kurz.pdf) : accessed 12 Nov 2017).

According to the original settlement records in Vienna, in the period between 1782-1785, some 3,216 German families with a total of 14,669 persons, mainly originating from south-western Germany, settled in Galicia. The numbers of those not registered in Vienna is not known, though it's estimated that another 800 families were likely admitted into Galicia. When Galicia was considered full, the colonists were sent to the Austrian province of Bukovina.

The greatest influx of colonists arrived in 1783-1784. Those colonists who did arrive in these first two or three years, like Ludwig and Maria, were miserable and demoralized while they waited for their new homes. They often remained in cramped, temporary lodgings for two or more years before their villages were completed. While they continued to receive three kreuzer per day per person to buy food, this was small compensation for their discomfort, inconvenience, and endless waiting, not to mention the over-crowding of the continual huge influx of colonists that descended in Galicia. The worst might have been their quarters, which were in the liquidated monasteries, which Joseph II had cleared out a couple of years earlier.

### Joseph II's Acquisition of Monasteries and the Bernardine Monastery

One of Emperor Joseph II's most controversial steps in his many new reforms was his disapproval of the contemplative monastic orders, which he considered unproductive. He dismissed all of the monks and nuns and any other associates who would not read or write. He wanted people to be educated and felt that if the monastics could not teach, they had to go. Accordingly, he abolished a third of the monasteries (over 700 were closed) and reduced the number of monks and nuns from 65,000 to 27,000.<sup>19</sup>



*Lemberg, Bernardine Monastery at the beginning of the 19th century<sup>20</sup>*

<sup>19</sup> "Monasteries", article. Internet Encyclopedia of Ukraine. (<http://www.encyclopediaofukraine.com> : accessed 14 Aug 2017).

<sup>20</sup> Wikimedia Commons (<https://commons.wikimedia.org>)



The abolition of the monasteries facilitated the emperor's massive immigration plan. The monasteries proved to be the ideal solution for housing our ancestors while they waited for their villages to be built.<sup>21</sup> Ludwig and Maria Assmann were assigned housing in Lemberg before being allowed to go on to Kaltwasser. While Maria did not live for long after their arrival, Ludwig Assmann spent his first years most likely at the Bernardine Monastery with his family, as it was the only one in the region.

The Bernardine Monastery's history goes back to the middle of the 15th century, although the present-day building was constructed in the beginning of the 17th century. Franciscan Observantists, known in the region as Bernardines, built the monastery in 1460, but it was plundered in 1509 by the Moldavians. The new one was constructed and consecrated in 1630.<sup>22</sup>

With cramped conditions and in close proximity to anyone who fell ill, their lifestyle would have been wearing and tedious especially as there would have been very little to do to fill their days besides trying to find enough food to eat. The weeks, then months would have passed, and one wonders if our ancestors ever regretted their move or wished they were back home in Germany. The only saving grace might have been living in the town of Lemberg with its many activities.



*Bernardine Monastery*<sup>23</sup>

21 "Josephine Colonization", article. Wikipedia. (<https://en.wikipedia.org> : accessed 15 Aug 2017).

22 The Bernardine Church and Monastery", article. Wikipedia (<https://en.wikipedia.org> : accessed 10 Nov 2018).

23 "Bernardine Monastery in L'viv", photo. Shelley Kloczko Collection, September 2018.

## L'viv/ Lemberg

L'viv (Львів), as the city is called in Ukrainian, has the name Lemberg in German and Lwów in Polish. These names are derived from the Latin 'Leopolis', which translates as 'city of the lion'. In German, 'Leo' or 'Lew' became 'Lem' over time, and the German city name translates as 'mountain of the lion'.

The city was founded around 1250 by King Danylo Romanovych of Galicia-Volynia, who named the town after his eldest son, the later King Leo I (Polish: Lev I Halicki, Ukrainian: Lev Danylovych). The first documented mention of L'viv is found in the Galician-Volhynian Chronicle of 1255/56. When Leo I inherited the principality in 1264, he made L'viv his residence city.



*A lion statue, one of many in L'viv<sup>24</sup>. Below: Rynok Square in L'viv<sup>25</sup>*

German craftsmen, Ruthenian court officials, Italians, Greeks, Armenians, Tatars and Jews settled in L'viv at that time, so that the foundations for the city's multi-ethnic character were already laid in its early days. It was the capital city of the Kingdom of Galicia-Volhynia from 1272 to 1349. Later the region was incorporated into Poland, and from 1434 L'viv was the capital of the Ruthenian Voivodeship, until the First Partition of Poland in 1772.

In 1773, Austria made the city the capital of the Kingdom of Galicia and Lodomeria. At the time, L'viv was the centre of the Galicia region with a population of approximately 30,000.<sup>26</sup> The first newspaper published on the territory of today's Ukraine appeared in L'viv in 1776. It was the French-language „Gazette de Léopol“.<sup>27</sup> In 1661, a university was founded in L'viv, where the language of instruction was Polish. In 1773 it was closed in connection with the events surrounding the „Polish Partitions“, but in 1784, when our ancestors came to live in L'viv, it was reopened, this time as a German-language university.

Rynok Square was the central market place, which our ancestors would surely have



<sup>24</sup> Lion statue”, photo. Shelley Kloczko collection, September 2018.

<sup>25</sup> Milošević, Petar “The Market Square”, digital image. Wikimedia Commons (<https://commons.wikimedia.org>).

<sup>26</sup> By 2022, more than 717,000 people lived there, and today L'viv is the largest city in western Ukraine, and known for its industries, higher education and cultural institutions.

<sup>27</sup> “Gazette de Léopol”, Wikipedia (<https://fr.wikipedia.org> : accessed 24 Jan 2023).



used as it was just a few metres south of the monastery. Throughout the city and other parts of Galicia, they would have noticed all official Austrian state buildings were painted entirely the same yellow colour, because Emperor Joseph II had ordered official buildings to be painted in this colour in the 1780s. To this day many of the buildings still exist, and the colour is referred to as “Schönbrunner Gelb” (Schönbrunn-Yellow“), as it is also the colour of Schönbrunn, the imperial palace in Vienna. (Note: Schönbrunn-Yellow is often attributed to Maria Theresia, but this is wrong; her palace was pink.)



*Schönbrunn Palace in Vienna<sup>28</sup>*

While the immigrants were not happy with the Austrian government, the Empire of Austria was not happy either. The empire had spent around 3,000,000 gulden (worth almost 107 million Canadian dollars today)<sup>29</sup> for the whole settlement campaign, which averaged about 900 gulden per family. The colonization initiators were disappointed their plan to lure mostly wealthy professionals and artisans, did not meet expectations as the migrants turned out to be mostly poor farmers, some of whom were dependent on state help. However, the authorities followed through with their plans and established about 175 colonies in the first wave of which 120 were purely German, while 55 were mixed backgrounds with at least two-thirds being funded by the state and the remaining through private sources.

As much as possible, Austrian authorities settled groups according to the same religious denomination, which resulted in 47% Lutheran with some 1% Mennonites, plus 13% Calvinists. The Mennonites were officially treated like Lutherans, as they were for a long time unable to exceed the threshold of 100 families for founding their own congregation, as stipulated in the Josephine church reform. It was not until 1909 that a first Mennonite congregation was founded in Brundorf, west of Lemberg (today Kernyzja, Ukraine).

There were 39% Catholics, but as there were already established churches in Galicia, they joined the existing ones in the nearest villages, rather than building new ones.<sup>30</sup> Considering totals of villages from earlier times, by religious denomination, this worked out to about 90 German villages that were exclusively of the Protestant faith, and about 50 Roman Catholic villages with the rest of mixed religious denomination.<sup>31</sup>

<sup>28</sup> Amaury Laporte “Schönbrunn Palace”, digital image. Wikimedia Commons (<https://commons.wikimedia.org>).

<sup>29</sup> <https://www.eurologisch.at/docroot/waehrungsrechner/#/>.

<sup>30</sup> “Josephine Colonization”, article. Wikipedia. (<https://en.wikipedia.org> : accessed: 4 Jan 2018).

<sup>31</sup> The Settlement of German colonists in Galicia”, article. Galizien Deutsche. (<http://www.galizien-deutsche.de/history-of-settlement/the-settlement-of-german-colonists-in-galicia.htm> : accessed 6 Jan 2018).



## The Assmanns' Arrival in Galicia

Although so far, we have not been able to tell with any certainty the exact date Ludwig and Maria Assmann arrived in Galicia, it seems they made it to Lemberg within a month. They were there when their youngest daughter Anna Maria Elizabeth died five days before her fourth birthday, on 11 of August 1784.<sup>32</sup>

They were most likely housed in the Bernardine Monastery like the majority of the immigrants in the area at the time. Whether they were surprised to find out they had to live in a monastery until their home was built in Kaltwasser is unknown. Conditions in the monasteries were heavily over-crowded and virulent.

Within the next couple of months in Lemberg, they also saw the birth and baptism of another daughter, **Anna Elisabetha** that October.<sup>33</sup> Whether from complications of childbirth or perhaps weakened by a virus, Maria died three months afterwards, on the 10 January 1785 in Lemberg, Galicia, Austria, at the age of 44.<sup>34</sup> She was buried on 13 January 1785 in Lemberg.<sup>35</sup>

Ludwig was now a widower with three remaining children and a newborn. Johann Georg, his oldest son and our direct ancestor, would have been eighteen. Anna Catharina was ten, Johann Nikolaus, a month shy of being eight years old and Anna Elisabetha was just over two months old. They remained in Lemberg for a time after Maria's death, probably still reeling from the shocking turn of events.

Fortuitously later that year, Ludwig met and married **Anna Margaretha Wendel** on 25 September 1785 in Lemberg.<sup>36</sup> Ludwig was forty years old by this time. Little is known about Anna except it is noted in the Zimna Woda family book that her father, **Johann Georg Wendel**, a farmer, died in Edenburg, Lorrach, Baden-Wurttemberg, prior to Anna's wedding in 1785.<sup>37</sup> How Anna Margaretha Wendel came to be in Galicia without her parents or other family members remains a mystery as does her date and location of birth.

Ludwig and his combined family seemed to have spent an unduly long time living in Lemberg before acquiring their colonist's home in the assigned village of Kaltwasser. Assuredly the process for building villages often took upwards of two years after colonists reached Galicia, but Kaltwasser was founded in 1783, a year before they arrived, and many other villages had been built during the time they were recorded as still living in Lemberg.

By this time a considerable amount of the money they possessed would have been siphoned off<sup>38</sup> for funeral and living expenses, given that they had such a long wait period before they were able to move to their village and the imperial administration was no longer supplying a subsidy.

What Ludwig did in Lemberg is not identified in the records, other than he was noted as a settler (Ansiedler) but Lemberg was a bustling metropolis and one would hope there had been

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32 Hilfskomitee der Galiziendeutschen, Zimna Woda 1784-1900, family 34.

33 Hilfskomitee der Galiziendeutschen, Zimna Woda 1784-1900, family 34.

34 Ibid.

35 Ibid.

36 Ibid., , family 35.

37 Ibid., family 1107

38 "Ansiedlung der Deutschen in Galizien", article. Galizien Deutsche. (<https://www.galizien-deutsche.de> : accessed 12 Nov 2017.)

many opportunities for him. A German settlement had been established in Lemberg in 1778. Perhaps he had found work and they may have been comfortable to be part of this community, until the family took residence at Kaltwasser.

While still in Lemberg, Ludwig and Anna Assmann, née Wendel, had a daughter, Justina Katharina, born on 26 January in 1787.<sup>39</sup> Sometime later in this year, Ludwig and Anna Assmann finally moved with their expanding family into house number 52 in the village of Kaltwasser.

Kaltwasser (Attinez zu Zimnawoda).		Kreis: Lemberg.
1787.		Caale: Zimnawoda.
XII. 88.		
Nr. 1.	Daniel Julius Wolf, 2 P., Bauer, 2. VI. 1783, Belsenberg, O. A. Rünzelsau, Franken. Geldwert des Ertrags? Grundsteuer?	
2.	Jakob Lang, G. W. 47 fl 14 Kr, St. 3 fl 41 Kr.	
3.	Nikolaus Maximini, 7 P., Bauer, 7. VI. 1784, Commlingen, Kr. Trier.	
4.	Philipp Hornung, 3 P., Bauer, 7. VI. 1784, Merchweiler, Kr. Ottweiler, G. W. 3 fl 16 Kr, St. 23½ Kr.	
5.	Gottlieb Fleischer, 14. IV. 1783, Wohlau, Bez. Breslau, G. W. 47 fl 45 Kr, St. 3 fl 43 Kr.	
6.	Justus Ackermann, (Georg, 7 P., Bauer, 7. VI. 1784, Rimlingen, Kr. Merzig), G. W. 47 Kr, St. 3 fl 42 Kr.	
7.	Johann Ulrich, G. W. 3 fl 16 Kr, St. 23¼ Kr.	
8.	Wilhelm Appelman, G. W. 47 fl 37 Kr, St. 3 fl 44 Kr.	
9.	Adam Antes (Anteis), 3 P., Bauer und Leineweber, 1. VI. 1784, Hirschfeld, Kr. Zell, G. W. 47 fl 3 Kr, St. 3 fl 41 Kr.	
10.	Paul Heylmann, G. W. 47 fl 36 Kr, St. 3 fl 47 Kr.	
11.	Ferdinand Wolf (Wolff), 2 P., Bauer, 27. VI. 1784, Nieder-Saulheim, Kr. Oppenheim.	
12.	Johann Weber, 2 P., Zimmermann, 20. VII. 1784, Kerbersdorf, Kr. Schlüchtern, G. W. 47 fl 49 Kr, St. 3 fl. 46 Kr.	
13.	Thomas Witt, G. W. 47 fl 20 Kr, St. 3 fl 45 Kr.	
14.	Michael Wiesner, G. W. 47 fl 18 Kr, St. 3 fl 44 Kr.	
15.	Philipp Weinheimer, (Konrad, Bauer, 7. VI. 1784), G. W. 47 fl 8 Kr, St. 3 fl 43 Kr.	
16.	Philipp Rinert, G. W. 52 fl 1 Kr, St. 4 fl 14 Kr.	
17.	Johann Schwarz, G. W. 4 fl 5 Kr, St. 29¼ Kr.	
18.	Cornelius Adrian, G. W. 50 fl 42 Kr, St. 4 fl 8 Kr.	
19.	Johann Appersheimer, G. W. 50 fl 37 Kr, St. 4 fl 5 Kr.	
20.	Anton Seeler (Selzer?), (Selzer, 6 P., Bauer, 7. VI. 1784, Rimlingen, Kr. Merzig). G. W. 50 fl 30 Kr, St. 4 fl 5 Kr.	
21.	Angela Reiter, G. W. 50 fl 32 Kr, St. 4 fl 5 Kr.	
22.	Ferdinand Wolf, G. W. 52 fl 2 Kr, St. 4 fl 14 Kr.	
23.	Mathias Peter, G. W. 49 fl 58 Kr, St. 4 fl 5 Kr.	
48.	Thomas Seith, Schmied, G. W. 54 fl 15 Kr, St. 4 fl 5 Kr.	
52.	Ludwig Assmann, 6 P., Bauer, 21. V. 1783, Henau, Kr. Simmern, G. W. 112 fl 20 Kr, St. 9 fl 3 Kr.	
	Karl Großmann, zur herrschaftlichen Mühle, G. W. 50 fl 10 Kr, St. 3 fl 41 Kr.	
	Gemeinschaftliche Gärten zur Kolonie, G. W. 6 fl 32 Kr, St. 47 Kr.	

List for Kaltwasser in the book „Das Kolonisationswerk Josefs II in Galizien“<sup>40</sup>

39 Hilfskomitee der Galiziendeutschen, Zimna Woda 1784-1900, family 35.

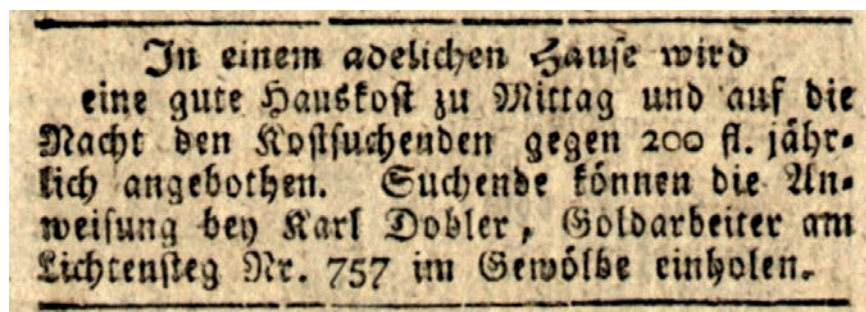
40 Schneider, Ludwig: Das Kolonisationswerk Josefs II in Galizien. Darstellung und Namenlisten. Historische Gesellschaft für Posen, Poznań. Verlag S. Hirzel, Leipzig 1939 p. 166f.

The detailed lists of places in the book „Das Kolonisationswerk Josefs II in Galizien“ (Joseph II's Colonisation Work in Galicia) show that there were 52 houses inhabited by German colonists and a mill (Mühle) in Kaltwasser in 1787/1788. In addition, the colony had gardens in common ownership (Gemeinschaftliche Gärten).

The list shows that Ludwig Assmann was the farmer whose property in Kaltwasser brought the highest yield (G.W. = Geldwert des Ertrags), namely 112 gulden (fl)<sup>41</sup> and 20 kreuzer (Kr). In return, he had to pay 9 gulden and 3 kreuzer in taxes (St. = Steuer). It can be assumed that Ludwig Assmann was the colonist in Kaltwasser who brought the highest financial means with him and was therefore allocated the largest plot of land.

Converting the yield into a present-day monetary value is somewhat difficult, as reliable historical conversion tables for this period are lacking. The conversion table of the Austrian National Bank does not start until 1820.<sup>42</sup> If you use it, 112 gulden correspond to approximately 2,702 euros or 3,975 Canadian dollars (as of May 2024). However, one must bear in mind that the value of money changed somewhat between 1787/1788 and 1820.

Therefore, it is probably more illustrative to take commodity prices as a comparison. In the „Wiener Zeitung“ of 21 November 1787<sup>43</sup>, for example, one finds several houses offered for sale. The prices for these range from 630fl. for a small house in a village to 3,000fl. for a house in the city. A bottle of wine cost on average a little over 1fl. and a book between 10kr. and 1fl. On 8 September 1787 there was the following offer in the „Wiener Zeitung“: for 200fl. one could eat lunch and dinner every day for a year in a „noble house“ in Vienna.



*Lunch and dinner for one year for 200 gulden (fl.)*

Kaltwasser was about thirteen kilometres west of Lemberg and Ludwig and Anna are recorded as still living there when their son Konrad was born about 1789.<sup>44</sup> From 1807 onwards, Ludwig Assmann's place of residence is no longer given as "Kaltwasser" in official documents, but as "Zimna Woda". However, this does not necessarily mean that he moved to another place, because "Kaltwasser" and "Zimna Woda" were not two independent villages, but two settlements in one municipality. Zimna Woda (today Zymna Woda/Зимна Вода, Ukraine) was the old, Polish part, Kaltwasser the new, German.

41 The abbreviation fl. for the Austrian Gulden comes from the fact that this type of gold coin was originally minted in Florence and was therefore initially called „Florentiner Gulden“.

42 Historischer Währungsrechner (<https://www.eurologisch.at/docroot/waehrungsrechner/#/> : accessed 21 May 2024).

43 Digitised by the Austrian National Library (<https://anno.onb.ac.at/>)

44 Hilfskomitee der Galiziendeutschen, Zimna Woda 1784-1900, family 38.



Zimna Woda was first mentioned in a document in 1427. Until the 18th century, the vast majority of the inhabitants were Polish. The name of the village means “cold water” and refers to a river in the region. In the course of the Josephine colonisation, German emigrants were settled on the edge of the municipal area of Zimna Woda from 1783/1784. Their settlement was given the name Kaltwasser, which is a translation of the Polish name and also means “cold water”. Whether documents indicated Zimna Woda or Kaltwasser as the place name often simply depended on whether the official issuing a document spoke Polish or German. When it was a question of making it clear that an entry only referred to the newer, German part of the village, the name “Neu-Kaltwasser” (which translates as “New Coldwater”) was sometimes used in documents.

In the village book Ludwig Assmann’s status in 1807 is indicated as “Untertan”. However, does not mean that he had changed his profession or that his social status had changed. The German word “Untertan” is to be translated as “subject”. The entry expresses that Ludwig Assmann was a subject of the Austrian emperor. If status and occupation were entered differently in the various documents – sometimes as colonist (“Kolonist”), sometimes as farmer (“Bauer”), sometimes as subject (“Untertan”), this is usually related to the individual habits of the officials who drafted the documents.

Ludwig and Anna apparently remained in Zimna Woda the rest of their lives, where their two children, **Justina** and **Konrad** also lived, married, and died.<sup>45</sup>

When Ludwig Assman died of old age (“Altersschwäche”) on 30 November in 1818 in Zimna Woda, he was 73 years old. It is unknown at this time when his second wife, Anna, passed on or where, but it is likely she remained at Zimna Woda until her death.

Ludwig’s move with his family from Germany to Austria had been an arduous one with much heartache. One can only hope he found some comfort by doing this. At least he gave his sons an opportunity to own land and hopefully find a better life for all of his family.

The first seven children of Johann Ludwig Assmann and Maria Elisabetha (née Steffen) were born in Henau, Rhineland, and baptized in Kellenbach, Rhineland

Their first child and our next direct ancestor, **Johann Georg Assmann**, was born on 11 May 1766.<sup>46</sup> He married Katharina Krämer.<sup>47</sup> (*Their story can be found in the chapter: Johann Georg Assmann & Katharina Krämer.*)

**Maria Catharina Assmann** was the first daughter born 22 December 1767; baptized 24 December 1767; died 7 February 1770, Henau, age two years old.<sup>48</sup>

**Elisabetha Catharina Assmann**, born 30 December 1769; baptized 31 December 1769; died 14 February 1770, Henau,<sup>49</sup> age six weeks old. She and her older sister must have contracted a similar illness as they died less than two weeks apart.

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45 Hilfskomitee der Galiziendeutschen, Zimna Woda 1784-1900, family 35.

46 Archiv der Evangelischen Kirche im Rheinland, Kirchenbücher der Archivstelle Boppard (Archives of the Protestant Church in the Rhineland, church records at the Boppard archives) Kirchengemeinde Kellenbach.

47 Ibid.

48 Ibid.

49 Ibid.

**Maria Elisabetha Assmann**, born 29 June 1771; baptized 30 June 1771,<sup>50</sup> died 11 February 1776, Henau.<sup>51</sup>

**Anna Catharina Assmann**, born 6 March 1774; unknown death date.<sup>52</sup>

Second son, **Johann Nikolaus Assmann**, born 15 February 1777; baptized the next day;<sup>53</sup> there has been no further information found so far.

**Anna Maria Elisabeth Assmann** born 16 August 1780 in Henau<sup>54</sup>; she lived for less than four years; died 11 August 1784 and buried the following day, Lemberg, Galicia, Austria.<sup>55</sup>

**Anna Elisabetha Assmann**, born October 27 1784, Lemberg, Galicia, Austria; baptized 29 October 1784.<sup>56</sup>

Johann Ludwig and his second wife, Anna Margareta (née Wendel) Assmann, had two children: Their daughter **Justina Katharina Assmann**, born 26 January 1787, Lemberg,<sup>57</sup> who married Johann Peter Appenheimer before 1807, and raised five daughters in Zimna Woda. She died of intestinal inflammation at house number 16 in 1825.<sup>58</sup>

Ludwig and Anna's son, **Konrad Assmann**, also lived his whole life Zimna Woda, born about 1789. He married Louise Ludowika Aloisia Seiller 15 November 1808; and had eleven children. He died in house number 52 on 16 March in 1853, suffering from cancer of the lower lip and jaw.<sup>59</sup>

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<sup>50</sup> Ibid.

<sup>51</sup> Ibid.

<sup>52</sup> Ibid.

<sup>53</sup> Ibid.

<sup>54</sup> K. Herbert Küstner, Königsau und Henau Einwohner 1685-1900 (Kirn, Germany: n.p., 1997), 13: 3, Assmann 9/3.

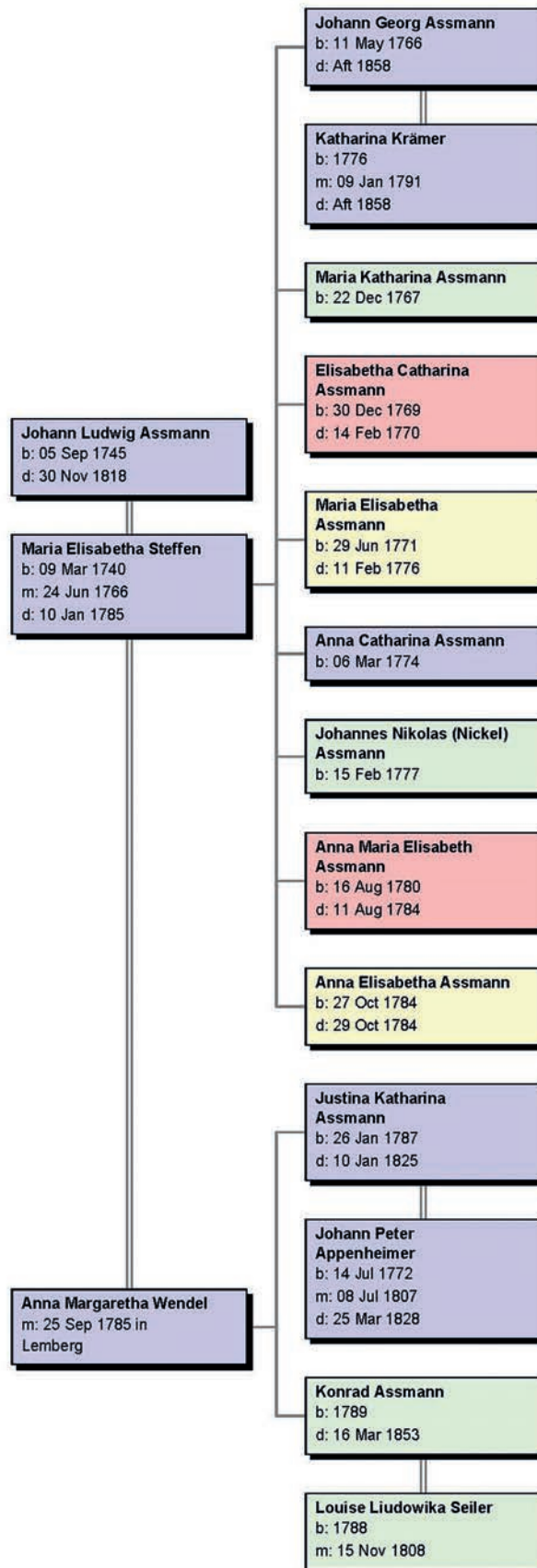
<sup>55</sup> Hilfskomitee der Galiziendeutschen, Zimna Woda 1784-1900, family 34.

<sup>56</sup> Ibid.

<sup>57</sup> Ibid., family 35.

<sup>58</sup> Ibid., family 27.

<sup>59</sup> Ibid., family 38.





## The Naming of the German Colonies

The naming of the new German colonies in Galicia often stemmed from personal names, including many related to Emperor (=Kaiser) Joseph II (Josephsberg, Josephsdorf, Josephsthal, Josefow, Kaisersdorf). Some included the names of high officials from other areas of the Hapsburg Monarchy, such as Brigidau, Dornfeld, Rosenberg, Ugartshtal and Rottenhan, the latter one is where many of our relatives settled or moved to in later years.<sup>1</sup>

The closed villages of German settlers were called colonies, but only a few of the German villages formed their own communities, most of them were annexed to Polish or Ruthenian villages. If individual or smaller groups of German families were placed in the middle of existing Slavic settlements, people spoke of settlements. An example of this is Zimna Woda, the first colony home of many of our ancestors, which was originally a Polish village. It had both immigrants coming into the village, and another settlement – Kaltwasser – added right beside it. When individual families or smaller groups of Germans were settled in the middle of existing Slavic villages, this was called „Einsiedlung“.<sup>2</sup>

## Establishment of the German Colonies

The authorities determined that very few large German settlement villages would be created and those were founded to the south and northeast of Lemberg with Josefsberg/Josephsberg being the largest.<sup>3</sup> For the majority of the villages, at least six colonists and their families settled in one place, with the majority having between eight and twenty farming units.<sup>4</sup>

As soon as the Austrian government had decided to bring colonists to Galicia in the 1770s, they sent out six army engineers to survey the land and select a suitable location for each colony. They usually chose places in the middle of the fields on high ground for better air and dryness. These geographical engineers obtained the measurements and gave recommendations for how large a settlement would fit on a particular plot of land. Then a settlement plan was drawn up according to the number of farm families and labourers assigned to the village and the size of the land granted per household.

When the influx of immigrants arrived, a military officer was assigned later to mark out the whole village, which could usually be done in two days. Then he left, and the builders were sent to begin construction of the houses and farm buildings when a sufficient number of colonists were present. Colonists were not allowed to move into the villages until every building in the village was completely finished. This included all the houses, the church, school, mill, barns, probably a blacksmith shop and other buildings necessary for productive village life. Sometimes this took years.

Nevertheless, by the 1780s, the authorities had to increase the number of surveyors and building engineers into the countryside to facilitate the allocation of the settlements, and by 1786 they

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1 Heinz, Hans-Christian. "The naming of the German colonies in Galicia", article. Galiziendeutsche (<https://www.galizien-deutsche.de/siedlungsgeschichte/ansiedlung-der-deutschen-in-galizien.htm> : accessed 3 Jan 2017).

2 The Settlement of German colonists in Galicia", article. Galizien Deutsche (<http://www.galizien-deutsche.de/history-of-settlement/the-settlement-of-german-colonists-in-galicia.htm> : accessed 3 Jan 2017).

3 "The Germans from Galicia", article. University of Alberta. (<https://sites.ualberta.ca/~german/AlbertaHistory/Galicians.htm> : accessed 7 Jan 2018).

4 irene-genealogy (Family Search subscriber), "Migration from Germany and Early Years in Galicia (Galizien)". Memories Family Search. (<https://www.familysearch.org/photos/artifacts/8021611> : accessed 6 Jan 2018).

had established 114 colonies. When they were finally finished, they would have established 194 original colonies scattered across the huge expanse of Galicia, mostly in the east.<sup>5</sup>

### Layout of the Villages

Typically, colonist villages were laid out in the same pattern, which were in contrast to the already established Polish and Ruthenian villages. The houses were placed adjacent to one another on either side of the street facing each other with the outbuildings and the free strips of land for each stretching behind. The extra land purchased by the farmers who could afford it, was allocated around the outlying areas of the village and assigned to each house.

The front of the house usually faced the street, but sometimes was towards the yard. For instance, in Falkenstein, the houses were set back twelve feet from the street and built ninety-six feet from each other. The streets were wide stately roads with two-sided draining ditches and integrated sidewalks. There were gardens in front of the houses, as well as trees planted on both sides, to act as fire barrier.

Larger villages used other forms of layout. Some had one or two main streets with several crossroads, or for very large villages, a checkerboard of three to five residential streets with narrowing through crossroads were used, or in the case of Königsau, a pentagon-shaped plan made more sense. These geometrically exact forms of settlement with their optimal functions were patterned after Slavic villages, and were considered model villages of structural beauty the likes of which Galicia had never seen before.<sup>6</sup> Not many of these latter ones were created.

In addition to the homes, land for community services was also assigned, which usually included space for a school, erected as soon as possible, and land for the establishment of a parish, which included a church, rectory, and cemetery. Space was also allocated for a stallion field and a field for a bull, and sometimes a village inn might be in the plans.<sup>7</sup>

The theory was to have a marketplace situated in the middle of the village, although they often were not in the centre. Beside or in the marketplace, was the public well and a covered stand with a ladder and poker to suffice as firefighting equipment. In some cases, a village well was built for every eight houses. Often, the church and school were built around the marketplace. There may also have been space for a smithy and a wagon maker.<sup>8</sup>

Not all sources report this, but one says that a building for the village mayor, and maybe a judge, might be included as well. Apparently, settlement charters determined the duties and laws of the settlements.<sup>9</sup> Other laws would most likely be the laws of the land.

### Houses

Speed of construction was a priority as the colonists who had arrived with their families before the work had been done were fed-up waiting with their families in cramped miserable conditions

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<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

<sup>6</sup> "The German Settlements in Galicia", article. Galiziendeutsche. (<http://www.galizien-deutsche.de> : accessed: 3 Jan 2017), click on Siedlungsgeschichte.

<sup>7</sup> irene-genealogy (Family Search subscriber), "Migration from Germany and Early Years in Galicia (Galizien)," Memories Family Search. (<https://www.familysearch.org/photos/artifacts/8021611> : accessed 6 Jan 2018).

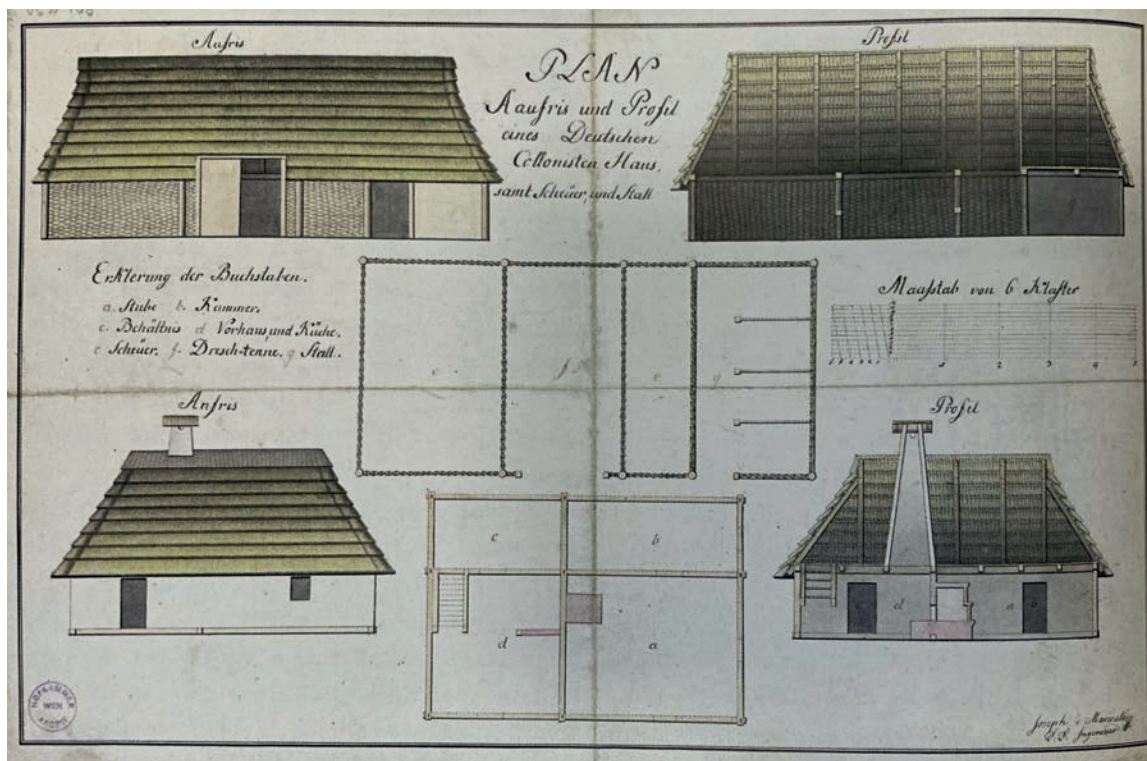
<sup>8</sup> Ibid.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid.

in temporary quarters. These delays in construction caused by the Austrian government's inability to handle the huge influx of settlers was somewhat ratified when they began to encourage settlers to build their own buildings, if they could. Granting co-payments were introduced, although it is unclear how many actually took the government up on their offer.<sup>10</sup>

The securing of building materials was usually up to the local Polish town authorities, who supplied sand, stones, timber, etc. Building materials used for the colonists' homes depended on the area of the country. Although there were several house types, the first generation houses were built in all the same style in each village.

In the early years, the houses were often low, small half-timbered structures, made of wood and clay or log cabins built in wood with thatched roofs and a chimney. Most were not usually built like those of their Polish neighbours, who had thatched-roofed homes with vents out the side of the walls at the roof, like what we have come to know as the conventional Ukrainian style.



Outline and Profile of a German Colonist House and Barn<sup>11</sup>



Typically, the German colonist homes were made from spruce, using fishtail joints (also known as dovetail). The entire structures in the villages were made without nails as metal was very expensive. This method, of course, took longer to do.

Dovetail (dovetail) joints<sup>12</sup>

10 Reichert, Oskar. "Ansiedlung der Deutschen in Galizien", article, Galiziendeutsche (<http://www.galiziendeutsche.de/siedlungsgeschichte/ansiedlung-der-deutschen-in-galizien.htm> : accessed 5 January 2018).

11 Wien Museum. Mythos Galizien, Metroverlag, Vienna 2015, p.60.

12 "Dovetail Joint", Article. Wikipedia (<https://en.wikipedia.org> : accessed 9 Sep 2017).





*Typical German House Structure in Sabanivka, Ukraine, 2017<sup>13</sup>*

In the Hartfeld area, the houses were built of sod. The roof was covered with straw or a combination of straw and shingles. Usually two windows faced the street and one window faced the yard. In the bedroom, one window faced the garden.

There seems to have been smaller houses for labourers, but for full farmers, they usually measured seventeen to nineteen metres by eight point six metres and were one-story bungalows, with an attic for storing grain and other food supplies. As a general rule, the houses had a large living area with a hearth (which probably held a baking oven under the mantel) plus two small rooms, (possibly for a chamber or bedroom), a kitchen, and a staircase or ladder to the attic. They may also have had a cellar and a porch, and maybe even a storeroom. The houses were white-washed inside and out. Later a summer kitchen with an oven and another chimney might be added. As many of the colonists had seven or eight children, the housing conditions were very modest, and especially problematic when the old parents were also later housed there.

### House Numbers

House numbers were an integral part of the colonist's land and tax records. Houses were numbered in each village separately, usually starting with number 1 in the center of the village or nearest the church. The numbers grew sequentially in order of location. However, as new houses were built, they were assigned the next sequential number, so house number 50 is not necessarily next door to house number 51. They could actually be at opposite ends of the village. Lower numbers though may be next to each other if the houses were next to each other at the time the numbering system was originally developed. Often, several families occupied a house.

These house numbers are vital when researching the movements of families, though not always accurate when one considers that many births occurred at a neighbor's, relative's or even the midwife's house. The parish priest recording the information of birth, baptism, marriage or death may not necessarily note the number of the family's home.<sup>14</sup>

<sup>13</sup> "Abandoned House in Sabanivka, Ukraine", digital photo. Judith Silverthorne Collection, 12 Jul 2017.

<sup>14</sup> "House Numbers in Galician Records", article. Family Search Wiki (<http://www.familysearch.org/wiki> : 23 Oct 2017).

## Subsidies

While actual subsidies might have varied for each person or village, when the farming colonists finally arrived on their land, they were provided with the free variety of tools and equipment necessary to farm as advertised. The items seem to have differed somewhat in the various areas, and once again, the results were not always as they had been led to believe. For instance, a house and a stable were to be provided.

The stables were sometimes attached to the house all under one roof. This so-called „Wohnstallhaus“ that was a typical German type of dwelling. It was this type of house that the German colonists knew from their homeland - and one can assume that this was the reason why houses in their new homeland often were built in this style.<sup>15</sup>



*House in Rottenhan, half living space, half barn/stable<sup>16</sup>*

Stalls were built in the stables to hold at least six head of cattle; each household normally had a shed with a threshing floor. Colonists later added root cellars. According to one research source, “willing colonists were subsidised with land, a farmhouse, cattle, tools and a stable free of charge. The amount of each of these subsidies depended on the size of the family and the wealth they brought to Galicia”.<sup>17</sup>

Farmers of like worth received more or less the same amount of land. Between 1782 and 1820, the majority of farmers were given plots the size of 11 to 20 yokes (1 yoke = 2.12 acres). If the German colonists had brought more cash from their homeland, they could purchase more corresponding land.<sup>18</sup>

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<sup>15</sup> “Byre-dwelling”, article. Wikipedia (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Byre-dwelling>)

<sup>16</sup> “House in Rottenhan”, digital photo. Judith Silverthorne collection, 15 Jul 2017.

<sup>17</sup> “Austrian Colonisation of Habsburg-Austrian Galicia: 1773 to 1846 & Austrian Polish Rivalry”, article. Tour My Country. (<http://www.tourmycountry.com/austria/austria-colony.htm> : accessed 5 Jan 2018).

<sup>18</sup> “Agriculture in Galicia at the time of immigration”, article, Galiziendeutsche. (<http://www.galizien-deutsche.de/siedlungsgeschichte/ansiedlung-der-deutschen-in-galizien.htm&prev=search> : accessed: 3 Jan 2017), click on Siedlungschichte.

## List of Provisions Supplied to a Colonist

Specifications for the residence and farming utensils, which a German colonist will need<sup>19</sup>:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. One plow, including all the iron parts for four horses | 15. Two wooden shovels                     |
| 2. Two wooden harrows for the entire village              | 16. One iron ditch-digging tool            |
| 3. All the horse equipment for four horses                | 17. One iron pitchfork                     |
| 4. One horse cart with two short and two long sides       | 18. One cutting knife                      |
| 5. One horse sled   | 19. One saw                                |
| 6. Two pulling chains for four horses                     | 20. One large and one small drill          |
| 7. Two sickles with wooden handles                        | 21. One water pail                         |
| 8. One scythe with equipment                              | 22. One milk pail                          |
| 9. One wooden bed   | 23. One butter-making barrel               |
| 10. One heavy blanket                                     | 24. One dough-making trough                |
| 11. One bed sack for straw                                | 25. One sieve for flour                    |
| 12. One long stock for grain thrashing                    | 26. One wooden bread shovel (for the oven) |
| 13. One axe   | 27. Six sacks                              |
| 14. One wooden bat  | 28. One rope                               |
|   | 29. One spinning wheel                     |
|   | 30. Animals: four horses, one cow          |

Another source mentions, “contributions to living and dead inventory....” that was given to the 42 families of the Bruckenthal colony, which differed slightly in the number of horses and cows, plus they were given two pigs. Sometimes a colony as a whole was given some of the equipment in large numbers for distribution and for sharing, such as the hand tools for farm, home, and garden.<sup>20</sup> One source also mentions seeds were provided for the first crops. The important thing to note here is that these items were subsidized by the Austrian government, not given totally free, though the colonists had been told they would have six to ten years before they had to start paying for these items. Unfortunately, this promise was not kept.

## Galician Land Conditions

While these provisions seemed adequate for their basic needs, and some of the promises stipulated when Emperor Joseph II issued his settlement and toleration patents, not all were respected. The colonists were supposed to be put on already cultivated land. The problem was that the land was not exactly as advertised or expected. While the settlers were placed partly on arable soil that came from the estates of the monasteries, dignitaries and nobles, the land, even if it was arable, was in miserable condition, uncultivated for many years so that it had settled and was overgrown with weeds, brushwood and scrub, or was barren.<sup>21</sup>

These fields that had lain fallow over several years had only been plowed to a quarter of an inch deep and had barely been used to grow food herbs, vegetables, or fruits that were so

19 Specifications for goods & tools, supplied to a colonist”, article. Danube Swabian History. (<http://www.dvhh.org/history/1700s/colonist-goods-tools.htm> : accessed 21 Dec 2017).

20 Reichert, Oskar. “The German Settlements in Galicia”, Galizien Deutsche. (<https://www.galizien-deutsche.de/hochgeladen/dateien/Deutsche-Siedlungen-Landwirtschaft-Doerfer-Galizien.pdf> : accessed 5 Jan 2018).

21 Reichert, Oskar. “The German Settlements in Galicia”, Galizien Deutsche. (<https://www.galizien-deutsche.de/hochgeladen/dateien/Deutsche-Siedlungen-Landwirtschaft-Doerfer-Galizien.pdf> : accessed 3 Jan 2017). paragraph 2.



desperately needed. The most fertile, loamy and black soils were found in pockets in the mostly easterly part of Galicia, but otherwise the soil was often sandy. In order to facilitate some kind of compensation for the poor soil quality, a three-field system was used so farmers with allocated free parcels of land in various areas were each given the advantage of some land close by and some further away so there was a sharing of soils of various qualities.<sup>22</sup>

*For more information on the living conditions in the early years in Galicia, see the chapter on our next direct ancestor, Johann Georg Assmann & Katharina Krämer.*

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<sup>22</sup> irene-genealogy (Family Search subscriber), "Migration from Germany and Early Years in Galicia (Galizien)", Memories Family Search. (<https://www.familysearch.org/photos/artifacts/8021611>: accessed 6 Jan 2018).

## JOHANN GEORG ASSMANN & KATHARINA KRÄMER

**Johann Georg Assmann**, born 11 May 1766, Henau, Rheinland-Pfalz, Germany<sup>1</sup>; married **Katharina Krämer**;<sup>2</sup> death date is unknown.

Johann Georg Assmann is believed to be the oldest son of Johann Ludwig Assmann (1745-1818) and his first wife, Maria Elisabetha Steffen (1740-1785). Georg was born on 11 May 1766 in Henau, and baptized in the Protestant church in nearby Kellenbach.<sup>3</sup> He spent the first eighteen years of his life in the village, before he moved to Lemberg, Galicia, Austria, with his parents in 1784.<sup>4</sup> Three years later in 1787, at the age of twenty-one, after the death of his mother and remarriage of his father, he moved with the family from Lemberg to Kaltwasser, Galicia. On 9 January 1791, Georg Assmann married Katharina Krämer in Zimna Woda, virtually next door to his home place of Kaltwasser.<sup>5</sup>

Katharina Krämer is listed as being born in 1766 in Dietenhausen<sup>6</sup>, which was a small village northwest of Frankfurt, Germany. In 1630 there were only thirty households in the village and about two hundred years later, when Katharina's family lived there, the population numbers had not really grown.<sup>7</sup> Very little is known about Katharina's family and so far, definite information about her parents or other close family members has not been found, nor exactly how she managed to get to Galicia from her birthland. At the time of their marriage, Katharina is noted as living in Rottenhan.

Georg and Katharina seemed to have lived together in Kaltwasser for a time, as the first six of their seven children were born there between 1796 and 1810. The first documented child, Katharina, was born five years after their marriage in 1796, though there may have been earlier ones. As of 6 March 1810, Georg and Katharina's family was listed as living in Zimna Woda, and Georg was noted as being a farmer there.

The family would have had a difficult time with the widespread famine which hit Galicia over the next three years, ending in 1813. Perhaps this is why, sometime between 1810 and 1812<sup>8</sup>, the family moved to Rottenhan, a village approximately sixteen kilometres to the northwest of Kaltwasser. According to Samuel Bredetzky's Galizien population list of 1812, they were living in Rottenhan in house number 55. Their last daughter, Margaretha, was born in Rottenhan four years later in 1816.

During their lifetimes, Georg and Katharina and their families would have suffered through several deadly infections and famines, including the Asiatic cholera in 1831, the Galician famine in 1832, and later severe rains and flooding in 1844, followed by the potato blight in 1845 from another bout of heavy rains and flooding. All of these extensive plights and the desperation of the people led to the two month Peasant Uprising, also called the Galician Slaughter, in February and March of that year. Although the centre of the fighting was two hundred kilometres away,

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1 Archiv der Evangelischen Kirche im Rheinland, Kirchenbücher der Archivstelle Boppard (Archives of the Protestant Church in the Rhineland, church records at the Boppard archives) Kirchengemeinde Gemünden.

2 Hilfskomitee der Galiziendeutschen, Ortsfamilienbuch Zimna Woda 1784-1900; PDF download, Galizien German Descendants (<http://www.galiziengerm descendants.org> : downloaded 17 Apr 2017), family 36.

3 See footnote 1.

4 „Ansiedlerakten [Settlers], 1782-1805,“ Card file A - Bohm, Ludwig Assmann card; Vienna, Hofkammerarchiv; FHL microfilm 1,326,450

5 See footnote 2.

6 Ibid.

7 “Dietenhausen (Weilmünster)”, article. Wikipedia. (<https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/>: accessed 10 sept 2017).

8 Hilfskomitee der Galiziendeutschen, Die deutschstämmige Bevölkerung Galiziens 1750-1940, Ortsfamilienbuch Rottenhan; PDF download, Galizien German Descendants (<http://www.galiziengerm descendants.org> : downloaded 17 Apr 2017), family 20.

Georg and Katharina no doubt would have been horrified by this turn of events, and suffered the consequences. During the revolt crops had been destroyed, which resulted in more famine conditions. The following year there were a number of outbreaks of typhus, smallpox, cholera and syphilis, along with another famine. In 1848, the Hungarian Revolt ensued and the following year there were bad crops, which led once more to widespread famine. The potatoes again were blighted the following year, and by 1853 the Great Famine had settled in with the Great Cholera outbreak descending in 1854. Starvation once again took its toll in 1855.

Somehow Georg and Katharina persevered, and they are documented in the Hartfeld parish records as still living in Rottenhan in house number 55 as of 20 February 1858.<sup>9</sup> The dates are unknown as to when George and Katharina died; however, a genealogy enthusiast in Germany came across an unsubstantiated reference stating that her manner of death was “erschossen,” which means by some kind of gunshot.<sup>10</sup> This apparently could mean shot accidentally by anybody, for example, a hunter.

Georg and Katharina’s children seemed to have continued living in the area or nearby:

**Katharina Assmann** is thought to be the first born into the family in 1796 in Kaltwasser. In adulthood, she married Christian Vogel before 18 May 1816, moving to Zimna Woda, where they had three sons, before Christian died 18 May 1821.<sup>11</sup> When her husband passed, she married Georg Specht 28 October 1821 and had six children, of whom three at least died in infancy. She lived in Zimna Woda most of her married life, passing there on 4 October 1853 of old age.<sup>12</sup>

**Georg Jakob Assmann**, their second child and our next direct ancestor was born in 1798 in Kaltwasser; died 9 March 1873, Rottenhan.<sup>13</sup> (*Jacob’s story is told in a separate chapter. See: Georg Jakob Assmann & Christina Elisabetha Klarenbach.*)

Another son also called **Georg Assmann** was born next in 1802 in Kaltwasser<sup>14</sup>. He married Elisabetha Kullmann on 27 May 1828 in Hartfeld. They had at least three sons, one born in Stradcz and the other two in Rottenhan. He was a colonist and worked as a smith in Stradcz, Kozice, and Rottenhan. Elisabeth died in Kozice of typhus in 1853. His death date is unknown. However, Georg is the direct ancestor of Barbara Denscher, another contributor to this family history. (*See chapter: Elisabeth Assmann in the Appendix*)

Not much is known about the subsequent son **Nikolaus Assmann**, born in 1806.<sup>15</sup>

**Katharina Elisabeth Assmann** was born 1808 in Kaltwasser. She married Ferdinand Reisdorf in 1828 in Hartfeld<sup>16</sup> and had at least six children, four sons and two daughters. The family lived their whole lives in Rottenhan.<sup>17</sup>

In 1810 the final son, **Philip Assmann**, was born, though nothing more is known about him.<sup>18</sup>

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9 Hilfskomitee der Galiziendeutschen, Ortsfamilienbuch Zimna Woda 1784-1900; PDF download, Galizien German Descendants (<http://www.galiziengermmandescendants.org> : downloaded 17 Apr 2017), family 36.

10 This was noted on an ancestry family tree from a researcher in Germany, but he could not substantiate where he found the information.

11 Hilfskomitee der Galiziendeutschen, Ortsfamilienbuch Rottenhan 1795-1894; PDF download, Galizien German Descendants (<http://www.galiziengermmandescendants.org>), p. 329 family 634, Vogel.

12 Ibid., family 36.

13 Ibid.

14 Ibid., family 22 Assmann.

15 Ibid., family 36.

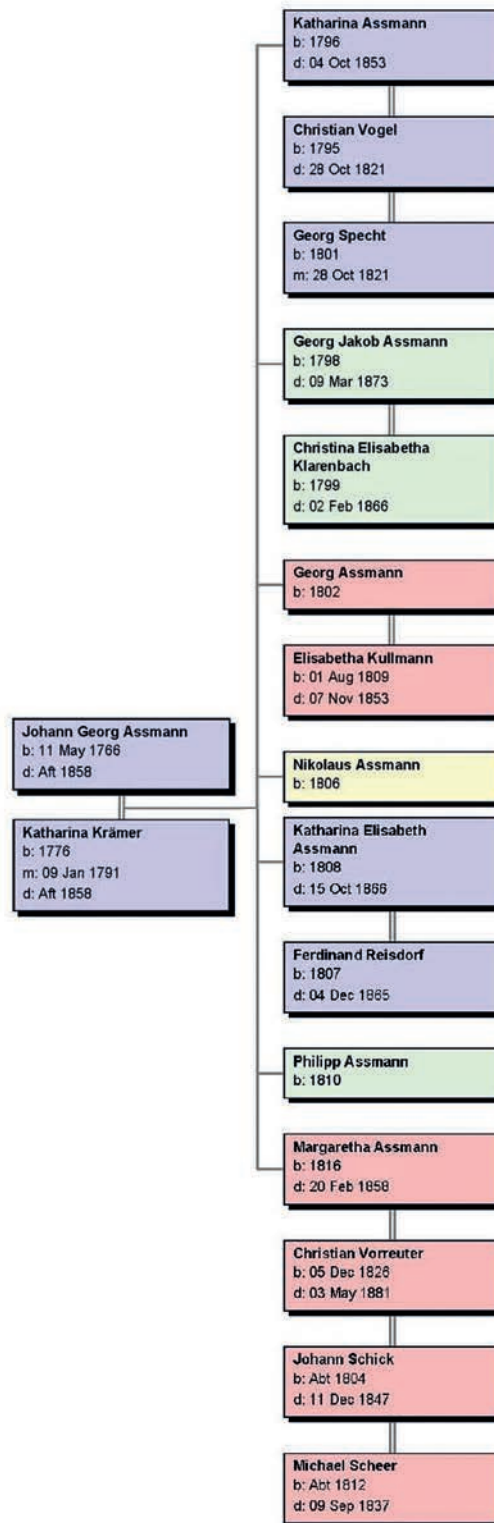
16 Ibid., family 478 Reisdorf.

17 Ibid., family 480, Reisdorf.

18 Ibid., family 22 Assmann.



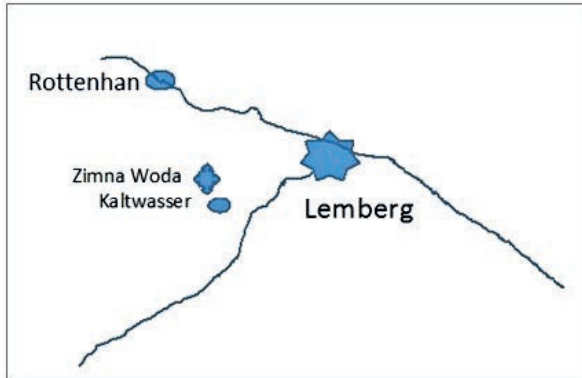
**Margaretha Assmann**, born in 1816, went on to marry three times, first to Michael Scheer and they had one daughter together. She then married Johann Schick, a widower, and she had two more children. And finally, she married Christian Vorreuter and they had three children together; however, Margaretha died during childbirth of their last child in 1858.<sup>19</sup>



<sup>19</sup> Ibid.

## Kaltwasser & Zimna Woda

While Kaltwasser and Zimna Woda were geographically in two places, they were not legally separate villages. According to research that Barbara Denscher did in the Austrian State Archives,



books and documents from that time always mentioned Kaltwasser as belonging to the municipality of Zimna Woda. Also in the book “Das Kolonisationswerk Josef II in Galizien” (see above in this text) Kaltwasser is mentioned as “Attinez zu Zimnawoda” = belonging to Zimna Woda. Kaltwasser was indeed a separate district, a settlement on the edge of Zimna Woda, but not a separate village.

*Map with Rottenhan, Zimna Woda and Kaltwasser (modified)<sup>1</sup>*

In fact, the names both mean “cold water.” In German, Kaltwasser means “cold water” and Zimna Woda means “cold water” in Polish. In Ukrainian it is spelled Zymna Voda (Зимна Вода) and is translated as “winter water”. The name is derived from the name of a local stream.<sup>2</sup>

Back when immigration was taking place, the colonist settlement in Zimna Woda (latitude: 49.8257, longitude: 23.8879), was founded in 1778 as an annexation to the already existing Polish village. While Kaltwasser (latitude: 49.8200, longitude: 23.8975) was established five years later in 1783 as a new separate German colonist village just south of the already existing village of Zimna Woda. Over several decades, Kaltwasser was absorbed into the southern part of the present day Zimna Woda. The Polish village of Zimna Woda itself was formed centuries earlier.



*Zymna Voda cemetery<sup>3</sup>*

1 Unterschütz “Map of the German Settlements in Galicia”, Germans from Russia Settlement Locations. ([http://www.galiziengerm descendants.org/Maps/Unterschütz\\_map\\_col.jpg](http://www.galiziengerm descendants.org/Maps/Unterschütz_map_col.jpg) : accessed 9 Dec 2017).

2 “Zymna Voda”, article. Wikipedia ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zymna\\_Voda](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zymna_Voda) : accessed 24 May 2024).

3 “Zymna Voda Cemetery”, digital image. Judith Silverthorne photos. (Taken 15 July 2017).

The land around Zimna Woda and Kaltwasser, with its river, meadows, fish ponds and a mill, seems to have been a well-suited area for employment and survival. In 1848 the building of a railway line from Lemberg to Przemyśl began and in 1861 a depot was built in Zimna Woda. Construction included the railway station and an overhead pedestrian bridge between Zimna Woda and Rudno, all of which employed a number of people, and the results of which made travel accessible and trade easier.

At the time Georg and Katharina raised their family in Galicia, they would have also been among the many that needed to rebuild the original homes given to the colonists.

### Building Better Homes

The first generation houses that Georg would have lived in with his parents and possibly still with his own family, as already mentioned, were substandard for the most part and had to be repaired or rebuilt over the years. The first generation German settler houses had one chimney, which was unusual for the time, as their neighbouring Ukrainians had thatch-style roofs and several vents going out the side of the walls not through the roof.



*Vacant second-generation German house from the 1800s in Sabanivka (Сабанівка)<sup>4</sup>*

In subsequent generations, starting in about the 1820s, when the colonists rebuilt their houses, housewives decided to add a summer kitchen to the design, and this required a second chimney. You could always tell German colonist houses when they built them on their own, because they usually had two chimneys. The summer kitchen was only in use during the summer months, so they didn't have to heat the rest of the house. And in the winter, they only used the main part of the house because the weather was too cold to keep both places going.

A hip-hop roof, sometimes called a half-hip roof in Canada, was a popular design in Germany, so that is the style of the second generation houses our German ancestors built to keep the snow off better. In the attic they stored cereals, like flax, hemp, and pumpkin seeds to make oil, and potatoes. They usually grew a small practical garden in the front of the house, and a much larger one elsewhere on their plot of land for food they would store for their winter use.

Our German ancestors also built root cellars. By the time of the second generation homes, in approximately the 1830s, a quarter of the house was a cellar. They were often bricked with

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<sup>4</sup> "Old German House from the 1800s in Sabanivka", digital image. Judith Silverthorne Collection. 12 July 2017.



arched ceilings. The farmers took clay from their lands and exchanged them for bricks. The cellars had holes for circulation and brick steps. They built them up to fifteen square metres in size. Some cellar designs would have resulted in long humps extending from the house covered with earth, like the one found in current day Zymna Voda, Ukraine in 2017. Other concessions and features were added to their homes as time went on for successive generations.



*Root cellar in Zymna Voda, 2017<sup>5</sup>*

The Germans preferred to have doors in the middle on both sides of the house. They also preferred a split door or half door (more commonly known as a Dutch door), so that the bottom half could remain shut while the top half opened. This allowed them to keep the children in and the cows and other animals out.

An old German custom was to bring the dead out through the front door. Some Germans in Galicia also adopted a Slavic custom, a superstition that was supposed to keep good luck: it involved not passing gifts or other objects out through open doors, i.e. not passing anything from a person on one side of the door to the person on the other side of the door. They must both be inside.<sup>6</sup>

### The Early Years

The first fifteen years, after the settlement, were the worst. Hunger and death prevailed in the country. In the second and third generation after the early days, the colonies gradually became consolidated, the phase of resignation was over, and the first charms of moving had worn off. Although the colonists were allocated the first sowing of seed for crops and gardens in 1786 free of charge, and this continued until they had a running management of their land, many of the other promised benefits never materialized or changed from the original agreements.

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<sup>5</sup> "Earthen/root cellar, Zimna Woda", digital image. Judith Silverthorne Collection. 15 July 2017).

<sup>6</sup> Interview with Hans Christian Heinz, July 2017.

There was a lot of dissatisfaction amongst the colonists right from the beginning and continuing for decades. Besides misery and deprivations after their long trip from their homelands to Galicia, and the long wait to get into their villages, Galicia was not as the advertisements had led them to believe. The houses were so poorly built the colonists had to spend valuable time, labor, and money for their repair and maintenance. They spent a large part of the winters hauling wood to protect against the cold, which penetrated the houses on all sides.

For the first three decades after colonization began, there was a great deal of movement between villages in search of better settling possibilities. Some of the colonists were not satisfied with the decision of the Austrian authorities, when families, relatives, or friends from the same place of origin in Germany were separated and had to settle in different colonies. So, they tried to change their place of residence. But even with all of this movement and disgruntlement, research into land records shows on average seventy-five percent of surnames of the farm owners in 1819 or 1820, were identical to the surname of the first land record written in the late 1780s.

The colonists were given the land with the right to pass it on to heirs. Each owner signed a contract. The property could not be divided nor combined, so only one child in the family could inherit, usually the eldest son. For the other children there were few alternatives: for the girls it was to marry a forthcoming farm owner and for the boys, to become a craftsman (blacksmith, miller, cutter, cartwright, etc.), or to buy a farm or land to build a farm in a neighbouring village.

### The Management of Farms

Galicia was a vast, mostly hilly country on the edge of the Carpathians, with forests rich in wildlife and fish-rich rivers; however, most of the farms were small to medium-sized mixed farms. All family members had to pitch in as there were extreme workloads to cope with the agriculture of the time required high physical labour. In addition, each farmer owned one half acre of garden with various berry bushes, vegetables and fruits, the yield of which varied according to the temperatures and soil conditions. Animal husbandry on the farm covered the rearing of horses, cattle, pigs, and poultry, such as chickens, ducks, and geese. The farmers, in terms of their diet, were largely “self-sufficient.” They bought only spices, sugar, and salt for their own consumption.<sup>7</sup>

Over time, the German farmers introduced new crops to Galicia such as clover, rhubarb, safflower, turnip, and hops, as well as some fruit trees. While potatoes were not entirely new to Galicia, the German settlers grew them in abundance, and this was the first time growth of potatoes became widespread. Rhubarb and tobacco plantations also flourished.

The Germans were very good farmers and they introduced a number of new agricultural techniques to the region. They were also considered good workers and were soon working not only on farms, but also in mills and factories.

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<sup>7</sup> “Häuser, Bewirtschaftung der Bauernhöfe”, article. Galizien Deutsche (<https://www.galizien-deutsche.de/hochgeladen/dateien/Haeuser-Bewirtschaftung-Hoeft-in-Galizien.pdf> : accessed 12 Nov 2017).

## GEORG JAKOB ASSMANN & CHRISTINA ELISABETHA KLARENBACH

**Georg Jakob Assmann** born 1798, Kaltwasser, Galicia; married, **Christina Elisabetha Klarenbach**,<sup>1</sup> died 9 March 1873, Rottenhan, Galicia.

Georg **Jakob** Assman was the second child we are aware of born to Johann **Georg** Assmann (b. 1766) and Katharina Krämer (b. 1766). He was born in Kaltwasser, Galicia, Austria in 1798. In 1812, he was living with his family in Rottenhan in house number 55, according to the Rottenhan Einwohnerliste (list of inhabitants). In about 1821, when he was twenty-three, he married Christina Elisabetha Klarenbach, born 1799 in Rottenhan, daughter of Heinrich and Anna Maria (née Stoffel) Klarenbach.<sup>2</sup> They lived in Rottenhan their whole lives, although they had moved at some point, as they were residing in house number 3 in 1837 when their child, Katharina was born.<sup>3</sup>

Christina Elisabetha Klarenbach was born in 1799 in Rottenhan to Heinrich Klarenbach (1768-1844) and Anna Maria Stoffel (1769-1842). Her parents had originally come from the Rheinland region of Germany. Her father was born in 1768 in Hottenbach, Rheinland-Pfalz<sup>4</sup>, and her mother on 27 August 1769 in Hirschfeld, Rheinland-Pfalz. They married in Lemberg, Galicia, on 20 February 1791, and had moved to Rottenhan by the time their daughter Christina arrived. They were listed in 1812 as living in Rottenhan in house number 56, so Christina was a neighbour of Jakob's at the time of their marriage.

Records show that Jakob Assman and Christina Klarenbach had at least six children, all born in Rottenhan. By 1837, they were living in house number 3, where they stayed for a number of subsequent years. Jakob is noted as being a colonist in 1858 and 1859. Jakob and Christina were still living in house number 3 in 1856 and until the time of Christina's death on 2 February 1866. She died of Altersschwäche (age weakness) at the age of sixty-seven; she was buried two days later.<sup>5</sup>

In 1873, Jakob was residing in house number 16, and by this time, he was noted as being an „Ausgedinger“. This means that he had given up his (peasant) holding because of his age. Normally, the business was passed on to the son, the heir was Jakob's son George. Jakob died on 9 March 1873 at age 77 in Rottenhan in house number 16 where he might have been living with one of his children; he also died of Altersschwäche (age weakness).

Children of Georg Assmann and Christina Klarenbach were as follows:

**Johann Assmann**, was the first son, but his dates of birth and death have not been found in records so far, though he did eventually marry Maria Thomas sometime before 15 October 1872. They had at least two sons, Jakob and Johann. He seems to have lived first in Cholojow, Galicia, about 80 km northeast of Rottenhan, where his first son was born. He also seems to have been a Wirtschaftsführer (administrator of a farm estate) for a short time in Krynica about twenty-four kilometres west of their next residence in Dobrowlany in 1875, where he seems to have changed professions and became a farmer in 1875.<sup>6</sup>

The second son, named **Georg Assmann**, was born in 1821 and died before 1874. He first

1 Hilfskomitee der Galiziendeutschen Ortsfamilienbuch Rottenhan 1785-1894; PDF download, Galizien German Family Books (<http://www.galiziengerm descendants.org/Familybooks.htm>), Family # 21, p. 13.

2 Ibid., Family # 251, p. 147.

3 Ibid., Family # 21, p. 13.

4 Ibid., Family # 251, p. 147.

5 Ibid., 15, Family 25, Jakob Assmann.

6 Ibid., Family Assmann# 33, p. 19.



married Maria Elisabeth Kaufmann before 1845 in Rottenhan, where they raised their five children until she passed away of Nervenfieber (typhus) on 3 February 1858.<sup>7</sup> On 20 of July of that year, he married Margaretha Müller, born about 1832.<sup>8</sup> She also died of typhus on 3 October 1859, before they had any children. Georg married yet again on 19 February 1860 in Kuttensburg (his bride's place of birth) to Friedericke Stahl. They had three children together, one born in Porzecze, and the other two in Rottenhan in house number 3, where his parents were still living. Georg must have taken over his father's holdings, as his older brother, Johann, does not seem to have returned. George died about 20 November 1874.

The third son, **Johann Jakob Assmann**, was born in 1827 also in Rottenhan. He is our subsequent direct family member, who later went on to marry **Maria Elisabeth Reisdorf** and emigrated to Canada.<sup>9</sup>

**Eva Assmann** was born next to Jakob Assman and Christina Klarenbach, in approximately 1833.<sup>10</sup> Her brother, Ferdinand, is also noted as born approximately 1833, and they may have been twins. However, Eva married Johann Jakob Meinhard, in Hartfeld 14 September 1858. Her husband was a miller, living in Kurnicki when they first married, but by the time of the birth of their first child, a son they named Ferdinand, after her brother, they were living in Starzyska. Their second-born, a daughter, arrived in Schumlau, but died 5 April 1888 in Ostrów of scarlet fever. She was buried in Rosenberg two days later.<sup>11</sup>

Another son born to Jakob Assman and Christina Klarenbach was **Ferdinand Assmann**, recorded as born approximately 1833, perhaps the twin to Eva. Ferdinand lived in Starzyska and was a Förster (forest ranger). He wed Katharina Mayer in Hartfeld on 1 September 1861. They had seven children, the first and last two of which were born in Starzyska and the others in Kurniki between 1859 and 1872.<sup>12</sup> He and his wife were still alive in 1893, though records so far have not indicated when and where they died.

**Katharina Assmann** arrived next on 3 February in 1837. Her marriage to Heinrich Nerstheimer in 1859 in Hartfeld resulted in seven children; the first two were born in Hartfeld, then one in Stradcz, and the last four in Rottenhan. Two died of whooping cough, one of scarlet fever, and one from a plague attack.<sup>13</sup>

## Rottenhan

Many of the members of Jakob and Christina's family's lives revolved around the village of Rottenhan. As part of Josephinian colonisation, the German colony of Rottenhan was founded in 1785 as a predominantly Protestant community. The colonists were settled at the bottom of the Polish village of Porzecze, which had existed since the 15th century and whose name describes the banks of a river, the surroundings of a river.<sup>14</sup> The German colony was an independent community and was named after the Austrian lawyer and court official Heinrich Franz von Rottenhan.<sup>15</sup> In Ukrainian, Rottenhan is now known as Poritschtschja (Поріччя).

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7 Hilfskomitee der Galiziendeutschen, Rottenhan 1785-1894; Family Assmann # 24, p. 15.

8 Ibid., Family # 27, p. 16-17.

9 Ibid., Family # 21, p. 13.

10 Protestant Church (Gemüden, Kr. Simmern, Deutschland), Rhineland, Lutheran Baptisms, Marriages, Burials, 1533-1950, „Taufen, Heiraten, Tote, Konfirmationen u Kommunionen 1675-1798," img 30. J

11 Hilfskomitee der Galiziendeutschen, Rottenhan 1785-1894; Family # 378, p. 223

12 Ibid., Family # 31, p. 18

13 Ibid., Family # 401, p. 223

14 Poritschtschja (Jaworiw), article, Wikipedia ([https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Poritschtschja\\_\(Jaworiw\)](https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Poritschtschja_(Jaworiw))) : accessed 24 May 2024).

15 Heinrich Franz von Rottenhan, article. Wikipedia ([https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heinrich\\_Franz\\_von\\_Rottenhan](https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heinrich_Franz_von_Rottenhan)) : accessed 24 May 2024).

When Jakob and Christina lived there, the Protestants of Rottenhan belonged to the parish of Hartfeld in the Protestant Superintendency AB Galicia, which existed from 1804 to 1918.<sup>16</sup>



*This was once the Lutheran Church built for the Protestant community in Rottenhan<sup>17</sup>*

Built in 1890, after our direct line of ancestors left, the church most likely was attended by other members of the family, such as brothers and sisters, nephews and nieces. The dome and colourful icon in the round window would have been added later by the Greek/Catholic Orthodox people who took it over after World War II. It is now called the Church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. In the yard is a functioning outhouse, and the remains of a foundation, which local residents think may have been the school.



*The old arched entrance to the building that existed earlier<sup>18</sup>*

16 "Evangelische Superintendentur A.B. Galizien", article. Wikipedia. ([https in the Gródek district.://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Evangelische\\_Superintendentur\\_A.\\_B.\\_Galizien](https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Evangelische_Superintendentur_A._B._Galizien) : accessed 23 Nov 2018).

17 Lutheran Church, digital image. Privately held by Shelley Kloczko, Regina, SK, 2017.

18 Ibid. Shelley Kloczko Collection, July 2017.





Behind the outhouse (no fancy seats), there is an overgrown path<sup>19</sup> that leads down the hill to the riverbed where the headstones from the German cemetery were dragged and thrown into the river after World War II on the orders of the Ukrainian Soviets.

The Soviet order to destroy or remove headstones of Germans, Poles and Jews came in the summer of 1954. Mostly the headstones were laid face down and hauled away by truck drivers to be used for other buildings, like bigger stables or barns, or in making roads. The smaller ones were destroyed.

Fortunately, not all of the headstones were destroyed, so some can still be found.

*Headstone in bush near Schumlau*<sup>20</sup>



## Education

Education was important to the German settlers, and to be taught in their own language was a promise given by Joseph II among some of his many decrees and patents of reformation to bring about an ideal Enlightened state.<sup>21</sup> His goal was to produce a literate citizenry; therefore, elementary education was made compulsory for all boys and girls, and he offered higher education on practical lines for a select few. He also “created scholarships for talented poor students, and allowed the establishment of schools for Jews and other religious minorities. In fact in 1784, he had ordered that the country change its language of instruction from Latin to German, a highly controversial step in a multilingual empire.”<sup>22</sup>

“Since elementary schools were virtually non-existent, they introduced a system with several types of schools: one-class primary schools taught in the native language of the village, three-class primary schools taught in German and Polish, and four-year schools that were intended to prepare students for further education.”<sup>23</sup>

<sup>19</sup> Digital image. Privately held by Shelley Kloczko, Regina, SK, 2017.

<sup>20</sup> “Headstone in Schumlau”. Collection of Judith Silverthorne, July 2017.

<sup>21</sup> Josephinism”, article. Wikipedia. (<https://en.wikipedia.org> : accessed 30 Aug 2017).

<sup>22</sup> “Joseph II, Holy Roman Emperor”, article Wikipedia. (<https://en.wikipedia.org> : accessed 11 Dec 2017).

<sup>23</sup> Irmgard Hein Ellingson, “Galicia: A Multi-Ethnic Overview and Settlement History with Special Reference to Bukovina”, article. Foundation for East European Family History Studies (FEEFHS) (<http://feefhs.org> : accessed 4 June 2018). p. 22.



Unfortunately, not all of these measures led to the desired results. While education was improved, and illiteracy rates decreased in towns; the illiteracy rates remained relatively high in some regions. Schooling in rural areas was not well-developed; teaching often took place only during the winter, when the children did not have to work in the fields.

One thing that did prevail during this time frame of our ancestors living in Galicia was poverty. By the late 19th century Galicia was being described as the poorest region in Austria-Hungary. One reason for this was that Austria-Hungary failed to create the transportation networks necessary for the development of industry and markets throughout the empire.

Poverty in Galicia was also caused by a number of social factors. Population growth led to small peasant plots, and there was simply not enough land to support the growing families. Malnutrition was also extensive, caused by poor crops due to floods, droughts, and pestilence, and the aforementioned poor soil conditions coupled with the crippling economic situation.

In response to these conditions, many peasants chose to emigrate, many to Canada, the United States and Brazil. This started with a few thousand in the 1870s, and gradually increased to about 350 thousand in the 1890s. One of these families was our next direct ancestor, Jakob Assmann and Maria Elisabeth Reisdorf.

## JAKOB ASSMANN & MARIA ELISABETH REISDORF

**Jakob Assmann**<sup>1</sup>, born 8 May 1827, Rottenhan, Galicia, Austria; married **Maria Elisabeth Reisdorf**<sup>2</sup>; died 6 February 1906.

Jakob Assmann was born on 8 May 1827<sup>3</sup> to Georg Jakob (1798-1873) and Christina Elisabetha (née Klarenbach) Assmann (1799-1866). The family was living in Rottenhan, Galicia, Austria, at the time of Jakob's birth. His grandparents also lived in the same village.<sup>4</sup>

Jakob was twenty-two when he married Maria Elisabeth (Magdalena)<sup>5</sup> Reisdorf, 16 January 1849 in Hartfeld.<sup>6</sup> Sometimes, couples had to travel to a neighbouring parish church if it was where the minister was situated, or if he only served the parish infrequently. Hartfeld was ten kilometres south and slightly east of Rottenhan.

As Maria Elisabeth Reisdorf was also born in Rottenhan, she and Jakob most likely knew each other from the time they were children. She was born on 15 May 1832,<sup>7</sup> daughter of Michael and Eva (née Sauer) Reisdorf.<sup>8</sup> Her father, Michael Reisdorf (1803-1877), was also born in Rottenhan, Galicia, and her mother Eva Sauer (1802-1863) in Rosenberg, Galicia. They too had been married in Hartfeld, though little else is known about them or the rest of Maria's family, except that she had a younger brother named Karl.<sup>9</sup> Maria was eighteen when she married Jakob.

Jakob and Maria's marriage record from 1849 lists Jakob at the time as being a Stellmacher (wheelwright),<sup>10</sup> living in house number three in Rottenhan. A wheelwright would be knowledgeable in different kinds of wood for making parts of the wheel (spokes, hubs, planks, felloes and rims) used for various horse drawn carriages, wagons, or carts. Besides making wheels, they might also be required to make "fences, gates, ladders, horse boxes and even coffins."<sup>11</sup> Maria is listed as living in house number nine at the time of their marriage.

Their first year was a rough one of bad crops and famine that plagued Galicia. Although it is unknown how long they continued to live in Rottenhan, what is believed to be the first of their children, a daughter named Katharina, was born in Alt Jazow in 1851.<sup>12</sup> Their new home was about thirty-five kilometres northwest of Rottenhan. The route they would have travelled to get

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1 The spelling of Jakob's name in his marriage and death record is Jacob; however, the German spelling will be used, as this is how he was registered in his baptism records.

2 Waupaca, Wisconsin, "Pre-1907 Wisconsin Death Record, volume 2", p. 125, Marie Osman, 1902; Wisconsin Historical Society, Madison.

3 Ibid.

4 Hilfskomitee der Galiziendeutschen, Rottenhan 1785-1894, 15, family 25, Jakob Assmann.

5 Evangelisch-Reformierte Kirche Rozyszcze (Luck). (Rozyszcze Parish, Volhynia, Russia), "Volhynia, Kiev and Podolia Lutheran Parishes", p. 126, item 247, Ignaz Bender and Eva Assmann; FHL microfilm 1,897,594, item 1. Maria was also known as Magdalena as was recorded on the marriage record of her daughter, Elisabeth to Ignaz Bender.

6 See footnote 4.

7 See footnote 2.

8 See footnote 4, 274, family 479, Michael Reisdorf.

9 Ibid.

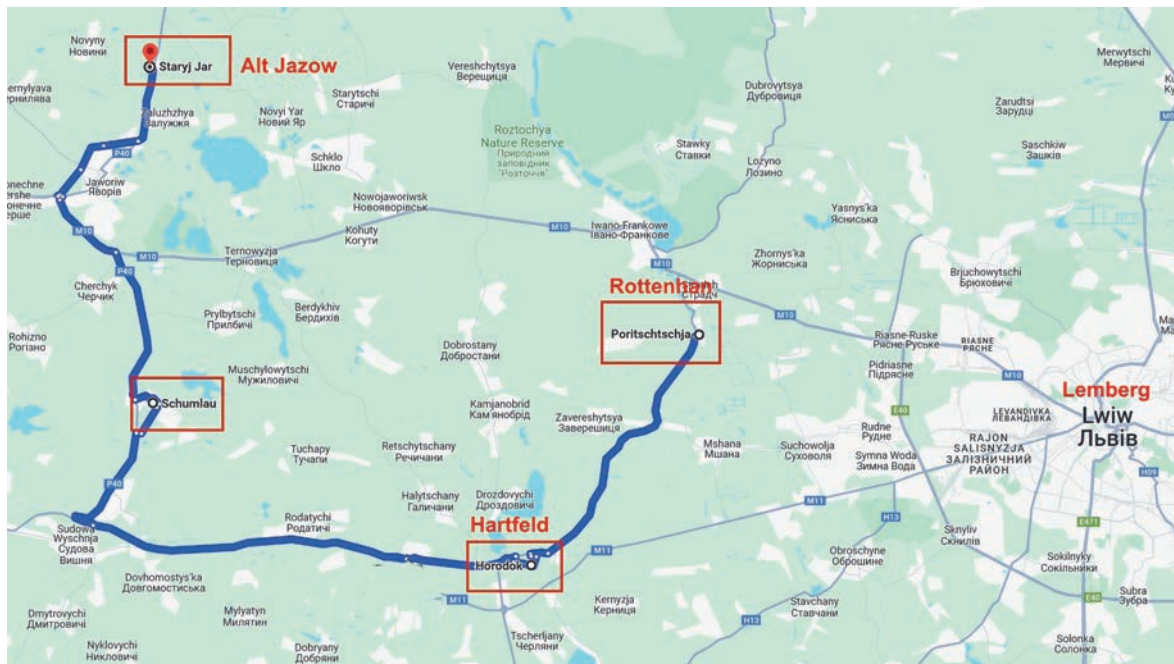
10 Hartfeld (Hartfeld, Gródek Jagiellonski, Galicia, Austria), No. 299 Record books of Protestant-Augsburg communes and Hellenic confessions 1764 - 1939, "Hartfeld commune, Augsburg confession. Record book of weddings, 1789-1859," 63, img. 39, 1849, Jakob Assmann and Maria Elisabeth Reissdorf; digital images, Central Archives of Historical Records (<http://agad.gov.pl/> : accessed 30 Jan 2019).

11 Old Occupations: Wheelwrights, by Mary Carter, Family Tree Magazine, October 1992 (<http://www.veness.me/family-history/wills/wheelwrights.html> : accessed 9 Feb 2019).

12 Lutheran and Augsburg confession communes (Galicia), Record books of the Protestant-Augsburg and Helvetic communes 1764 - 1939, Team 299, „Municipality of Hartfeld, Record book of deaths, branch Schmulau 1789-1871," ref 288, img 33, 2nd record, Catharina Assmann; digital images, Central Archives of Historical Records (<http://agad.gov.pl/> : accessed 22 May 2020). Given name is in Latin; therefore, the spelling difference.

to Alt Jazow would have taken about two days, if they journeyed with cartloads of possessions led by oxen. Alt Jazow was founded as a German colony in 1788 in the district of Jaworow, primarily settled by Protestants, so it was well-established by the time Jakob moved his family there.

All of the places our later Assmann families frequented or lived in, including Rottenhan and Alt Jazow, were situated in the parish of Hartfeld. Before the region became Austrian, it belonged to Poland and Alt Jazow was called Jazów Stary, or sometimes just Jazów. Later the names of the locations were all changed either to the Ukrainian equivalent or a different name entirely as they are now located in Ukraine. Thus, Rottenhan is now Porichchya (Поріччя), Hartfeld is Horodok (Городок), Schumlau is called Vizhomlya (Віжомля), and Alt Jazow is Staryi Yar (Старий Яр).



*Rottenhan, Hartfeld, Schumlau and Alt Jazow (Google Maps)*

In 1854, Jakob was residing in Alt Jazow living in house number one.<sup>13</sup> By this time, the family had somehow survived the 1850 potato blight and the Great Famine of 1853, only to be faced with the death of their first born, **Katharina**, of “Gichter” (an illness with cramps, high fever and chills that used to occur frequently in children; it was usually caused by intestinal diseases, which led to dehydration, lack of minerals and loss of strength<sup>14</sup>) in August 1854.<sup>15</sup> This was also the year of the Great Cholera outbreak, and this may have been the reason for her death, as cholera was known to severely affect young children and the elderly, and she was about three years old. In 1855, they encountered another year beleaguered with starvation, which was when their second daughter **Eva** arrived.

By 1856, they had moved to house number 211 where **Elisabeth** was born, and Jakob was recorded as working as a Grundwirt (tenant of agricultural land).<sup>16</sup> Except for Elisabeth, who was baptized in Schumlau, it is unknown where the rest of the children, including those born

13 Hilfskomitee der Galiziendeutschen, Rottenhan 1785-1894, 15, family 25, Jakob Assmann.

14 Gichter, article. GenWiki (<https://wiki.genealogy.net/Gichter>: accessed 25 May 2024).

15 Hilfskomitee der Galiziendeutschen, Alt Jazow, 5, family 8, Jakob Assmann.

16 Ibid.



earlier and later, were taken to be baptized. Schumlau was about twenty kilometres straight south of Alt Jazow and likely the closest church and the one the pastor frequented most often. The family seems to have continued living in the same house, as they were still there in 1869 when their daughter, second to be named **Katharina**, died on 8 April at two months shy of 8 years of age of Bräune (diphtheria). She had been born in 1862 in Alt Jazow, and was also buried there.<sup>17</sup>

By this time, **Karl**, our direct ancestor, had arrived on Christmas Day in 1858<sup>18</sup>, followed by **Johann** in 1864<sup>19</sup>, and **Wilhelmine** in 1865.<sup>20</sup> At this time Jakob was listed as an Ackerbauer (farmer, tiller of the soil). Another daughter, **Caroline**, arrived several months later in 27 September 1870, according to her death information.<sup>21</sup>



*Main Street in Staryi Yar (Alt Jazow) with old-fashioned hay wagon, 2017<sup>22</sup>*

At the time Jakob and his family lived in Galicia, as expected, much of the usual dietary requirements were met by the production of individual households, whether that was of plant

17 Lutheran and Augsburg confession communes (Galicia), Record books of the Protestant-Augsburg and Helvetic communes 1764 - 1939, Team 299, „Municipality of Hartfeld, Augsburg Confession. Record book of deaths, branch Schumlau, 1789-1872,“ ref. 82, img 49, house 211, Catharine Assmann; digital images, Central Archives of Historical Records (<http://agad.gov.pl/inwentarze/testy.html> : accessed 22 May 2020).

18 Saskatchewan Vital Statistics of Saskatchewan, death registration, 1417 (1926), Karl Assmann; eHealth Saskatchewan, Regina.

19 Birth on 1900 Census, says April 1844, but the year is calculated incorrectly. His age is 36 so birth year is 1864. 1900 U.S. census, Waupaca, Wisconsin, population schedule, Union, enumeration district (ED) 126, sheet 7A, image 13, dwelling 114, family 114, John Asman; digital images, Ancestry (<http://ancestry.com> : accessed 29 Nov 2018); citing NARA microfilm T623.

20 Rozyszcze commune (Diocese Wolynska, Volynia, Russia), No. 439, Registers of communes of the Protestant-Augsburg Confession from the Western Governorate of the Russian Empire 1790-1940, „Diocese. Wolynska, Rozyszcze commune. Record book of weddings 1884-1886,“ p 414, image 416, Reisdorf and Assmann; digital images, Central Archives of Historical Records (<http://agad.gov.pl/> : accessed 8 Feb 2019).

21 County News, Symco Church Items, (Manawa) Manawa Advocate, 10 September 1908, p. 8 [unnumbered], col. 2; citing Sturm Memorial Library, Manawa, film Manawa Advocate, 4 Jul 1907-25 Feb 1909.

22 Main Street Staryi Yar, digital image. Privately held by Judith Silverthorne, 2017.

origin grown on the land or acquired in kind. Any surplus of grain, and crops like aniseed and tobacco, and other agricultural products, such as old or extra farm animals were sold. One source suggests that income from selling poultry might pay for salt, soap, and candles.<sup>23</sup>

The currency Jakob and his family used was the Austrian gulden and kreuzer (until 1857, 60 kreuzers equalled one gulden, then 100). Today, one gulden is equivalent to about 32 Canadian dollars (as of May 2024)<sup>24</sup> Prices at the time varied across Galicia, but salt was probably found at 1 gulden per 100 kilograms, yeast at 1.40 gulden per kilogram, and ordinary soap was 26 kreuzers per kg, with a half-kilogram of tea selling for 1.30 gulden. The cheapest scythes were 20 kreuzers and better quality ones ranged up to 40-50 kreuzers each. In contrast, average quality cows were sold by peasants for 30-40 gulden and oxen at 50-60 gulden. Poor quality animals were sold for as little as 5-8 gulden. Sometimes they might have been able to trade and negotiate better deals to purchase their necessities at local town markets, but on the whole, Jakob and his family, like his neighbours, did the best they could with what they produced. Or they might have been able to hunt rabbits or birds, or catch fish in the nearby rivers, the extra of which they would salt or pickle.

Some of the main foods our ancestors would have eaten are familiar to us, and would have originated during this time as staples for them. They made soups from chicken and meat bones or those with millet, buckwheat or pearl barley groats. They also made borscht and other soups with vegetables like broad beans, peas, onions; and gruel or kasha made of cereal grains or lentils, rice and corn. Of course, there were dumplings (called varenyky in Ukrainian, but we know them as perogies), and cabbage rolls, noodles, and lots of potatoes, and rye and sourdough bread. Baked goods made with fruit, nuts, or poppy seed were treats, with honey used for sweetening. Meat was not eaten often, unless in a stew, nor eggs as a separate food, although they were used in other dishes. Our ancestors also made sauerkraut, dilled pickles, and fermented beets, as well as cottage cheese. Flavourings like garlic, dill, and caraway seeds were also added to soups and stews and other dishes. Drying vegetables and fruits helped preserve them through the winter, though plums, berries, cherries, apples, pears, and apricots might also be stewed as compote. If they were lucky, they had mushrooms to pick from spring to fall. Pork was used in a variety of ways, as was mutton, and chicken. While the food they ate sounds delicious and plentiful, those were in the good years.

The problem for Jakob and Maria was while they could live well at harvest time, which was also when taxes and previously incurred debts would be collected, the supply of food through the winter months depended on the bounty of the harvest. Sometimes there wasn't enough to make it through to the spring. A failed harvest would cause severe hardship, and several failures would bring ruin to a family. Droughts, flooding, and other natural disasters brought devastation to thousands of families.

While Jakob and Maria were eking out a living during the 1860s, they would have heard rumblings about the invitation of wealthy property-owners next door in Volhynia, Russia, where the conditions supposedly would be much better. While they might have contemplated moving, the Polish peasants of Russia revolted in 1861, including in Volhynia, which stopped any kind of lateral movement for a time. Then, the uprising spilled into Galicia, Austria. Jakob and Maria would likely have found their situation even more unbearable between 1863 and 1864 when the Austrian government suspended civil liberties in what came to be called the State of Siege in Galicia. Somehow our ancestors rallied through this and survived another bout of starvation in 1865.

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23 Stella M. Hryniuk, *Peasants with Promise: Ukrainians in Southeastern Galicia, 1880-1900* (Edmonton, Alberta: Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, 1991), p 29.

24 Historischer Währungsrechner, (<https://finanzbildung.oenb.at/docroot/waehrungsrechner/#/> : accessed 25 May 2024).



Perhaps Jakob and Maria saw some hope for better conditions for their young family when Austria and Hungary created a dual monarchy in 1867. However, the two-year famine from 1871 to 1872 may have been the breaking point, as after the marriage of their daughter, Eva, 25 June 1871<sup>25</sup>, there is no record of Jakob or Maria in Alt Jazow, and by November 1872 their last daughter, also named Katharina, was born, but in Metnitz, Volhynia, Russia.<sup>26</sup>

Although the exact date is unknown, it seems reasonable that sometime between June of 1871, when Eva was married, and the fall of 1872, when Katharina was born, Jakob and Maria moved from Alt Jazow to the village of Metnitz, Volhynia, Russia. They, and many others between 1860 and 1875, would have been encouraged to settle there as the Russian landowners needed peasants to farm their lands.<sup>27</sup> Once they were allowed by the Austrian government to travel again, Jakob and Maria must have decided to move.

Jakob would have perhaps found the offer of the Russian aristocrats one of salvation from the starving conditions in which they lived, even though the original Russian government benefits from some years earlier, such as offering to pay for their move, were no longer in effect. They were to be given Russian identification cards, and still allowed to retain their Austrian citizenship. And their two sons, although still young, would be exempt from military service for ten years. The main benefit of their move was to be allowed to live on a farm, where they could perhaps have better crops than those they had in Galicia. The catch was the land could only be rented, and only temporarily for ten, twenty, or twenty-five years, but perhaps they were told or felt at some point they would eventually own land. Each family was allowed one hectare.<sup>28</sup>

Jakob and his entire family seem to have moved, including his now married daughter Eva and her husband. The trek was some 159 kilometres to get to where they decided to resettle in the village of Metnitz, Volhynia, Russia. There isn't any information on why they chose this particular place, but Metnitz (the German spelling) was formed as a Protestant colony in the Dubno District in the Rivnens'ka oblast (like a province) in the Volhynian governorate (administrative territory) ruled by Russia. The draw most likely was that they would be in a Protestant community, and many members of their families and neighbours likely also settled there.



*Trip from Alt Jazow, Galicia, Austria, to Metnitz, Volhynia, Russia (Google Maps)*

25 Hilfskomitee der Galiziendeutschen, Alt Jazow, p. 181, family 318.

26 Protestant Lutheran Church (Metnitsa, Zhitomir parish, Russia), Metrical books, 1870-1885, „Births, marriages, and deaths 1873,” film 1895621, item 1, p. 313, register 279, Katharina Assmann; digital images, Family Search (familysearch.org : accessed 27 September 2016).

27 “Germans from Russian History”, article. Family Search ([https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Germans\\_from\\_Russia\\_History](https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Germans_from_Russia_History) : accessed 17 February 2018).

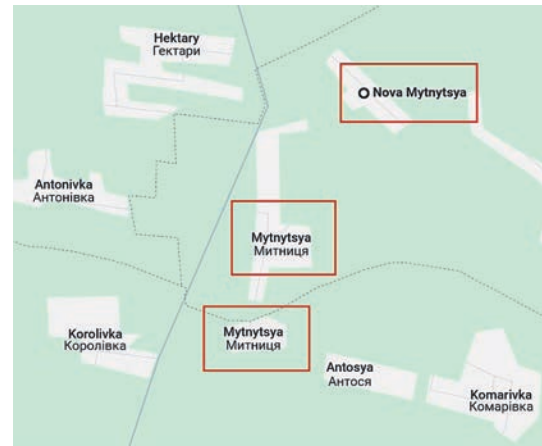
28 Hans Christian Heinz (L'viv, Ukraine), interview by Judith Silverthorne, 2017; transcript privately held by Judith Silverthorne [ADDRESS FOR PRIVATE USE,] Regina, Saskatchewan, 2017.



Metnitz can be found spelled many different ways, including Mitnica, Mytnica, Mytniza, as well as its current name of Mytnytsya (Митниця), in what is now Ukraine. At the time our ancestors moved there, the village was under the jurisdiction of one of the twelve districts of Volhynia known as Zhytomyr (Житомирська область).<sup>29</sup>

Sometimes our ancestors called where they came from by any of these different terms, whether the village name, district, or province, including Volyn, Volhynia, and Russia, but they basically emigrated from the same general location. And sometimes, because they still retained their Austrian citizenship, at least those from the earlier years, they also said they were from Austria.

Although there is little known about the origins of the German village of Metnitz as Jakob and Maria would have first known it, modern day information and current status shows that there were three villages of the same or similar names. The original one had been established for many years before the German settlement one. The second is considered the original Volhynian, Russian village, while the third one was considered part of the one formed by the Galicians from Austria, though likely also settled by people from other religious and ethnic groups. This third one, to the northeast of the other ones, is known as Nova Mytnytsya (New Metnitz). As often was the case, already established villages used surrounding land to establish new colony villages and this is most probably how the German Protestant one was started.



There are still remnants of the German cemetery (below) just outside of Nova Mytnytsya. It is located to the northeast of the German settlement, positioned on somewhat of an angle to the village and with a white fence along the front of it.

The portion of the cemetery with the German headstones is completely overgrown and unkept. Most markers have fallen into ruins and those left are indistinguishable.

*Mytnytsya Cemetery*<sup>30</sup>

Life for Jakob and Maria Assmann and their family in Metnitz, Volhynia, was not exactly as promoted. Besides the difference in what was advertised and what was actually the case, the land the German settlers were given to farm was some of the worst in the country. As well, the Russian government continually changed the rules and laws, including reneging on the tax exemptions. And then by 1874, less than two years after they arrived, Imperial Russia imposed compulsory military conscription of German colonists, effective immediately. Luckily, Jakob was too old to be considered. Karl was only sixteen at the time and his younger brother ten. It is

29 Zhytomyr Oblast, article. Wikipedia ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zhytomyr\\_Oblast](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zhytomyr_Oblast): accessed 25 May 2024).

30 Mytnytsya Cemetery, digital image. Privately held by Judith Silverthorne, Regina, SK, 2017.

not known if the conscription was for the original colonist landowner, or if it included their offspring as well, but generally in most countries during this time, the sons were also subject to this decree.

At this point, records in Volhynia are scarce and little is known about the family during this time. We can only assume that Jakob and Maria farmed, as this is the occupation he had been doing over the years and what the Russian landowners sought. We do know from family memories that Dubno was one of the near trade centres the Metnitz residents would have used.<sup>31</sup> This would have been about a sixty-kilometre trek for our ancestors, and not likely one they did often.

Somehow Jakob and Maria remained in Russia for twenty years, watching family grow, marry, die and grandchildren be born, but their situation worsened and when the opportunity arose in 1893 to emigrate to North America, they seized it. The year before, Jakob and Maria's son Karl and daughters Elisabeth and Caroline and their families, plus their single daughter Katharina, had gone to Canada. Their daughter Caroline and her spouse and children also traveled with this first group, although they changed their minds once reaching Canada and, together with Katharina, joined their brother Johann and his family in Wisconsin, USA.. Jakob and Maria's daughter Eva, newly widowed, remained behind with her parents and her three youngest children until they could travel together at the beginning of 1894. (*See their individual stories for further information.*)

It is unknown what route Jakob and Maria Assmann took to get to the port at Liverpool, England, but by this time there were trains to take them across country, at least partially, to the German ports at Hamburg or Bremen from where most emigrants departed. Unfortunately, the passenger departure lists for Bremen were destroyed, and so far, records of their voyage from Germany to Liverpool have not been found among those from Hamburg.

*(For details and descriptions of what preparations for their voyage entailed, see the chapter on Karl Assmann & Katharina Elisabeth Erbach.)*

The vessel Jakob and Maria sailed on from Liverpool was the S.S. Lake Superior<sup>32</sup>, which arrived in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada on 13 January 1894.<sup>33</sup> The trip would have taken just over two weeks from Liverpool to Halifax.



31 Judith Silverthorne Fonds, Edward Assman, compiler (MSS notes, pre 1980; privately held by Judith Silverthorne Regina, Saskatchewan); Karl Assmann fact sheet, reported by Edward Assman, before 1980.

32 Picture: The SS Lake Huron SS Lake Superior; article. John J. Kalmakov, Photographs, Art and Graphics (<http://kalmakov.com/historical/The%20SS%20Lake%20Huron%20SS%20Lake%20Superior.html> : accessed 25 May 2024). ©John J. Kalmakov.

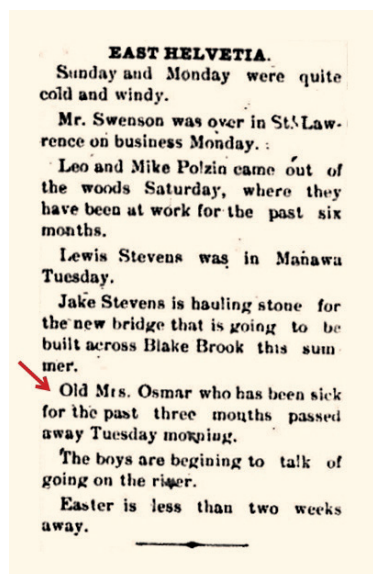
33 Canada, „Canadian Passenger Lists, 1865-1935“, Jacob Assman and Eva Schick families, 19797 and 19798; digital images, Ancestry (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 25 Sep 2018).

The destination Jakob and Maria listed on their ship record was Manawa, a city in Waupaca County, Wisconsin, United States, close to where their son Johann had settled. Eva and her children were headed for Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. There were only 33 people on this ship. It is unknown if Jakob and Maria took a direct route to Wisconsin from Halifax in 1894, as we have no information on when they arrived in the United States.

At that time, those travelling to the United States found it easier to go through Canada to avoid the stringent immigration rules and the trouble and delay of U.S. immigration inspection. In fact, "by the 1890s, steamship companies began to advertise passage through Canada as a more desirable route for immigrants who wished to avoid U.S. inspectors."<sup>34</sup>

The more likely scenario is Jakob and Maria travelled to Winnipeg by train with Eva and her family. There they likely separated, went different ways. Eva and her children had gone on to Neudorf, North-West Territories, to her brother Karl's, while Jakob and Maria went south to join their family members there. *(For details on this leg of the trip see the chapter on Johann Roland and Carolina Assmann.)*

It is unfortunate that we do not know when Jakob and Maria arrived in the United States or how they spent the years after they moved there. They are thought to have settled in the Symco area, though the exact location is uncertain. They are not listed with their children or in the area surrounding Symco in the 1895 or 1900 census records. *(For details about Waupaca County and Symco, see the Johann Assmann and Sophia Tiefenbach chapter.)*



Maria was four years younger than her husband when she made the gruelling trip overseas at the age of 62, but she died before him on the 18 March in 1902 in Symco. She was 69 years, 10 months, 3 days old at the time of her death following three months of illness<sup>35</sup> of catarrh of the stomach, a chronic gastric condition that often led to consumption.<sup>36</sup> Her obituary refers to her as "Old Mrs. Osman."

Her death and burial on 8 February 1906 is noted in the records of St. Mark Lutheran Church in Symco.<sup>37</sup> The location of her burial is not known except that it took place in the Union Township,<sup>38</sup> however, it is likely she was laid to rest in Union Cemetery, the cemetery used by St. Mark Lutheran Church to bury their members and where other members of the Assmann family reside.

*Old Mrs. Osman's death, Iola Herald<sup>39</sup>*

34 "By Way of Canada: U.S. Records of Immigration Across the U.S.-Canadian Border, 1895-1954," article. National Archives (<https://www.archives.gov/research> : accessed 12 January 2019).

35 Waupaca, Wisconsin, "Pre-1907 Wisconsin Death Record, volume 2," p. 125, Marie Osman, 1902; Wisconsin Historical Society, Madison.

36 Dr. Lighthill, "Chronic Catarrh: Its Symptoms, Causes and Effects," The New York Times, 3 march 1865, online archives (<https://www.nytimes.com/1865/03/03/archives/chronic-catarrh-its-symptoms-causes-and-effects-a-few-practical.html> : accessed 9 Feb 2019), p. 5, col. 4.

37 St. Mark Lutheran Church Death/Burial Records 1893 - 1931, Maria (Reissdorf) Assmann, p. 3.

38 Waupaca, Wisconsin, "Pre-1907 Wisconsin Death Record, volume 2," p. 125, Marie Osman, 1902.

39 "East Helvetia," (Iola) Herald, 27 March 1902, p. 4 [unnumbered], col. 3, Wisconsin Historical Society, film P70-2451



02460

1. Full name of deceased,	Marie Osman
2. Maiden name (if wife or widow),	
3. Color and sex,	White female
4. Race,	German
5. Occupation of deceased,	
6. Age (years, months and days),	69-10-9
7. Name of father,	Jacob Reichtoff
8. Birthplace of father,	Germany
9. Name of mother,	Marie Reichtoff
10. Birthplace of mother,	Germany
11. Birthplace of deceased,	"
12. Condition (single, married, widowed, or divorced),	Married
13. Name of wife or husband of deceased,	Jacob Osman
14. Date of birth of deceased,	Aug 15 1837
15. Date of death,	Mar. 18 1906
16. Residence at time of death,	Union Twp.
17. Place of death,	
18. Cause of death, Primary, Secondary,	Heart paralysis
19. Duration of disease,	Two years
20. Was deceased ever a U. S. soldier or sailor?	
21. Place of burial,	Union Twp.
22. Name of undertaker or other person conducting burial,	
23. Name of physician, coroner or Justice,	G. F. Killion
24. Residence of such person,	Symco
25. No. and date of burial permit,	
26. Date of certificate,	Mar. 18 1906
27. Name of health officer or clerk,	G. F. Killion
28. Date of registration,	Mar. 31 1906
29. Other important facts not related,	

Maria Osman's (Assmann's) Death Registration<sup>40</sup>

Jakob Assmann would have been almost 67 when he arrived in Symco, Union Township, Waupaca County, Wisconsin. He suffered for fifteen years from nephritis, an inflammation of the kidneys, which also involved the interstitial tissue, presumably an illness from which he was suffering before he left Volhynia. He only lived in the U.S. for a dozen years, before he succumbed to heart paralysis (stroke) at the age of 78 years, 8 months, and 27 days. At the time of his death on 6 February 1906<sup>41</sup>, he was residing with his daughter Caroline and son-in-law John Roland of Helvetia.<sup>42</sup> His burial took place on 8 February 1906 in Helvetia and is noted in the Iola Herald. He left behind two sons and three daughters.

Children of Jakob Assmann and Maria Elisabeth Reisdorf were as follows:

**Katharina Assmann**, born about February 1851, Alt Jazow, Galicia, Austria; died 18 August 1854, house number 1, Alt Jazow, age three years, six months. The cause of her death was from Gichter (see above).<sup>43</sup>

40 Waupaca, Wisconsin, „Pre-1907 Wisconsin Death Record, volume 2,” p. 125, Marie Osman, 1902.

41 Waupaca, Wisconsin, „Pre-1907 Wisconsin Death Record, volume 2,” p. 382, Jakob Asman, 1906; Wisconsin Historical Society, Madison. Jacob's age at death does not compute to the date of birth noted.

42 „Local News,” (Iola) Herald, 8 February 1906, p. 5 [unnumbered], col. 3, paragraph 6.

43 Record books of the Protestant-Augsburg and Helvetic communes 1764 - 1939, (Galicia), Team 299, „Municipality of Hartfeld, Record book of deaths, branch Schmulau 1789-1871,” ref 82, img 33, 2nd record, Catharina Assmann.

**Eva Assmann**, born 24 May 1855,<sup>44</sup> Alt Jazow, Galicia; married Josef Franz Schick;<sup>45</sup> died 31 December 1926, Lemberg, Saskatchewan.<sup>46</sup> (*See their history in the Josef Franz Schick & Eva Assmann chapter.*)

**Elisabeth Assmann**, born 8 September 1856, Alt Jazow, Galicia;<sup>47</sup> married Ignatz Bender;<sup>48</sup> died 28 February 1936, Saskatchewan.<sup>49</sup> (*See their history in the Ignatz Bender & Elisabeth Assman chapter.*)

**Karl Assmann**, born 25 December 1858, Alt Jazow, Galicia;<sup>50</sup> married Katharina Elisabeth (Lizzie) Erbach;<sup>51</sup> died 20 April 1926, Neudorf.<sup>52</sup> (*See their story in the Karl Assmann & Katharina Elisabeth Erbach chapter.*)

**Katharina Assmann**, born about February 1862, Alt Jazow, Galicia, house number 211; died 8 April 1869. She was buried 10 April 1869, Alt Jazow, Galicia.<sup>53</sup>

**Johann Assmann**, born April 1864, Alt Jazow, Galicia;<sup>54</sup> married Sophia Tiefenbach,<sup>55</sup> died 3 December 1928, Manawa, Waupaca County, Wisconsin, USA.<sup>56</sup> (*See their story in the Johann Assmann & Sophia Tiefenbach chapter.*)

**Wilhelmine Assmann**, born about 1865, Alt Jazow, Galicia; married Karl Reisdorf;<sup>57</sup> died before 1892.<sup>58</sup> (*See their story in the Wilhelmine Assmann & Karl Reisdorf chapter.*)

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44 Saskatchewan Deaths April 1926 to June 1931, death registration, (1926), Eva Schick; McLeod Rural Municipality Office #185, Neudorf.

45 Hilfskomitee der Galiziendeutschen, Alt Jazow, 5, family 8, Jakob Assmann: Hilfskomitee der Galiziendeutschen, Alt Jazow, 182 family 318, Franz Schick.

46 Saskatchewan death registration, Eva Schick.

47 Hilfskomitee der Galiziendeutschen, Rottenhan 1795-1894; 15, family 25, Jakob Assmann.

48 Evangelisch-Reformierte Kirche Rozyszcze (Luck). (Rozyszcze Parish, Volhynia, Russia), „Volhynia, Kiev and Podolia Lutheran Parishes,” p. 126, item 247, Ignaz Bender and Eva Assmann; FHL microfilm 1,897,594, item 1.

49 Rural Municipality of McLeod #185, Saskatchewan, „Death Registrations,” Deaths (June 1931 to April 1936), 28 February 1936, entry for Elizabeth Bender; McLeod RM 185 Office, Neudorf

50 Agent for Genealogical Society of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, „Family Group Sheet of Jakob Assmann,” supplied 1980 by Agent for Genealogical Society of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Regina, Saskatchewan; Original currently at Saskatchewan Archives in Silverthorne Fonds.

51 Protestant Lutheran Church (Metnitsa, Zhitomir parish, Russia), Metrical books, 1870-1885, „Birth, marriages, deaths 1885,” film 1897692, item 1, p. 94, image 27, register 1075, Johann Assman; digital images, Family Search (familysearch.org : accessed 27 September 2016).

52 Saskatchewan Vital Statistics of Saskatchewan, death registration, 1417 (1926), Karl Assmann; eHealth Saskatchewan, Regina.

53 See footnote 43, ref. 82, img 49, house 211, Catharine Assmann.

54 1910 U.S. census, Waupaca, Wisconsin, population schedule, Union Township, enumeration district 92, sheet 5, image 10, dwelling 94, family 95, John Assman household; digital images, Ancestry (<http://ancestry.com> : accessed 3 February 2008); citing NARA microfilm T624.

55 Haradsche (Rozyszcze parish, Volhynia, Russia), Assmann-Tiefenbach, page 242, item 291; digital images, The Central Archives of Historical Records (<http://agad.gov.pl/> : accessed 17 Dec 2018).

Appleton Post Crescent, 10 December 1928, p. 10, col. 5; digital images, Ancestry.com (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 27 August 2010).

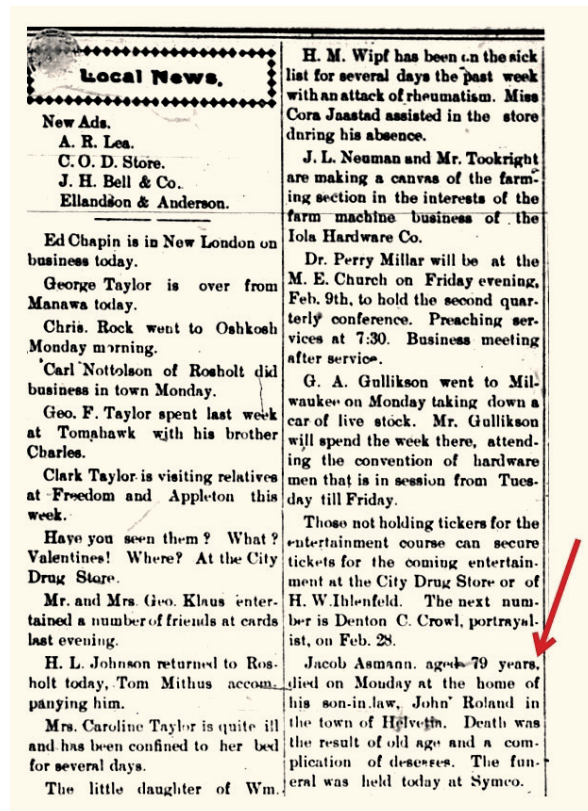
56 Appleton Post Crescent, 10 December 1928, p. 10, col. 5; digital images, Ancestry.com (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 27 August 2010).

57 Rozyszcze commune (Diocese Wolynska, Volynia, Russia), No. 439, Registers of communes of the Protestant-Augsburg Confession from the Western Governorate of the Russian Empire 1790-1940, „Diocese. Wolynska, Rozyszcze commune. Record book of weddings 1884-1886,” p 414, image 416, Reisdorf and Assmann; digital images, Central Archives of Historical Records (<http://agad.gov.pl/> : accessed 8 Feb 2019).

58 Rozyszcze commune (Diocese Wolynska, Volynia, Russia), No. 439, Registers of communes of the Protestant-Augsburg Confession from the Western Governorate of the Russian Empire 1790-1940, „Diocese. Wolynska, Rozyszcze commune. Record book of weddings, 1892,” Karl Reisdorf & Marie Heinrich; digital images, Central Archives of Historical Records (<http://agad.gov.pl/> : accessed 8 Feb 2019).

**Caroline Assmann**, born 27 September 1869, Alt Jazow, Galicia;<sup>59</sup> married Johann Roland; died 2 September 1908, Helvetia, Waupaca County, Wisconsin.<sup>60</sup> (*See their story in the Johann Roland & Caroline Assman chapter.*)

**Katharina Assmann**, born 16 November 1872, Metnitz, Volhynia, Russia;<sup>61</sup> married Joseph Brennenstuhl;<sup>62</sup> died 7 January 1898.<sup>63</sup> (*See their story in the Joseph Brennenstuhl & Katharina Assman chapter.*)



*Jacob Asmann (Jakob Assmann) Obituary, Iola Herald<sup>64</sup>*

59 Hartfeld parish (Galicia, Austria), No. 299 Registers of communes of the Protestant-Augsburg and Helvetic denominations 1764 - 1939, „Municipality of Hartfeld, Confession of Augsburg. Record book of births, branch Schumlau (Ozomla Mala)., ref 80,“ Karolina Assmann, img 2; digital images, Central Archives of Historical Records (<http://agad.gov.pl/> : accessed 1 May 2020).

60 „County News, Symco Church Items,“ (Manawa) Manawa Advocate, 10 September 1908, p. 8 [unnumbered], col. 2; citing Sturm Memorial Library, Manawa, film Manawa Advocate, 4 Jul 1907-25 Feb 1909.

61 Protestant Lutheran Church (Metsnitsa, Zhitomir parish, Russia), Metrical books, 1870-1885, „Births, marriages, and deaths 1873,“ film 1895621, item 1, p. 313, register 279, Katharina Assmann; digital images, Family Search (familysearch.org : accessed 27 September 2016).

62 Pre-1907 Wisconsin Marriage Record (State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin), Vol. 3, Page 340, Brennenstuhl and Assman (1894).

63 St. Mark Lutheran Church Death/Burial Records 1893-1931, Katharine Brennenstuhl, January 7, 1898.

64 „Local News,“ 8 February 1906, p. 5 [unnumbered], col. 3, paragraph 6.



Date 190 No. 00955 382

1. Full name of deceased, Jacob Asman

2. Maiden name (if wife or widow),

3. Color and sex, White male

4. Race, White

5. Occupation of deceased, farmer

6. Age (years, months and days), 78 yrs. 8 mos. 24 da.

7. Name of father,

8. Birthplace of father, Germany

9. Name of mother,

10. Birthplace of mother, Germany

11. Birthplace of deceased,

12. Date of birth of deceased, May 8<sup>th</sup> 1827

13. Condition (single, married, widowed, or divorced), widowed

14. Name of wife or husband of deceased,

15. Date of death, Feb. 6<sup>th</sup> 1906

16. Cause of death, (Primary, Secondary), Heart Paralysis

17. Duration of disease, Chronic Nephritis & Interst.

18. Place of death, 15 years

19. Residence at time of death, Helvetia

20. Was deceased ever a U. S. soldier or sailor? no

21. Name of physician, coroner or justice, J. E. Loopse

22. Residence of such person, Lola, Wis.

23. Name of undertaker or other person conducting burial, A. Weinmann

24. No. and date of burial permit, 2 - February 7<sup>th</sup> 1906

25. Place of burial, Helvetia, Wis.

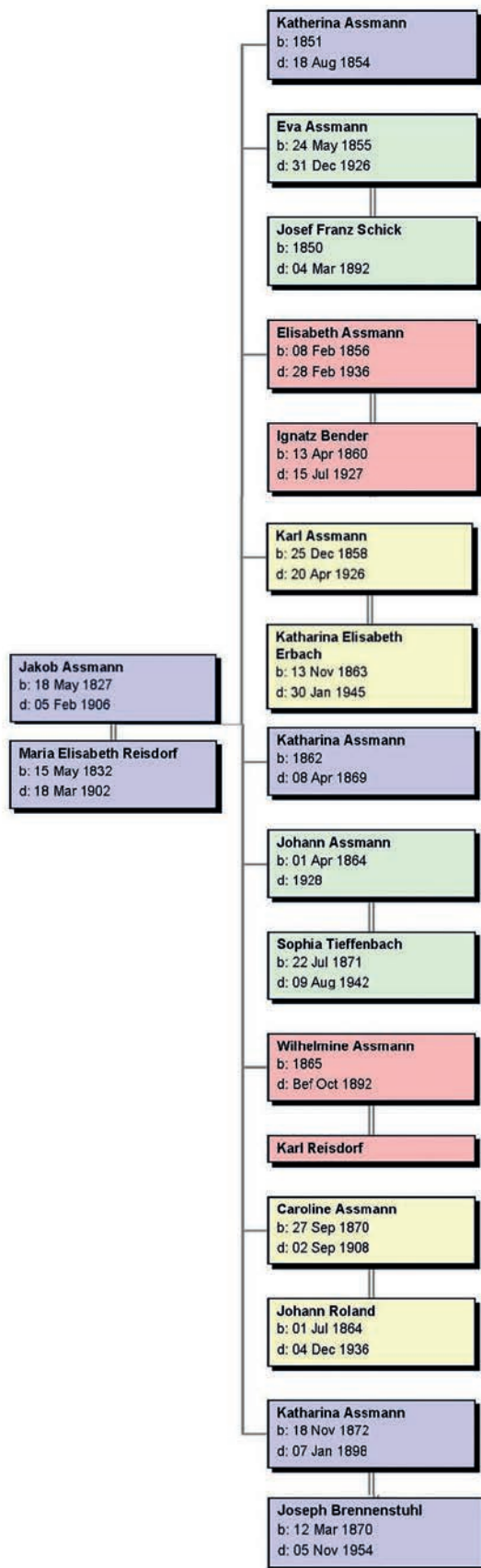
26. Date of certificate, Feb. 7<sup>th</sup> 1906

27. Date of registration, April 17<sup>th</sup> 1906

28. Other important facts not related,

Jacob Asman (Jakob Assmann) Death Registration<sup>65</sup>

65 Waupaca, Wisconsin, „Pre-1907 Wisconsin Death Record, volume 2,” p. 382, Jacob Asman, 1906. Although this death record says he was buried in Helvetia, church records indicate he was buried in Symco, and we believe that is where he was placed, as the rest of the family was all buried at Symco.



## EVA ASSMANN & JOSEF FRANZ SCHICK

**Eva Assmann**, born on 24 May 1855,<sup>1</sup> Alt Jazow, Galicia, Austria; died 31 December 1926, Lemberg, Saskatchewan<sup>2</sup>. She married 25 June 1871, Alt Jazow, Galicia, Austria-Hungary<sup>3</sup>, **Josef Franz Schick**,<sup>4</sup> son of Philipp Schick (1804-1873) and Maria Elisabeth Katharina (née Krämer, 1807-1868)<sup>5</sup>. Franz was born in 1850 or 1852<sup>6</sup> in Alt Jazow, Galicia; died 4 March 1892, Jadwinin, Volhynia, Russia<sup>7</sup>.

Eva Assmann, daughter of Jakob Assmann and Maria Elisabeth Reisdorf, was barely sixteen when she married Josef Franz Schick. Franz was one of eleven children, nine of whom were boys. At the time of his marriage to Eva, as of 25 June 1871, he is recorded as living at Alt Jazow working as a Schmied (blacksmith).<sup>8</sup> Although it's not clear when they moved to Russia, it might be safe to assume it was around the same time as Eva's parents and other members of her family later in 1872. All seven of their children seemed to have been born in Metnitz, Volhynia, Russia.

Eva and Franz may have moved to Metnitz, Volhynia, Russia where the rest of her family went or possibly straight to the village of Jadwinin, where Franz later died. Although the exact date is unknown, it seems reasonable that they left Alt Jazow sometime between the time they were married in June of 1871 and January of 1873. If they travelled with the rest of Eva's family, they would have arrived before November 1872 as Eva's youngest sister, Katharina's birth was noted as being born then in Volhynia.

Little is known about their home life or even where they lived for sure. Franz unfortunately died on 4 March 1892 in Jadwinin, Volhynia,<sup>9</sup> leaving Eva a widow with six children. Eva decided to emigrate to Canada, which most likely had been planned before her husband died in March of 1892. Eva's brother Karl and sister Carolina and their families left in April of 1892 with their single sister Katharine. Eva's middle daughter, Katherine Schick, aged thirteen, also travelled with Karl and Carolina's families, perhaps helping with their young children. This first entourage arrived in Canada in May of 1892.

Eva remained with her parents and three youngest children until they could travel together at the beginning of 1894. The oldest, Lizzie travelled with other family members at a different time. Other Schick and Assmann family members of Eva's and Josef's went later as well. One of these families was Josef's brother, Johann Schick, and his wife Barbara Schneider. The vessel Eva and family sailed on with her parents from Liverpool was the S.S. Lake Superior, which arrived

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1 Hilfskomitee der Galiziendeutschen, Ortsfamilienbuch Alt Jazow 1786-1894; PDF download, Galizien German Family Books (<http://www.galiziengerm descendants.org/Familybooks.htm>), p. 5, family #8 Jakob Assmann. and Ancestry.com. 1900 United States Federal Census [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2004. Original data: United States of America, Bureau of the Census. Twelfth Census of the United States, 1900. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1900. T623, 1854 rolls.

2 Saskatchewan death registration, Eva Schick.

3 1867 Austria and Hungary formed a dual monarchy and became Austria-Hungary, which is often referred to as the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

4 Hilfskomitee der Galiziendeutschen, Ortsfamilienbuch Alt Jazow 1786-1894; PDF download, Galizien German Family Books (<http://www.galiziengerm descendants.org/Familybooks.htm>), p. 181, family #318, Josef Franz Schick.

5 Hilfskomitee der Galiziendeutschen, Ortsfamilienbuch Alt Jazow 1786-1894; PDF download, Galizien German Family Books (<http://www.galiziengerm descendants.org/Familybooks.htm>), p. 174, family #309, Philipp Schick.

6 1850: Hilfskomitee der Galiziendeutschen, Ortsfamilienbuch Alt Jazow 1786-1894; PDF download, Galizien German Family Books (<http://www.galiziengerm descendants.org/Familybooks.htm>), p. 174, family #309, Philipp Schick. 1852: According to the death register (see footnote 6), he was 39 years old when he died.

7 Rozyszcze parish, Russia, Volhynia, Kiev and Podolia Lutheran Parishes, Wladimir-Wolynsk Parish, 2380033/1892, p. 33, Register 25. Franz Schick.

8 See footnote 3.

9 See footnote 6.



in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, on 13 January 1894.<sup>10</sup> The trip would have taken just over two weeks from Liverpool to Halifax.

When Eva arrived, she settled with her youngest sons and daughters<sup>11</sup> in the vicinity of Lemberg, Assiniboia, North-West-Territories<sup>12</sup>. Her oldest daughter Elisabeth (Lizzie) was married to Johann Zapf by this time. Karl her oldest son was only sixteen at the time, and too young to secure a homestead.

The family apparently attended Zion Lutheran Church in Neudorf, as the congregation of Lemberg attended there until they were able to form their own in 1906.<sup>13</sup> Christmases were spent with Eva's brother Karl and his family in Neudorf.

Western Land Grant Eva Schick received,  
dated 3 May 1900 for NW Sec 14, Twp 20, Range 9, W2 Meridian

One can surmise that Eva must have been a formidable and determined woman, as she was able to secure her own land. It is significant as not many homesteads were issued to women. They had to cross out "his" and add "her" over it on the Grant a couple times. It is quite impressive that she was able to get that farm herself and continue to work it.

Eva passed away on 31 December 1926, in Lemberg.

10 Canada, "Canadian Passenger Lists, 1865-1935", Jacob Assman and Eva Schick families, 19797 and 19798; digital images, Ancestry (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 25 Sep 2018).

11 Letter from Eva Pfeifer of Lemberg, Saskatchewan, daughter of Wilhelmine (Minnie) Schick and Jacob Zapf, dated April 7, year unknown, but likely about 1981. Private collection. Judith Silverthorne.

12 Northwest was spelled 'North-West Territories' from 1870 to 1905. Note from "Districts of Northwest Territories", article. Wikipedia. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Districts\\_of\\_the\\_Northwest\\_Territories](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Districts_of_the_Northwest_Territories) : accessed 17 Jan 2019).

13 Letter from Rev. Donald Reimer, Lemberg, SK, 1 September, 1981. Private collection. Judith Silverthorne.

PROVINCE OF SASKATCHEWAN  
 RECORD OF REGISTRATION OF DEATH  
 Registration Division of *McLeod* Municipality No. *188*

1. Place of Death: *Sec 28-19-9-2*  
 (If in city give street and number. If outside the limits of a city/town or village, give sec., tp. and rgn. If in hospital, give name)

2. Name of Deceased: *Eva Schick*  
 Residence: *28-19-9-2*  
 (Usual place of abode)

PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL INFORMATION

3. Sex: *Female* 4. Racial Origin: *Austrian* 5. Single, Married, Widowed or Divorced (Write the word): *widowed* 6. Birthplace (Province or country): *Austria*

7. Date of Birth: *May 24-1856* 8. Age: *70* Years *7* Months *6* Days (If less than one day, give in hours, minutes, and seconds)

9. Last Occupation of Deceased: (a) *None* (b) (Kind of industry) (c) From (Date from which to which so employed) to

10. Former Occupation of Deceased: (a) (b) (c)

11. Length of Residence (in years and months): (a) At place of death: *13* (b) In province: *33* (c) In Canada: *33* (If an immigrant)

PARENTS

12. Name of father: *J. Assmann* 13. Birthplace of father: *Austria* 14. Maiden name of mother: *Mrs. Franz* 15. Birthplace of mother: *Austria*

16. Informant's signature: *Jacob Zapf* 17. Relationship to deceased: *Son-in-law*  
 Address: *Winnipeg, Man.*

18. Place of burial, cremation or removal: *Lemberg, Sask.* Date of burial: *June 3* 1927

19. Undertaker's signature: *Lemberg, Sask.* (Name and address)

MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF CAUSE OF DEATH

20. Date of Death: *Dec 31, 1926* (Month, day and year)

21. I HEREBY CERTIFY, that I attended deceased from *Dec 12* 1926, to *Dec 26* 1926, that I last saw him alive on *Dec 26* 1926, and that death occurred on the date stated above, at *12 p.m.* (hour, p.m., or a.m.)

The CAUSE OF DEATH was as follows:  
 PRIMARY: *Angina Pectoris* (duration) *one* years *one* months *one* days  
 CONTRIBUTORY (or immediate): *Angina Pectoris* (duration) *one* years *one* months *one* days

22. Where was disease contracted, if not place of death? *No* Did an operation precede death? *No* Was there an autopsy? *No*  
 (Signed) *C. A. Zupdler* M.D. Date: *Jan 15, 1927* Address: *Lemberg, Sask.*

State the Disease causing Death or its Origin from Violent Causes, state (1) Means and Nature of Injury. (2) Whether Accidental, Suicidal, or Homicidal.

23. Where physician did not attend, state probable cause of death. I hereby certify that the above return was made to me at *Lemberg, Sask.* on the *28* day of *Dec.* 1927

Eva Schick, Death Certificate



Eva Schick headstone, Lemberg Cemetery

Children of Eva Assmann and Franz Schick and their families:

**Elizabeth (Lizzie) Schick**, born 2 February 1874, Metnitz, Volhynia, Russia; died 5 January 1942, Lemberg, Saskatchewan, Canada; married 17 June 1891, Sophiewka, Volhynia, to **Johann (John) Zapf**, born 20 June 1870, Volynia, Russia; died 1944, Lemberg, Saskatchewan, Canada.

#### Children:

**Karl Zapf**, 1893–; **Katharina „Katie“ Zapf**, 1895–1970; **Jakob Zapf**, 1898–1960;

**Johann „John“ Zapf**, 1900–1963; **Carl „Charlie“ Zapf**, 1902–1980;

**Wilhelmina „Mina“ Zapf**, 1904–1993; **Eva Zapf**, 1906–1946;

**Anna Zapf**, 1908–1982; **Rudolf Carl Zapf**, 1910–1987; **Mary Zapf**, 1915–2004.

**Karl (Charlie) Schick**, born 4 July 1876, Metnitz, Volhynia, Russia; died 11 September 1942, Lemberg, Saskatchewan; married 12 February 1901, Neudorf, to **Elisabeth Karoline Ruecker**, born 21 February 1880, Austria-Hungary; died 22 May 1951, Lemberg, Saskatchewan.<sup>14</sup>

Children:

**Heinrich Schick**, 1902–1981; **Wilhelmine Schick**, 1904–1981; **John Schick**, 1906–1938;  
**Eva Schick**, 1908–1997; **Jacob Schick**, 1910– ; **Carl Schick**, 1912– ;  
**Mary Schick**, 1915– ; **Anne Theresa Rilling**, 1917–2001; **Annie Schick**, 1918– ;  
**Caroline Margaret Rilling**, 1920–2014

**Katherine (Katie) Schick**, born 13 May 1878, Metnitz, Volhynia, Russia; died 1946, Saskatchewan; married to **James Boyd**, born 13 September 1868, Ontario; died 1946.

Children:

**Blanche Elisabeth Boyd**, 1900– ; **Annie Boyd**, 1903–

**Caroline Schick**, born 14 February 1882, Metnitz, Volhynia, Russia; died 18 March 1962, Ituna, Saskatchewan, Canada buried in Indian Head; married 18 December 1900, Indian Head, Saskatchewan, to **Wilbert Nelson McConnell**, born 18 October 1873, Rawdon Twp., Hastings Cty., Ontario; died 24 April 1962, Ituna, Saskatchewan.



*Caroline Schick and Wilbert McConnell, wedding<sup>15</sup>*

<sup>14</sup> Letter from Rev. Robert Rademacher dated 17 September, 1981. Private Collection. Judith Silverthorne.

<sup>15</sup> Caroline Schick and Wilbert McDonnell, wedding photograph; digital image, privately held by Ruth McConnell, [address for private use.] Edmonton, Alberta, 2009.



Children:

**Eva May McConnell**, 1903–1987; **Frances Ina McConnell**, 1905–1905;

**Joyce Eileen McConnell**, 1906–1993;

**Adeline Jean Doris „Addie“ McConnell**, 1908–2010;

**Francis Nelson „Frank“ McConnell**, 1911–1992;

**Wilbert George McConnell**, 1912–1994; **Alice McConnell**, 1915–2017;

**Carrie „Daisy“ McConnell**, born 23 January 1918, Lorlie, Saskatchewan; died 10 June 1985, Ituna, Saskatchewan;

**Albert Roy McConnell**, born 14 January 1920, Lorlie, Saskatchewan; died 10 March 1998, Ituna, Saskatchewan; married Anne Karchut, born 9 September 1925; died 22 June 2001, Ituna, Saskatchewan.

**James Harvey McConnell**, born 7 February 1922, Ituna, Saskatchewan; died 8 February 2003, Ituna, Saskatchewan;

**Blanche Pearl McConnell**, born 28 January 1926, Ituna, Saskatchewan; died 28 January 2003, Brandon, Manitoba, Canada

**Johann Schick**, born 22 February 1884, Metnitz, Volhynia, Russia; died 15 June 1967, Saskatchewan; married (1) to Katie Schick (1888-?); married (2) to **Katharine Raunest** (1886-1972).

Daughter:

**Mary**, 1915-1950

**Wilhelmine (Minnie) Schick**, born 20 August 1886, Metnitz, Volhynia, Russia; died 16 June 1953, Lemberg, Saskatchewan; married 9 February 1904, Pheasant Forks, Assiniboia, Northwest Territories to **Jacob Zapf**, born 11 May 1876, Metnitz, Volhynia; died October 1960, Lemberg, Saskatchewan.

Daughter:

**Eva Zapf**, born March 1905, Saskatchewan; died 18 February 1987, Lemberg, Saskatchewan

## ELISABETH ASSMANN & IGNATZ BENDER

**Elisabeth Assmann**, born 8 September 1856, in house number 211<sup>1</sup>, Alt Jazow, Galicia, Austria, to Jakob Assmann and Marie Elisabeth Reisdorf<sup>2,3</sup>; baptized on 20 September 1856, in Schumlau, Galicia<sup>4</sup>; married **Ignatz Bender**<sup>5</sup>, died 28 February 1936,<sup>6</sup> at Neudorf, Saskatchewan, Canada.

Tauf-Buch.												
Name Name Name	Jahr 1856		Ort		Name Name		Geschlecht		Eltern		Paten	Anmerkung
	Monat und Tag	der Geburt	der Taufe	der Geburt	der Taufe	Tauf-Namen	Tauf-Namen	des Vaters	der Mutter	Tauf- und Taufmutter, Tauf- und Taufvater		
Name of the baptised	Year 1856	Month and day of birth / of baptism	Place of birth / of baptism (house no.)	Name of the baptising priest	Gender male / female	Parents father / mother	Baptismal godparents	Remarks				
Elisabeth Assmann	September 8. 20	Alt Jazow 211	A. J. Bolek protestant pastor			Jacob S. Sauer, Michael Reisdorf, Eva Sauer, w. v.	Magdalene S. Sauer, Michael Reisdorf, Eva Sauer, w. v.	Johann Krämer, Adam Schick, Christine Raueneth, Elisabeth Reisdorf				

*Elisabeth Assmann, entry in the baptismal register (excerpt plus translation)<sup>7</sup>*

Elisabeth Assmann would have been approximately sixteen years old when she moved with her family to Metnitz, Volhynia, Russia. Although the exact date is unknown, it seems reasonable that sometime in the summer or fall of 1872 Jakob and Maria and the rest of the family moved to Metnitz, Volhynia, Russia. By November her youngest sister, Katharina's birth location was noted as Volhynia.<sup>8</sup>

Elisabeth married Ignatz Bender, son of Jacob Bender and Louise Bender (née Herder), 29 September 1881.<sup>9</sup> Ignatz Bender was born 13 April 1860<sup>10</sup> at Sabinowka, Galicia, Austria, died 15 July 1927 at Neudorf, Saskatchewan. Ignatz was the 3rd son of Philipp Bender and Louise Herder. Upon his father's death (place and date unknown), Ignatz was granted the 'home place'-residence and holdings which the family had claim granted by the regulations set out by the Russian Proclamation of 1869. This was in the village of Metnitz in Volhynia. Ignatz was responsible for the welfare of his mother in her lifetime.<sup>11</sup>

1 Lutheran and Augsburg Confession municipalities, team 299," 1764 - 1939, commune 58, p. 83, img 43, Elisabeth Assmann; digital image, "Registers of communes of the Protestant-Augsburg and Helvetic denominations," The Central Archives of Historical Records in Warsaw (<http://agadd.home.net.pl/>: 25 Nov 2019).

2 Ibid.

3 Hilfskomitee der Galiziendeutschen, Ortsfamilienbuch Alt Jazów 1786-1894; PDF download, Galizien German Descendants (<http://www.galiziengermansdescendants.org/>), 5, family 8, Jakob Assmann.

4 Ibid.

5 Evangelisch-Reformierte Kirche Rozyszcze (Luck). (Rozyszcze Parish, Volhynia, Russia), "Volhynia, Kiev and Podolia Lutheran Parishes," p. 126, item 247, Ignaz Bender and Eva Assmann; FHL microfilm 1,897,594, item 1.

6 Saskatchewan Vital Statistics of Saskatchewan, death registration, (1936), Elisabeth Bender; eHealth Saskatchewan, Regina.

7 Archive Shelley Kloczko.

8 Protestant Lutheran Church (Metnitza, Zhitomir parish, Russia), Metrical books, 1870-1885, "Births, marriages, and deaths 1873," film 1895621, item 1, p. 313, register 279, Katharina Assmann; digital images, Family Search ([familysearch.org](http://familysearch.org) : accessed 27 Sept 2016).

9 See footnote 5.

10 Rural Municipality of McLeod #185, Saskatchewan, "Death Registrations," Ignatz Bender.

11 According to information gathered by author, Judith Silverthorne from the family in the 1980s.

Verzeichniss

der Personen, welche am Ausbruchstag nach *Esperanza* in *Liverpool* durch Handeschiffe ausgeführt sind, und mit dem Schiff nach *England* abgehen werden.

Abgang des Schiffes am *11 Mai* 1892

Nr.	Name	Geburtsort	Geburtsjahr	Beruf	In Warte stehend in der Halle	Bemerkungen	Ziel	Bemerkungen		
								1.	2.	3.
1	Bender	Ignacy	1850	Handwerker						
2	Bender	Elisabeth	1850	Handwerker						
3	Bender	Louise	1850	Handwerker						
4	Bender	Karl	1850	Handwerker						
5	Bender	Wilhelmine	1850	Handwerker						
6	Bender	Elisabeth	1850	Handwerker						
7	Bender	Jacob	1850	Handwerker						
8	Bender	Sofie	1850	Handwerker						
9	Bender	Johann	1850	Handwerker						
10	Bender	Ignacy	1850	Handwerker						
11	Bender	Elisabeth	1850	Handwerker						
12	Bender	Louise	1850	Handwerker						
13	Bender	Karl	1850	Handwerker						
14	Bender	Wilhelmine	1850	Handwerker						
15	Bender	Elisabeth	1850	Handwerker						
16	Bender	Jacob	1850	Handwerker						
17	Bender	Sofie	1850	Handwerker						
18	Bender	Johann	1850	Handwerker						
19	Bender	Ignacy	1850	Handwerker						
20	Bender	Elisabeth	1850	Handwerker						
21	Bender	Louise	1850	Handwerker						
22	Bender	Karl	1850	Handwerker						
23	Bender	Wilhelmine	1850	Handwerker						
24	Bender	Elisabeth	1850	Handwerker						
25	Bender	Jacob	1850	Handwerker						
26	Bender	Sofie	1850	Handwerker						
27	Bender	Johann	1850	Handwerker						
28	Bender	Ignacy	1850	Handwerker						
29	Bender	Elisabeth	1850	Handwerker						
30	Bender	Louise	1850	Handwerker						
31	Bender	Karl	1850	Handwerker						
32	Bender	Wilhelmine	1850	Handwerker						
33	Bender	Elisabeth	1850	Handwerker						
34	Bender	Jacob	1850	Handwerker						
35	Bender	Sofie	1850	Handwerker						
36	Bender	Johann	1850	Handwerker						
37	Bender	Ignacy	1850	Handwerker						
38	Bender	Elisabeth	1850	Handwerker						
39	Bender	Louise	1850	Handwerker						
40	Bender	Karl	1850	Handwerker						
41	Bender	Wilhelmine	1850	Handwerker						
42	Bender	Elisabeth	1850	Handwerker						
43	Bender	Jacob	1850	Handwerker						
44	Bender	Sofie	1850	Handwerker						
45	Bender	Johann	1850	Handwerker						
46	Bender	Ignacy	1850	Handwerker						
47	Bender	Elisabeth	1850	Handwerker						
48	Bender	Louise	1850	Handwerker						
49	Bender	Karl	1850	Handwerker						
50	Bender	Wilhelmine	1850	Handwerker						

Passenger list of the "Esperanza".<sup>12</sup>  
Ignatz's name is listed here in the Polish spelling "Ignacy".

Ignatz and Elisabeth emigrated to Canada with his mother, Louise (née Herder), a widow, and their six children: Karl, Wilhelmine, Elisabeth, Jacob, Sofie and one month old Johann.

On May 11, 1892, the family boarded the steamship *Esperanza* in Hamburg and sailed to Hull, England. From there they travelled by rail to Liverpool, where they boarded the S.S. *Mongolian* on 19 May 1892, travelled through Londonderry, May 20,<sup>13</sup> and arrived at Montreal, Québec, 30 May 1892.<sup>14</sup> The Canadian passenger manifest indicated they were en route to Winnipeg, Manitoba. From Québec, they would most likely travelled by train to Winnipeg.

According to homestead papers it appears the Benders arrived in the Neudorf area in June 1892, following close on the heels of Elisabeth's sister Katharina Elisabeth and Karl Assmann, who arrived in May 1892. Although there was some mention of them staying with one of the Bender families for while, there is also the rumour they all moved into the granary Karl Assmann had secured for the families. By December Karl and Ignatz had built a 16" x 20" house made from logs purchased from John Goebel They along with the Karl Assmann family, moved into the house for the first winter in rather cramped quarters. The smaller ones slept six in a bed, 3 on each end. The others slept on the tables and benches, until the Benders could arrange their own accommodations. With 15 people in the house, it would have ben quite the ordeal.

12 „Hamburg Passenger Lists, 1850-1934," Indirect Band 101, *Esperanza*, 11 May 1892, page 1018, image 104, lines 1 to 9, Ignacy Bender family; digital images, Ancestry (<http://ancestry.com> : accessed 20 Nov 2019).

13 United Kingdom, „Outward Passenger Lists, 1890-1960," Liverpool, depart May 1892, *Mongolian*, img 540, Ignacy Bender, ticket 4849; digital images, Ancestry (<http://ancestry.com> : accessed 20 Nov 2019).

14 Canada, „Passenger Lists, 1865-1935," *Mongolian*, arrived May 1892, page 7, ticket 4849, Ignacy Bender; digital images, Library and Archives Canada (<https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/immigration/immigration-records/passenger-lists/Pages/list-ports-dates-microfilm-reel-numbers.aspx> : accessed 20 Nov 2019).



Ignatz and Elisabeth obtained the land next to Karl & Katharina Assmann on the SW ¼ -20-19-8 W. In May 1893 they moved into their own house, also made of logs, and it was 14" x 23" in size, valued at \$70. By 1899 they had increased their herd of cattle to 18 head and five horses. They had also built two stables and a granary. By 1906, Ignatz Bender owned five horses, 10 milch (milk) cows, 22 other horned or meat cattle, and 20 hogs or pigs.<sup>15</sup>

Homestead file information as follows:

June 1892	Cultivation began
May 1893	Built house and lived on land
15 June 1893	Took possession
11 Jan 1896	Naturalized
11 Dec 1899	Application for patent
15 Sep 1900	Issued patent for SW 20-19-8 W2
11 Jan 1908	Letter from Interior to Karl Bender (re: \$1000 loan) stating the patent was issued to Ignatz Bender 15 September 1900
11 Jan 1908	Letter from Interior to Karl Bender (re: \$1000 loan) indicated NW ¼ 17-19-8 W2 was issued 9 May 1901 to Canadian Pacific Railway. <sup>16</sup>

Lr. No.  
Ref. No. 550054

**Department of the Interior,**

Ottawa, 7 1333 190

Sir,

I have to inform you that a patent for  
the S. W. ¼ of Section 20  
in Township 19 Range 8 West  
of the 2nd Meridian,  
bearing date the 15th Sept. 1900,  
has issued in your name, and that in accordance with the  
provisions of Section 30 of "The Land Titles Act, 1894,"  
being Chapter 28 of 57-58 Victoria, it has been forwarded to  
the Registrar of the Land Registration District of  
who will furnish you with a duplicate certificate of title free  
of charge upon receipt of your application to him therefor,  
provided he finds the land unencumbered.

For this purpose please place yourself in communication  
with that official, giving him your full name and your Post  
Office address.

The Registrar's address is THE REGISTRAR  
THE LAND REGISTRATION DISTRICT

I am, Sir,  
Your obedient servant,  
PERLEY G. KEYES,  
Secretary.

To Ignatz Bender, Esq.,  
Neudorf.  
S. W. ¼

Form No. 31 A.

Homestead patent for Ignatz Bender<sup>17</sup>

15 1906 census of the Northwest Provinces, Saskatchewan, district 15, Qu'Appelle, sub-district 37, Neudorf, p. 18, Ign Bender household; RG 31; digital images, Ancestry (ancestry.com : accessed 26 November 2019).

16 Pre-1930 Homestead Files, R 8.381 (Regina, Saskatchewan: Provincial Archives of Saskatchewan, n.d.), roll R 8.381, Ignaz Bender, file 550054.

17 Saskatchewan, Pre-1930 Homestead Files, Saskatchewan Archives Board, Regina.



*Family Photo:*

*Left to right, back: Adolf Baber, Fred Baber, Henry Bender, Kate Bender, Jacob Bender, Sophia Bender, John Bender, Karl Bender  
Left to right, front: Wilhelmina Baber holding Lizzie Baber, Elizabeth Bender Sr., Elizabeth Bender jr., Ignatz Bender,  
Marie Bender holding baby Minnie Bender*

Ignatz passed away on the 15th of July 1927<sup>18</sup>; primary cause of death purulent nephritis, a condition he had for ten years; it is caused by ascending infection from the bladder. His funeral was held the following day. Elisabeth had a heart condition for ten years prior to her death; she died the 28th of February in 1936.<sup>19</sup> They are both buried at Saint John's Lutheran Church Cemetery, Neudorf.



*Ignatz Bender and Elizabeth (née Assman) Bender headstones, St. John's Cemetery, Neudorf<sup>20</sup>*

18 Rural Municipality of McLeod #185, Saskatchewan, „Death Registrations,“ Ignatz Bender.

19 Saint John's Lutheran Cemetery (Neudorf, Saskatchewan; SE 18-19-8-W2), Mrs. Elizabeth Bender marker, photographed by Shelley Kloczko, May 22, 2009.

20 Photos from collection of Judith Silverthorne, 2013.

Ignatz Bender and Elisabeth Assmann's children born after they arrived in Canada were actually born on the farm at Neudorf; however, as Neudorf wasn't incorporated until 1905, their records indicate they were born in Wolseley district<sup>21</sup> and therefore their address was Wolseley, Assiniboia, NWT, Canada.

Children of Elisabeth & Ignatz Bender:

**Karl Bender & Marie Gottfried**

Karl Bender, born 23 January 1881, Metnitz, Volhynia Russia; married Marie Gottfried; died 22 January 1935.

At the age of twelve, Karl went to live with Mr. Motherwell because Karl's family was so large and Karl was the oldest. He worked on the farm for room and board and \$1 per month. Karl married Marie Gottfried in 9 January 1906 at the age of 23. Marie was born 24 August 1887.



*Karl Bender, Maria née Gottfried, photographed by Shelley Kloczko, 2007. Ruth Vogel, granddaughter, dated original*

According to the 1906 census records, Karl and Maria had four horses, 5 milk cows, and twelve other horned or meat cattle at the time.<sup>22</sup> By 1911, they had a farm hand living with the family by the name of Jacob (surname cannot be deciphered on the census record). Jacob had immigrated to Canada in 1907. He could read and write and commonly spoke German. He worked 50 weeks in 1910, he worked 80 hours per week and earned \$612.

Karl was a resident of Fort San Sanatorium for four years prior to his death; Dr. J. C. Maloney of Fort San indicated cause of death was pulmonary tuberculosis. Fort San was an institution well-known for treating tuberculosis patients. Karl was a day short of this 53rd birthday. Karl was buried 25 January 1935 in Baber Cemetery, near Neudorf, Saskatchewan.

<sup>21</sup> Neudorf, SK article. Wikipedia: URL: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Neudorf,\\_Saskatchewan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Neudorf,_Saskatchewan) accessed: 31 May 2022)

<sup>22</sup> Saskatchewan, 1906 Canadian Census, population of Northwest Provinces (Ottawa, Ontario: Library and Archives Canada, ArchiviaNet, 1906), Province Saskatchewan, District 15, Qu'Appelle, Sub-district 37, page 18, accessed October 29, 2006.





*Fort San Sanatorium 2012<sup>23</sup>; (left), Karl's headstone (right)<sup>24</sup>*

Maria lived with her son Jacob after Karl died. Maria's granddaughter, Ruth Heil, remembered she had to shout into an ear horn so her grandmother could hear her.<sup>25</sup>

Maria Bender died 3 February 1972 and buried in Baber Cemetery.<sup>26</sup>

**BENDER — Thursday, Feb. 3, 1972.** Marie Bender, age 84, formerly of Lemberg, Sask., passed away at Melville, Sask. Predeceased by her husband Karl in 1935. Mrs. Bender is survived by one daughter, Mrs. L. (Wilhelminie) Heil of Lemberg and one son, Adolph of Hamilton, Ont.; four grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; three sisters, Mrs. Katie Kurtz, Central Butte, Mrs. Anne Norbratten of Neudorf, Mrs. Minnie Christianson of Vancouver; two brothers, Adolph Gottfried of Lemberg and Martin Gottfried of Neudorf. Funeral service will be conducted from St. Paul Lutheran Home, Melville, on Monday, Feb. 7 at 1:30 p.m., Rev. S. Manz officiating. Interment in Baber Cemetery. Townsend Funeral Chapel in care of arrangements.

*Obituary for Maria Bender<sup>27</sup>*

Karl and Maria Bender had two children, both born at Neudorf, Saskatchewan:



**Adolph Jacob Bender**, born on 30 May 1908, died 16 August 1987 at the McMaster Medical Centre in Hamilton, Ontario at age 79. He married Anna Elizabeth Baber on 11 December 1932 at Lemberg, SK.

*Adolph & Anna Bender<sup>28</sup>*

<sup>23</sup> Fort San Sanatorium, digital image. Kloczko photograph collection; photographer Lance Dudar, 2012.

<sup>24</sup> Karl Bender headstone, Find a Grave website: [https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/133303817/karl\\_bender](https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/133303817/karl_bender)

<sup>25</sup> Ruth Vogel (Regina, Saskatchewan), interview by Shelley Kloczko PLCS, 15 January 2011; transcript privately held by Shelley Kloczko PLCS, [ADDRESS FOR PRIVATE USE,] Regina, Saskatchewan, 2011.

<sup>26</sup> Find A Grave, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 19 November 2019), memorial page for Marie Gottfried Bender, Find A Grave Memorial no. 171202578, citing Baber Cemetery, Neudorf, SK.

<sup>27</sup> Obituary on Find a Grave website: [https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/171202578/marie\\_bender](https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/171202578/marie_bender)

<sup>28</sup> Photo from the collection of Ruth Heil.

**Wilhelmine Bender**, known as Minnie, born 15 January 1907; died 3 April 1988, Lemberg, Saskatchewan. She married on 24 February 1925, Ludwig Heil, son of Mathias and Wilhelmina (née Bender) Heil. Ludwig was born 14 February 1904, Neudorf, North-West Territories; died 16 September 1992, at Lemberg, Saskatchewan.



*Ludwig Heil family.  
Left to right, Josephine, Wilhelmina, Ruth,  
Ludwig, and Carl on Wilhelmina's lap,  
circa 1945*

Wilhelmine and Ludwig had four children, all born in Lemberg, Saskatchewan (one is not named here-private):

**Isabel Wilhemina (sic) Heil**, born 30 July 1926; died 2 January 1926 at Lemberg; buried 3 January 1927, at Lemberg Cemetery.

**Ruth Elizabeth Heil**, born 15 October 1928; married Michael John Vogel 15 September 1956; died 27 September 2016, Regina. Ruth and Michael had four children.

**Adolf Jacob Bender**, known as Jacob; born 30 May 1908; died 16 August 1987. He married on 11 December 1932, at Neudorf, SW ¼-20-19-8 W 2. Annie Elizabeth Baber, daughter of Philip and Mary (née Schienbein) Baber, born 1906.

### **Wilhelmina Bender & Adolph Baber**

**Wilhelmina Bender** (Minnie) was born 29 May 1884 at Metnitz, Volhynia, Russia. Minnie as she came to be known, married Adolph Baber 14 June 1904 at Neudorf, SK. He died on 4 January 1912 Wolseley, Saskatchewan, Canada.

Wilhelmina married a second time to Frederick Fehler in 1914. (born 8 February 1874; died 26 December 1958). They had two sons. Wilhelmine died on 11 February 1960 in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, Canada.



*Wilhelmina & Adolph Baber<sup>29</sup>*

<sup>29</sup> Photo from Wilhelmina Bender profile. [https://www.ancestry.ca/mediaui-viewer/collection/1030/tree/60662865/person/410171933433/media/f9dde7f1-3a8e-4758-963f-fb55e69703a5?\\_phsrc=CeE227&use-PUBJs=true&galleryindex=1&albums=pg&showGalleryAlbums=true&tab=0&pid=410171933433&sort=-created](https://www.ancestry.ca/mediaui-viewer/collection/1030/tree/60662865/person/410171933433/media/f9dde7f1-3a8e-4758-963f-fb55e69703a5?_phsrc=CeE227&use-PUBJs=true&galleryindex=1&albums=pg&showGalleryAlbums=true&tab=0&pid=410171933433&sort=-created) Lisa Bachewich originally shared this on 21 Nov 2011.



Children of Wilhelmina & Adolph Baber:

Karl Heinrich Baber (1905–1910)  
Franz Philip Baber (1906–1910)  
Fredrich Johan Baber (1907–)  
Elizabeth Katherine Baber (1909–1974)  
Ralph Rudolph Jacob Baber (1910–2002)  
Mary Baber (1912-1991)

Children of Wilhelmina & Frederick Fehler:

George Fehler (1914–)  
Carl William Fehler (1918–1974)



**BACK ROW, Left to Right:** John Bales, Tom Rehbein.  
**CENTER:** Mrs. Franz Rehbein (2nd. wife), Henry Fehler, Henry Rehmer, Wilhelmina Baber, Adolph Baber, Katherine Baber, Philip Baber, Mary Baber, Franz Rehbein, Philip Gottfried, Philip Gettel.  
**FRONT ROW:** Amelia Gettel and Philip Jr., Christina Fehler and Henry Jr., Elizabeth Rehmer, was Mrs. Johann Straus by 1st. marriage, Carolina Gottfried, Anna Maria Baber, Johann Baber, Karl Baber, Wilhelmina Baber, Anna Marie Baber.

*Family photo<sup>30</sup>*

**Elisabeth Bender**, was born 25 March 1885, Metnitz, Volhynia, Russia, and died 21 January 1897 Neudorf, Saskatchewan at 12 years old.

**Jacob Bender**, born 9 January 1887, Metnitz, Volhynia, Russia; married Christine Gottfried 15 March 1920; died 6 September 1934.

Children of Jacob and Christine Bender:

Katharina Bender (1910–1910)  
Ida W Bender (1911–1911)  
Karl Otto (KO) Bender (1912–1994)  
Rudolf Heinrich Bender (1914–1918)  
Anna Marie Bender (1915–1916)  
Elsie Louise Bender (1917–1934)  
Helena Martina Bender (1919–2016)  
(Trudy) Gertrude Magdalena Bender (1921–2014)  
Albert (1923–)  
(Dick) Richard Ludwig Bender (1925–1994)  
(Private)

<sup>30</sup> From ancestry: <https://www.ancestry.ca/mediaui-viewer/tree/102726386/person/200026964388/media/1139dbc6-ee38-44d2-a51f-149a4e2d549c> Lisa Bachewich originally shared this on 21 Nov 2011.



**Sophie Bender**, born 25 October 1889, Metnitz, Volhynia, Russia; married Valentine Steffan on 25 February 1908, Melville, Saskatchewan, Canada. They had three children before she died on 30 May 1915, Saskatchewan. Valentine remarried in 1916, Melville, Saskatchewan to Henriette Wagner (1896-1976) and they have several more children. Valentine was born in 1886 in Galicia, Austria and died on 9 April 1966 in Regina, Saskatchewan.

Children of Sophie Bender and Valentine Steffan:

Elisabeth „Lizie“ Steffan (1909–2006)  
Catharine Christine Steffan (1910–1999)  
Jacob Adolph Steffan (1914–1966)

**Katharina Bender (Kate)**, was born 1 June 1893, Wolseley, Assiniboia, NWT, Canada. She died 9 May 1960, Gravelbourg, Saskatchewan. She married Johann Busch on 28 July 1912 at T.L.C. St. Boswells, Saskatchewan. He was born 10 August 1887 in Bessarabia, Russia and died 2 February 1968, place unknown.

Children of Katharina & Johann Busch:

Otto Jacob Leonard Busch (1913–1914)  
Anna Maria Elisabeth Busch (1914–1986)  
Heinrich Adolf (Henry) Busch (1916–1969)  
Elsie Elisabeth Busch (1917–1976)  
Ernest Phillip Busch (1919–1990)  
Evaline Busch (1921–)  
Arthur Norman Busch (1922–2000)  
Wilmer Valentin Busch (1928–1996)

**Johann Isador Bender**, born 1 May 1895, Wolseley, Assiniboia, NWT, Canada, married Helene Gerhard (Lena) on 3 March 1918; died 25 December 1978, Grenfell, Saskatchewan.

Children of Johann and Helena Bender:

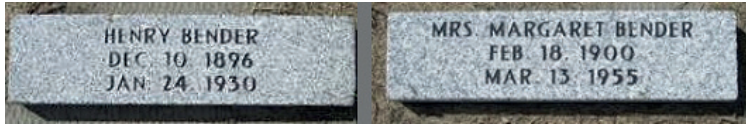
Edward Karl Bender (1918–1969)  
Violet Christina Bender (1919–1993)  
Arnold Heinrich Bender (1921–1996)  
Irene Bender (1924–2016)  
Evelyn Maria Bender (1925–)  
Mildred Wilhelmina Bender (1927–1963)  
Lawrence Clifford Bender (1931–2017)

**BENDER —** On Monday, December 25, 1978, John I. Bender, Grenfell, Sask. age 83 years. The funeral service will be held in Peace Lutheran Church, Grenfell, Sask. on Friday, December 29, 1978 at 2:00 p.m. Officiant The Rev. Leander Arndt. Interment in Grenfell Cemetery. Predeceased by his wife Lena in 1973, a son Edward in 1969 and a daughter, Mildred Krahenbil in 1963. Mr. Bender is survived by three daughters, Mrs. John (Violet) Trithardt, Kipling, Sask., Mrs. Marvin (Irene) Scott, Fort Francis, Ontario and Mrs. Frank (Evelyn) Krahenbil, Grenfell, Sask.; two sons, Arnold, Regina, Sask. and Lawrence, Broadview, Sask.; 24 grandchildren and 16 great grandchildren. Arrangements in care of the Tubman Funeral Home.

*Obituary*<sup>31</sup>

31 [https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/41990953/john\\_bender#view-photo=199217259](https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/41990953/john_bender#view-photo=199217259)

**Heinrich I. Bender (Henry)**, was born 10 December 1896, Wolseley, Assiniboia, NWT, Canada, married Margaret Yeathan on 8 July 1919; died 24 January 1930, Neudorf, Saskatchewan. Margarethe was born 18 February 1900 and died 13 March 1955.



*Headstones at St. John's Lutheran Cemetery, Neudorf, Saskatchewan<sup>32</sup>*

Child of Henry and Margaret Bender:

Alfred Bender (24 March 1920- 24 December 1977), married to Elsie Wauldbauer.

**Simon Bender**, born 20 September 1898, Wolseley, Assiniboia, NWT, Canada; died of diphtheria 1 November 1903, Neudorf, Melville, Saskatchewan. Burial Zion Lutheran Cemetery Neudorf, Melville Census Division, Saskatchewan.

**Maria Elisabeth Bender (Lizzie)**, born 24 April 1900, Wolseley, Assiniboia, NWT, Canada, unmarried; died at the age of 23 on 19 November 1924; cause of death pulmonary tuberculosis; buried at Saint John's Cemetery.<sup>33</sup>



*Elizabeth Bender headstone, St. John Cemetery<sup>34</sup>*

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32 [https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/167469386/margaret\\_bender](https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/167469386/margaret_bender) and [https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/167469357/henry\\_bender](https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/167469357/henry_bender)

33 Saskatchewan Vital Statistics of Saskatchewan, death registration, (1924), Elisabeth Bender; eHealth Saskatchewan, Regina.

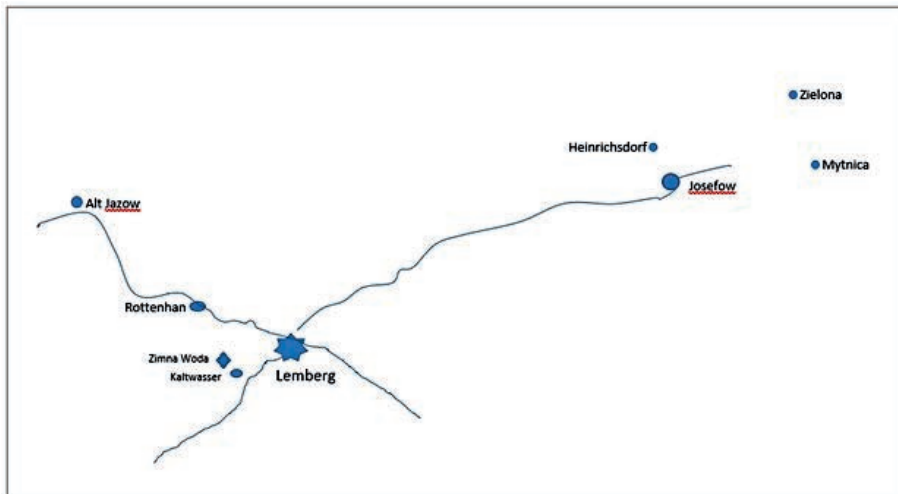
34 Photo, collection of Judith Silverthorne, 2013.

## KARL ASSMANN & KATHARINA ELISABETH ERBACH

**Karl Assmann**, born 25 December 1858<sup>1</sup>, Alt Jazow, Galicia, Austria;<sup>2</sup> married **Katharina Elisabeth Erbach**; died 20 April 1926<sup>3</sup>, Neudorf, Saskatchewan, Canada.

Karl Assmann, the son of Jakob Assmann<sup>4</sup> (1827-1906) and Maria Elisabeth (Magdalena) Reisdorf<sup>5</sup> (1831-1902), is thought to have spent the first few years of his life in Alt Jazow, moving with his family to Metnitz, Volhynia, Russia, sometime between 25 June 1871, when his oldest sister Eva was married in Alt Jazow, and November 1872, when his youngest sister Katharina is recorded as being born in Metnitz. He would have been about age thirteen at the time of the move.

At about the age of twenty-five, in probably 1883, Karl married Katharina Elisabeth Erbach. Though exactly where is not known for sure, this likely occurred in Metnitz, Volhynia, Russia, where the rest of his family lived at the time. His bride, however, had come from Heinrichsdorf, Galicia,<sup>6</sup> so it is unknown if they met in Volhynia or knew each other from some connection in Galicia. Alt Jazow and Heinrichsdorf are about 127 kilometres apart by today's road maps. Metnitz would have been about 60 km beyond Heinrichsdorf. The direct route from Alt Jazow to Metnitz was about 155 km.



*Rough map of the villages of our ancestors<sup>7</sup>*

1 1901 census of Canada, Assiniboia, district 203, sub-district R(3), Tiree, p. 5, dwelling 35, family 35, Karl Assman household; RG 31; digital images, Automated Genealogy (<http://automatedgenealogy.com> : accessed 16 Sep 2016). Saskatchewan Vital Statistics of Saskatchewan, death registration, 1417 (1926), Karl Assmann; eHealth Saskatchewan, Regina.

2 „Family Group Sheet of Jakob Assmann,” supplied 1980 by Agent for Genealogical Society of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Regina, Saskatchewan; Original currently at Saskatchewan Archives in Silverthorne Fonds.

3 Saskatchewan Vital Statistics of Saskatchewan, death registration, 1417 (1926), Karl Assmann; eHealth Saskatchewan, Regina.

4 Saskatchewan death registration 1417, Karl Assmann. Using the age at death, the date of birth is 26 December 1858. It is unknown if the date of birth was calculated or provided or the age at death was calculated incorrectly.

5 See footnote 2.

6 Hartfeld parish (Galicia, Austria), No. 299 Registers of communes of the Evangelical-Augsburg and Helvetic denominations 1764 - 1939, „Józefów commune (Josefow), Confession of Augsburg Confession. Record book of births,” Catharine Elisabeth Erbach, img 87, #88 1863; digital images, Central Archives of Historical Records (<http://agad.gov.pl/> : accessed 1 May 2020). Heinrichsdorf is now a defunct village, but was located at latitude, longitude 50.3631, 24.5773.

7 Rough map of the area by Judith Silverthorne. Not to scale. Lemberg is present day L'viv.



Katharina Elisabeth Erbach was born 12 November 1863<sup>8</sup> to Leopold and Catharine (née Petri) Erbach in Heinrichsdorf, Galicia, Austria, in house number eleven.<sup>9</sup> She was delivered by a midwife, Katherine Orb. Her baptism was held in Josefow, Galicia. Heinrichsdorf had been settled in 1810, somewhat later than most of the German settlements in Galicia. Josefow was a much larger centre and had come into existence in 1785, so was the more frequented by the clergymen.

According to the baptismal record, she was baptized the next day after her birth, 13 November 1863, in Josefow, about eight kilometres south of Heinrichsdorf, by Moritz Liedemann, who was the clergyman at the Protestant Church. Godparents were Philipp Knipfelberg, and his wife Margarethe Knipfelberg, plus Heinrich Knecht and Elisabeth Petri (likely a sister-in-law).<sup>10</sup>

Katharina seems to have used the name Elisabeth (Elizabeth) in her everyday life as she was known as Lizzie by the family members in Canada. In the rest of this chapter, we will therefore refer to her as Elisabeth.

Three of Elisabeth's older brothers had died in 1858 and 1859 of typhus and similar infectious diseases. Elisabeth was fourteen when her mother died of typhus (Nervenfieber) in 1877. Her father remarried in 1878, to Maria Elisabetha Uhl from Hanunin, Galicia, and the pair had a daughter together, Margaretha. The family remained living in Heinrichsdorf, at least for a time.<sup>11</sup>

Karl and Elisabeth had at least twelve children. The oldest three children of Karl and Elisabeth were born in Metnitz, Volhynia, Russia: Jacob (born 1884), Johann (born 1887) and Elisabeth (born 1889).<sup>12</sup> (*See their individual histories in each of their chapters.*)

## Volhynia History

As noted in Jakob Assmann & Maria Elisabeth (Magdalena) Reisdorf's chapter, the conditions in Volhynia were not viable to make a living. At the time Karl and Elisabeth married around 1883, their plans likely included having a family and the future looked bleak for the young newlyweds.

Living in Volhynia for the Assmanns was not as beneficial as they had hoped when they had first arrived. The Russian government had not sponsored immigration to Volhynia. Settlers received no benefits or privileges as earlier ancestors had done when they moved to Galicia, so there were no leniencies. By 1871, there were over 28,000 Germans in Volhynia and by the turn of the century, over 200,000 lived there. Most of them had come from Poland, with a minority moving there from Wuerttemberg, Pomerania, East Prussia, Silesia, and Galicia.<sup>13</sup>

8 Hartfeld parish (Galicia, Austria), No. 299 Registers of communes of the Protestant Augsburg and Helvetic denominations 1764 - 1939, „Józefów commune (Josefow), Augsburg Confession. Record book of births,” Catharine Elisabeth Erbach, img 87, #88 1863.

9 Protestant Lutheran Church (Metsitz, Zhitomir parish, Russia), Metrical books, 1870-1885, „Birth, marriages, deaths 1885,” film 1897692, item 1, p. 94, image 27, register 1075, Johann Assman; digital images, Family Search (familysearch.org : accessed 27 September 2016).

10 See footnote 8.

11 Hilfskomitee der Galiziendeutschen, Ortsfamilienbuch Heinrichsdorf 1810-1900; pdf download, Galizien German Descendants (<https://www.galiziengerm descendants.org> : downloaded 5 September 2017), 78, family 108 Leopold Erbach.

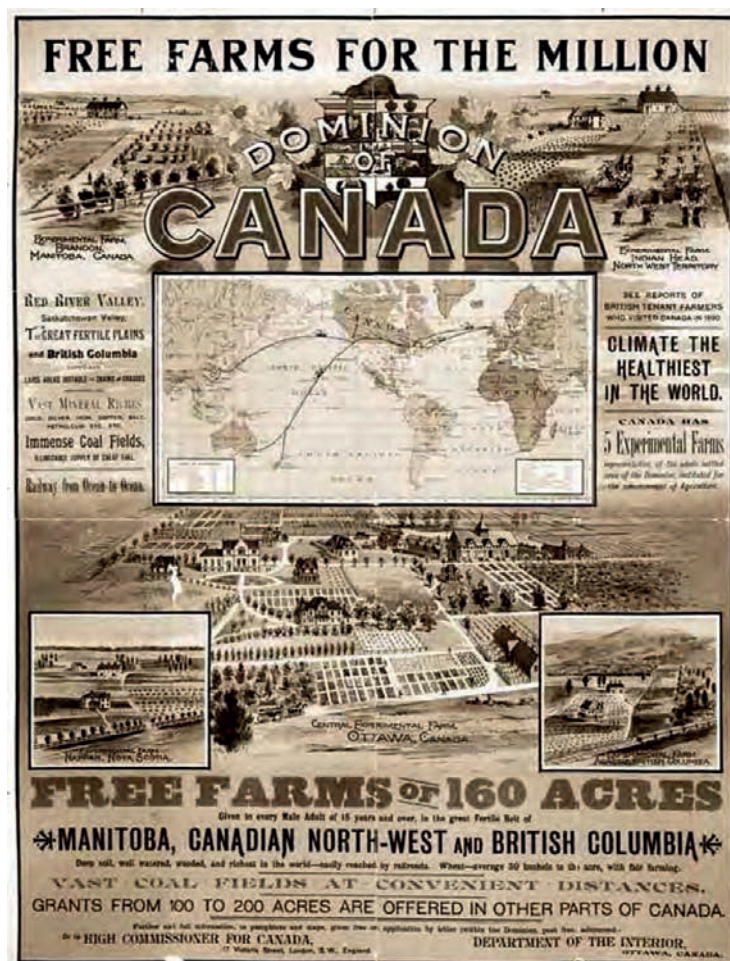
12 „Россия Рождения и крещения, 1755-1917”, database, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:XTDZ-B5T> : 6 December 2014), Johann Assmann, citing Saint Petersburg, Russia, reference p94-1075; FHL microfilm 1,897,692, item 1.

13 “The Germans from Volhynia and Russian Poland”, article. University of Alberta. (<https://sites.ualberta.ca/~german/AlbertaHistory/Volhynians.htm> : accessed 13 Sep, 2019).

By the time Karl and Elisabeth had started their family, many people were migrating to North America because land had become available for settlement. Not only this, but the appeal for greater economic prospects and improved quality of life, as well as an escape from oppression and persecution seemed like a great opportunity for what turned into millions of immigrant settlers seeking a new life between 1867 to 1914 during the time when the Canadian West opened for mass settlement.<sup>14</sup>

Karl and his family seemed to still have been living in Metnitz, Volhynia, Russia,<sup>15</sup> when they too were lured by the tempting advertisements. In the winter of 1891 Karl and Elisabeth made a major decision to immigrate to Canada, planning to leave in the spring of 1892.

European laws made it difficult or impossible for foreign government agents to advertise in many countries. Canada had two resident agents in Europe, based in Belgium and France, but even there they had to proceed discreetly. So Canadian officials resorted to contracting European steamship ticket agents to promote Canada and paying a bonus on each agricultural immigrant sent from certain countries. The Laurier government turned a blind eye to the circumvention of European laws by their officials - as long as there were no problems.<sup>16</sup>



Poster advertising the opportunities for settlers in Western Canada<sup>17</sup>

14 "Settling the West: Immigration to the Prairies from 1867 to 1914", article (<https://pier21.ca/research/immigration-history/settling-the-west-immigration-to-the-prairies-from-1867-to-1914> : accessed 21 Sep 2019).

15 Hamburg, „Hamburg Passenger Lists, 1850-1934,“ Carl Assmann, age 33, & family.

16 "Advertising in Europe, 1900s-1920s", article. Canadian Museum of History, (<https://www.historymuseum.ca/cmc/exhibitions/hist/advertis/ads4-01e.html> : accessed 25 Sep 2019).

17 Image: ArtsA\_why did Europeans come to Canada, PDF ([https://tc2.ca/uploads/PDFs/CFWWIRF/ArtsA\\_whydi-deuropeanscometocanada.pdf](https://tc2.ca/uploads/PDFs/CFWWIRF/ArtsA_whydi-deuropeanscometocanada.pdf) : accessed 12 Jan 2024).

Karl Assmann was a member of the first Assmann family to move from Galicia to Russia and now he was one of the first to emigrate to Canada. Besides Karl's family, two of Elisabeth's siblings and their families, Theobald Erbach and Charlotta (née Erbach) Becker also decided to venture forth.

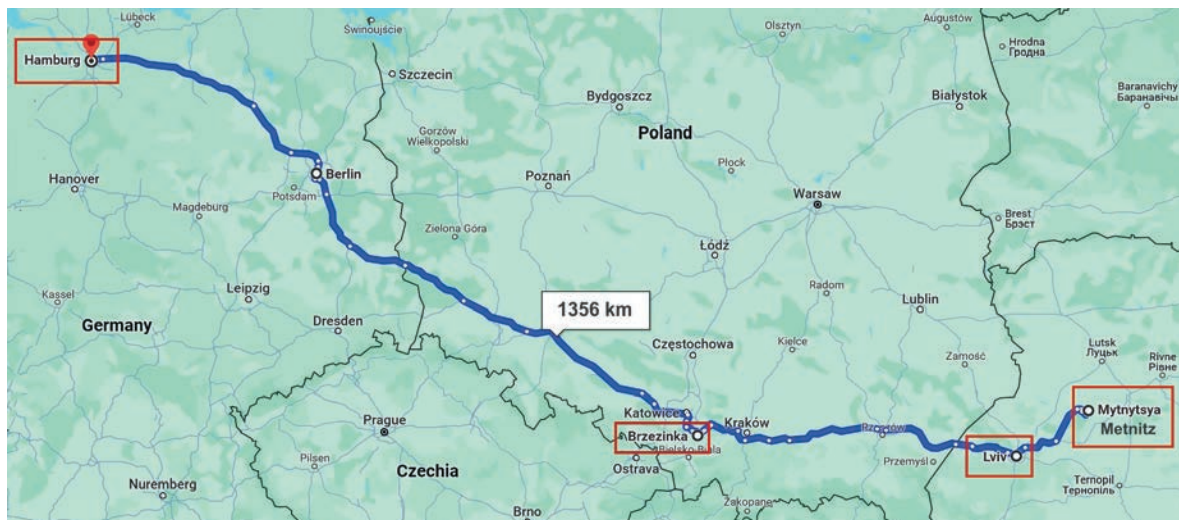
As well, most of Karl's other siblings and his parents made the plunge to emigrate to North America within months of each other. Some went to the United States. Notably, his parents (Jakob and Marie Elisabeth Assmann), and his brother Johann and wife Sophia with their family. His sister Caroline and husband Johann Roland, and their youngsters, plus a single younger sister Katherina started out with him, but circumstances changed, and they emigrated to Wisconsin. Two of Karl's married sisters and families ventured to Canada following him about three weeks later; Elisabeth and her husband Ignatz Bender, and his widowed sister Eva Schick with her children. *(See their chapters in this book)*

## Emigration

The first group leaving in spring of 1892 consisted of Karl's family, his sister Caroline and husband Johann with their two children, his sister Katharine, and Eva's thirteen-year-old daughter Catherine, who no doubt helped with the younger children as they travelled. In the very early spring, they packed their meager belongings and started out.

This meant that Karl and his family had a long and arduous journey ahead of them. The first major part of it began in Lemberg (Lviv). It is not known how Karl Assmann got there with his family and the belongings they had taken with them. Perhaps they had travelled the 110 kilometres from Metnitz to Lemberg by a horse-drawn carriage, or perhaps they had already taken a train to Lemberg in Brody, around 25 kilometres from Metnitz.

From Lemberg the journey went to Auschwitz (the city that would gain tragic, horrific fame a few decades later because of the Nazi concentration camps). They may have taken a train from Lwów to Kraków and then onwards as this was the main line of the Galician Railway created from 1856 to 1861 with numerous local connections built over subsequent decades, and by 1892 it was nationalized by a general directive from Vienna.<sup>18</sup>



*The Assmanns' long journey from Metnitz via Lemberg (Lviv) and Brzezinka (Auschwitz railway station) to Hamburg<sup>19</sup>*

18 "The Galician Railway", an article on the Forgotten Galician website. (<https://forgottengalicia.com/the-galician-railway/#:~:text=The%20main%20line%20of%20the,a%20general%20directive%20from%20Vienna> : accessed 3 June 2019).

19 Google maps.



However, they traveled, our ancestors, went on to Brzezinka. All the emigrants from Volhynia and Galicia met at Brzezinka, the railway station of Auschwitz. This was because the shipping companies had their agencies at Brzezinka station, where the emigrants received the railway tickets for their onward journey to Hamburg and the tickets for the crossing to America.



Carl Koch: *Auswanderer auf dem Bahnhof* (Emigrants at the railway station), 1880

Emigrants had to be careful when dealing with the many emigration agents who worked at Brzezinka station. This was because there were many cases of minor and also major fraud. Newspaper reports on the trials that were held on several occasions show that, for example, far too expensive tickets were sold or that emigrants were charged fees that did not exist.<sup>20</sup> One particularly wicked trick consisted of fraudulent agents pretending to enquire via telegraph in America whether land was available there for this or that emigrant. In order to make the telegraph connection, which did not exist, seem credible, a hidden alarm clock was rung – and the poor emigrants then had to pay a lot for a false “positive” information.<sup>21</sup>

When the connecting train finally arrived, often after several hours of waiting during which the emigrants had to take good care of their belongings due to numerous thefts<sup>22</sup>, the long and certainly rather exhausting journey to Hamburg began in mostly overcrowded carriages.

They arrived in Hamburg on Friday, 22 April 1892, and boarded the steamer "Hamburg" of the Hamburg shipping company "H. J. Perlbach & Co". The passenger list gives the names of all those intending to sail to America via Liverpool. However, it was not the "Hamburg" that took them there. Her destination – under the command of Captain Krabbo – was Hull on the east coast of England.

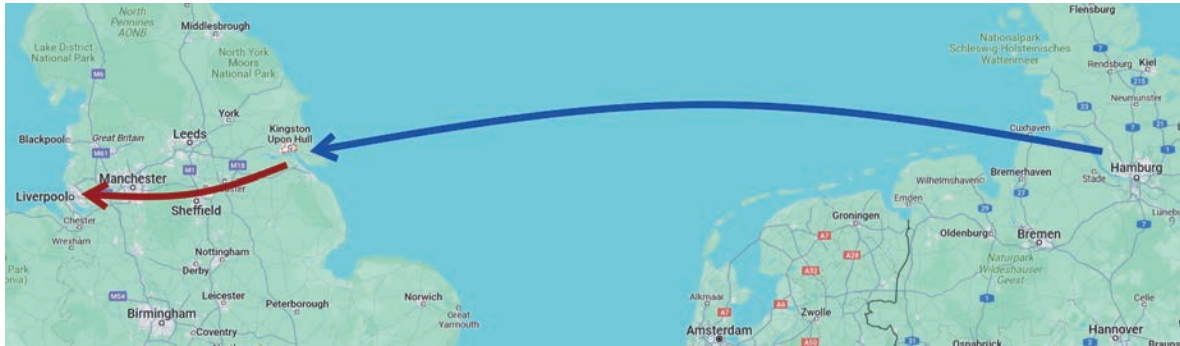
20 See, f. ex., Bukowinaer Rundschau, 3 December 1889, p. 2; Neue Freie Presse, 3 January 1890, p. 7.

21 Stadtbibliothek Salzburg, Kaiser von Amerika. Die große Flucht aus Galizien. (<https://buch.stadt-salzburg.at/> : accessed 14 January 2024).

22 Neue Freie Presse, 29 November 1889, p. 18.

Hull, the harbour of Kingston upon Hull, was a central stop on the emigrants' journey to America. Ships from Germany, especially Hamburg, and Scandinavia docked there. Between 1890 and 1894, a total of 246,378 emigrants arrived at the port of Hull and were taken from there by rail to Liverpool and other ports on the English west coast, from where ships departed for America.<sup>23</sup>

The Assmanns also took this route, travelling by railway from Hull to Liverpool. There they made a stop to board another ship.



Below is a transcribed passenger list of the members of the Assmann party listed as officially being on board the ship that took them to Canada. An image of the actual passenger list follows on the next page.<sup>24</sup>

Note: Numidia Emilie was born on the journey.

Name	Profession, Occupation or Calling of Passenger	Age
Johann Roland	labourer	30
Caroline Roland	wife	24
Carl Roland	child	3
Catharine Roland	infant	infant
Catharine Assmann	spinster	18
Carl Assmann	labourer	33
Elisabeth Assmann	wife	27
Jacob Assmann	child	7
Johann Assmann	child	4
Elisabeth Assmann	child	2
Numidia Emilie Assmann	infant	infant
Catherine Schick	spinster	13

<sup>23</sup> Nicholas J. Evans (2001) Work in progress: Indirect passage from Europe Transmigration via the UK, 1836-1914, Journal for Maritime Research, 3:1, p. 70-84.

Migration from Northern Europe to America via the Port of Hull, 1848-1914, (<http://www.norwayheritage.com/articles/templates/voyages.asp?articleid=28&zoneid=6> : accessed 14 Jan 2024).

<sup>24</sup> Hamburg, „Hamburg Passenger Lists, 1850-1934,“ departed 22 April 1892, Carl Assmann, age 33, & family; digital images, Ancestry (<http://ancestry.com> : accessed 8 December 2012).

nr 112

nr 835

# Verzeichniss

der Personen, welche zur Auswanderung nach

America

via

Liverpool

durch Unterzeichneten engagirt sind, und mit dem

Dampf-Schiffe

Hamburg

Capitain

Kutsko

unter

englischer

Flagge nach

Hull

befördert werden.

Abgang des Schiffes den 22 April

1862

Die zu einer Familie gehörenden Personen sind untereinander zu setzen und durch eine Klammer als zusammengehörig zu bezeichnen.		Geschlecht		Alter	Bisheriger Wohnort	Im Staate resp. in der Provinz	Bisheriger Stand oder Beruf	Ziel der Auswanderung (Ort und Land ist anzugeben)	Zahl der Personen	Davon sind:			
Zuname	Vornamen	männlich	weiblich							Erwachsene und Kinder über 15 Jahre	unter 15 Jahre	unter 1 Jahr	unter 1 Jahr
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.	14.
1. Bender	Auguste	1	1	27	Sachsen	Preussen	Frau	Wien	1	1			
2. Seher	Edoeb	1	1	12	Meine	Preussen	Arbeiter	Wien	1	1			
3. "	Reine	1	1	38	"	"	Frau	"	1	1			
4. "	Catharina	1	1	18	"	"	Kind	"	1	1			
5. "	Elisabeth	1	1	10	"	"	Kind	"	1	1			
6. "	Carl	1	1	44	"	"	"	"	1	1			
7. "	Reine	1	1	3	"	"	"	"	1	1			
8. "	W. Wilhelm	1	1	2	"	"	"	"	1	1			
9. "	Reine	1	1	16	"	"	"	"	1	1			
10. Roland	Johann	1	1	30	Sachsen	"	Arbeiter	"	1	1			
11. "	Reine	1	1	21	"	"	Frau	"	1	1			
12. "	Reine	1	1	3	"	"	Kind	"	1	1			
13. "	Catharina	1	1	16	"	"	"	"	1	1			
14. Hermann	Catharina	1	1	18	"	"	Kind	"	1	1			
15. Hermann	Carl	1	1	33	Meine	"	Arbeiter	"	1	1			
16. "	Elisabeth	1	1	21	"	"	Frau	"	1	1			
17. "	Reine	1	1	7	"	"	Kind	"	1	1			
18. "	Johann	1	1	11	"	"	"	"	1	1			
19. "	Elisabeth	1	1	2	"	"	"	"	1	1			
20. Schuck	Catharina	1	1	13	"	"	Kind	"	1	1			
21. Smith	Hermann	+	1	15	Sachsen	Preussen	Arbeiter	Wien	+	+			
22. Reine	Wilhelmine	+	1	42	"	"	Frau	"	+	+			
23. "	Georg	+	1	21	"	"	Arbeiter	"	+	+			
24. "	Reine	+	1	11	"	"	Kind	"	+	+			
25. "	Reine	+	1	11	"	"	Kind	"	+	+			
26. "	Anna	+	1	9	"	"	"	"	+	+			
27. Brucke	Albert	1	1	33	Sachsen	"	Arbeiter	Wien	1	1			
28. "	Wilhelmine	1	1	33	"	"	Frau	"	1	1			
29. "	Wass	1	1	20	"	"	Kind	"	1	1			
30. "	Anna	1	1	8	"	"	Kind	"	1	1			
31. "	Reine	1	1	14	"	"	"	"	1	1			
32. Fyke	Reine	1	1	22	York	Preussen	Kind	Wien	1	1			

Formular für indirekte Beförderung.

15. 6. 1862



Karl and the other family members travelling with him seem to have taken advantage of the Allan Line shipping service that was advertising such appealing deals on passages to North America. They departed on the S.S Numidian to Canada on the very day noted in the Allan Line advertisement below.

**A LLAN LINE ROYAL MAIL STEAMERS,**  
**TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA**  
 (Under Contract with the Canadian Government for  
 Conveyance of the Canadian Mails.)  
**FROM LIVERPOOL**

**SARDINIAN** ..... For QUEBEC & MONTREAL . April 21  
**CARTHAGINIAN** . For HALIFAX & BALTIMORE April 26  
**NUMIDIAN**..... For QUEBEC & MONTREAL . April 28  
**PARISIAN** ..... For QUEBEC & MONTREAL . May 5  
**CASPIAN** ..... For HALIFAX & BALTIMORE May 10  
**CIRCASSIAN** ..... For QUEBEC & MONTREAL . May 12

**FARES FOR OCEAN PASSAGE:**—Saloon, 10 to 12  
 guineas; Second Cabin, £8 6s; Steorage at Lowest  
 Rates. Through Tickets to all Stations at Special  
 Rates. Passengers are landed on the railroad wharf and  
 transferred from ship to train without any inconvenience  
 and expense. The Company's special conductor accom-  
 panies West-bound passengers. **NOTE**—This Line provides  
 the cheapest and most convenient route to all parts of  
 Canada, Manitoba, the North-West Provinces, British  
 Columbia, and the Western States of America. A sub-  
 stantial Government Bonus for families taking up land  
 in Manitoba, the North-West Territory, and British  
 Columbia. Free Land Grants of 160 Acres. To Tourists,  
 Sportsmen and others.—Round Trip Tickets combining  
 Excursions to Niagara Falls the wonderful scenery and  
 Sporting Districts of the Rocky Mountains and British  
 Columbia, and other places of interest in United States  
 and Canada. Programme of Tours on application. British  
 delegates' new reports, and all the latest Maps and  
 Pamphlets free. Direct Services from Glasgow to New  
 York and Boston and Philadelphia all the year round.—  
 Full particulars on application to **ALLAN BROTHERS**  
 and CO., 19, James Street, Liverpool; **JOHN W. DOWN**,  
 Emigration Office, Bath Bridge, Bristol; or any authorized  
 agent of the Line.

1601

*Advert for the Allan Line's ocean passages to America,  
 published in "The Bristol Mercury" on 16 April 1892.*

This advert shows very clearly that emigration from Europe to America was an extremely lucrative business for the shipping companies: within just 3 weeks, the Allan Line was able to send 4 ships to Quebec alone - and then there were many other destinations and numerous other shipping companies on this route. This shows that they earned a lot from emigration! In addition to ship passage, the Allan Line also offered additional services in Canada - which were certainly also profitable for them. This included rail tickets close to their final destinations in the west.

# "ALLAN" LINE MAIL STEAMERS.



## LIVERPOOL TO QUEBEC & MONTREAL (ROYAL MAIL SERVICE)

POLYNESIAN	Thursday, Oct. 4	SARDINIAN	Thursday, Oct. 18
SARMATIAN	Friday, Oct. 12	PARISIAN	Thursday, Oct. 25

Calling at Londonderry the following day.

### BALTIMORE SERVICE.

NOVA SCOTIAN	For St. John's, Halifax, and Baltimore	Tuesday, Oct. 2
PERUVIAN	For St. John's, Halifax, and Baltimore	Tuesday, Oct. 16
CASPIAN	For St. John's, Halifax, and Baltimore	Tuesday, Oct. 30

And regularly thereafter.

Calling at Queenstown the following day.

### SALOON OCEAN FARES, 10 TO 18 GUINEAS.

BY "PARISIAN," 12 TO 20 GUINEAS.

According to position of Sleeping Cabin and number of Berths in stateroom, all having full privileges in Saloon. Children under 15 years (unaccompanied by their parents), Half-price; Infants under 5 years Free. THE FARE INCLUDES ALL NECESSARIES EXCEPT WINE AND LIQUOR, WHICH ARE EXTRA.

Special Through Fares to London, Antwerp, and other ports.

Ocean Return Tickets at Reduced Rates, available for 12 Months, from any of the American or Canadian Ports at which the Company's Steamers embark Passengers.

First Passage Deposits to secure a Cabin Stateroom, the balance to be paid the day before sailing. (Luggage of which 20 cents is for each adult and 10 cents for each child, will go on board the steamer with the Passengers on the morning of sailing.)

### INTERMEDIATE AND STERAGE FARES SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

Intermediate	Through	Intermediate	Through
To Quebec or Montreal	85 8 11 0	To Regina, N.W. Territory	110 2 1 16 1
Quebec, via Halifax	5 16 4 10	South-Central, N.W. Territory	10 14 9 4 8 9
Montreal, via Halifax	7 8 7 3 2 7	Calgary, N.W. Territory	12 5 3 8 18 9
Halifax, by Direct Steamer	6 6 4 0	St. Stephen, N. Columbia	12 5 3 8 18 9
St. John's, N.S., by Direct Steamer	6 6 4 0	Vancouver, B. Columbia	12 10 10 11 4 10
St. John's, N.S., via Halifax	7 0 5 4 14 5	Victoria, B. Columbia	12 10 10 11 4 10
Baltimore, by Direct Steamer	0 0 4 0	San Francisco, via Quebec & Panama	14 17 5 12 11 7
New York & Philadelphia, via Baltimore	0 0 4 0	St. Louis, Mo., via Quebec	7 13 5 5 3 5
Ottawa, Canada	6 14 9 4 8 3	St. Louis, Mo., via Baltimore	7 9 7 5 3 7
Kingston	7 9 3 4 11 5	Cleveland, Ohio, via Baltimore	7 4 6 4 11 4
Brockville	8 16 3 4 10 4	Cincinnati, Ohio, via Baltimore	7 4 6 4 11 4
Bellville	7 5 1 4 18 1	Chicago, Ill., via Quebec	7 4 1 4 18 1
Prescott	8 15 3 4 9 3	Chicago, Ill., via Baltimore	7 4 6 4 11 4
Hamilton	7 4 1 4 18 1	St. Paul, Minn., via Quebec	8 4 8 8 18 8
Toronto	7 5 1 4 18 1	Omaha, Neb., via Quebec	9 0 1 4 14 1
London	7 4 1 4 18 1	Denver, Col., via Quebec	10 4 4 8 18 4
Winnipeg, Manitoba	8 15 4 8 9 4	Sioux Falls, Dak., via Quebec	10 4 4 8 18 4
Minneapolis	7 4 5 8 18 1	Portland, Ore., via Quebec	12 10 10 11 4 10
Brandon	8 3 7 8 17 7	Jacksonville, Florida, via Baltimore	9 4 4 8 18 4
Monmouth, N.W. Territory	0 10 0 1 4 5	Galveston, Texas, via Baltimore	10 17 8 8 11 8
Quebec, N.W. Territory	9 19 4 7 12 4		

And to all inland stations at equally Low Through Rates. CHILDREN UNDER TWELVE YEARS, HALF OCEAN FARE; INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR 50%.

Through Tickets of Special Rates are issued to nearly all inland towns in the United States and Canada, VIA THE GRAND TRUNK RAILWAY AND THE CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY, AND THEIR CONNECTIONS, and a substantial advantage is offered from the Ports at which the Company's Steamers embark Passengers. Trains start at noon from along the Steamer Wharves, the baggage being transferred without charge.

INTERMEDIATE or THROUGH PASSENGERS may be received by payment of a Deposit of One or Two Pounds on each berth with their first and last names, and the names of the persons to whom the tickets are to be issued. The Company's Steamers are not to be used for the purpose of carrying passengers, and the Company's Steamers are not to be used for the purpose of carrying passengers, and the Company's Steamers are not to be used for the purpose of carrying passengers.

THE DIETARY SCALE FOR STERAGE PASSENGERS IS AS FOLLOWS— Breakfast—Bread and Butter, Tea, Milk and Sugar, Fruit and Butter. Dinner—Bread and Butter, Tea, Milk and Sugar, Fruit and Butter. Supper—Bread and Butter, Tea, Milk and Sugar, Fruit and Butter. The Company's Steamers are not to be used for the purpose of carrying passengers, and the Company's Steamers are not to be used for the purpose of carrying passengers.

Intermediate Passengers are allowed 150 lbs. and Through Passengers 200 lbs. of Luggage free for each adult; for all other than quantity a charge of 1s. for each extra lb. will be made.

Passengers' baggage should be distinctly addressed before being shipped. Luggage Labels free on application. Passengers' baggage should be distinctly addressed before being shipped. Luggage Labels free on application. Passengers' baggage should be distinctly addressed before being shipped. Luggage Labels free on application.

A FULLY QUALIFIED SURGEON IS ATTACHED TO EACH STEAMER. Intermediate Stewards are provided by the Company, to attend to the wants of Female Passengers and Children. Medical Stewards are provided for the Steamer Passengers.

### LONDON TO QUEBEC AND MONTREAL (DIRECT).

NESTORIAN	Thursday, Oct. 4	ASSYRIAN	Saturday, Oct. 20
-----------	------------------	----------	-------------------

Rates for Intermediate and Sterage Passengers same as from Liverpool.

The Company's Steamers are not to be used for the purpose of carrying passengers, and the Company's Steamers are not to be used for the purpose of carrying passengers, and the Company's Steamers are not to be used for the purpose of carrying passengers.

Interim passengers are not to be used for the purpose of carrying passengers, and the Company's Steamers are not to be used for the purpose of carrying passengers, and the Company's Steamers are not to be used for the purpose of carrying passengers.

James Scott & Co., Queenstown and Cork.

Allan Lines fares list<sup>25</sup>

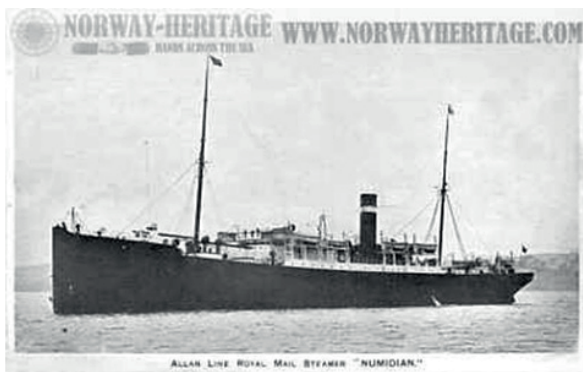


Passenger list of the S.S. Numidian, 1892-05-09

Port of Embarkation	Names of Passengers	Profession, Occupation, or Calling, of Passengers	English		Scotch		Irish		Passengers		Port at which Passengers have returned to Land
			Age of each Adult of 15 years and upwards	Age of Children between 1 and 12 years	Age of each Adult of 15 years and upwards	Age of Children between 1 and 12 years	Age of each Adult of 15 years and upwards	Age of Children between 1 and 12 years	Age of each Adult of 15 years and upwards	Age of Children between 1 and 12 years	
LIVERPOOL, No. of tickets			Married Single	Infants	Married Single	Infants	Married Single	Infants	Married Single	Infants	
1000	John Roland	Lab									Quebec
	Caroline	Wife									
	Karl	Child									
	Charlotte	Infant									
	Woman	Spin									Quebec
1001	Karl	Lab									
	Elizabeth	Wife									
	Jacob	Child									
	John	Lab									Quebec
	Elizabeth	Wife									
	Karl	Child									

*German to Winnipeg*  
*German to Winnipeg*  
*Born on passage*

Top portion of page from the passenger list of the S. S. Numidian with our ancestors on it<sup>26</sup>



Photos of the S.S. Numidian, Allan Line<sup>27</sup>

The Numidian, the steamship that our ancestors sailed on, was built by D. & W. Henderson & Co., Glasgow, Scotland. This British steel steamship used originally as an Allan Line Trans-Atlantic passenger ship, was able to carry 1180 passengers (100 in first class, 80 in second class, and 1000 in third class). Her maiden voyage was from Liverpool-Quebec-Montreal on August 20, 1891. She made her final voyage to Boston in 1914. In the First World War she was filled with cement and sunk, so as to block a channel against submarines. Description: Tonnage: 4,836. Dimensions: 400' x 45'. Single-screw, 13 1/2 knots. Triple expansion engines. Two masts and one funnel. Steel hull.<sup>28</sup>

### Steerage Experience

On the day of embarkation for Karl and his fellow travellers there would have been an excited crowd with heavy packs and heavier hearts, climbing the gangplank, as crew directed the bewildered travellers to their quarters. The journey they endured was likely quite stressful no doubt as they would have been sanctioned into the steerage section on the S.S. Numidian where they were among 802 steerage passengers and 64 cabin passengers recorded on the trip, according to the passenger's log.

26 Passenger lists of the NUMIDIAN arriving in Quebec on 1892-05-09, Library and Archives Canada (<https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/immigration/immigration-records/passenger-lists/passenger-lists-1865-1922/Pages/item.aspx?IdNumber=3017&> : accessed: 15 Jan 2024).

27 Photos of the S.S. Numidian, digital image, Norway-Heritage ([http://www.norwayheritage.com/p\\_ship.asp?sh=numid](http://www.norwayheritage.com/p_ship.asp?sh=numid) : accessed 15 September 2016).

28 SS Numidian, article, Scapa Flow: Historic Wreck Site (<https://www.scapafloowrecks.com/wrecks/blockships/ss-numidia.php> : accessed 05 June 2024).



Although the image below is not of the passengers boarding the Numidian, it shows in an impressive way the hustle and bustle, the dramatic and sometimes desperate atmosphere that prevailed in the emigrant harbours and which the Assmanns may also have experienced.



*German emigrants embarking on a steamer for America<sup>29</sup>*

Steerage was the lower deck of a ship where the cargo was stored above the closed hold. Steamship steerage decks were used to provide the lowest cost and lowest class of travel, such as for European emigrants to North America and later Chinese emigrants. Often hundreds were put in this area, which was a single large hold with beds routinely in long rows of large, shared bunks that held straw mattress and lacked bedding. These wooden beds, known as berths, were stacked two- to three-high with two people sharing single berths and up to four squeezed into a double, perhaps more with families. Families, married couples, single people, children all were quartered together. The only ventilation was provided by hatches to the upper decks, which were locked tight during rough seas and storms.

Since the only bathrooms were located above deck, passengers trapped below during stormy weather were forced to urinate and defecate (and get seasick) in buckets, which would overturn in the churning waves. The stench was unbearable and the spread of deadly diseases like typhoid, cholera and smallpox spread unabated. With limited privacy and security, inadequate sanitary conditions, and poor food, steerage was often decried as inhumane, and was eventually replaced on ocean liners with "third class" cabins.

These conditions must have been a degrading experience for our ancestors, and even though they might be allowed on deck in good weather, they were often in throngs, packed like cattle so

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29 The original title is: From the old to the new world - German emigrants for New York embarking on a Hamburg steamer. It appeared in Harper's weekly (pp. 916-917) on 7 November 1874. Library of Congress (Rights Advisory: No known restrictions on publication).

it was difficult. Bad weather meant the hatches were down and one can only imagine breathing clean air was impossible. Several sources suggest that when the stench became unbearable, they preferred the bitterness and danger of the storm on deck, and many tried to get up there but had to be driven back down.

Although it had previously been advertised that: “The food is abundant and good, plenty of bread and meat are to be had, and luxuries can be bought at reasonable prices. At Hamburg, music is provided and the emigrants may make merry at a dance until dawn of the day of sailing”<sup>30</sup>, the reality of the situation was entirely different. Food was in constant shortage. What was there was miserable, dealt out of huge kettles into the dinner pails provided by the steamship company. When it was distributed, the stronger pushed through the crowd, so that meals were often disorderly procedures. This, coupled with the pushing and crowded conditions, would have been somewhat appalling, one would think. Some ships required passengers to bring their own meager provisions, while others provided only minimum rations meant to keep passengers from starving. A lack of clean drinking water and rancid food resulted in rampant bouts of dysentery.<sup>31</sup>

Even several years after our ancestors sailed conditions had not improved: "On many ships, even drinking water is grudgingly given, and on the steamer Staatendam, four years ago [1903], we had literally to steal water for the steerage from the second cabin, and that of course at night. On many journeys, particularly on the SS Fürst Bismarck, of the Hamburg American Line, five years ago [1902], the bread was absolutely uneatable, and was thrown into the water by the irate emigrants".<sup>32</sup>

## Route to North America

Karl and his family members set sail from Liverpool on the 28 April 1892, made a stop in Londonderry, Ireland on 29 April 1892, and then set out to sea across the Atlantic Ocean. Two days later, on the first day of May in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean while on board the S. S. Numidian, Elisabeth gave birth to a daughter. She and Karl decided to call her after the ship, using a more feminine version of the name, so she became Numidia Emily.<sup>33</sup>

*Map from Londonderry, Ireland to Louise Basin (Bassin Louise), Port of Quebec, Quebec City, Canada (Google Maps)*



On the 7th of May in 1892 the Assman family's ship arrival was due to land at the Port of Quebec at the tip of the St. Lawrence River as stated in the Allan Line schedule. However, it arrived

30 "The Fellowship of the Steerage-1905" article. Gjenvick-Gjonvix Archives. (<https://www.ggarchives.com/OceanTravel/Steerage/FellowshipOfTheSteerage-1905.html> , accessed 11 Jan 2023).

31 "America's First Immigration Law Tried (and Failed) to Deal With Nightmarish Sea Journeys", article. History Channel. (<https://www.history.com/news/steerage-act-immigration-19th-century> : accessed: 4 Jan 2024).

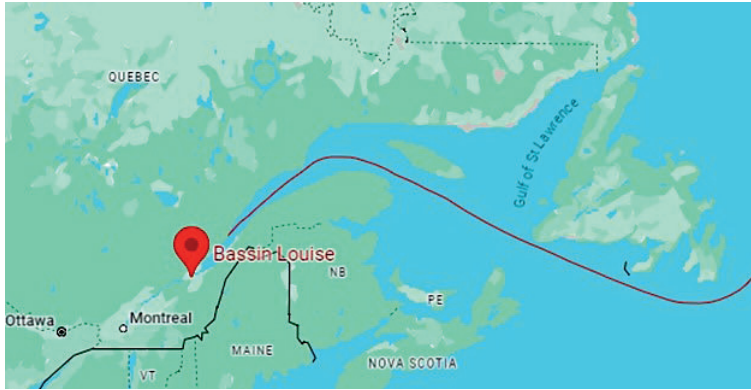
32 Edward A. Steiner, *On the Trail of The Immigrant*, Project Gutenberg (<https://www.gutenberg.org/files/40887/40887-h/40887-h.htm> : accessed 5 June 2024).

33 General Register Office, Marine Births Indices 837-1965, 98,659, Numidia Emily Assman (1892); General Registration Office, Southport, England.



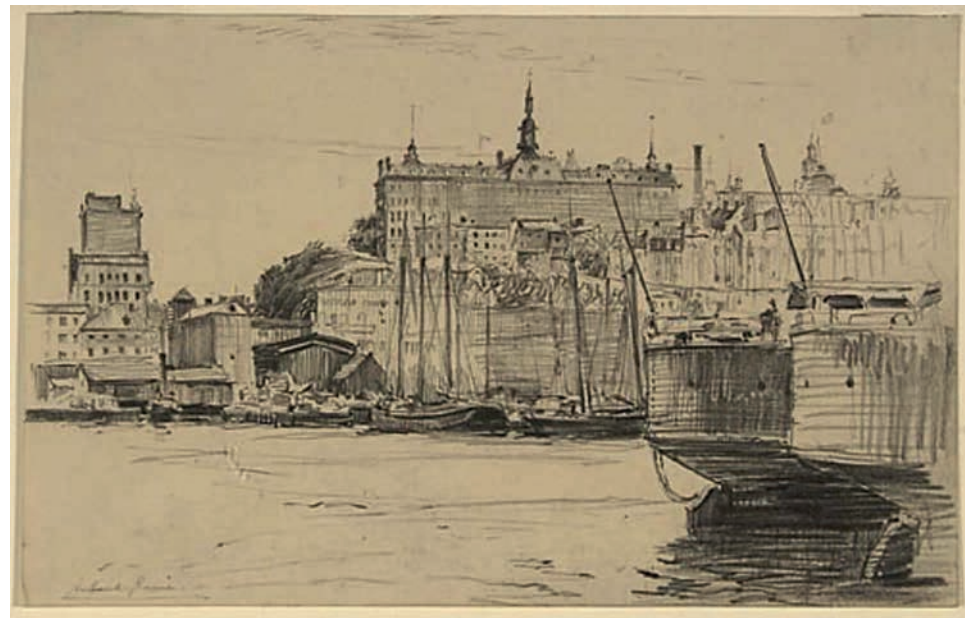
a few hours late at 3:00 a.m. on May 08 according to the remarks in the ship's log. No doubt our Assman family members had little sleep that night with the excitement of reaching their destination and the start of their new life.

*Below: The red line indicates coming up the St. Lawrence River to Louise Basin (Bassin Louise), Port of Quebec*



According to an article on the Quebec City website, “in the mid-19th century, the Port of Québec was the main port of entry to Canada. Thousands upon thousands of passengers from Europe disembarked at its wharfs, which were located close to where boulevard Champlain is today (...) As of the 1880s, immigrants came from a greater variety of countries: the Ukraine, Poland,

Holland, Belgium, France, Italy, and others. They arrived at the modern intake facilities on the pier at Bassin Louise. Many headed for the Canadian Prairies, which had recently opened to colonization.”<sup>34</sup>



*View of the Louise Basin and Laval University, in Quebec, where our ancestors landed*<sup>35</sup>

Catching the first glimpses of the new land in daylight the next morning after they'd arrived, one wonders how Karl and his family members felt knowing they finally reached Canada after such an arduous and horrendous voyage. What were their first impressions at the Port of Quebec in their new country? No doubt they were exhausted and bewildered, and there were many more days of travel and hardship to face, but at least they had their train tickets to get as far as

<sup>34</sup> “Immigration at the Port of Québec” article from Ville de Québec. ([https://www.ville.quebec.qc.ca/en/citoyens/patrimoine/quartiers/vieux\\_quebec/interet/immigration\\_au\\_port\\_de\\_quebec.aspx](https://www.ville.quebec.qc.ca/en/citoyens/patrimoine/quartiers/vieux_quebec/interet/immigration_au_port_de_quebec.aspx) : accessed: 15 Jan 2024).

<sup>35</sup> Herbert Raine, *Vue du bassin Louise et de l'Université Laval, à Québec*, ca. 1920. Collection of the National Museum of Fine Arts of Quebec. (<https://collections.mnbaq.org/fr/oeuvre/600001815> : accessed: 15 Jan 2024).



Winnipeg. First though, they had to go through the emigration process, which seems to have been fairly streamlined by the time they arrived at the Louise Basin building, which had become the new gateway for immigrants some ten years earlier.

“Started in 1877 and completed in 1882, the Louise Basin building was also the new gateway for immigrants. To meet these needs, a large two-storey structure was erected on the Louise jetty in 1888. The “immigrant building” could accommodate 4,000 people and featured dormitories, a dining room, an exchange office, stores, an immigration office, and a medical office, as well as new telegraph technology. From there, newcomers could directly board a train that would transport them to their new lives. These facilities served as the gateway to Canada for generations of immigrants.”<sup>36</sup>



*Immigration sheds at the port of Quebec<sup>37</sup>*

Processed, and tickets in hand, the Karl Assman entourage was able to catch the train right at the immigration shed where they’d landed. They were ready to pursue their new dream of owning land and a freedom in living like they’d never known back in their homeland where

they had been enticed by posters like the one here:



„160 Acres (250 Morgen) frei für jeden Ansiedler“ = 160 acres (250 morgen) free for each new settler.“  
 „200 Millionen Acres im Westlichen Canada“ = „200 million acres in western Canada“.<sup>38</sup>

36 “Port of Quebec,” Canadian Encyclopedia. (<https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/port-of-quebec> accessed: 9 Jan 2024).

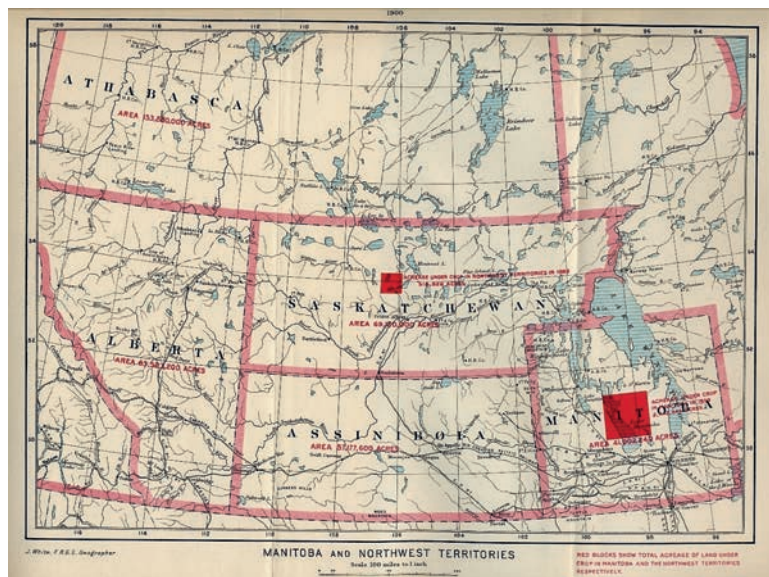
37 Photo: Title: Dominion Government Immigration Sheds. Reference: PA-021357. Copyright Expired. Credit: Canada. Dept. of Mines and Resources / Library and Archives Canada / PA-021357

38 160 Acres (250 Morgen) Frei, poster, Library and Archives Canada (<https://recherche-collection-search.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/home/record?idnumber=5016156&app=FonAndCol> : accessed 6 June 2024).

Opportunities like this were made possible because of the Dominion Land Act of 1872.<sup>39</sup> Canada passed this Act to encourage settlement, particularly as applied to the province of Manitoba and to the Northwest Territories (spelled 'North-West Territories' from 1870 to 1905). The original North-West Territories were divided into provisional districts to ease administration,<sup>40</sup> and called Saskatchewan, Assiniboia, Alberta, Athabasca, and Keewatin as shown on the maps below. Most of Assiniboia was absorbed into the province of Saskatchewan with Athabasca becoming most of Alberta when the provinces were officially formed in 1905. The Lands Act continued to apply to the new provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta and was also extended into parts of British Columbia.



*Provinces and Territories of Canada, 1881 to 1886, a few years before our ancestors came in 1892<sup>41</sup>*



*Manitoba and Northwest Territories (1900)<sup>42</sup>*

39 "Dominion Lands Act", article. Wikipedia ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dominion\\_Lands\\_Act](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dominion_Lands_Act) : accessed 6 June 2024).

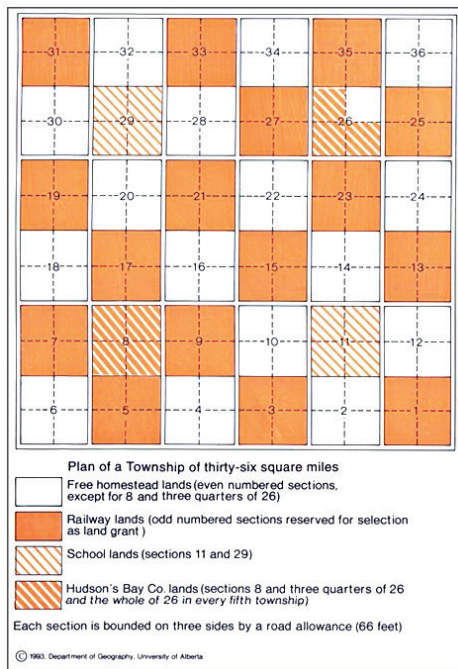
40 "Districts of the Northwest Territories", article. Wikipedia. ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Districts\\_of\\_the\\_Northwest\\_Territories](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Districts_of_the_Northwest_Territories) Accessed: 15 Jan 2024).

41 Provinces and Territories of Canada, 1881 to 1886. Wikipedia. (<https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Canada-1882.png>)

42 Wikipedia ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Manitoba\\_and\\_Northwest\\_Territories\\_\(1900\).jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Manitoba_and_Northwest_Territories_(1900).jpg))

This Act also launched a framework for the layout of the Prairie provinces, known as the Dominion Lands Survey. Still used today with the exception of First Nation Reserves (established before the surveys began), federal parks, and air weapon ranges, its terminology are deeply ingrained in the rural culture of the Prairies and continue to be used today. Considered the largest survey

grid in the world laid down in a single integrated system, it covered 80 million hectares (800,000 square kilometres / 310,000 sq mi), representing one and half million homesteads.<sup>43</sup>



The system divided arable prairie lands into square sections of land measuring 1 square mile by one square mile. Each section was divided into four quarters each of which became a homestead. A group of 36 sections is called a township. Each township, numbered in a specific order, measures six miles by six miles. When driving on the prairies one always knows the distances by the sections and grid roads, or at least they did until the metric conversion came into the country.

#### *Township Grid<sup>44</sup>*

*1 mile = 1.609 kilometres, 6 miles = 9.65606 kilometres almost 10 kilometres (the length of one township or range)*

The Act gave a claimant, any male farmer who was at least 21 years of age, a quarter section for free, which equalled 160 acres or 65 hectares. (This later changed to allowing women who were the sole head of a household to acquire land.) The only cost to the farmer was a \$10 administration fee and they had to agree to cultivate at least 40 acres (16 ha) of the land and build a permanent dwelling on it within three years. These conditions of 'proving up the homestead' was the government's way of preventing speculators from gaining control of the land. In addition, "a settler must be or declare an intention to become a British subject."<sup>45</sup>

The Germans from Volhynia formed small, somewhat closed settlements in the 1890s in all three Prairie provinces. In 1894 Germans from Volhynia settled in and around Regina, Rosthern, Yorkton, Langenburg, Lampman, Yellow Grass, Lang, Kipling, Lemberg, Lipton, Mossbank, St. Boswells and Morse.<sup>46</sup> Of course, we also know they were in the villages of Neudorf, Killaly, and Grayson area as well.

Karl would have lived and seen many living conditions in his life, twice starting fresh; once when he helped his family get established in Metnitz, and again with his own family in Canada. No doubt he had acquired perseverance and probably already had a strong work ethic, and he would need all his determination, endurance and resolve to face the hardships waiting for them in the Canadian west.

43 "Dominion Land Survey", article. Wikipedia. ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dominion\\_Land\\_Survey](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dominion_Land_Survey) Accessed: 15 Jan 2024).

44 Homestead Records Legal Land Descriptions", article. Saskatchewan GenWeb. (<http://sites.rootsweb.com/~cansk/Saskatchewan/homesteadlocation.html> : accessed 25 Apr 2020).

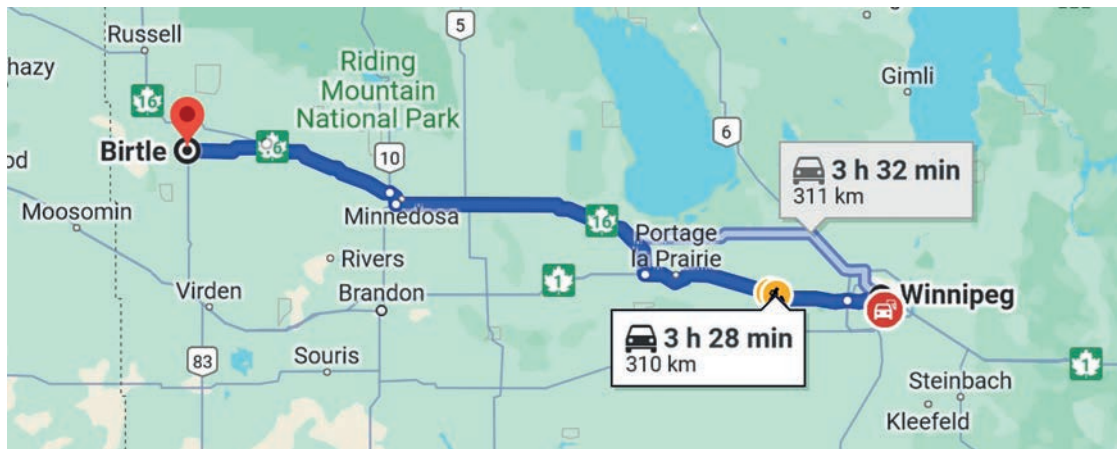
45 "Homesteading History and Background", Saskatchewan Archives. (<https://www.saskarchives.com/collection/homesteading> accessed: 28 Jan 2024).

46 "The Germans from Volhynia and Russian Poland" section. University of Alberta. (<https://sites.ualberta.ca/~german/AlbertaHistory/Volhynians.htm> accessed: 6 Jan 2024).

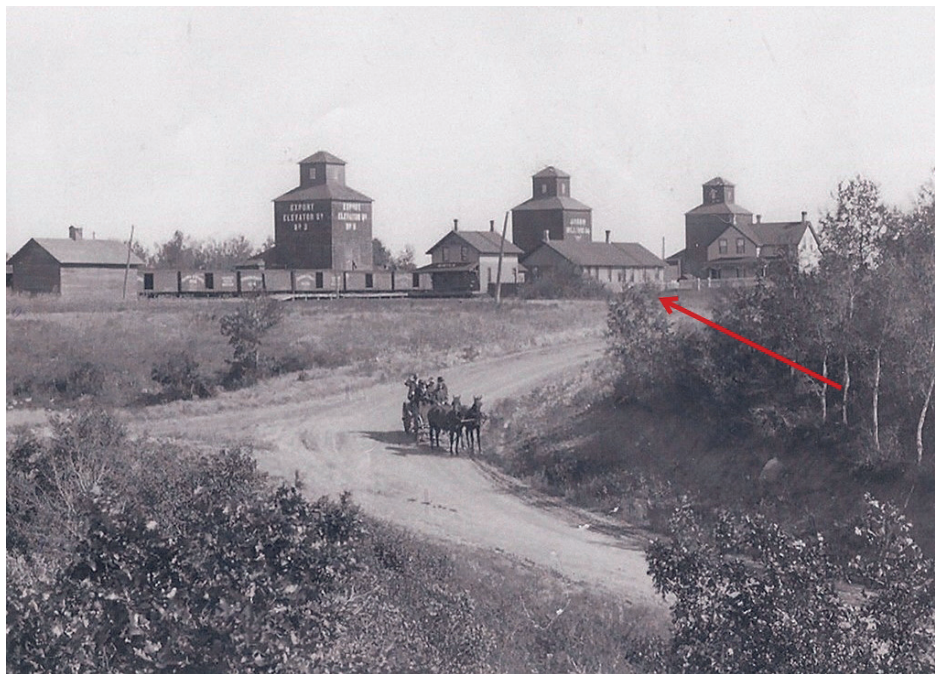


Karl and his family of travellers were processed at the Port of Quebec after their ship arrived in the wee hours of the morning of 8 May 1892. From there, they boarded the train and chugged their way across the country for several days, most likely going first to Winnipeg, which was a huge hub for people going various directions, including farther west or to the U.S.

While they would have stopped in Winnipeg, it seems likely the entire Assmann entourage may have continued to Birtle, Manitoba. We do not know if this was by choice or if they had to go because there were so many immigrants at that time and the over-flow of people were transferred to Birtle where there was another immigration hall. This was a distance of 300 kilometres to the west of Winnipeg, almost to what is now the Saskatchewan border, convenient for those continuing west.



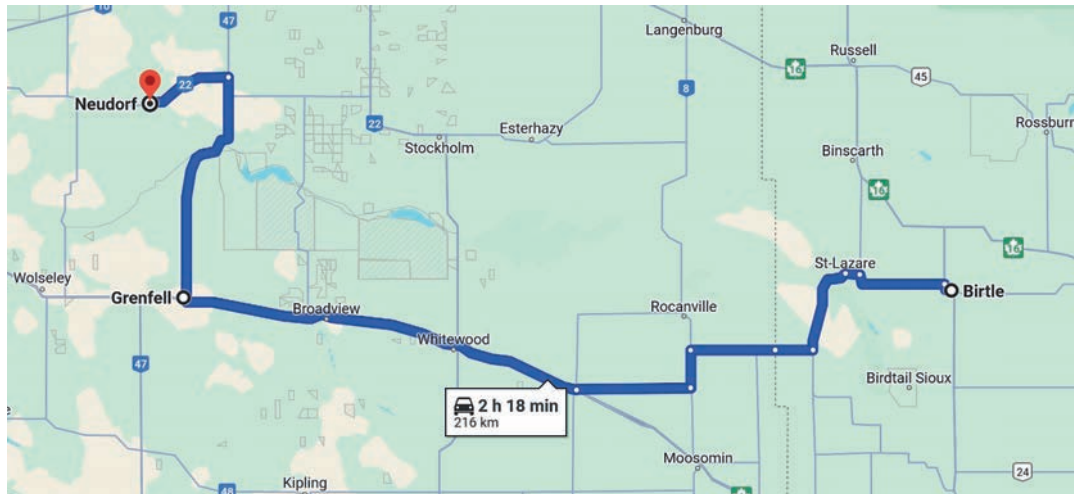
*Google map section showing Winnipeg to Birtle by highway today*



*The immigration hall is the building in the middle<sup>47</sup>*

<sup>47</sup> "Birtle, Small Town Manitoba", photo collection. Bill Hillman's Manitoba Photo Archive 52. (<http://www.hillmanweb.com/brandon/52.html> : accessed 16 January 2019).

Another reason it is might be possible that they went to Birtle is that Karl's sister and husband, Johan and Caroline Roland were definitely there at that time as two of their children became ill and died there; one on the 20 May and the other on 5 June of 1892. Note: After these tragedies, the couple seems to have maybe changed their minds about their western destination and travelled instead to Wisconsin taking Karl's younger sister Katherine with them as there was no indication they were planning this originally according to the ship records. *(For details, see their histories: Johann Roland & Caroline Assmann and Joseph Brennenstuhl & Katharina Assmann)*



Google map section showing Birtle to Grenfell and then on to Neudorf by highway today

### Finding a Homestead

Whether the family stayed in Birtle or Winnipeg, according to known immigrant travelling patterns, Karl left his family in the immigration hall, while he set out to stake their homestead in the Neudorf area. They would have taken the train to Grenfell first to choose a parcel of land from the Dominion Lands Office outlet there.

"The homestead process began with entry, which is a term that was used to describe the act of going to a Dominion Lands office and filing for a claim to a particular parcel of land or ,homestead."<sup>48</sup>

"Once in Saskatchewan and on their chosen quarter section of land, settlers had to meet certain obligations before the patent – or ownership – of the land was transferred from the Crown to the homesteader."<sup>49</sup>

As of 1886:

"The settler must commence cultivation of their homestead within six months of date of entry or, if entry was obtained on or after the first day of September in any year, before the first day of June following.

Within the first year after entry, the settler must break and prepare for crop no less than 5 acres. Within the second year, the settler must crop the initial 5 acres, and break and prepare for crop no less than 10 additional acres.

The settler must build a habitable house before end of second year and at the beginning of the third year must commence residence on homestead.

48 "Homesteading History and Background", Saskatchewan Archives. (<https://www.saskarchives.com/collection/homesteading> accessed: 28 Jan 2024).

49 Ibid.

The settler must give six months' notice in writing to the Commissioner of Dominion Lands of his/her intention to make application for patent."<sup>50</sup>

It's unknown how long it took Karl to make the trip and survey his new home area or select his homestead 'claim.' An account from years ago mentions, they walked on foot from Grenfell to the Neudorf area to inspect where they would be living, a distance of around 40 kilometres. He chose the Southeast Quarter, Section 20, Township 19, Range 8, West of the Second Meridian (SE ¼-20-19-8 W2), a parcel of land in its natural unbroken state which lay to the south of Neudorf. Then he returned to Manitoba to collect his family.

*Homesteads, Pre-emptions and Purchases of lands.*

			Jacob Adolf 193		Johann Gobel 194	Jakob Barron 191		Fred Thomas 193	
21		Jacob Bauer 196	Leon Bockmeyer 198	23	Johann Heinrich 193	Joseph Schmidt 192	25	F. Thomas 194	Jacob Gobel 194
Johann Strauss 193	Karl Baber 193		Emil Ellerman 192	Christian Schutz 198					
Filip Baber 192	Johann Baber 192	29	Johann Rothgaster 192	Elmer Ellerman 192	27		26		25
	A. Kenezik Jr. 195	A. Kenezik Sr. 195		21	Fred. Zilke 192	Leopold Brady 196	23	Karl Brady 193	Jacob Hall 193
19	Ignatz BEMER 192	Karl ASSMANN 193			Fredrick STEBEL 192	Philip Bender 196		Herman Rothgaster 192	Hudson Rothgaster 192
George Hahn 194	Christian Becker 193		Jacob Stear 192	George Sauer 193		Michael Hunsch 192	Rosilla Schwaib 192		
Herman Schaubert 192	Simon Repko 193	17	Michael Bender 192	Edward Tedel 192	15	Mary Temple 193	Andrew Hunsch 192	13	
		8		9	Johann Hahn 193	Christian Mueller 196		Andres Stein 194	Wm. Parker 193
Alex. McDonald 193	Paul Temple 193		Ernest Terry 192	Robt. Brown 192		Jacob Temple 193	Michael Hahn 193	Alex Campbell 196	James Parker 193
Jacob Ring 196	Karl Schaubert 190	5	Jacob James 194	James Browne 191	3		Wm. Holm 194		
						Christiane Krieger 192	Alex Campbell 196		

TWP 19 Range 8 W 2nd m.

The year of application is shown within each parcel of land.

This is a hand-drawn map done by Judith Silverthorne as noted from the RM maps at that time<sup>51</sup>

50 Ibid.

51 From the collection of Judith Silverthorne.



According to notes found in Edward Assman's materials, an unidentified interviewer spoke with Karl's oldest son John in his later year about the process of finding land. He noted that before Karl left the Neudorf area to return to his family, he searched for some accommodations for them to live while they built a home on their land.<sup>52</sup> John Goebel, a neighbor who lived four miles away from this new homestead, had offered Karl the use of an empty granary for his family until they could build a house. According to records, John Goebel did not formally 'prove' his homestead until 1894; however, he must have been there ahead of the Assman families, if he offered them an already built bin to use, and most likely he just didn't apply for his final homestead papers any earlier.

When Karl returned to gather his family in Manitoba, he also had to buy supplies. As there were rumoured to be no cattle to be bought in the Neudorf-Grenfell area, he had to buy what he wanted in Manitoba, either in Birtle or at Winnipeg, as many homesteaders did in those days. The cattle he bought were supposed to be broken in, but apparently, his weren't, so it was very difficult to control them in the direction they needed to go. Karl also had to purchase a wagon, a plow, tools, crop and garden seeds, and food staples before they could set out with their meagre personal belongings to their new homestead. This time they had to travel by land as it would have been too costly to take the train with the animals and supplies. They walked or road in the wagon.

Although there was an overall 900-mile trail called the Carleton Trail, once used by fur traders, which ran from the Red River Settlement (Winnipeg-started in about 1811) northwest to Fort Edmonton, names of the trail changed depending on the district it passed through. The section starting at Birtle was referred to as the Fort Ellice Trail (sometimes the Saskatchewan Trail). The broad trail entered present-day Saskatchewan (from Fort Ellice) near Welby/Spy Hill, continued northwest (just south of Melville).<sup>53</sup> Along the way it passed through St. Lazarre, Victor (now defunct), Welby, Spy Hill to Neudorf, and way beyond. This route eventually became the current railway line, called the Carleton Trail Railway Line.

This trail is likely the one Karl Assman's family took to get to their homesteads approximately 170 kilometres from Birtle (540 km from Winnipeg). As oxen travel much slower than a human at three miles an hour, or ten hours/day (maybe 40 miles a day)<sup>54</sup>, it likely took them up to two weeks to get from Birtle to Neudorf. This is provided the weather cooperated. If they had a team, they have made sixteen to eighteen miles a day. The trail itself apparently left a great

deal to be desired, often full of twists and turns. While broad, "the trail was also heavily rutted in places from the constant freight traffic and presented something of a nightmare because of the mud holes, some deep enough to swallow a wagon up to its box."<sup>55</sup>



*View of Fort Ellice from the north, 1890. The large building on the right side, with a covered balcony on the second floor over the entrance, is the Chief Factor's residence<sup>56</sup>*

<sup>52</sup> Notes and papers collected by Judith Silverthorne, some from Edward Assman.

<sup>53</sup> "History Matters: Carlton Trail once served as Saskatchewan's highway", article. Bill Waiser, updated July 2017. Saskatoon Star Phoenix newspaper. (<https://thestarphoenix.com/opinion/columnists/history-matters-carlton-trail-once-served-as-saskatchewans-highway> : accessed: 12 Sep 2019).

<sup>54</sup> Ibid.

<sup>55</sup> Ibid.

<sup>56</sup> Manitoba Historical Society Archives: (<https://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/fortellice.shtml> accessed: 28 Jan 2024.)

## Farming

Once they arrived and settled in to live in the bin provided by their neighbour, Karl with the help of Lizzie and the children set about to prove their homestead. They proceeded to build 16' x 20' a house. The cattle had to be tied to the trees because there weren't any buildings to put them in and no fences. The mosquitos were so bad the cattle would beller and often tear themselves loose. There was no manure with which to make a smudge, so they used poplar branches.

Karl had bought logs from Mr. Goebel, who had peeled them for his own use. After three weeks the walls of the house were up with a sod roof on. There were no windows or doors and no plaster on the walls of the new house, however they moved in. At least they no longer had to travel back and forth 4 km each day from their neighbour's twice a day. At night the mosquitos would almost eat them alive.

In July, Karl Assman's sister Elizabeth and brother-in-law, Ignatz Bender, and their family arrived from Russia; they were a family of nine and the Assman's six. The Bender's moved in with them and remained all winter. There were fifteen people living in the 16' by 20' house. The smaller ones slept six in a bed, three on each end. The others slept on tables and benches; it must have been quite an ordeal, for everyone.

The two men made hay. They built a stable for the cattle out of logs and had a sod roof. When harvest came the two men walked twenty-five miles to work south of Abernethy. Here there were some established farmers. They stooked and stacked sheaves for 75 cents a day. They threshed for twelve to fourteen hours for a dollar. At times the men would walk the 25 miles home on a Saturday night and back again on Sunday afternoon.

Both the house and barn had to be plastered before winter set in. Katherine Elisabeth Assman and Elisabeth Bender did the plastering of the house and stable, with the help of the children preparing the materials. They had to dig a pit down to the yellow clay. This clay had to be dug up about a shovel depth. Water was then poured over it and short hay was mixed in. The children had to tramp it until it was thoroughly mixed and then the women used it to plaster with.

Karl had the usual problem with the untrained oxen in their first attempt at breaking land. The loads were substantial, and they were not used to pulling anything that heavy. Jacob, his oldest son, was to lead them while his father regulated the plow. One time, the oxen made for the bush and Jacob was dragged along. There was also a water problem as there were no sloughs nearby, so they had to travel two miles for water.

The first years of homesteading, the families depended heavily on rabbits and prairie chickens for food along with bread, potatoes, and turnips they grew or bought from others that first summer. They were good gardeners and after a year they had an abundance of vegetables, the skills of which served them through the years and were passed down through the generations.

The Assman's had their first field crop in 1893 so they must have trained their oxen to work. A neighbor had a Massey binder and cut their first crop for them. A farmer with a steam threshing outfit which had no feeder or blower only an elevator with a bagging attachment did the threshing for them at \$10.00 per setting. They would thresh about five farms a day. Until the introduction of Marquis Wheat around 1912, Red Fyfe was the only variety grown here. It was a later maturing wheat, than marquis, by about a week or so. This along with new land which added to the late maturity of the grain, resulted in frequent damage to crops.

The Assman's and others soon realized that they would have to concentrate on livestock, especially milk cows and make butter to sell. Those who did not do so couldn't make money and had to leave their farms. 1894 must have been a good year as Karl and a neighbor bought a new

McCormick binder. That same year five neighbors got together and bought a steam threshing outfit.

According to his homestead papers, on 22 February 1893, Karl made an official entry and claimed a patent for the Southeast Quarter, Section 20, Township 19, Range 8, West of the Second Meridian (SE ¼-20-19-8 W2).

On 22 November 1895, another son, Carl arrived, after which two other children, both boys were born. They were called Theobald and Friedrich, however neither survived past infancy.

Statement Made and Sworn to by Karl Asman of his application for a Patent for Section 20 Twp. 19 Rge. 8 of 2 Meridian. Homestead 22 Pre-emption Karl Asman

1. What is your name in full, age and Post Office address? 18. Hodge

2. Are you a British subject by birth or naturalization? If naturalized, state when and where. you are naturalized in

3. What is your trade, profession or calling? Farmer PAT. BCH.

4. When did you obtain entry for this homestead? 22 Feb 1893 MAY 18 1897

5. When did you build your house thereon? in 1892 RECEIVED

6. When did you perfect your entry by your homestead by taking in your own person possession of the land and fulfilling conditions relative thereto and cultivation thereof? in 1892

7. What portion of each year since that date have you resided thereon? from 1892 up to date

8. When there from were abandoned? where have you resided, and what has been your occupation? wife & children

9. Of whom do your family consist, when did they first commence residing upon this homestead, and for what purpose of each year since that date have they resided upon it? same residence

10. How much breaking have you done upon your homestead in each year since you entered entry, and how many acres have you cultivated each year? 26 broke 15 acres  
74 broke 15 acres 18  
75 " 50 " do 20  
76 " 50 " do 20

11. How many head of cattle, horses, sheep and pigs did you have on your homestead each year since you entered entry? Give number for each year. 10 Horses 3 Hogs

12. What is the size of your house on your homestead, and what is the amount each year thereon? 32 x 16 \$100

13. What extent of dwelling have you made on your homestead, and what is the amount each year thereon? same

14. What other buildings have you made on your homestead? If so, state the nature of each, when and where they were built, and what they are used for. Log 16 x 16  
in 1892 \$100

15. Are there any indications of minerals or deposits on your homestead? If so, state the nature of each, when and where they were found, and what they are used for. None

16. Have you had any other homestead entry? If so, when and where, and what was the result? Yes

17. Have you mortgaged, released or transferred, or agreed to mortgage, release or transfer your homestead or any portion of it? If so, when and to whom? Yes

Form No. 125. (Revised Nov. 1904)

Three years, later, in 1897 Karl received the Patent on his homestead. According to his homestead papers, at this time they owned 10 head of cattle and three horses. He had fifty acres planted into crop and another 70 acres broken. His log house was extended to 32' x 16' and was valued at \$100.00. He also had two other log buildings, at stable and a granary measuring 45' x 16' and 24' x 16', valued at \$100. Karl met the requirements of breaking land, building a house and residing on the land; therefore, the local agent recommended the patent for approval, 1 May 1897. Witnesses to his application was George Sauer and Fredrich, both lived within the vicinity of Karl's homestead.<sup>57</sup>

Sworn before me at Asman To wit: Karl Asman do solemnly swear that the answers to the foregoing questions are true and correct in every particular, and that I claim a Patent for this Homestead under the provisions of the Act to

That I obtained an entry, and claim a Patent for the same for my own benefit, and not in the interest or for the benefit of any other person or persons whomsoever.

Sworn before me at Asman this 22 day of February 1897, Karl Asman having first been read over and explained to the said applicant.

Robert Local Agent of Dominion Lands for the District.

I recommend the foregoing application for Patent, believing that the homestead requirements of the "Dominion Lands Act" have, in this case, been complied with.

56644 Robert Local Agent of Dominion Lands for the District.

Witnesses: 10th May, 1897.

Accepted as sufficient, Asman Commissioner.

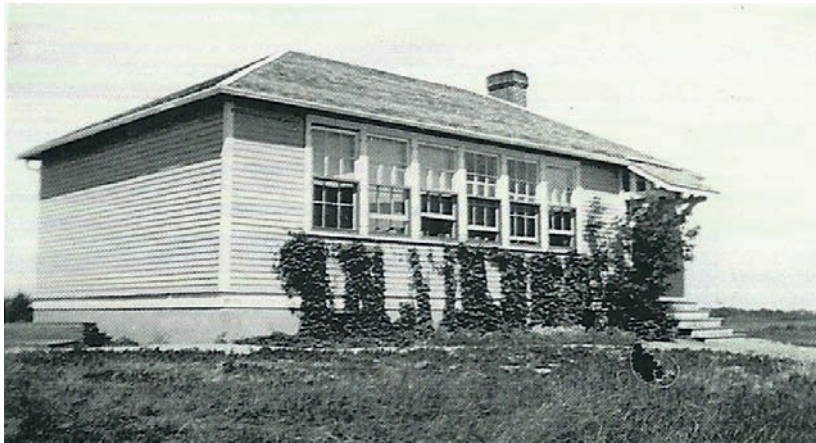
The five children mentioned in the homestead application likely were: Jacob, Johann, Elisabeth, Numidia Emilie, and Carl. Their ages were 12, 10, 7, 4, and 2, respectively. On 17 February in 1899 another son was born. They named him Friedrich (Fred) again, and he survived.<sup>58</sup>

57 Saskatchewan, Pre-1930 Homestead Files, Karl Asman, 1 May 1897; Saskatchewan Archives Board, Regina; R8.1609, film 4057162.

58 Obituary of Fred Assman (December 17, 1952, from unidentified (possibly Melville) newspaper).



This was also the year Karl, together with some of the other settlers, organized a school the Baber Public School, District 456 of the North-West Territories. It was built on the S.E. ¼-29-19-8, W2.



*Baber School*<sup>59</sup>

Located in the former School District #456, (SE of 29-18-8-w2nd), this is the second schoolhouse that was built in the same location in 1930 after the first one-room building with a small attached teacherage was demolished. The name was chosen to honour the Baber homestead settlers. The first trustees were Emil Ellerman, George Schweitzer and Karl Assman.

More than one former student, including Richard Assman, grandson of Karl, remarked on how their cutters and gigs hit an entrance gatepost on their way to or from the schoolyard, upsetting them. "We all went flying out!" Meanwhile the horse stood patiently by waiting for them to straighten themselves out.



*Baber School yard, after the school  
was moved away*<sup>60</sup>

John Assman went for one whole day the first year, before his father decided he needed him to help on the farm.

The following is information obtained from the census records. In the 1901 census, Karl and Elisabeth were listed as living in Tiree (includes townships 18, 19, and 19a in range 8, W2). They are likely in the same location as their homestead. Elisabeth and Karl had six living children by then: Jacob, Johann, Elisabeth, Emily, Carl, and Frederick. Only Elisabeth and Emily were

<sup>59</sup> From collection of Elaine Iles (née Assman).

<sup>60</sup> Photo from Judith Silverthorne Collection.

attending school. The census indicated Karl and Elisabeth and their 5 oldest could read and write at this time. The others had not started school yet, as they didn't usually go until they were 7 years old. All could speak English except their mother, Elisabeth and the two youngest children, Carl and Frederick.



At the time of the census, Lizzie and Karl must have been expecting another child, as on 1 April in 1901, another son, Henry was born, followed by Philip on 26 April, in 1903.

This was the same year that Karl purchased another 160 acres of land, SE 7-19-8 W2, from the CPR on 17 August 1903 for \$5 per acre (\$800). This land was assigned to Josef Gollinger 9 March 1911<sup>61</sup>, so it is assumed Karl later sold it to him outright.

Adolf, their last son, was born on 20 March 1906. He was a baby on his dad's lap in 1907 when his two old brothers, Jacob and John, married two Bender sisters, Caroline and Katherine. Karl and Lizzie's last child, a daughter they named Mary arrived on 11 August 1908.

*Karl and Elisabeth Assmann, 1907<sup>62</sup>*



*Karl & Elisabeth Assmann family, 1907 (l to r): Back row: Numidia Emily, Elisabeth, Katharine (née Bender, Johan's wife), Johann. Front row: Heinrich, Phillip, Katharine (née Erbach-sitting), Friedrich, Karl (sitting), Adolf (on lap), Carl, Caroline (née Bender wife of Jacob), Jacob<sup>63</sup>*

61 "CPR Land Sales", database, Glenbow Museum (<http://ww2.glenbow.org/search/archivesCPRSearch.aspx> : accessed 23 Oct 2016), Karl Asman.

62 Photo from Judith Silverthorne Collection.

63 Ibid.



Sometime after this, Karl and Lizzie may have decided to add on or rebuild their house. From photographs of ruins of buildings in their yard, it seems they had a substantially bigger house from the one that had been described in the homestead papers as a modest log building. This second house was also partially made of stones.



Left: Karl Assmann's original family home, after it was abandoned. There was a second two-storey home built after this one, which can be seen in the background in this photo<sup>64</sup>. Right: Karl Assmann's second house, ca. 1960s<sup>65</sup>

#### ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, NEUDORF

1911 - 1957  
*submitted by Mervin Gollinger*

St. John's Lutheran Church, located three and one-half miles west and six miles south of Neudorf, was founded on June 11, 1911. The organizational meeting took place in the home of Karl Assman. It was felt that a church was needed in the area because it was easier for the pastor to come out than for all of the people to get to services in town. Under the guidance of Rev. H. Schmidt a congregation was established, and the name 'Evangelical Lutheran St. John's Congregation, Rosewood School District' was chosen. Despite it being partly in the Lemberg area, the majority of the people called Neudorf their town.

Only once in the history of the congregation was the congregation served by a pastor who was not the pastor at Christ, Neudorf. This was during the year 1925 to 1926 when Rev. Kurt Schettler served St. John's, Neudorf and St. John's, Killaly.

At that meeting in June, 1911, Philip Schienbein, Karl Assman and Philip Miller were elected as an interim church council. At the first annual meeting, Jacob Ring, John Gerhardt, Philip Schienbein and Theobald Erbach were elected as the church council. At this meeting, January 3, 1912, a constitution was also adopted.

The church was erected in 1911 at a cost of \$1,600. In 1915 a motion was made to purchase an organ, provided the cost was under \$40. There isn't any record of who played the organ at first. In 1920 Miss Katherine Baber (Mrs. John Gollinger) became the first full time organist. She held this position for approximately 18 years, after which time Mrs. Otto Bender served till the closing of the church. On occasion someone else did fill in for them.

Because the congregation was part of a multiple parish, services were conducted twice a month and if there were five Sundays in a month, a third service was held. Also on festival days - such as Boxing Day and Easter Monday, morning services were conducted. Until 1951, all services were in the German language, after that one service was to be in English per month. It was also in 1951 that the minutes were recorded in English for the first time even though, when one scans the minutes, English had been gradually creeping in. The meeting of January 4, 1950 gives the following account: "Beschlossen ein blue print zu machen, und 6 volt Christmas Tree lights zu kaufen; Die stuhle anzustreichen oder second hand benches zu kaufen".

Due to declining membership, the advent of better roads and transportation, and many of the young people becoming more involved in the life of Christ Congregation, and they to disband and join Christ Congregation. All property and assets were transferred to Christ Congregation.

On Palm Sunday, 1958, the majority of the remaining members were accepted as members of Christ Church. Thus the chapter of a small rural congregation was closed and a new one began in the life on another congregation.

Taken from the 60th Anniversary Booklet Christ Lutheran Church. Thanks to Rev. R. Propp, who originally wrote the history for that booklet.

In June 1911 Karl held an organizational meeting in his home for the St. John's Lutheran Church. At this meeting they elected an interim council, which included Philip Schienbein, Philip Miller and Karl Assmann.<sup>66</sup>

By 1911, Elizabeth had married and left the family home. Emilie was living with her parents as a married woman at this time, likely because her husband Philip Rink was working elsewhere to save for their own place.



Karl and Lizzie's daughter, Elizabeth Assman, Sophie Bender (became daughter-in-law) & daughter, Numidia Emilie Assman<sup>67</sup>

64 Photo from Judith Silverthorne Collection.

65 From collection of Elaine Iles (née Assman).

66 St. John's Lutheran Church, Neudorf, 1911-1957. Originally in the Neudorf Celebrates 100 Years 1905-2005 book, Page 76.

67 Photo from Judith Silverthorne Collection.



CENSUS OF MANITOBA,  
KANSAS TOWNSHIP AND  
ALBERTA, 1911.

Province Sask.

Page 74

**[SCHEDULE]**  
**TABLEAU**

No. 4

(POPULATION BY NAME, PERSONAL DESCRIPTION, ETC.)  
(POPULATION - NOM, RENSEIGNEMENTS PERSONNELS, ETC.)

Enumeration District No. 28 Albert      S. District No. 6

(City, town, village, township or parish.)  
(City, ville, village, canton ou paroisse.)

Page 4

Enumeration of living persons by  
Unrecensement des vivants par

SEX AND AGE IN THE CASES OF FAMILIES		RESIDENCE AND PERSONAL DESCRIPTION										BAPTISM AND BIRTHDAY		CITIZENSHIP		RACE AND LANGUAGE		EDUCATION		PROFESSION, OCCUPATION OR SERVICE IN LIFE	
No.	Sex	Age	Name	Relationship to head of family	Marital status	Place of birth	Date of birth	Religion	Profession, occupation or service in life	Education	Baptism	Date of baptism	Citizenship	Date of citizenship	Race	Language	School	Date of school	Profession, occupation or service in life	Date of profession, occupation or service in life	
1	M	25	John	Head	Married	Canada	1885	Anglican	Farmer	High School	1895	1895	Canadian	1895	White	English	High School	1895	Farmer	1895	
2	F	22	Mary	Wife	Married	Canada	1889	Anglican	Homemaker	High School	1895	1895	Canadian	1895	White	English	High School	1895	Homemaker	1895	
3	M	18	Robert	Son	Single	Canada	1893	Anglican	Student	High School	1895	1895	Canadian	1895	White	English	High School	1895	Student	1895	
4	F	15	Elizabeth	Daughter	Single	Canada	1896	Anglican	Student	High School	1895	1895	Canadian	1895	White	English	High School	1895	Student	1895	
5	M	12	William	Son	Single	Canada	1899	Anglican	Student	High School	1895	1895	Canadian	1895	White	English	High School	1895	Student	1895	
6	F	10	Margaret	Daughter	Single	Canada	1901	Anglican	Student	High School	1895	1895	Canadian	1895	White	English	High School	1895	Student	1895	
7	M	8	John	Son	Single	Canada	1903	Anglican	Student	High School	1895	1895	Canadian	1895	White	English	High School	1895	Student	1895	
8	F	6	Elizabeth	Daughter	Single	Canada	1905	Anglican	Student	High School	1895	1895	Canadian	1895	White	English	High School	1895	Student	1895	
9	M	4	Robert	Son	Single	Canada	1907	Anglican	Student	High School	1895	1895	Canadian	1895	White	English	High School	1895	Student	1895	
10	F	3	Margaret	Daughter	Single	Canada	1909	Anglican	Student	High School	1895	1895	Canadian	1895	White	English	High School	1895	Student	1895	
11	M	2	William	Son	Single	Canada	1911	Anglican	Student	High School	1895	1895	Canadian	1895	White	English	High School	1895	Student	1895	
12	F	1	Elizabeth	Daughter	Single	Canada	1912	Anglican	Student	High School	1895	1895	Canadian	1895	White	English	High School	1895	Student	1895	
13	M	0	John	Son	Single	Canada	1913	Anglican	Student	High School	1895	1895	Canadian	1895	White	English	High School	1895	Student	1895	
14	F	0	Margaret	Daughter	Single	Canada	1914	Anglican	Student	High School	1895	1895	Canadian	1895	White	English	High School	1895	Student	1895	
15	M	0	Robert	Son	Single	Canada	1915	Anglican	Student	High School	1895	1895	Canadian	1895	White	English	High School	1895	Student	1895	
16	F	0	Elizabeth	Daughter	Single	Canada	1916	Anglican	Student	High School	1895	1895	Canadian	1895	White	English	High School	1895	Student	1895	
17	M	0	William	Son	Single	Canada	1917	Anglican	Student	High School	1895	1895	Canadian	1895	White	English	High School	1895	Student	1895	
18	F	0	Margaret	Daughter	Single	Canada	1918	Anglican	Student	High School	1895	1895	Canadian	1895	White	English	High School	18			

In September 1921, Karl had an apoplectic seizure (commonly referred to as a stroke) causing hemiplegia. As a result, he was paralyzed on one side. His granddaughter, Mary McConnachie was about three or four when Karl Assmann died, yet she remembered him paralyzed and sitting in this big chair with this big beard. She said, she would go to the farm to visit, and they'd push him up to the table in this big chair. The legs of the chair were badly worn to say the least. Grandmother (Erbach) lived with us [Jacob and Caroline Bender and family] off and on over the years and she was a darling.<sup>69</sup> Another stroke of apoplexy ended his life on 20 April 1926.<sup>70</sup> He was laid to rest in the St. John's Cemetery at Neudorf, Saskatchewan.

70 Saskatchewan Vital Statistics of Saskatchewan, death registration, 1417 (1926), Karl Assmann; eHealth Saskatchewan, Regina.





Left: Karl Assman Headstone. Right: St. John's Cemetery, 2013<sup>71</sup>

## Karl's Will

This is the Last Will and Testament of me, Karl Assman, Farmer, presently residing near Neudorf, Saskatchewan, I hereby revoking all former wills at any time made by me, and being desirous of settling my affairs in the event of my decease, and having full confidence in the persons afternamed as Trustees and Executors, Do hereby Give, Grant, Assign, Dispose, Convey and Make over to, and in favor of Jacob Assman, Philipp Schienbein and Theobald Erbach all of Neudorf, in the Province of Saskatchewan, and the survivor of them, as Trustees and in Trust for the purposes aftermentioned the whole Estate and Effects, heritable and movable, real and personal, presently belonging to me, and that shall belong to me at the time of my decease, together with the whole Writs and Vouchers thereof; and I nominate and Appoint the said Jacob Assman, Philipp Schienbein and Theobald Erbach and the survivor of them, to be my sole Executors and Trustees of this my Will, but declaring that these presents are granted in Trust always for the purpose aftermentioned, viz: ( First ) I direct my Executors and Trustees to first pay my just debts, personal and testamentary expenses. (Second) I give, devise and bequeath unto:---

1. my son Henry the South East quarter of section nine (9), in Township Nineteen (19), in Range Eight (8), west of the second Meridian and the South Half of the North West quarter of section four (4) in Township Nineteen (19) in Range eight (8) West of Second Meridian, when he, my son Henry, becomes twenty-five years of age & providing that my son Henry pays to my wife the sum of fifteen hundred (1500) dollars in three annual payments of five hundred (\$500) dollars each, the first payment to be made one year after my son Henry comes into possession of the said property.

2. My son Adolf the North West quarter of section nine (9) and the North East quarter of section seventeen (17) both quarters being in Township nineteen (19), in Range eight (8) West of Second Meridian when he, my son Adolf, becomes twenty five (25) years of age & providing that my son Adolf pays to my wife the sum of one thousand (1000) dollars in three (3) annual payments of equal denominations beginning one year after coming into possession of said property.

3. My daughter Mary the sum of one thousand (1000) Dollars when she arrives at the age of twenty (20) years.

4. My son Philipp the sum of one hundred (100) Dollars when he arrives at the age of twenty five (25) years.

5. My wife Katharina Elisabeth the South East quarter of section twenty (20); the South West quarter of Section four (4); and the South half of the North West quarter of section four (4), all three parcels being in Township Nineteen (19) in Range eight (8) West of second Meridian;

6. My wife Katharina Elisabeth all my personal and other property whatsoever of which I may be possessed of.

7. My wife Katharina Elisabeth all benefits derived from all my property whatsoever up to the time when my children under this Will come into possession of their respective shares.

8. I direct my Executors to refuse transfers to any of my sons herein named if they do not obey their mother, such lands to then revert to my wife Katharina Elisabeth.

And I reserve my full and full power to alter, innovate, or revoke these presents in whole or in part. And I dispense with the delivery hereof. And I consent to the registration hereof for preservation. In witness whereof I have subscribed these presents written (in so far as not printed) by the Rev E. Schmek, of Neudorf, Saskatchewan at Neudorf this Seventh (7) day of July Nineteen hundred and Twenty four

Signed, published and declared by the above named Testator and for his

Last Will and Testament in the presence of us both present at the same time, who at his request and in his presence have hereunto subscribed our names as witnesses.

(Witnesses)

Hans Karl Bender, former Address Neudorf, Saskatchewan  
Wm E. Schmek, Clergyman Address Neudorf, Saskatchewan.

Karl Assman

Karl's will. Executors were Jacob Assman (eldest son), Philipp Schienbein (most likely a friend or neighbour) and Theobald Erbach (brother-in-law).

<sup>71</sup> Photos from Judith Silverthorne Collection.

Bequeathed:

To son, Henry, SE 9-19-8 W2<sup>72</sup> and north half of NW 4-19-8 W2 when he becomes 25 years of age and providing Henry pays \$1500 in three annual payments of \$500 to his wife, Katharina Elisabeth Assman, starting one year after Henry comes into possession of the property.

To Adolf, NW 9-19-8 W2 and NE 17-19-8 W2,<sup>73</sup> when Adolf reaches the age of 25 and provided he pays Katharina Elisabeth Assman \$1000 in three annual payments of equal denominations beginning one year after coming into possession of the property.

To daughter Mary, \$1000 when she reaches the age of 20 years.

To wife, Katharina Elisabeth, SE 20-19-8 W2, SW 4-19-8 W2, the south half of NW 4-19-8 W2, all personal and other property and all of the benefits derived from all of the property until the children receive possession of the property.

The executors were directed to refuse transfer of the property to the sons if they did not obey their mother. The property would revert to Katharina Elisabeth.

Witnesses were Karl Bender (cousin, son of Ignatz?), Neudorf, and E. Schmok, clergyman, Neudorf.

Katharina Elisabeth Assman continued living in her home for many years. Her son Adolf brought his new bride Marie Elizabeth Krahenbil to live there. They had four children born there before they moved to their own place. Once they left, she eventually moved into a small house in Neudorf for a time where she lived on her own.

### Elisabeth's Death

She was living with her youngest daughter and son-in-law, Mary and Henry Heinemann when she passed on 30 January 1945. Their home was on 4-14-5 W2. She was eighty-two years old. She was buried beside her husband in the St. John's Lutheran Cemetery, Neudorf.



*Grave markers of Katharina Elisabeth and Karl Assman, St. John's Lutheran Cemetery, SE 18-18-8 W2, Neudorf, Saskatchewan<sup>74</sup>*

Translation on headstone:  
Katharina Elisabeth Assman –  
1863-1945  
Hier ruhet in Frieden Mutter  
Sie war der Sonnenschein in  
unserem Heim

Here Rest in Peace Mother  
She was the sunshine of our home

72 This land was purchased for \$3/acre (\$480) 21 March 1898 from CPR. „CPR Land Sales,” database, Glenbow Museum (<http://ww2.glenbow.org/search/archivesCPRSearch.aspx> : accessed 23 Oct 2016), Karl Asman.

73 This land was purchased from CPR 15 November 1900 for \$3 per acre (\$480) „CPR Land Sales,” database, Glenbow Museum (<http://ww2.glenbow.org/search/archivesCPRSearch.aspx> : accessed 23 Oct 2016), Karl Asman.

74 Katharina Elisabeth and Karl Assman grave markers photograph; digital image, privately held by Judith Silverthorne, [address for private use.] Regina, Saskatchewan, 2008.



THIS FORM, if placed in an unsealed envelope marked "unopened records—death, penalty for tampering use, \$200", and addressed to the Registrar of the Registration Division in which the death occurred, will pass through the mail "FREE".

PROVINCE OF SASKATCHEWAN

For use of Department only.  
No. 632 1945

**RECORD OF REGISTRATION OF DEATH**

Registration Division of Kingsley Rural Municipality No. 124

1. PLACE OF DEATH Sec 4-14-5- W 2nd #724

2. LENGTH OF STAY (in years, months and days)  
(a) In municipality where death occurred 20 years (b) In Province 53 yrs (c) In Canada (if immigrant) 53 yrs

3. PRINT FULL NAME OF DECEASED Kathlena Elisabeth Assman #724

RESIDENCE Sec 4-14-5- W 2nd

4. SEX Female 5. CITIZENSHIP Canadian 6. RACIAL ORIGIN Germans 7. Single, Married, Widowed or Divorced Widowed 8. BIRTHPLACE (Province or Country) Austria

9. DATE OF BIRTH Nov 13 1883 10. AGE in Years 61 Months 3 Days 17 If less than one day hrs. or min.

USUAL OCCUPATION 11. Trade, profession or kind of work as farmer, teamster, office clerk, etc. Retired housewife

12. Kind of industry or business, as agriculture, lumbering, bank, etc.

13. Date deceased last worked at this occupation 1943 14. Total years spent in this occupation 51 yrs

PARENTS 15. Name of father Richard Erbisch 16. Birthplace of father Austria (Province or Country)

17. Maiden name of mother Catherina Peters 18. Birthplace of mother Austria (Province or Country)

19. Signature of Informant Harry Assmann Address Kingsley, Sask. 20. Relationship to deceased son-in-law

21. Place of burial, cremation or removal Metnitz Cemetery Date of burial, cremation or removal Feb 1 1945

22. Signature of Undertaker or person acting as Undertaker J. A. H. Bloss Wendland St. Sask (Name and address)

MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

23. DATE OF DEATH Jan 3 (Month) (Day) (Year)

WHITE PLAINLY WITH UNFAIRING INK. THIS IS A PERMANENT RECORD. (See reverse side for instructions). Every item of information should be carefully supplied.

FOR GENEALOGY ONLY

Katharina Elisabeth Assman's  
Death Record

The death record says her name as Kathlena, but she went by Katharina on legal documents, and this may have simply been a language pronunciation miscommunication on behalf of the person filling out the form.

#### Children of Karl & Elisabeth Assmann:

The first three children were born in Metnitz, Volhynia, Russia

**Johann Assmann**, later known as Jacob, born 22 August 1884;<sup>75</sup> married Caroline Bender;<sup>76</sup> died 12 December 1970, Melville, Saskatchewan.<sup>77</sup> NB: he celebrated his birthday on August 18.

**Johann Assman**, born 12 January 1887; married Katarina Bender; died 22 January 1981, Melville, Saskatchewan.<sup>78</sup>

75 Protestant Lutheran Church (Metnitz, Zhitomir parish, Russia), Metrical books, 1870-1885, „Birth, marriages, deaths 1885,” film 1897692, item 1, p. 94, image 27, register 1075, Johann Assman; digital images, Family Search (familysearch.org : accessed 27 September 2016).

76 Neudorf, McLeod, Saskatchewan, Birth Registrations May 1917 to Jun 1918, Wilhelm Werner Assmann; McLeod RM 185 Office, Neudorf.

77 Unknown, „Family Unit of Jacob and Caroline Bender,” supplied 2008 by Unknown, [ADDRESS FOR PRIVATE USE,] Regina, Saskatchewan; Likely completed by one of Jacob and Caroline's children.

78 „Death Notice Assman,” Unknown newspaper, published shortly after death, copy in author's file. Funeral Bulletin of John Assman (undated bulletin from Townsend Funeral Chapel).

**Elisabeth Assman**, born 1 October 1889; married Walter Ernest Moore;<sup>79</sup> died 12 January 1916, Winnipeg, Manitoba.<sup>80</sup>

**Numidia Emily Assman**, born 1 May 1892, S.S. Numidian, Atlantic Ocean;<sup>81</sup> married Philip Rink; died 16 December 1927.<sup>82</sup>

The remainder of the children were born at home on the farm near Neudorf, Saskatchewan, Canada, known as North-West Territories prior to September 1905.

**Carl Assmann**, born 1 November 1894;<sup>83</sup> married Helena Gollinger;<sup>84</sup> then married Sophia Bender;<sup>85</sup> died 15 July 1972, Melville, Saskatchewan.<sup>86</sup>

**Friedrich Assman**, born between 1895 and 1899; did not survive infancy.

**Theobald Assman**, born 21 March 1897;<sup>87</sup> did not survive infancy.<sup>88</sup>

**Friedrich Assman**, born 17 February 1899;<sup>89</sup> married Elisabeth Schienbein;<sup>90</sup> died 12 December 1952, Melville, Saskatchewan.<sup>91</sup>

**Heinrich Assmann**, born 4 April 1901;<sup>92</sup> married Philipena Ulmer;<sup>93</sup> died 12 January 1979.<sup>94</sup>

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79 Saskatchewan Department of Public Health, Division of Vital Statistics, 2732, Moore-Assman; eHealth Saskatchewan, Vital Statistics Registry, Regina.

80 Manitoba Province of Manitoba, Official Notice of Death, (1916), Elizabeth (Asman) Moore; Manitoba Vital Statistics Agency, Winnipeg.

81 Marine Births Indices 1837 to 1965, , no. 98,659, Numidia Emily Assman (1892).

82 Saint John's Lutheran Cemetery (Neudorf, Saskatchewan; SE 18-19-8-W2), Numidia Emilie Rink marker, photographed by Shelley Kloczko, May 22, 2009.

83 Saskatchewan Department of Public Health -- Division of Vital Statistics, births 969 [handwritten] 3793 [stamped] (1896), Charles Osman; eHealth Saskatchewan, Regina.

84 Rural Municipality of McLeod #185, Saskatchewan, August 1916 to February 1922, Assman-Gollinger, 1918; McLeod RM 185 Office, Neudorf.

85 McLeod RM, Saskatchewan, marriage registration, Aug 1916 to Feb 1922, Assmann-Bender, 1921; McLeod Rural Municipality Office #185, Neudorf.

86 "Assman", (Regina) The Leader Post, published shortly after death, 20 May 1974.

87 Saskatchewan Health, Vital Statistics, Saskatchewan Health, Vital Statistics Birth Records (On-line [http://vsgs.health.gov.sk.ca/vsgs\\_srch.aspx](http://vsgs.health.gov.sk.ca/vsgs_srch.aspx)), September 8, 2006.

88 Sask Vital Statistics, „Genealogy Index,” database, eHealth Saskatchewan ([http://genealogy.ehealthsask.ca/vsgs\\_srch.aspx](http://genealogy.ehealthsask.ca/vsgs_srch.aspx) : accessed 26 October 2020), [transcribed] Leofold Assmann, death registration # 3433.

89 1901 census of Canada, Assiniboia, district 203, sub-district R(3), T1ree, p. 5, dwelling 35, family 35, Karl Asman household; RG 31; digital images, Automated Genealogy (<http://automatedgenealogy.com> : accessed 16 September 2016).

90 Rural Municipality of McLeod #185, Saskatchewan, Marriage Registrations, Assmann-Schienein, 1921; McLeod RM 185 Office, Neudorf.

91 Obituary of Fred Assman (December 17, 1952, from unidentified (possibly Melville) newspaper).

92 Neudorf, McLeod, Saskatchewan, Births December 1933 to March 1935, p. 86, 10 December 1934, Henry Assman; McLeod RM 185 Office, Neudorf.

93 Neudorf, McLeod, Saskatchewan, Births (December 1931 to December 1933), p. 57, Leonard Elmer Assman, child of Henry Assman and Philippina Ulmer; McLeod RM 185 Office, Neudorf.

94 Erb & Good Family Funeral Home, „Obituary,” database and images, Erb & Good Family Funeral Home ([www.erb-good.com](http://www.erb-good.com) : accessed 5 Jan 2013); Obituary of Clarence „Clare” Ausman 1931-2012; Obits for Life.com.

**Philipp Assman**, born 26 April 1903;<sup>95</sup> married Anna Schutz;<sup>96</sup> died 11 December 1991<sup>97</sup>.

**Adolf Assman**, born 20 March 1906;<sup>98</sup> married Marie Elisabeth Krahenbil;<sup>99</sup> died 21 May 1998<sup>100</sup>.

**Maria Carolina Assman**, born 11 August 1908;<sup>101</sup> married Heinrich Heinemann;<sup>102</sup> died 28 January 2002, Kipling, Saskatchewan.<sup>103</sup>

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95 Funeral Bulletin of Philip Assman (b: 1903) (Undated, shortly after death).

96 Neudorf, McLeod, Saskatchewan, Births (December 1931 to December 1933), p. 10, Elroy Carl Assman; McLeod RM 185 Office, Neudorf.

97 Funeral Bulletin of Philip Assman (b: 1903) (Undated, shortly after death).

98 Saskatchewan Health, Vital Statistics, Saskatchewan Health, Vital Statistics Birth Records (On-line [http://vsgs.health.gov.sk.ca/vsgs\\_srch.aspx](http://vsgs.health.gov.sk.ca/vsgs_srch.aspx)), September 8, 2006.

99 Neudorf, McLeod, Saskatchewan, Births (December 1931 to December 1933), p. 29, Wilbert Clifford Assman, child of Adolf Assman; McLeod RM 185 Office, Neudorf.

100 Unknown Saskatchewan Newspaper, Adolf Assman, undated clipping.

101 Province of Saskatchewan, „Saskatchewan Vital Statistics,” database, Information Services Corporation ([https://www.isc.ca/VitalStatistics/Genealogy/vsgs\\_srch.aspx](https://www.isc.ca/VitalStatistics/Genealogy/vsgs_srch.aspx) : accessed 23 September 2009), Maria Caroline Assmann.

102 Rural Municipality of McLeod #185, Saskatchewan, Marriage Registrations (August 1925 to December 1934, Heinemann-Assmann, 1928; McLeod RM 185 Office, Neudorf.

103 Leader-Post (Regina, Saskatchewan), Mary (Assman) Heinemann obituary, January 28, 2002.



## JOHANN ASSMANN & SOPHIA TIEFENBACH

**Johann Assmann**, born April 1864<sup>1</sup> in Jaschen, Galicia, Austria;<sup>2</sup> died 25 November 1928, at Manawa, Waupaca County, Wisconsin, USA.<sup>3</sup> He married 1 June 1888 in Haradsche, Volhynia, Russia (Rozyszcze parish), **Sophia Tiefenbach**, daughter of Johannes Tiefenbach (1831-1887) and Marie Elisabeth (née Knipelberg) Tiefenbach (1829-1887).<sup>4</sup> Sophia was born 29 July 1871 in Zboiska, Galicia, Austro-Hungarian Empire;<sup>5</sup> died 9 August 1942 at New London, Outagamie, Wisconsin, USA.<sup>6</sup>

Johann was the second and last son born to Johann Jakob Assmann and Maria Elisabeth Reisdorf, as far as records have indicated so far. Although the exact date is unknown, it seems reasonable that sometime between the summer of 1871 and fall 1872 Jakob and Maria moved Johann and the rest of the family to Metnitz, Volhynia, Russia. They were listed in Alt Jazow for the June 1871 wedding of their daughter Eva,<sup>7</sup> sister to Johann, but by November 1872 Johann's youngest sister, Katharina was baptized in Metnitz, Volhynia.<sup>8</sup>

He would have mostly grown up under Russian rule, and by the time he was an adult, he would have been anxious to have his own land and probably a better way of life than was currently available, especially as he married Sophia Tiefenbach on 1 June in 1888, just after he turned 25.

At the time of their marriage, Sophia was 17, almost 18. She was born in Zboiska on the 29 July 1871, the second youngest of thirteen children. She was baptized Lutheran the next day in Torki, in the Greek Catholic church. She seems to have grown up in Zboiska, though her father's family originally came from Josefow, and her mother's from Heinrichsdorf.<sup>9</sup> Sophia indicated she completed grade four in school.<sup>10</sup> Her parents had been married in 1847 in Suszno, and all their children were born in Zboiska.<sup>11</sup> All of these places were in close vicinity within Galicia

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1 Birth on 1900 Census, says April 1844, but the year is calculated incorrectly. His age is 36 so birth year is 1864. 1900 U.S. census, Waupaca, Wisconsin, population schedule, Union, enumeration district (ED) 126, sheet 7A, image 13, dwelling 114, family 114, John Asman; digital images, Ancestry (<http://ancestry.com> : accessed 29 Nov 2018); citing NARA microfilm T623.

2 (Rozyszcze parish, Russia), Volhynia, Kiev and Podolia Lutheran Parishes, Johann Assmann and Sophia Tiefenbach marriage, 1888, p 242, no. 291; digital images, Society for German Genealogy in Eastern Europe (<http://sggee.org> : accessed 5 November 2016).

3 Appleton Post Crescent, 10 December 1928, p. 10, col. 5; digital images, Ancestry.com ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) : accessed 27 August 2010).

4 Haradsche (Rozyszcze parish, Volhynia, Russia), Assmann-Tiefenbach, page 242, item 291; digital images, The Central Archives of Historical Records in Warsaw (<http://agad.gov.pl/> : accessed 17 Dec 2018).

5 Hilfskomitee der Galiziendeutschen, Ortsfamilienbuch Zboiska (Sokal) 1836-1900; PDF download, Galizien German Descendants (<http://www.galiziengerm descendants.org/Familybooks.htm> : downloaded 31 Dec 2018), 271, family 300, Johannes Tiefenbach.

6 Waupaca County, Wisconsin, Probate records, 1942 PR005329, Sofie Asmann; Waupaca Court House, Waupaca.

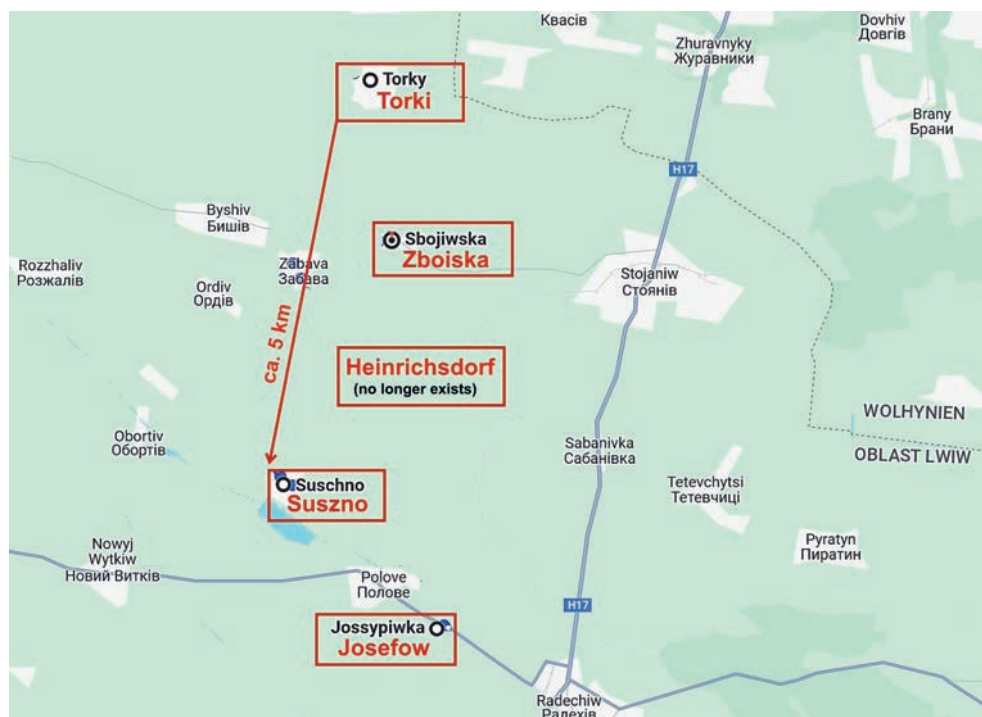
7 Hilfskomitee der Galiziendeutschen, Ortsfamilienbuch Alt Jazow, 1786-1894; PDF download, Galizien German Family Books (<http://www.galiziengerm descendants.org/Familybooks.htm>), p 182, family 318, Josef Franz Schick.

8 Protestant Lutheran Church (Mettitz, Zhitomir parish, Russia), Metrical books, 1870-1885, „Births, marriages, and deaths 1873”, film 1895621, item 1, p. 313, register 279, Katharina Assmann; digital images, Family Search ([familysearch.org](http://familysearch.org) : accessed 27 September 2016).

9 Hilfskomitee der Galiziendeutschen, Ortsfamilienbuch Zboiska (Sokal) 1836-1900; PDF download, Galizien German Descendants (<http://www.galiziengerm descendants.org/Familybooks.htm> : downloaded 31 Dec 2018), 271, family 300, Johannes Tiefenbach.

10 1940 U.S. census, Waupaca County, Wisconsin, population schedule, Union Township, enumeration district (ED) 68-39, sheet 10B, image 21, household 185, Sophia Asman household; digital images, Ancestry (<http://ancestry.com> : accessed 30 Nov 2018); citing National Archives and Records Administration microfilm T627, roll m-t0627-04535.

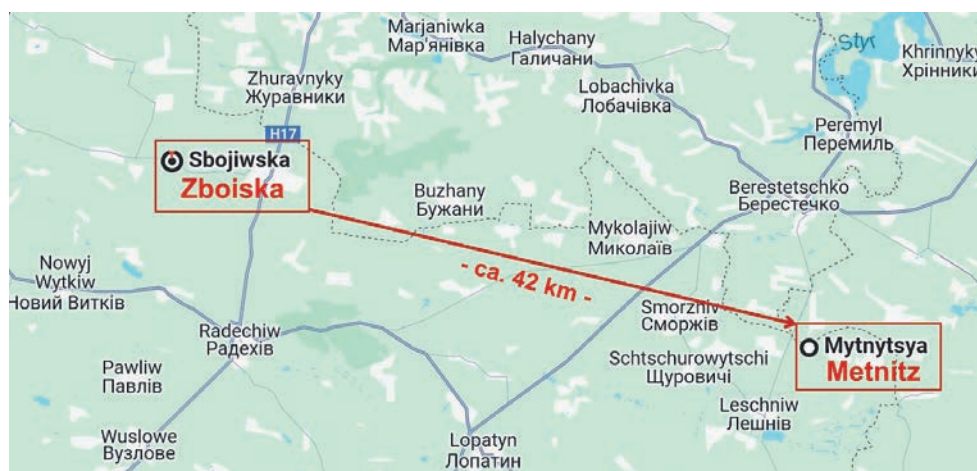
11 See footnote 9.



*Zboiska and Vicinity<sup>12</sup>*

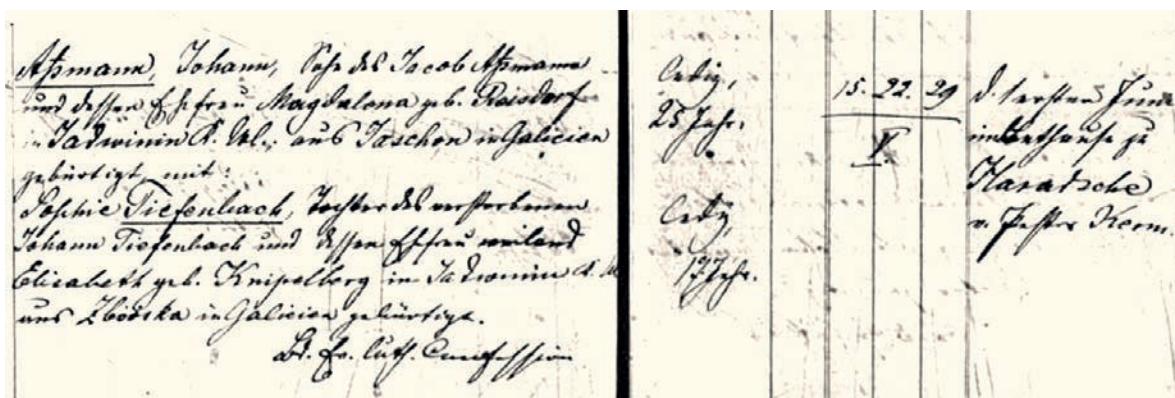
Unfortunately, neither of Sophia's parents were there for her wedding in 1888. Her father, a farmer, died from suicide in February 1887 and her mother in August only a few months later. Her father was 56 and her mother was 57 or 58. Both were laid to rest in Zboiska.<sup>13</sup>

This raises a curious question as to how arrangements were made for Johann Assmann and Sophia to marry. Johann's family had been living in presumably Metnitz, Volhynia, Russia, for some fifteen or sixteen years, and Sophia was supposedly still living at Zboiska, Galicia, Austria. Yet, they did get together as proven by their marriage record. A possible way they knew each other was through Johann's grandmother through his mother's side was Elisabetha Petri whose sister (Elisabetha Margaret) married a Knipelberg.



<sup>12</sup> Google Maps.

<sup>13</sup> Hilfskomitee der Galiziendeutschen, Ortsfamilienbuch Zboiska (Sokal) 1836-1900; PDF download, Galizien German Descendants (<http://www.galiziengermansdescendants.org/Familybooks.htm> : downloaded 31 Dec 2018), 271, family 300, Johannes Tiefenbach.



Johann Assmann and Sophia Tiefenbach marriage record<sup>14</sup>

#### German Transcription:

Assmann, Johann, Sohn des Jacob Assmann  
und dessen Ehefrau Magdalena geb. Reisdorf,  
in Jadwinin K. Pol., aus Jaschen in Galicien  
gebürtigt mit:

Sophie Tiefenbach, Tochter des verstorbenen  
Johann Tiefenbach und dessen Ehefrau weiland  
Elisabeth geb. Knipelberg in Jadwinin K. Gal.  
aus Zboiska in Galicien gebürtigt

Bd. Ev. luth. Confession

ledig,  
25 Jahr

15. 22. 29.  
V.

d. ersten Juni  
im Bethause zu  
Haradsche  
v. Pastor Kerm

ledig,  
17 Jahr

#### English Translation:

Assmann, Johann, son of Jacob Assmann  
and his wife Magdalena née Reisdorf,  
living in Jadwinin K. Pol., from Jaschen in Galicia  
is married to:

Sophie Tiefenbach, daughter of the late  
Johann Tiefenbach and his late wife  
Elisabeth née Knipelberg, living in Jadwinin K. Gal.,  
from Zboiska in Galicia

Both Protestant Lutheran Confession

single,  
25 years

15. 22. 29.  
V.

on the first of June  
in the chapel at  
Haradsche  
by Pastor Kerm

single,  
17 years

[Banns  
proclaimed,  
i.e. 15., 22.,  
29. May]

Johann and Sophia started their family almost immediately with their first son Jacob Assmann being born on 29 May 1889 in what is listed as Jadwinin, Volhynia. Jadwinin was located about 98 km east of Metnitz.



A year and a half later, their daughter Elisabeth was born on 9 January in 1891 in the same location. They went on to have ten children in all.

The current map of Ukraine shows the distance between former Jadwinin (today Novosilka) and Metnitz (Mytnytsya)

<sup>14</sup> (Rozyszcze parish, Russia), Volhynia, Kiev and Podolia Lutheran Parishes, Johann Assmann and Sophia Tiefenbach marriage, 1888, p 243, no. 291; digital images, Society for German Genealogy in Eastern Europe (<http://sggee.org>; accessed 5 November 2016).



Not long after Elisabeth was born, Johann and Sophia decided to take the plunge and go to North America as the rest of his immediate family was doing. They were enticed by the land and shipping line agents and the posters that offered a promising future.

At the time of their travel, Johann's other siblings and their families were on different ships than he and Sophia as they had decided to go directly to the United States. Even though some were going to the same destination in Wisconsin, the others travelled through Winnipeg where some would continue on to the Canadian Prairies and the rest detoured to Wisconsin. Johann and Sophia had decided to go directly to the United States, instead of through Canada. They also travelled with Joseph Brennenstuhl, who would later marry Katharina Assmann, Johann's youngest sister; who had originally travelled on the ship with her brother Karl Assmann and his family to Canada. Philipp and Elisabeth Rohland, and their children were also in the group.<sup>15</sup>

The group made their way across country to Hamburg, where on 7 May 1892 they caught a German steamship called the Scandia, which took them indirectly through New York and then to the port of Baltimore. *(For information on the travel from Volhynia, Russia to Germany and the conditions they likely faced on their ship voyage, see the chapter on Karl Assmann & Elisabeth Erbach.)*

NAMES.	AGE		SEX	Occupation or Calling	The Country of which they are Citizens	Intended Destination	Hailing place	Date and Cause of Death	Location of compartment or space each occupied	No. of space of baggage
	Years	Months								
266 Catharine Rohland	10		F						4 Board	
1 Barbara "	10		F						"	
3 Emma "	4		F						"	
4 Sofia "	2		F						"	
110 Josef Brennenstuhl	22		M	farmer	"	"	"		"	
1 John Assmann	25		M	"	"	"	"		"	
2 Sofia "	21		F	wife	"	"	W. S. G. H.		"	
3 Sarah "	3		F	child	"	"	"		"	
4 Lisa "			F	child	"	"	"		"	

Above: Scandia Ship Passenger List (the ship to Baltimore)<sup>16</sup>.

Below: Immigrants on deck of steamer „Germanic.“ Arriving in U.S., 1887 (Wikimedia Commons)



15 Philipp Rohland [Roland] may have been a brother to John Roland, husband of Caroline Assman, Johann's sister. See the section on Caroline and Johann Roland for a link to Philipp.

16 „Passenger Lists, 1820-1957“, online images, Ancestry (<http://ancestry.com> : accessed 25 May 2018), manifest, Scandia, 20 May 1892, Johs Asmann & family, page 105, line 271 to 274.

Hamburg Passenger Lists, 1850-1934										Hamburg Passenger Lists, 1850-1934									
Passenger	First Name	Last Name	Age	Sex	Birth Date	Birth Place	Occupation	Destination	Remarks	Passenger	First Name	Last Name	Age	Sex	Birth Date	Birth Place	Occupation	Destination	Remarks
Assmann	Johann	Assmann	35	M	1857	Hamburg	Merchant	USA		Assmann	Johann	Assmann	35	M	1857	Hamburg	Merchant	USA	
Assmann	Elisabeth	Assmann	32	F	1860	Hamburg	Housewife	USA		Assmann	Elisabeth	Assmann	32	F	1860	Hamburg	Housewife	USA	
Assmann	Jacob	Assmann	10	M	1882	Hamburg	Student	USA		Assmann	Jacob	Assmann	10	M	1882	Hamburg	Student	USA	
Assmann	Sophia	Assmann	8	F	1884	Hamburg	Student	USA		Assmann	Sophia	Assmann	8	F	1884	Hamburg	Student	USA	
Assmann	August	Assmann	5	M	1887	Hamburg	Student	USA		Assmann	August	Assmann	5	M	1887	Hamburg	Student	USA	
Assmann	Bertha	Assmann	2	F	1890	Hamburg	Child	USA		Assmann	Bertha	Assmann	2	F	1890	Hamburg	Child	USA	

Hamburg Passenger List<sup>17</sup>

They arrived on the shores of the U.S. on 20 May 1892. Sophie was expecting their third child and Elizabeth was still a babe in arms.



Johann Assmann Family, circa 1899

Left to right: Elisabeth, Johann, Jacob, Sophia, August, and the two children in front are Johann J, and Bertha.<sup>18</sup>

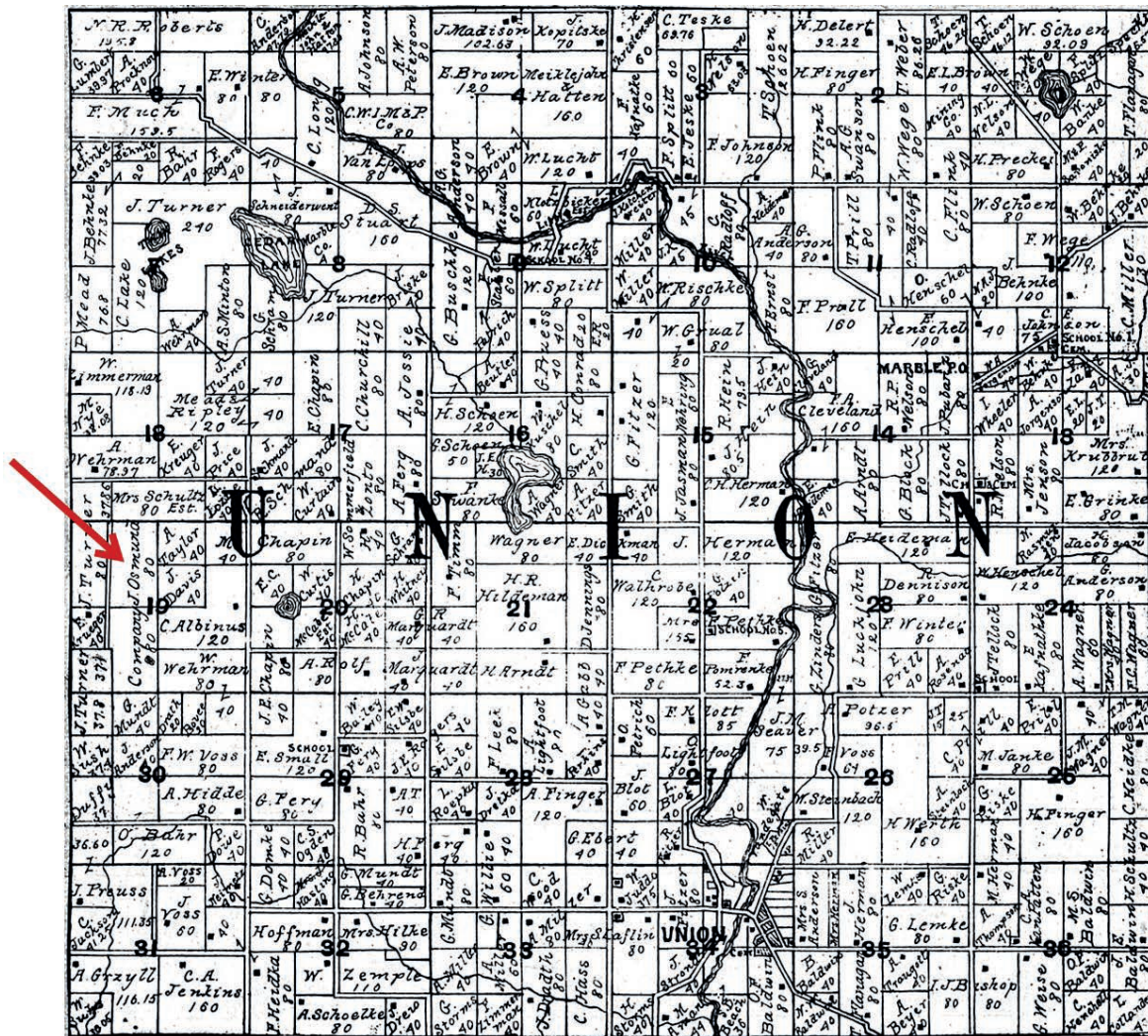
17 „Hamburg Passenger Lists, 1850-1934,” Scandia, departed 7 May 1892, image 65, Staatsarchiv Hamburg; Microfilm No.: K\_1746; digital images, Ancestry (<http://ancestry.com> : accessed 15 May 2018).

18 Johann Assmann Family; digital image, archive Shelley Kloczko. Date of photograph is estimated based on Bertha looking like she is two years old.



Johann and his family are located in the 1900 U.S. Census, taken 1 June 1900, in Union Township, Waupaca County, Wisconsin, USA. There are three more children: August (born 1892), John (born 1895), and Bertha (born 1897). Johann is renting a farm and his US citizenship is pending.

Johann and Sophia first made their home at Union where they settled on a farm. Eventually they turned it into a dairy farm.



The map of Waupaca County where the family lived in 1901<sup>19</sup>

In 1905, Johann and Sophia have two more children: Henry and Anna. Johann now owns the farm with a mortgage in Union Township.<sup>20</sup>

By 1910, their two oldest sons, Jacob and August, are no longer living at home and there are four more children ranging in age from three to nine years: Heinrich, Anna, Ernestine, and Alvin.<sup>21</sup>

19 U.S. County Land Ownership Maps, 1860-1918. Digital image. Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. Ancestry (<http://ancestry.com> : accessed 26 June 2010), Union Township 1912.

20 1905 Wisconsin State Census, population schedule, Waupaca, Union, p. 25 dwelling 58, John Assman household; digital images, Ancestry (<http://ancestry.com> : 4 September 2017); citing Wisconsin Historical Society, Madison, Wisconsin, film CSUSAW1905\_32.

21 1910 US Census, Wisconsin, Waupaca, Union Township; digital images, Ancestry (<http://ancestry.com> : accessed 4 September 2017) p. 5, dwelling 94, John Assman household.; citing NARA microfilm T624.



Jacob and August left for Scandinavia Township, Waupaca County, and were working as farm labourers.<sup>22</sup> Albert, Johann and Sophia's tenth child, is born about 1917. Elisabeth, John, and Bertha have left home by 1920. Henry is helping with the dairy farming and appears to be his father's employee according to the 1920 U.S. Census. John is mortgage free by January of this year.<sup>23</sup>



*Barn, Johann Asmann  
Homestead<sup>24</sup>*

**John Asman, 64, pioneer resident of this locality, died at his home here, Monday, following a paralytic stroke. Mr. Asman was born in 1864 but came to this country in 1892, settling on a farm in the town of Union, Waupaca. He moved to Manawa four years ago. He is survived by his widow and ten children. Funeral services were held Wednesday afternoon from St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran church here; the Rëv. R. A. Karpinsky officiating. Interment was made in the Symco cemetery.**

Monday, December 10, 1928, the Appleton Post-Crescent, Appleton, Wisconsin, reported the death of Johann. He died in his home in Manawa November 25<sup>25</sup> of a paralytic stroke.

Johann had been living in Manawa for four years. His funeral was held the following Wednesday at St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church and he was buried in the Symco Cemetery.<sup>26</sup> St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church became a member of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod in 1927.<sup>27</sup>

22 1910 U.S. census, Waupaca, Wisconsin, population schedule, Scandinavia Township, enumeration district (ED) 91, sheet 8B, image 14, dwelling 54, family 58, Jacob Rosholt household; digital images, Ancestry (<http://ancestry.com> : accessed 30 Nov 2018); citing National Archives and Records Administration microfilm T624, roll T624\_1743.

23 1920 U.S. census, Waupaca County, Wisconsin, population schedule, Union Township, enumeration district (ED) 151, sheet 6A, image 11, dwelling 106, family 108, John Assman [initially transcribed Aumann]; digital images, Ancestry (<http://ancestry.com>); citing National Archives and Records Administration microfilm T625, roll T625\_2022.

24 "Barn, Johann Asmann Homestead", digital image, archive Shelley Kloczko, Regina, Saskatchewan, 2014.

25 Waupaca County, Wisconsin, Probate records, 1928 PR003353, John Assman; Waupaca Court House, Waupaca. „Union Pioneer Dies," Journal, 3 December 1928, p. 3; digital images, Newspapers.com (<http://www.newspapers.com> : accessed 14 Dec 2018). The probate record death date is used rather than the newspaper's report of dying on Sunday, November 26, 1928.

26 „Special to Post-Crescent Manawa," Appleton Crescent-Post, 10 December 1928, p. 10, col. 5; digital images, Ancestry (<http://ancestry.com> by subscription : accessed 17 Dec 2018).

27 "Our History," St. Paul Lutheran Church and School (<http://www.stpaulmanawa.org/index.html> : accessed 15 December 2018.)

Sophia was the executrix of Johann's will and inherited all of his property and possessions including:

- the farm located on the East one half of the Northwest Quarter, Section 19, Township 24 North of Range 13 East of the Fourth Principle Meridian, valued at 5000 USD,
- their sixteen year old house and property on Lot Number 2, Block Number 7 of J. M. Rounds and Company's addition to the Village of Manawa, Wisconsin, valued at 1000 USD.
- eleven cows, valued at 1100 USD, and,
- some farm equipment: grain binder, mower, seeder, etc.<sup>28</sup>

Johann's widow, Sophia, was living with her son Henry in 1930 on the dairy farm. Albert, Henry's youngest brother aged 13, was living there too.<sup>29</sup> Sophia passed away 9 August 1942 in New London, Outagamie, Wisconsin, USA.<sup>30</sup>

Sophia's estate included the same eighty acres of land bequeathed by her husband. Her house in Manawa was sold to Herbert L. and his wife Marjorie Stelzner for 1000 USD. The farm premises and personal property on the farm was given to Sophia's son, Henry, as long as he paid the funeral expenses, expenses of last sickness and specific cash legacies to her children as follows:

- to August, \$100 (because he already received \$200 previously) and \$300 to Albert, Jake, Elizabeth, Bertha, Anna, Tena and Alvin.
- each surviving child was given one-ninth of the remainder of her personal property,
- the share to August was paid to his sisters, Anna and Tena, on the request of his heir Anton Tiefenbach.

Sophia made provision for the children of the late John Asmann, deceased son of Sophia, prior to his death.

Albert had left Wisconsin one year before Sophia died and had not communicated with her or his siblings during that time. He could not be located; therefore, did not claim his share of the estate (380.35 USD). Albert's share was given to the State Treasurer. A letter dated 7 October 1946, from A. L. [Albert Leonard] of New Westminster, British Columbia, Canada, was sent to the Waupaca County Probate Court. He was in the Canadian Army.



*Asmann Plot, Union Cemetery<sup>31</sup>*

28 Waupaca County, Wisconsin, Probate records, 1928 PR003353, John Assman; Waupaca Court House, Waupaca.

29 1930 U.S. census, Waupaca County, Wisconsin, population schedule, Union Township, enumeration district (ED) 68-39, sheet 5B, image 11, dwelling 120, family 122, Henry Asman household; digital images, Ancestry (<http://ancestry.com> : accessed 3 Feb 2008); citing National Archives and Records Administration microfilm T626, roll T626.

30 Waupaca County, Wisconsin, Probate records, 1942 PR005329, Sofie Asmann; Waupaca Court House, Waupaca.

31 Asmann Plot, Union Cemetery; digital image, privately held by Garland Asman, [address for private use,] Salina, Kansas, 2011.

Children of Johann Assmann and Sophie Tiefenbach, were as follows:

**Jacob Assmann**, born 30 May 1889, Jadwinin, Volhynia, Russia;<sup>32</sup> married Lydia Joanna Schramm; died 1967, Symco, Waupaca County, Wisconsin, USA.

**Elisabeth K. Assmann**, born 9 January 1891, Jadwinin, Volhynia, Russia;<sup>33</sup> married Paul Emil Much; died 16 November 1979, probably in Symco, Waupaca County, Wisconsin, USA. They had nine children, three of which were girls.

All of the following were born in Waupaca County, Wisconsin, USA:

**August Assmann**, born 25 August 1892 in Union; unmarried, died 25 September 1942, Neepawa, Manitoba, Canada.

**Johann J. Assmann**, born 21 November 1896, Symco; married Martha Elsa Krueger; died 2 December 1930, Union, Waupaca County, Wisconsin, USA.

**Bertha Marie Assmann**, born 22 July 1897, Symco; married George W. Albert; died 10 May 1967.

**Heinrich Carl Assmann**, born 26 January 1901, Union; unmarried; died 11 March 1962, Waupaca, Waupaca County, Wisconsin, USA.

**Anna Rose Assmann**, born 15 December 1903; married Joseph Topp.

**Ernestine Martha Assmann**, born 3 December 1905, Symco; married Leonard Krull; died 18 May 1984.

**Alvin Albert Assmann**, born 25 May 1907, Symco; married Bertha Erbing; died 8 January 1957.

**Albert Leonard Assmann**, born 29 April 1917, Union, unmarried, died 27 November 1972, Fond du Lac.

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32 Jadwinin District, Volhynia, Russia, Jacob Assmann, p 248, item 1978; digital images, The Central Archives of Historical Records in Warsaw (<http://agad.gov.pl/> : accessed 18 Dec 2018).

33 Jadwinin District, Volhynia, Russia, Elisabeth Assmann, page 49, item 381; digital image, The Central Archives of Historical Records in Warsaw (<http://agad.gov.pl/> : accessed 18 Dec 2018).



## Jacob Assmann & Lydia Schramm

**Jacob Assmann**, born 30 May 1889<sup>34</sup> in Jadwinin, Volhynia, Russia;<sup>35</sup> died 26 June 1967 at Waupaca County, Wisconsin, USA. He married on 27 October 1915 in Symco, Waupaca County, Wisconsin, USA,<sup>36</sup> **Lydia Joanna Schramm**, daughter of Gustave and Bertha Schramm, née Loehrke.<sup>37</sup> Lydia was born 4 November 1883 in Wladislawo, Schubin, Posen, Prussia, Germany;<sup>38</sup> died 31 March 1976 at Weyauwega.<sup>39</sup>

Jakob would have turned four years old, nine days after he arrived with his family on the shores of their new home. He left home with his brother, August. They were found in the 1910 US Census living with and working for Jacob Rosholt as farm labourers in Scandinavia Township, Waupaca County.<sup>40</sup>

Jacob became a citizen of the United States of America at the age of 26, on 13 August 1915. This happened a couple of months before he married Lydia Schramm. At the time, Jacob was known as Jake Asman and was described as having a dark complexion. He was 5 feet 8 inches (172.7 centimetres) tall and weighed 170 pounds (77 kilograms); he had brown eyes and hair. Jacob swore he was a farmer living in Union.<sup>41</sup>

He would grow up to marry Lydia Schramm, who was a dressmaker by trade, and four more years older than Jacob. Jacob and Lydia were both older when they married 27 October 1915; he about 26 and she at 31 years of age. Their witnesses were Lydia Fuerst, Willie Schwanke, Clara Roland, Anna Reinig, and Lydia's brothers, Henry and Reinhard Schramm. Banns were 24 October 1915.<sup>42</sup>

June 5, 1917, with all of the other men between the ages of 21 and 30,<sup>43</sup> Jacob was drafted into the US military; there is no evidence he served. At this time he was living in Ogdensburg and farming on his own at Saint Lawrence, a few miles away.<sup>44</sup>

They are found in the 1920 US Census in Royalton Township. They are on a general farm; Jacob is working for himself. Their property is mortgaged. Their first and only child, Franklin Leonard, was born in 1919 and was five months old in this census.

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34 Waupaca, Wisconsin, Naturalization records Certificate number P535, Jake Asman; University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, Stevens Point.

35 Jadwinin District, Volhynia, Russia, Jacob Assmann, p 248, item 1978; digital images, The Central Archives of Historical Records in Warsaw (<http://agad.gov.pl/> : accessed 18 Dec 2018).

36 „Obituaries, Mrs. Lydia Asman,” Post Crescent, Appleton, Wisconsin, 1 April 1976, p. 4, col. 6; digital images, Newspapers (<http://Newspapers.com>).

37 Civil registrations, record: No. 102 Lydia Johanna Schram, Lydia Johanna Schram; digital image, „Schubin,” Genealogy in Archive (<https://genealogiawarchiwach.pl/>: 03 November 2022).

38 Posen Civil Registrations, church registers; digital image, Genealogy in Archive (<https://genealogiawarchiwach.pl/>).

39 „Obituaries, Mrs. Lydia Asman,” Post Crescent, Appleton, Wisconsin, 1 April 1976, p. 4, col. 6; digital images, Newspapers (<http://Newspapers.com>).

40 1910 U.S. census, Waupaca, Wisconsin, population schedule, Scandinavia Township, enumeration district (ED) 91, sheet 8B, dwelling 54, family 58, lines 91 & 92, Osman, Jacob and August; digital images, Ancestry (<http://ancestry.com> : accessed 8 Jan 2019); citing National Archives and Records Administration microfilm T624.

41 Waupaca, Wisconsin, Naturalization records Certificate number P535, Jake Asman; University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, Stevens Point.

42 „Church Records,” database, St. Mark Lutheran Church (<http://www.stmarksymco.org/church-records.html> : accessed 8 Jan 2019), Jakob Assmann and Lydia Schramm, 27 October 1915, arranged chronologically.

43 Selective Service Act of 1917, article Wikipedia ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Selective\\_Service\\_Act\\_of\\_1917](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Selective_Service_Act_of_1917) : accessed 8 January 2019)

44 „World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918, digital images, Ancestry (<http://ancestry.com> : accessed 8 Jan 2019), Jake Asman, Draft Board Waupaca County, Wisconsin; citing World War I; NARA microfilm publication M1509.

## Obituaries

### Mrs. Lydia Asman

Ogdensburg, Wis.

Age 91, died Wednesday at the Weyauwega Health Care Center following a lengthy illness. She was born November 4, 1884 in Germany and came to the United States at the age of six and settled in the Town of Union, Waupaca, County. She was married October 27, 1915 in Symco, Wisconsin to Jacob Asman. He preceded her in death June 26, 1967. She lived in the Manawa-Ogdensburg area most of her life. She was a member of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Manawa. Survivors include a son, Franklin, Route 1, Manawa; a brother, Reinhardt Schramm, Ogdensburg; and a grandson, David, Boise, Idaho. Besides her husband she was preceded in death by four brothers. The funeral will be 2 p.m. Saturday at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Manawa with the Rev. Carl Luedtke officiating. Burial will be in the Union Cemetery, Symco. Friends may call at the Cline, Hanson and Dahlke Funeral Home, Manawa after 3 p.m. Friday and until 11 a.m. Saturday, then at the church from noon until the time of the service.

In 1940, Jacob and Lydia were still on the farm. Franklin was living there too, working for his parents. Jacob was earning money from somewhere other than the farm but it is unknown what that might have been. By this time, they own their own home and it is worth \$1800.<sup>45</sup> In 1942 Jacob and Lydia were farming, living in rural farm district #1, Manawa, Waupaca County, Wisconsin.<sup>46</sup> They did not have a telephone.<sup>47</sup>

Jacob died on 26 June 1967 at the age of 78. His wife, Lydia was 91 when she passed at the Weyauwega Health Care Center in 1976 on March 31 after a lengthy illness.<sup>48</sup> They are buried at Union Cemetery, Symco.<sup>49</sup>



The only child of Jacob Assman and Lydia Schramm is:

**Franklin Leonard Asman**, born 5 July 1919, Royalton, Waupaca, Wisconsin, USA;<sup>50</sup> married **Marian Ferg** at Saint Mark Lutheran Church, 24 August 1946 at Symco, Waupaca County, Wisconsin, USA; died 30 December 2010, New London, Outagamie, Wisconsin, USA. They had one child.

45 1940 U.S. census, Waupaca County, Wisconsin, population schedule, Royalton, enumeration district (ED) 68-33, sheet 8A, image 16, household 148, Jake Asman household; digital images, Ancestry (<http://ancestry.com>); citing National Archives and Records Administration microfilm T627, roll 04535.

46 Waupaca County, Wisconsin, Probate records, 1942 PR005329, Sofie Asmann; Waupaca Court House, Waupaca. Waupaca, Wisconsin, Naturalization records Certificate number P535, Jake Asman; University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, Stevens Point.

47 World War II Draft Registration Cards, 1942; digital images, Ancestry (<http://ancestry.com> : accessed 8 Jan 2019). Jake Asman U 3490, Waupaca County, Wisconsin, 1942, citing Selective Service Registration Cards, World War II: Fourth Registration, NARA Record Group 147.

48 „Obituaries, Mrs. Lydia Asman,“ Post Crescent, Appleton, Wisconsin, 1 April 1976, p. 4, col. 6; digital images, Newspapers (<http://Newspapers.com>).

49 Union Cemetery (Symco, Waupaca, Wisconsin), Jacob and Lydia Asman marker; personally read and photographed by Shelley Kloczko, 2014.

50 „Church Records,“ database in chronological order, St. Mark Lutheran Church (<http://www.stmarksymco.org/church-records.html> : accessed 8 Jan 2019), Franz Leonhard Assmann.

## Elisabeth Katharina Assmann & Paul Emil Much

**Elisabeth Katharina Assmann**, born 9 January 1891, at Jadwinin, Volhynia, Russia;<sup>51</sup> died 16 November 1979 at King, Waupaca County, Wisconsin, USA.<sup>52</sup> She married on 1 May 1912 at Symco, Waupaca County, Wisconsin, USA,<sup>53</sup> **Paul Emil Much**, son of Fredrich and Amelia Much.<sup>54</sup> Paul born 8 December 1891, Union, Waupaca County, Wisconsin, USA; died 26 May 1961.<sup>55</sup>

Johann and Sophie's daughter, Elisabeth Katharina Assmann, was fourteen months old on the ship over from the "old country." She is listed in the St. Mark Lutheran Church records in Symco as being confirmed in the Lutheran faith on 27 March 1904. The confirmation verse attributed to her was Psalms 23, 1-4.<sup>56</sup>



She married Paul Emil Much at Saint Mark Lutheran Church, Symco, on 1 May 1912. Their witnesses were Jacob Assmann, Anna Brennenstuhl, George Much, Bertha Assmann.<sup>57</sup> Elisabeth and Paul Emil Much had ten children.

Paul Emil, with all of the other men between the ages of 21 and 30,<sup>58</sup> was drafted into the US military; he claimed exemption to support his family of a wife and four children.<sup>59</sup>

Elisabeth died 16 November 1979, while living at the Veterans Hospital at King, Waupaca County, and Paul lived until 26 May 1961, dying of an epileptic seizure in the town of Royalton.

*Paul Emil Much and Elisabeth (née Assmann) Much, Wedding 1912<sup>60</sup>*

51 Jadwinin District, Volhynia, Russia, Elisabeth Assmann, page 49, item 381; digital images, The Central Archives of Historical Records in Warsaw (<http://agad.gov.pl/> : accessed 19 Dec 2018).

52 Paula Vaugan, „Union Cemetery, Obituaries & Death Notices,” database, Wisconsin GenWeb Project (<http://www.wigenweb.org/waupaca/UnionCem/UnionCem.htm> : accessed 9 Jan 2019), Mrs. Paul Much, 88.

53 Saint Mark Lutheran Church (Symco, Wisconsin, USA), Church Records index, „Marriages 1893-1930,” Elisabeth Assmann- Paul E. Much; digital images, Saint Mark Lutheran Church (<http://www.stmarksymco.org/index.html> : accessed 9 Jan 2019).

54 Paula Vaughan, „St. Luke's Big Falls - Confirmation Records 1903-1935,” database, Wisconsin GenWeb Project (<https://www.genealogy.com/ftm/s/u/e/Tory-D-Suehs/FILE/0008page.html> : accessed 9 Jan 2019), Paul E. Much, 1912.

55 Union Cemetery (Symco, Waupaca, Wisconsin), Paul E. Much and Elisabeth K. Much marker, Section 1, Row 17; personally read and photographed, 2014.

56 Saint Mark Lutheran Church (Symco, Wisconsin, USA), Church Records index, „Confirmations 1893-1932,” Elisabeth Katharina Assmann; digital images, Saint Mark Lutheran Church <http://www.stmarksymco.org/index.html> : accessed 9 Jan 2019).

57 Saint Mark Lutheran Church (Symco, Wisconsin, USA), Church Records index, „Marriages 1893-1930,” Elisabeth Assmann- Paul E. Much; digital images, Saint Mark Lutheran Church (<http://www.stmarksymco.org/index.html> : accessed 9 Jan 2019).

58 Selective Service Act of 1917, article Wikipedia ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Selective\\_Service\\_Act\\_of\\_1917](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Selective_Service_Act_of_1917) : accessed 8 January 2019)

59 „U.S., World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918,” database, Ancestry (<http://ancestry.com> : accessed 9 Jan 2019), Paul Emil Much, no 1490 48; National Archives and Records Administration M1509.

60 Paul Emil Much and Elisabeth Assmann Wedding, 1912, digital image, privately held by Shelley Kloczko, Regina, Saskatchewan, 2009.



## August Assmann

**August Asmann**, born 25 August 1892 in Union, Waupaca County, Wisconsin;<sup>61</sup> died 23 September 1942 at Deloraine, Manitoba.

August was confirmed 24 March 1907, at Saint Mark Lutheran Church, Symco, Wisconsin, where he had been baptized. He was one of thirty-three confirmands. His confirmation verse was Romans 8, 31-32.<sup>62</sup>

In 1910, August and his brother Jacob were working as hired hands (likely farm labourers) for Jacob Rosholt in the Scandinavian Township, Waupaca County.

August came to Neepawa district, Manitoba, Canada, in 1913 and lived with his uncle Anton Tiefenbach for several years before started farming for himself. He farmed southwest of Neepawa, two kilometres west of Morton, Manitoba.<sup>63</sup> He was still living with them when the 1916 census of the Northwest Provinces was taken in June.<sup>64</sup>

August was unmarried. He was living in Desford, Manitoba, before he died in Deloraine hospital 23 September 1942; he was 50 years of age. He was buried in Riverside Cemetery, Neepawa, in an unmarked grave.<sup>65</sup>

August's uncle, Anton Tiefenbach, was the sole heir of August's estate valued at \$4795. He owned the Southeast quarter, Section 27, Township 1, Range 19, West of the First Meridian, valued at \$1600 and the West half of the Northeast quarter, of the same section. The later piece of land is described in a letter from M. S. Colquhoun to V. W. Baker, Esq., dated 30 September 1942 as:

*"The property in question is one of the bush quarters which the C. P. R. was selling recently at around \$75.00 each, and this is the actual amount paid for it by the deceased. It is merely rough bush land without any desirable (sic) timber and without the C. P. R. who got tired of paying taxes on it and could not sell it at any higher figure."*

The remainder of his assets included war certificates valued at \$30, household goods, stock equipment and grain valued at \$2519, and unsold grain, estimated value \$565.

August died 23 September 1942, just a year after his mother, at age 50 years.

August's estate consisted of \$2630.05 and the Southeast quarter and the West half of the Northeast Quarter of Section 27, Township 1, Range 19, West of the First Meridian. There were unadministered assets of \$777.55 CAD. He had approximately 389 bushels of wheat, 212 bushels of barley and 325 bushels of oats. Anton Tiefenbach, his uncle, was the sole beneficiary.

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61 Confirmation Records 1893-1931 St. Mark Lutheran Church (Symco, Waupaca County, Wisconsin), August Assmann, confirmed March 24, 1907.

62 Ibid.

63 „Death of A. Asman,“ (Neepawa) Neepawa Press, 15 October 1942.

64 1916 census of the Northwest Provinces, Manitoba, district 6, Lansdowne, p. 4, dwelling 59, Anton Tiefenbach [transcribed Geifenbach] household; RG 31; digital images, Ancestry (<http://ancestry.com> : accessed 27 August 2019); citing Library and Archives Canada, roll T-21930. August could not be located in the 1921 or 1926 censuses.

65 See footnote 63.

## John J. Assmann

**Johann Assmann Jr.** was born 21 November 1896 in Union and also baptised in Symco on 29 December 1896 by Pastor D. Jaegar. He was confirmed on 20 March 1910 – verse was Ps 23, 1-4. John Assmann, 1896–1930

## Bertha Marie Assmann & George W. Albert

**Bertha Marie Assmann** was born 22 July 1897 in Symco, baptized 29 August 1897 by Pastor D. Jaegar. The sponsors were Joseff Nemens, Bertha Roland and she was confirmed 9 April 1911 in Symco. Her confirmation verse was Psalms 119, 105.

She married **George W Albert** on 30 July 1913 in Union. She died 10 May 1967.



*Bertha and sister Elisabeth Assmann, circa 1910<sup>66</sup>*

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<sup>66</sup> Bertha and sister Elisabeth Assmann photograph; digital image, privately held by Shelley Kloczko, Regina, Saskatchewan, 2009. Estimated date based on Bertha looking about 13 years old.

## Heinrich Carl Asmann

**Heinrich (Henry) Carl Assmann** was born 26 January 1901 in Symco, Union Township, and baptized on 24 March 1901. Pastor F. L. Karth officiated and the sponsors were Heinrich Roland and Emma Wehrmann.

1. Full name of child,	Frank Asman
2. Color,	White
3. Sex,	Male
4. Name of other issue living (born of same parents),	Jake, Ediga. John, August Bertha
5. Full name of father,	John Asman
6. Occupation of father,	Farmer
7. Full name of mother previous to marriage,	
8. Hour, day of week, of month, and year of birth,	Jan 26 1901
9. Place, town or township, and county in which born,	Union Twp. Germany
10. Birthplace of father,	
11. Birthplace of mother,	
12. Name of physician, midwife or other person reporting,	
13. Residence of person last named,	Feb 10 - 1901
14. Date of certificate or affidavit,	J. B. Drining
15. Health officer, town or city clerk,	Symco
16. Residence,	Mar 15 - 1901
17. Date of registration,	
18. Any other important information,	

Heinrich was registered as Frank Asman. It is unknown why he was always known as Heinrich or Henry. We are certain this is his birth registration because his father and older siblings are listed. There is no evidence of a twin birth.

He was confirmed 28 March 1915 in Symco, with his verse being John 6, 68-69. There is no record thus far of his marrying. Henry completed 7 grades in school according to the 1940 US Census.<sup>67</sup> He died on 11 March 1962.

67 1940 U.S. census, Waupaca County, Wisconsin, population schedule, Union Township, enumeration district (ED) 68-39, sheet 10B, image 21, household 185, Sophia Asman household; digital images, Ancestry (<http://ancestry.com> : accessed 30 Nov 2018); citing National Archives and Records Administration microfilm T627, roll m-t0627-04535.



## Anna Rose Assmann

**Anne Rose Assmann** was born 15 December 1903 in Union, Waupaca, Wisconsin. She was baptized on 13 March 1904. The sponsors listed were Johann Nemmetz and Sophie Roland, with Pastor F. L. Karth officiating. She was confirmed at Symco on 1 April 1917 and given this verse: 2 Tim, 2, 8. She died in 1926.

## Ernestine Martha Assmann & Leonard Krull

**Ernestine Martha Assmann** was born 3 December 1905 in Union, Waupaca, Wisconsin. She was baptized on 11 March 1906. Although the pastor was not listed, the sponsors were Katharine Reining and Friedrich Boelter. Ernestine „Teena“, as she was called, was confirmed 28 March 1920 with her brother Alvin at Saint Mark's Lutheran Church, Symco.

She married Leonard Krull (1904- ) in approximately 1928. They had at least one son, Thomas Krull. Ernestine died on 18 May 1984 Hales Corners, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

## Alvin Albert Assman

**Alvin Albert Assman** was born 25 March 1907 Union, Waupaca, Wisconsin and baptized on 19 May 1907 with Pastor M. A. Treff, officiating. The sponsors were Albert Krüger, Gusta Fotzer, and Fr. Rose Polzin. Alvin was confirmed 28 March 1920 with his sister Ernestine at Saint Mark's Lutheran Church, Symco.

He married Bertha Ebbinger (1907-1991). They had two sons. In 1935 they were already living in Mellon, Michigan. Alvin died there on 8 January 1957.

## Albert Leonard Assman

**Albert Leonard Assman** was born 29 April 1917 in Union, Waupaca, Wisconsin. He was baptised 1 May 1917 in his parent's home by Pastor M. A. Treff with sponsors Emil Krüger and Fr. Elisabeth Roland present.

Albert completed the first year of high school, the ninth grade by 1940.<sup>68</sup> His mother reported in the 1940 US census that his occupation was cabin building in the forestry industry. He was likely part of the conservation work in national parks and forests created by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) 31 March 1933, by the US Government.<sup>69</sup>

Albert was assigned to public Emergency Work. See this description:  
Public Emergency Work (Column 22)

The census asked if anyone in the household during the week of March 24–30, 1940, was at work on, or assigned to, public emergency work projects conducted by the WPA, the NYA, the CCC, or state or local work relief agencies...The WPA, established May 6, 1935, developed programs to move unemployed workers from relief to jobs. The WPA workers, among other

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<sup>68</sup> 1940 U.S. census, Waupaca County, Wisconsin, population schedule, Union Township, enumeration district (ED) 68-39, sheet 10B, image 21, household 185, Sophia Asman household; digital images, Ancestry (<http://ancestry.com> : accessed 30 Nov 2018); citing National Archives and Records Administration microfilm T627, roll m-t0627-04535.

<sup>69</sup> Ibid.

things, rebuilt the national infrastructure, wrote guides to the 48 states, worked in the arts and theater, and assisted with disaster relief. The NYA, established under the WPA, gave part-time jobs to high school and college students to earn money to continue their education. The [Civilian Conservation Corps] CCC, created March 31, 1933, employed men aged 18–25 in conservation work in the national parks and forests.<sup>70</sup>

He was still living with his mother and brother, Henry, April 1940, at the age of 23. According to military records he was enlisted in Milwaukee, Wisconsin on 13 May 1941.<sup>71</sup> He is noted as arriving at Blaine, Washington on 6 December 1941.<sup>72</sup>

His residence at this time according to the 1940 United States Federal Census says he was living at Stevens Point, Wisconsin.<sup>73</sup> He died on 27 November 1972, Fond Du Lac County, Wisconsin. He was buried in Symco, Wisconsin.

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70 "New Questions in the 1940 Census," article National Archives (<https://www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/2010/winter/1940-census.html> : accessed 30 November 2018) Prologue Magazine, Winter 2010, Vol. 42, No. 4, Genealogy Notes

71 Source: U.S., World War II Army Enlistment Records, 1938-1946.

72 Source for the arrival date: U.S., Border Crossings from Canada to U.S., 1895-1960 for Albert Leonard Asmann. A3599 - Blaine, Washington, July 1924-October 1956, ALL, 001.

73 Source: 1940 United States Federal Census. Year: 1940; Census Place, Union, Waupaca, Wisconsin, Roll; m-10627-04535; Page 10B, Enumeration District: 68-38.

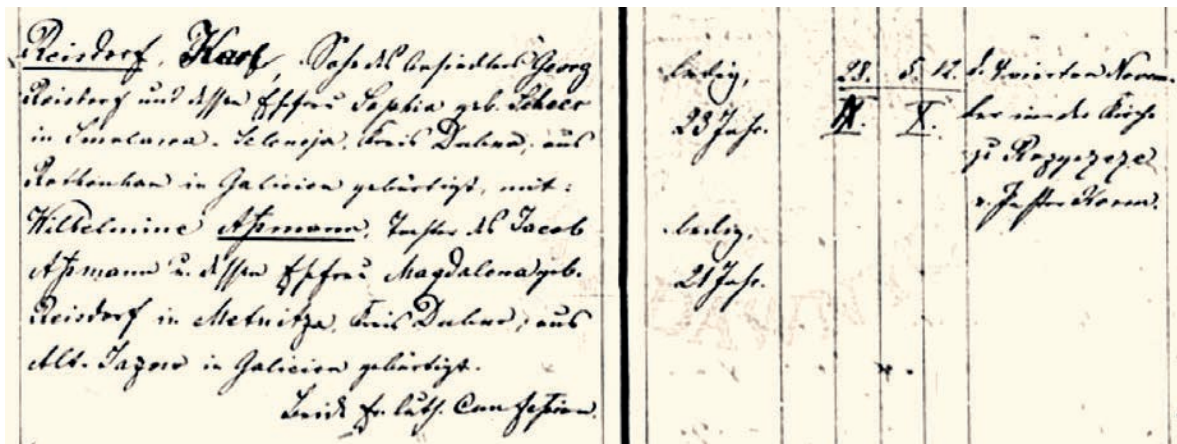
## WILHELMINE ASSMANN & KARL REISDORF

**Wilhelmine Assmann**, born about 1865 to Jakob Assmann and Marie Elisabeth Reisdorf in Alt Jazow, Galicia, Austria;<sup>1</sup> died before 1892, Volhynia, Russia.<sup>2</sup> She married 4 November 1886, Rozyszcze, Volhynia, Russia, **Karl Reisdorf**, son of Georg Reisdorf and Maria Katharina Sophia (née Scheer) Reisdorf.<sup>3</sup> Karl, born about 1863, in Rottenhan, Galicia, Austria; death date unknown.

Wilhelmine Assman was born in Alt Jazow, where the majority of her siblings were also born. She was likely baptized in Schumlau along with the others. Schumlau was located about twenty kilometres straight south of Alt Jazow.

Although her father is listed in 1871 as a farmer, there is no further record of the family in Austria after that time. However, Wilhelmine's youngest sister, Katharina, was born about seven years after her, in November of 1872, in Metnitz, Volhynia, Russia. Wilhelmine was probably still a young child when she moved to Metnitz with her family. (*For more details see her parent's chapter, Johann Jakob Assmann & Maria Elisabeth Reisdorf.*)

At the age of 21, records indicate she married Karl Reisdorf on 4 November in 1886 in Rozyszcze, Volhynia, Russia,<sup>4</sup> although this likely the name of the parish, not the village. They most likely lived in Zielona, where Karl and his parents were living.



Marriage registration of Wilhelmine Assmann and Karl Reisdorf<sup>5</sup>

1 Rozyszcze commune (Diocese Wolynska, Volynia, Russia), No. 439, Registers of communes of the Protestant-Augsburg Confession from the Western Governorate of the Russian Empire 1790-1940, „Diocese. Wolynska, Rozyszcze commune. Record book of weddings 1884-1886,” p 414, image 416, Reisdorf and Assmann; digital images, Central Archives of Historical Records (<http://agad.gov.pl/> : accessed 8 Feb 2019).

2 Rozyszcze commune (Diocese Wolynska, Volynia, Russia), No. 439, Registers of communes of the Evangelical-Augsburg Confession from the Western Governorate of the Russian Empire 1790-1940, „Diocese. Wolynska, Rozyszcze commune. Record book of weddings, 1892,” Karl Reisdorf & Marie Heinrich; digital images, Central Archives of Historical Records (<http://agad.gov.pl/> : accessed 8 Feb 2019). This is Karl Reisdorf's second wife.

3 See footnote 1.

4 Rozyszcze commune (Diocese Wolynska, Volynia, Russia), No. 439, Registers of communes of the Evangelical-Augsburg Confession from the Western Governorate of the Russian Empire 1790-1940, „Diocese. Wolynska, Rozyszcze commune. Record book of weddings 1884-1886,” p 414, image 416, Reisdorf and Assmann; digital images, Central Archives of Historical Records (<http://agad.gov.pl/> : accessed 8 Feb 2019).

5 Ibid.





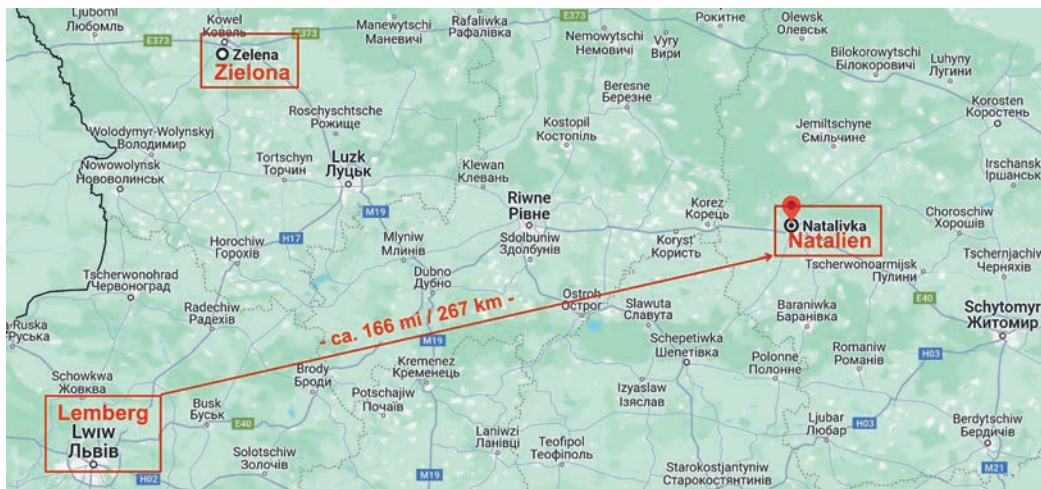
Karl and Wilhelmine (Mina) supposedly had one child together, Jakob, born 15 November 1885 at Zielona, Volhynia, according to entries on different family trees in ancestry.ca.<sup>6</sup>

Their son Jakob married Philippine Reisdorf (born 1912), believed to be a cousin, on 29 March 1932 in Natalien, Volhynia<sup>7</sup>.

*Location of Zielona in relation to Metnitz and Lemberg (Google Maps)*

Wilhelmine died sometime before October 1892, possibly in Zielona. Karl married a second time on 6 October 1892 to Marie Heinrich, at Rozyszcze, Volhynia, Russia.<sup>8</sup> Karl and Marie Reisdorf (née Heinrich) had five children, all born in Zielona, Volhynia, Russia.<sup>9</sup> Emilie (1899), Lidia (1906), Wilhelm (1909), Joseph (1910), according to an ancestry entry<sup>10</sup>.

Karl married a third time to Sophia Pelzer on 23 August 1911 in Luzk, Volhynia, and they had five more children.<sup>11</sup>



*Location of Natalien in relation to Zielona and Lemberg (Google Maps)*

6 Here's one reference: <https://www.ancestry.ca/family-tree/person/tree/173910910/person/362258370919/facts>

7 Germans from Russia Settlement maps (<https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/viewer?mid=1Sz-Sn411F-iqS2s-NeeTPZ6-Jd8I&ll=50.619800000000005%2C27.5896000000000008&z=18> : accessed 7 Nov 2022). The ancestral place name is Nataliendorf, Volhynia Province, Russian Empire; current name: Natalivka, Zhytomyr Oblast, Ukraine.

8 Rozyszcze commune (Diocese Wolynska, Volynia, Russia), No. 439, Registers of communes of the Protestant-Augsburg Confession from the Western Governorate of the Russian Empire 1790-1940, „Diocese. Wolynska, Rozyszcze commune. Record book of weddings, 1892,” Karl Reisdorf & Marie Heinrich; digital images, Central Archives of Historical Records (<http://agad.gov.pl/> : accessed 8 Feb 2019).

9 From Ancestry.ca on Karl Reisdorf by ulfroeder (<https://www.ancestry.ca/family-tree/person/tree/173910910/person/362258370919/facts> : accessed: 7 Nov 2022).

10 A document shared by Edeltraut May on 8 Jul 2022. (<https://www.ancestry.ca/family-tree/person/tree/60662865/person/412059839458/gallery?galleryPage=1>)

11 <https://www.ancestry.ca/family-tree/person/tree/173910910/person/362258370919/facts>

## CAROLINE ASSMANN &amp; JOHAN ROLAND

**Caroline<sup>1</sup> Assmann**, born 27 September 1869<sup>2</sup>, in Alt Jazow, Galicia, Austria to Jakob Assmann and Marie Elisabeth (Magdalena) Reisdorf and baptized 10 October 1869 in Alt Jazow;<sup>3</sup> married **John Roland<sup>4</sup>**; died 2 September 1908.

Caroline Assmann moved with her family to Metnitz, Volhynia, Russia where she grew up. Although her older sister Eva was married in Alt Jazow in June 1871, there is no further record of the family in Austria after that time. However, Carolina's youngest sister, Katharina, was born two years after her in Metnitz, Volhynia, Russia, in November of 1872. There seems little doubt that Caroline was probably about two years old when she moved to Volhynia with her family. *(For more details see her parent's chapter, Johann Jakob Assmann & Maria Elisabeth Reisdorf.)*

At the age of 21, she married 1 June 1888, in Haradsche, Volhynia, Russia, Johann Roland,<sup>5</sup> son of Johann and Charlotte (née Reichart) Rolland. Johann was born 11 July 1865 in Austria. Presumably he and his family started in Galicia and moved to Volhynia when land opened for settlement, just as Carolina's family had done. He was 23 when they married.

[illegible]Johann Rolland and Caroline Assmann Marriage registration<sup>6</sup>

A son, **Carl Roland**, was born to them on 7 March 1889, followed by a daughter, **Elisabeth Roland** in 1890, who only lived for one month, and then another daughter **Catharine Roland** in November 1891.<sup>7</sup> By this time, they were residing in Jadwinówka, which was in the parish of Horochów in Volhynia, Russia. It is located about 22 mi / 35 km northwest of Metnitz, where Caroline's parents lived at the time.

1 Although when she was baptized, her first name was spelled Karolina, throughout her life, according to various documents, she seems to have mainly spelled it Caroline.

2 Ancestry.com. 1900 United States Federal Census [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2004. Original data: United States of America, Bureau of the Census. Twelfth Census of the United States, 1900. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1900. T623, 1854 rolls.

3 Hartfeld parish (Galicia, Austria), No. 299 Registers of communes of the Evangelical-Augsburg and Helvetic denominations 1764 - 1939, „Municipality of Hartfeld, Confession of Augsburg. Record book of births, branch Schumlau (Ozomla Mala), ref 80,” Karolina Assmann, img 2; digital images, Central Archives of Historical Records (<http://agad.gov.pl/> : accessed 1 May 2020).

4 Note: Johann's last name may have been registered at birth as Rolland, but throughout the majority of his life, most likely when after they arrived in North America changed it to simply one 'L', spelling it as Roland.

5 St. Mark's Lutheran Church Death/Burial Records 1893 - 1931, Frau Caroline (Assmann) Roland, d: September 2, 1908.

6 "Marriage registration," record. Registers of communes of the Protestant Augsburg Confession from the western territories of the Governorate of the Russian Empire / eastern provinces of the Second Polish Republic [http://agadd.home.net.pl/metrykalia/439/sygn.%2043/pages/PL\\_1\\_439\\_43\\_0244.htm](http://agadd.home.net.pl/metrykalia/439/sygn.%2043/pages/PL_1_439_43_0244.htm) : accessed 1 July 2018).

7 This information is determined from the ship records that recorded they had a son named Carl who was three years old at the time of sailing from Hamburg on 22 April 1892, and a six month old daughter named Catharine.





Map showing the distance from Metnitz to Jadwinówka (Google Maps)

Today Jadwinówka is called Jariwka or known on Ukrainian maps as Yarivka. From 1792 to 1925, the village was part of the Volhynia Governorate, then, after the First World War until 1992 part of the Soviet Union. Today it is a small village in Ukraine with approximately 300 inhabitants.

Four years after their marriage, Johann and Caroline made the decision to travel to North America as did other members of their respective families, including what is presumed to be at least one of Johann's family members and several of Caroline's siblings. As things turned out, Caroline and Johann travelled on the same ship as her single sister Katharine, and her brother Karl and his family, and their niece Katherine Schick, leaving Hamburg on the 22 April 1892. Other members of her family, including her parents came later. (For details of Caroline and Johann's travels overland from Russia and via ship to North America see the chapter Karl Assmann & Katharina Elisabeth Erbach.)

Port of Emigration		Names of Passengers		Profession, Occupation, or Calling, of Passengers		Parents		Siblings		Issue		Passengers		Port at which Passengers have embarked to Land
						Age of each Adult of 15 years and upwards.		Age of each Adult of 15 years and upwards.		Age of each Adult of 15 years and upwards.		Age of each Adult of 15 years and upwards.		
						Married Single		Married Single		Married Single		Married Single		
						Infants		Infants		Infants		Infants		
						1 and 12 years.		1 and 12 years.		1 and 12 years.		1 and 12 years.		

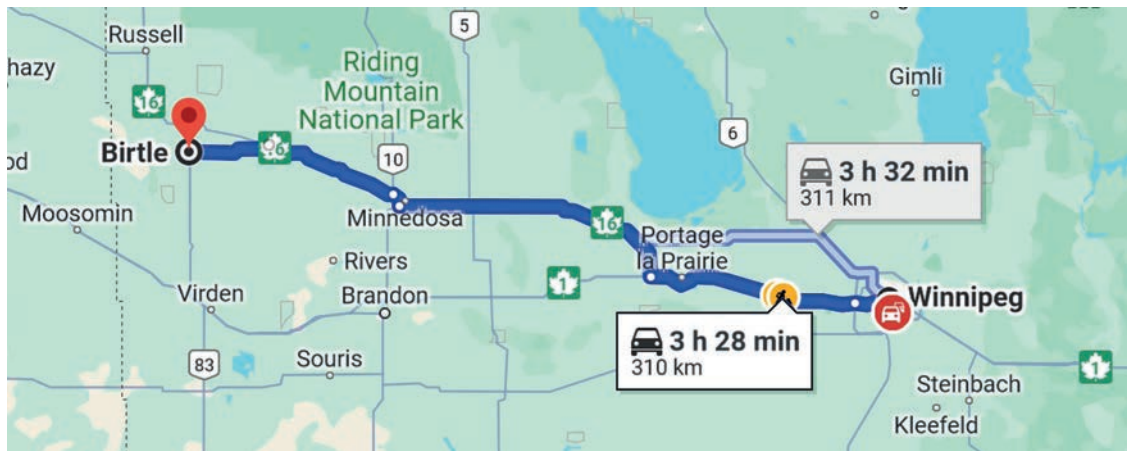
Ship Passenger List<sup>8</sup>

8 Staatsarchiv Hamburg, Germany, Hamburger Passagierlisten; Microfilm No.: K\_1746. Year: 1892; Microfilm Serial: M237, 1820-1897; Microfilm Roll: Roll 589; Line: 5.



Once Caroline and Johann with their children and other family members had safely arrived in Canada on May 9 and were passed through the initial inspection, they travelled together by train to Winnipeg. From there Karl and his family would venture farther into the Canadian Prairies. Katharine, Johann and Caroline would head to Wisconsin. But they had to wait in Winnipeg for space on the over-crowded trains to Wisconsin and the immigration halls were clogged.

Some of the immigrants ended up in Birtle, Manitoba, with Caroline and Johann and their two children numbering among them. We do not know if this was by choice or if they had to go because there were so many immigrants at that time and the over-flow of people were transferred to Birtle, Manitoba, where there was another immigration hall. This was a distance of 300 kilometres to the west of Winnipeg, almost to the Saskatchewan border.

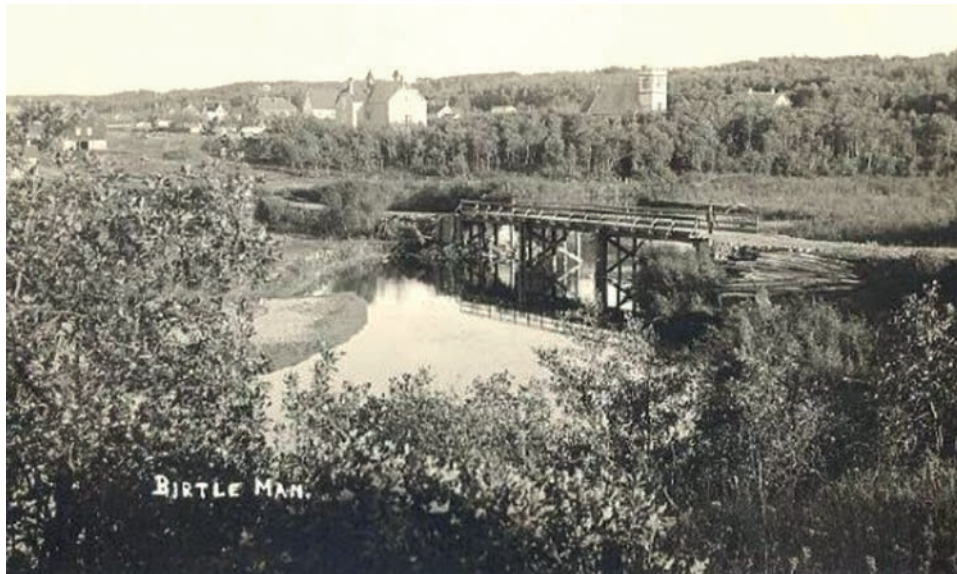


*Map showing Winnipeg to Birtle, Manitoba (Google Maps)*



*Birtle Train Station with the Immigration Hall behind it<sup>9</sup>*

<sup>9</sup> "Birtle Train station," photo. Birtle Community Heritage. Arthur Lawrence photo collection. (<http://birtleheritage.ca/local%20heritage/vintage%20views/lawrencephotos.html> : accessed 14 July 2018)



*Trestle Bridge into Birtle, Manitoba<sup>10</sup>*



*Birtle, Manitoba<sup>11</sup>*

This is where tragedy struck for the young Roland family as it did for so many at the time. Little Karl died on 20 May 1892 after eight days of sickness with either measles or scarlet fever. His baby sister Catherina suffered for eleven days of the same illness, dying on 5 June 1892.

Both scarlet fever and measles showed similar symptoms, though scarlet fever is caused by bacteria and measles is a virus (smaller than bacteria.) Antibiotics are now available to treat bacterial infections, while viruses need anti-viral drugs or vaccinations to prevent them in the first place. However, back in 1892 none of these remedies had been discovered – the measles vaccine wasn't developed until 1963 – nor was there an understanding of what caused them, though both it seems were spread in similar ways.<sup>12</sup>

10 "Birtle, Small Town Manitoba," photo collection. Bill Hillman's Manitoba Photo Archive 52. (<http://www.hillmanweb.com/brandon/52.html> : accessed 16 January 2019).

11 Ibid.

12 "Do I need an Antibiotic? Bacterial vs Viral Infections," article. HealthyMePA website. (<https://www.healthyme-pa.com/2017/02/21/do-you-need-antibiotics/> : accessed 30 June 2018).



FORM 11. VITAL STATISTICS, MANITOBA.		69
Return to the Department of Agriculture and Immigration, of DEATHS AND BURIALS registered with the Clerk of the Municipality of <u>Court of Birtle</u> for the half year ended <u>Nov 31st</u> 189 <u>2</u>		
GENEALOGICAL PURPOSES ONLY	No. <u>2</u> ✓	<p>The records are filed in large bound volumes of multiple events to a page. When releasing the records, it is necessary to remove records that are not applicable.</p>
	Name (and Surname if deceased) <u>Karl Roland</u>	
	Date of Death <u>20th May 1892</u>	
	Place of Death <u>Birtle</u>	
	Sex <u>Male</u>	
	Age <u>3 years and 2 months</u>	
	Place of Birth <u>Luthans Evangelista</u>	
	Where Born <u>Russia</u>	
	Cause of Death <u>Measles or scarlet fever</u>	
	Time of Death <u>8 days illness</u>	
Name of Informant <u>Mr. K. R. Schwan</u>		
Signature of Informant <u>Miller Birtle</u>		
Date of Death <u>August 12th 1892</u>		
Signature of Clerk <u>Alfred Robinson</u>		
Certified a true copy of the registration on the 4th day of June 2008		
JUN 0 6 2008		
DIRECTOR		

FORM 11. VITAL STATISTICS, MANITOBA.		69
Return to the Department of Agriculture and Immigration, of DEATHS AND BURIALS registered with the Clerk of the Municipality of <u>Court of Birtle</u> for the half year ended <u>Nov 31st</u> 189 <u>2</u>		
GENEALOGICAL PURPOSES ONLY	No. <u>3</u> ✓	<p>The records are filed in large bound volumes of multiple events to a page. When releasing the records, it is necessary to remove records that are not applicable.</p>
	Name (and Surname if deceased) <u>Katherine Roland</u>	
	Date of Death <u>June 2nd 1892</u>	
	Place of Death <u>Birtle</u>	
	Sex <u>Female</u>	
	Age <u>4 months</u>	
	Place of Birth <u>Luthans Evangelista</u>	
	Where Born <u>Russia</u>	
	Cause of Death <u>Measles or scarlet fever</u>	
	Time of Death <u>11 days illness</u>	
Name of Informant <u>Mr. K. R. Schwan</u>		
Signature of Informant <u>Miller Birtle</u>		
Date of Death <u>August 12th 1892</u>		
Signature of Clerk <u>Alfred Robinson</u>		
Certified a true copy of the registration on the 4th day of June 2008		
JUN 0 6 2008		
DIRECTOR		

Karl Roland and Catherine Roland death certificates<sup>13</sup>

Karl and Catherine were buried in the newer Birtle cemetery in unmarked graves at the edge of the property. The authors did some deep research to find their gravesites and their death certificates.



Shelley and Judith at the gravesite the day they found the burial plots, 15 August 2019<sup>14</sup>

13 "Death certificate," page. Vital Statistics of Manitoba. (<https://vitalstats.gov.mb.ca/Query.php>).

14 Photo collection of authors.



Cousins Shelley Kloczko, Ruth McConnell, and Judith Silverthorne pitched in to purchase a headstone for them so they would be remembered.<sup>15</sup>



Birtle Cemetery<sup>16</sup>, #2 -Section 2, Block 110, Plot 1. Site Location (lat/long): N50.41759, W101.02901.

A scarlet fever outbreak was rampant at the time the Rolands arrived in Manitoba, showing itself first as a sore throat, then a raging fever followed twelve to forty-eight hours later by a reddish rash. Other symptoms such as severe muscle aches, itching, swollen glands or lymph nodes, and vomiting, could also occur, with the skin of the hands or feet possibly peeling for up to six weeks after the rash has gone. Scarlet fever affected mainly children, with 80% of the cases occurring in children under ten. With no antibiotics at the time many children died.<sup>17</sup> In fact, scarlet fever was the leading cause of death in children in the early 20th century. A scarlet fever serum was developed from horses in 1900, which reduced the mortality rate significantly, and then an antitoxin for scarlet fever was developed in 1924,<sup>18</sup> but it wasn't until 1940 that penicillin was turned into a life-saving drug.<sup>19</sup>

15 Find A Grave, database and images ([www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com) : accessed 13 July 2020), Karl and Katherine Roland grave marker, memorial ID 202305859, photographed by Donna J. Sararas, Find A Grave volunteer, 50452113.

16 Photo: "Manitoba Historical Society. Historic Sites of Manitoba: Birtle Cemetery (Birtle, Municipality of Prairie View), cemetery entrance," photo. (<http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/birtlecemetery.shtml> : accessed 29 June 2018).

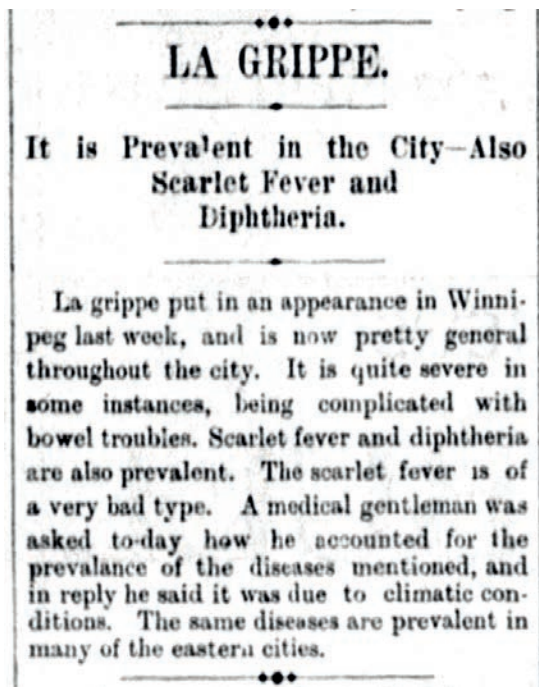
17 "What you need to know about scarlet fever?" article. Medicine News Today. (<https://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/176242.php> : accessed 30 June 2018).

18 "Scarlet fever," article. Wikipedia. ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scarlet\\_fever](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scarlet_fever) : accessed 30 June 2018).

19 "Measles History," article. News Medical, website. (<https://www.news-medical.net/health/Measles-History.aspx> : accessed 30 June 2018).

Measles had also been a dreaded disease around for centuries. The virus that caused measles was isolated in 1954, but it wasn't until 1963 that a vaccine was first licenced in the United States. At this time the number of measles cases dropped by 99%.<sup>20</sup>

Living in the over-crowded and poor hygienic confines of the immigrant halls was a thriving breeding ground where the deadly illnesses could easily be passed on through fluids in the mouth and nose when a person coughed or sneezed, and the droplets were airborne and landing on everything. Even touching the skin of a person could spread the infections. Being isolated from those that were contagious was not an option.



The Roland children seemed to be exposed to the infections at the onset of a major outbreak that occurred early that summer.

The Winnipeg Daily Tribune<sup>21</sup> reported that "La Grippe" (an influenza, also known as the sweating sickness) had 'gripped' the city. This flu was complicated by a severe type of scarlet fever and diphtheria.

Diphtheria had similar characteristics to scarlet fever and measles and was highly contagious infection caused by a toxin (poison) made by bacteria, which could lead to serious complications such as paralysis and heart failure. At one point it was the most common infectious cause of death.<sup>22</sup> It has sometimes been described as a virus that infects bacteria.<sup>23</sup> It usually attacked children younger than five years and adults older than forty years old.

Caroline and Johann may have remained in Canada for a time before they went to Wisconsin. We are not sure if they had originally planned on staying in Canada, and then decided differently after reaching Birtle and the tragedies of losing their children there, or if they had intended on going to Wisconsin all along. There was a common practice of those heading for the U.S. to first arrive in Canada to avoid the difficulty with the stringent immigration rules and the trouble and delay of U.S. immigration inspection.

Eventually a heartbroken Caroline and Johann managed to get from Birtle to Wisconsin. They travelled aboard the train, which was a recent addition between Winnipeg and Wisconsin. There were still plenty of ads around, and articles for passengers on travelling by train as noted in the newspaper clipping below.<sup>24</sup> While these ads pertained to the general populace, the immigrants were treated quite differently.

20 "Measles History," article. News Medical, website. (<https://www.news-medical.net/health/Measles-History.aspx> : accessed 30 June 2018).

21 "La Grippe," article. The Winnipeg Daily Tribune, 7 December 1892, p 4, col. 2 <https://digitalcollections.lib.umanitoba.ca/islandora/object/uofm%3A1243378> : accessed 29 Jun 2018).

22 "Diphtheria," article. Queensland Government. (<http://conditions.health.qld.gov.au/HealthCondition/condition/14/33/40/diphtheria> : accessed 30 Jun 2018).

23 "Diphtheria toxin," article. Wikipedia, website. ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diphtheria\\_toxin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diphtheria_toxin) : accessed 30 Jun 2018.)

24 "Before starting on a journey," article. The Winnipeg Daily Tribune, 1892-05-20 (Page 3), Friday May 20, 1892 <https://digitalcollections.lib.umanitoba.ca/islandora/object/uofm%3A1243378> : accessed 29 June 2018).







The land where Tomahawk sits once belonged to the Ojibwe, who actively traded with fur traders for several years prior to 1837. They continued to have usufructuary rights to hunt, fish and gather wild rice and make maple sugar until 1874 at which time they were mostly living on reservations. Meanwhile, logging activity surged after the civil war and construction camps for a dam and the railroad were established by 1886. Saw mills, paper mills were also added with service via three railroads.<sup>27</sup>



At the time of the Federal census of 1900, they were not yet naturalized. The family is listed as having arrived in 1892, that they had been living in the U.S. for eight years and that there were three children, John, Carl (Charles) and Clara.

Above: Rail Station, Tomahawk, Wisconsin<sup>28</sup>. Below: 1900 US Census<sup>29</sup>

T-204.  
TWELFTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES.

134 A

State Wisconsin County Waupaca Township or other division of county Larrabee Name of Institution \_\_\_\_\_

SCHEDULE No. 1.—POPULATION. Supervisor's District No. 6 Enumeration District No. 128 Sheet No. 3

Enumerated by me on the 14 day of June, 1900, E. V. Bennett, Enumerator.

IN CITIZEN	NAME	RELATION	PERSONAL DESCRIPTION		NATIVITY			CITIZENSHIP	OCCUPATION, TRADE, OR PROFESSION	EDUCATION			SINGLE OR MARRIED
			SEX	AGE	Place of birth of this person	Place of birth of father of this person	Place of birth of mother of this person			Years of school attended	Years of college attended	Years of business school attended	
1	Shirley Geranda	Daughter	W	3 Dec 1887	11	5	Wisconsin	Germany	Germany				
2	Emil	Son	W	11 May 1891	9	5	"	"	"				
3	Albert	Son	W	12 Aug 1893	6	5	"	"	"				
4	Max	Son	W	10 Nov 1894	5	5	"	"	"				
5	Levi	Son	W	20 Dec 1894	4	5	"	"	"				
6	Emma	Daughter	W	1 Apr 1896	3	5	"	"	"				
7	Levi	Son	W	10 May 1897	1	5	"	"	"				
8	Marjorie	Daughter	W	3 Apr 1897	1	5	Germany	Germany	Germany	1872-27			
9	34 54 Selby	Daughter	W	20 May 1897	1	5	Germany	Germany	Germany	1871-74	Teacher		0 3 34
10	William	Son	W	3 Oct 1897	10	18	Germany	Germany	Germany	1871-78			
11	William	Son	W	12 Aug 1893	16	5	Wisconsin	"	"				
12	Martha	Daughter	W	3 Feb 1895	14	5	Wisconsin	"	"				
13	Levi	Son	W	3 May 1897	13	5	"	"	"				
14	Martha	Daughter	W	3 Aug 1894	10	5	"	"	"				
15	Andrew	Son	W	10 Jul 1891	9	5	"	"	"				
16	Martha	Daughter	W	3 Aug 1894	5	5	"	"	"				
17	Levi	Son	W	10 Oct 1894	3	5	"	"	"				
18	Levi	Son	W	10 Dec 1896	1	5	"	"	"				
19	35 35 William	Son	W	10 Feb 1891	9	31	Germany	Germany	Germany	1870-74	Teacher		0 3 35
20	Martha	Daughter	W	3 Aug 1891	9	31	"	"	"	1873-74			
21	Levi	Son	W	10 May 1891	19	5	Wisconsin	"	"				
22	Levi	Son	W	3 Apr 1893	16	5	"	"	"				
23	Levi	Son	W	3 Feb 1896	13	5	"	"	"				
24	Levi	Son	W	3 Feb 1897	11	5	"	"	"				
25	36 36 Rolland	Son	W	10 Feb 1895	5	12	Germany	Germany	Germany	1872-74	Teacher		7 36
26	Levi	Son	W	3 Apr 1891	10	12	Germany	Germany	Germany	1873-74			
27	Levi	Son	W	10 Feb 1891	10	12	Wisconsin	"	"				
28	Levi	Son	W	10 Feb 1891	10	12	"	"	"				
29	Levi	Son	W	10 Feb 1891	10	12	"	"	"				

27 "Tomahawk, Wisconsin," article. Wikipedia. ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tomahawk,\\_Wisconsin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tomahawk,_Wisconsin) : accessed 30 June 2018).

28 Photo: Tomahawk Area Historical Society (<http://www.tomahawkhistoricalsoc.org/>). Photo courtesy of Ted Kiar and Tomahawk Historical Society.

29 Twelfth Census of the United States, Schedule No. 1 -- Population (1900), Wisconsin, Waupaca, Larrabee Township, enumeration district no 128, sheet no. 3, lines 25-29, Rolland Family.



In the census of 1900, Johann is listed as a farmer, and they were living in Larrabee, Waupaca, Wisconsin. He was listed as being able to speak English, and to read and write.

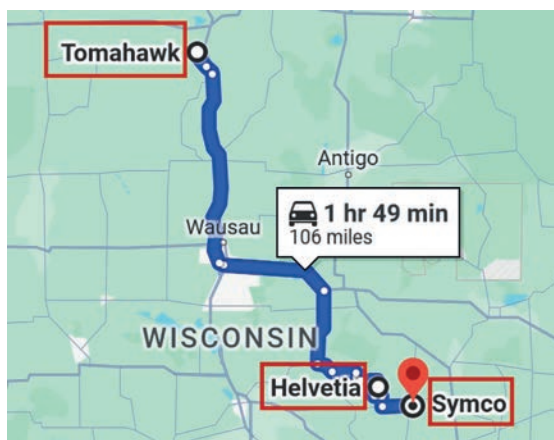
**Schedule No. 1—Population.**

Enumeration of the inhabitants in the Town of Helvetia in the county of Waupaca, State of Wisconsin, on the 1st day of June, A. D. 1905.

204 William H. Robertson Clerk.

Number of family in the order of residence	NAME of each person whose place of abode on June 1, 1905, was in this family. <small>Enter surname first, then the given name and middle initial, if any. Include every person living on June 1, 1905. Limit children born since June 1, 1905.</small>	Relationship of each person to the head of the family.	PERSONAL DESCRIPTION				NATIVITY.		OCCUPATION, TRADE, OR PROFESSION of each person FOURTEEN YEARS of age and over.	Months employed	OWNERSHIP OF LAND.			
			Color or race	Sex	Age at last birth	Married within year	Place of birth of this person.	Place of birth of Parents of this person.			Owned or rented	Owned free or mortgaged	Farm or house.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
91	Hoberg, Johannas	Head	"	M	44	12	12	Norway	Norway	Farmer	12	6	12	7
92	Anna	Wife	"	F	30	1	1	Norway	Norway	Trained Nurse	7			
93	Carl J.	Son	"	M	27	1	1	"	"					
94	Oliver	Son	"	M	24	1	1	"	"					
95	John M.	Son	"	M	19			"	"					
96	Nicholas	"	"	M	17			"	"					
97	Bigarmi	"	"	M	14			"	"					
98	Boyer, Gust	Head	"	M	27	1	1	Germany	Germany	Farmer	12	6	12	7
99	Martilda	Wife	"	F	23	1	1	"	"					
100	Carl	Son	"	M	5			"	"					
101	Gust	"	"	M	3			"	"					
102	Anna	Son	"	F	1			"	"					
103	Wilhelmine	Brother	"	F	63	1	1	Germany	"					
104	Steinlich, Louis (Kaufmann)	Brother-in-law	"	M	26	1	1	"	"	Farmer	12			
105	Robert	Servant	"	M	23	1	1	Russia	Russia					
106	Sorenberg, Edward	Head	"	M	41	1	1	Germany	Germany	Farmer	12	6	12	7
107	Julia	Wife	"	F	40	1	1	"	"					
108	Christof	Son	"	M	31	1	1	"	"	Day Laborer	12			
109	Amelia	Son	"	F	20	1	1	"	"					
110	Charles	"	"	M	18	1	1	"	"					
111	Burtha	"	"	F	16	1	1	"	"					
112	Henry	Son	"	M	13			"	"					
113	Robert	"	"	M	11			"	"					
114	Malice	Son	"	F	9			"	"					
115	Roland, John	Head	"	M	40	1	1	Germany	"	Farmer	12	6	12	7
116	Caroline	Wife	"	F	36	1	1	"	"					
117	Charles	Son	"	M	8			Norway	"					
118	John	"	"	M	11			"	"					
119	Charles	Son	"	M	4			"	"					
120	Anna	"	"	F	3			"	"					
121	Henry	Son	"	M	1			"	"					

1905 US Census, Johann and his family are listed as inhabitants of Helvetia<sup>30</sup>

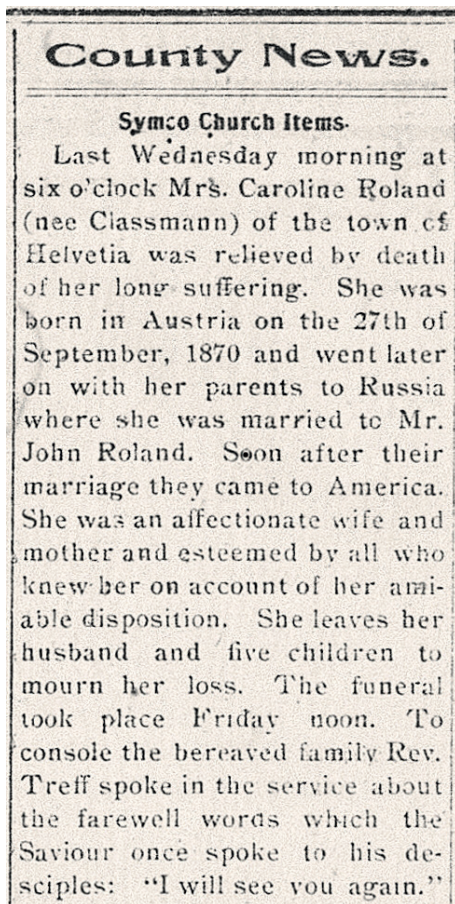


Caroline only lived for another five years after her last child, Heinrich Albert (Henry) was born. She died on 2 September 1908. According to the records of the St. Mark Church in Symco the cause of death was "Auszehrung," which translates to weakness, often tuberculosis. She was buried in the Union Cemetery in Symco two days later, 4 September 1908.<sup>31</sup>

Distance between Tomahawk and Helvetia / Symco is about 100 miles (Google Maps)

<sup>30</sup> Wisconsin State Census, 1885-1905 for Caroline Roland. Ancestry.com.

<sup>31</sup> Extracts from Death/Burial Records 1893-1931, St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Symco, Wisconsin (<http://www.stmarksymco.org>) : accessed 12 June 2018).



Left: Caroline Roland (née Assmann) Obituary. The year of birth is incorrectly stated here as 1870; it was 1869, as also noted in the 1900 Census.<sup>32</sup>

Johann seems to have remained a widower for a time after Caroline's death as he is listed as widowed in the 1910 census, living in Helvetia. There was a seventeen year old named Minnie Smith living in the home, possibly a housekeeper.

Somewhere between 1910 and 1920 he must have married again as in the 1920 census he is listed as divorced, and living in Union. In the 1930 census he is once again listed as married, and his wife's first name is Caroline and she was listed as being 70 years old. They are living in Union.

Johann became naturalized as a citizen on 3 November 1913, and as living in Iola, Wisconsin at the time. He had filed the patent on 7 May 1909, where it also notes his witness had not been a citizen.

Below: Johann Roland Naturalization Cards<sup>33</sup>

R 453	
Family name Roland 453	Given name or names John
Address Re 3	Iola, Wis.
Certificate no. (or vol. and page) P 410	Title and location of court Cir. Waupaca Co., Waupaca, Wis.
Country of birth or allegiance Austria	When born (or age) July 11, 1865
Date and port of arrival in U. S.	Date of naturalization Nov. 3, 1913
Names and addresses of witnesses	
OVER	
U. S. Department of Labor, Immigration and Naturalization Service Form No. 1-1 P.	

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IN COURT RECORD	
Certificate canceled (date and court)	
Why canceled:	
Expatriated	Deceased
Filed	
Other facts of record Prior Pet May 7, 1909	
Witness not a citizen	

Johann lived until 1936 in Symco, where he died at the age of 70 or 71 and was buried in the Union Cemetery.

32 From Ruth McConnell, taken from Symco Church News in the local newspaper.

33 National Archives and Records Administration (NARA); Washington, D.C.; Soundex Index to Naturalization Petitions for the United States District and Circuit Courts, Northern District of Illinois and Immigration and Naturalization Service District 9, 1840-19.



The children of Caroline Assmann and Johan Roland born in Wisconsin were:

**John Roland** (Jr.) was born in Tomahawk on 11 February 1894. He would go on to marry Martha Mathilde Voss, and have at least two sons of his own, Ronald and Robert.

**Carl Richard Roland** arrived on 23 January 1897, but by this time the family was living in Union in the Waupaca County of Wisconsin, some 200 miles south of Tomahawk. He was baptized on 2 March 1897 at the St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Symco with Johann Assmann and Katharine Roland as sponsors, and Pastor D. Jaeger officiating. Carl married Mary Anne Delo on 12 November 1922. He was 25 and living in Symco at the time, while Mary Delo was 24 and living in Union. Witnesses for their wedding were Henry Roland, Anna Roland. Carl and Mary had at least four children, Ruth, Marion, Roger and Donna.

**Clara Roland** arrived on the scene on 10 April 1900. She married Phillip Morien and bore three children, Phyllis Anne, William, and James.

**Anna Therese Roland** was born 3 March 1902. There is a record of her being baptized on the 30 March 1902 in Symco. The sponsors were Hermann Reinig and Therese Roland with Pastor F. I. Karth officiating.<sup>34</sup>

Johann and Caroline's last son, **Heinrich Albert Roland**, arrived on 9 November 1903. His baptism didn't happen until 21 February 1904 in Symco. Pastor F. L. Karth once again officiated, but the sponsors were Joseph Nemmit and Elisabeth Roland.

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<sup>34</sup> Extracts from Baptism Records 1893-1931, St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Symco, Wisconsin - <http://www.stmarksymco.org>) : accessed 12 June 2018).

## KATHARINA ASSMANN & JOSEPH BRENNENSTUHL

**Katharina Assman** born on 18 November 1872, in Metnitz, Volhynia, Russia;<sup>1</sup> died 7 January 1898 in Symco, Waupaca, Wisconsin.<sup>2</sup> She married 25 March 1894 in Symco, Union Township, Waupaca County, Wisconsin, USA, **Joseph Brennenstuhl**,<sup>3</sup> son of Johann and Maria Elisabeth (née Herter) Brennenstuhl. Joseph born on 22 March 1870 in Sabinowka, Galicia, Austria;<sup>4</sup> died on 5 November 1954 in Symco, Union Township, Waupaca County, Wisconsin, USA.

Katharina Assman, the last child to be born to Jakob Assmann and Marie Reisdorf, was the third daughter given the same name. Her two namesake preceding sisters died early in their lives; one Katharina at the age of three in 1865 and the other at the age of seven, both in 1869 in Alt Jazow, Galicia, Austria. This youngest Katharina was the only one of all of her siblings born on in Metnitz, Volhynia, Russia, arriving on 18 November 1872. (Her headstone says 16 November<sup>5</sup>)

When she was twenty years old, she travelled to North America on the same ships with her brother Karl and sister Caroline, and their spouses and families. (*For information on the conditions of embarking and sailing, see the chapter, Karl Assmann & Katharine Elisabeth Reisdorf.* )

After docking in Montreal, Quebec on 9 May 1892, the families travelled together by train as far as Winnipeg, at which point the plan was to split and go in different directions. Katharina's brother Karl and his wife Katharina Elizabeth Erbach had decided to settle in Neudorf, Assiniboia, North-West Territories, in the south of what later became Saskatchewan. Katharina was to go with her sister Caroline and husband Johann Roland and their two young children to Symco in Waupaca County, Wisconsin in the United States.

Her brother Johan and his wife Sophie would supposedly arrive directly in the U.S. two weeks later, joining them in Wisconsin. Other members of Katharina's family would also be travelling to join them in their respective countries, including her parents a year and a half later. What they might not have realized at the time was they'd never see each other or their families again.

The timing of their departure from Winnipeg is unknown, though it is suspected that Karl most likely went ahead to Neudorf to stake out the land as many heads of the households did, although his wife and children may have all gone at the same time. In any case, the others would have remained behind in Winnipeg for a time, stuck in immigration halls with hundreds of other people, waiting for room on trains to take them to their final destination. Katharina most likely would have stayed with her sister Caroline and their young family, so they could travel together to Wisconsin and she could help with the children.

Unfortunately, the overcrowded conditions meant some immigrants were sent to other places outside of Winnipeg to wait, and even worse there were contagious viruses and disease running rampant. It's not known whether or not Katharina went with Caroline and Johann to Birtle, Manitoba, when they were sent there. However, conditions there were no better, and when her sister's two young children died of either scarlet fever or measles, they would have all been devastated. Eventually, the remaining three made their way to Wisconsin. (*For information on*

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1 Protestant Lutheran Church (Metnitsa, Zhitomir parish, Russia), Metrical books, 1870-1885, „Births, marriages, and deaths 1873,” film 1895621, item 1, p. 313, register 279, Katharina Assmann; digital images, Family Search (familysearch.org : accessed 27 September 2016).

2 St. Marks Lutheran Church Death/Burial Records 1893 - 1931, Katharine Brennenstuhl, January 7, 1898.

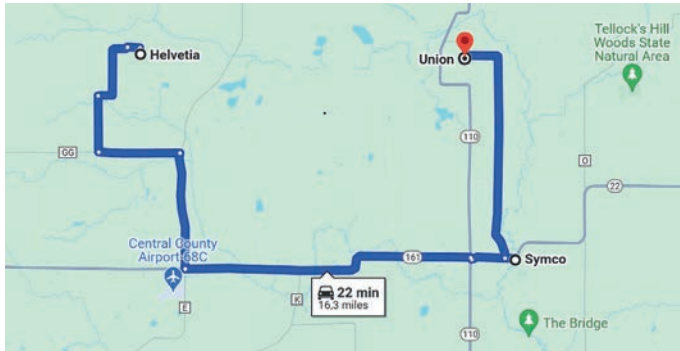
3 Pre-1907 Wisconsin Marriage Record (State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 818 State Street, Madison, Wisconsin), Vol. # 3, Page # 340.

4 Hilfskomitee der Galiziendeutschen, Ortsfamilienbuch Sabinowka/Galizien 1797-1900, pdf (Uelzen, Germany: Hilfskomitee der Galiziendeutschen, 2003), Johannes Brennenstuhl family 49: 38.

5 Katharine Assman Brennenstuhl, Section I Row 16, Union Cemetery, Symco, Waupaca County, Wisconsin, Find-A-Grave, <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/133261266/katharine-breunenstuhl> : accessed 12 May 2018).

the county of Waupaca and the towns they settled in, see the chapters on Johann Roland & Caroline Assmann, and on Johann Assmann & Sophia Tiefenbach.)

While living in Symco, Katharina met Joseph Brennenstuhl, who was a labourer, living in Union, a town of about four miles away. At the age of 22, he had immigrated to the United States from Hamburg on the ship named Scandia, landing in New York on the 20 of May in 1892.<sup>6</sup> He seems



Map of Symco, Union and Helvetia (Google Maps)

to have travelled with Katharina's brother Johann Assmann and his family. Also on the ship were Philip and Elizabeth Roland, a possible relation to Johann Roland, who was married to Katharina's sister Caroline. It seems inevitable that Katharina Assmann would meet Joseph as he was already known to her brother, and quite possibly they may have known each other in their homeland. As well, all the families lived in close proximity.

Joseph Brennenstuhl was born 22 March 1870 in Sabinowka, Galicia, Austria and baptized three days later in Josefow. Little is known about his early life. Two years after his arrival in the United States, on the 25 March 1894, Katharina married Joseph Brennenstuhl at Symco. Luckily her parents had arrived in January and they were able to be present for her wedding.

Katharina was 22 years old and Joseph was 24. Her brother Johann Assmann and Phillip Roland<sup>7</sup> were the signed witnesses to their marriage.

<p>This is to certify that this is a true and correct reproduction of the record filed in the Wisconsin Department of Health and Social Services, Division of Health.</p> <p><i>R.D. Neisfeld</i> R. D. Neisfeld, Ph. D. State Registrar</p> <p>Date: February 15, 1982</p>	1. Full name of husband.....	Joseph Brennenstuhl
	2. Name of the father of husband.....	Johan "
	3. Name of the mother of husband before marriage.....	Elizabeth Hortsmann
	4. Occupation of husband.....	Labourer
	5. Residence of husband.....	Union Waupaca Co Wis
	6. Birthplace of husband.....	Austria Europe
	7. Full name of wife previous to marriage.....	Katharina Assmann
	8. Name of the father of wife.....	Jacob "
	9. Name of the mother of wife before marriage.....	Magdalena Reinold
	10. Birthplace of wife.....	Austria Europe
	11. Time when the marriage was contracted.....	Mar 25-1894
	12. The place, town or township, and county, where the marriage was contracted.....	Symco Waup. Co Wis
	13. The color of the parties.....	White
	14. By what ceremony contracted.....	Luth.
	15. Name of subscribing witnesses.....	Phillip Roland John Assmann
	16. Name of person pronouncing marriage.....	D Jaeger
	17. Residence of person last named.....	Rear Creek Wis
	18. Date of certificate or affidavit of marriage.....	Mar 25-1894
	19. Date of registration.....	" 29- "
	20. Any additional circumstances.....	

Joseph Brennenstuhl and Katharina Assman marriage certificate<sup>8</sup>  
From Marriage records (1893-

6 Year: 1892; Arrival: New York, New York; Microfilm Serial: M237, 1820-1897; Microfilm Roll: Roll 589; Line: 5, New York, Passenger Lists, 1820-1957, Ancestry.com

7 Philip Roland may have been a brother, or at least a relative of Joseph Roland, husband to Katharina's sister Caroline. According to the St. Mark's Lutheran Church funeral records, Phillip Roland seems to have been married to Elisabeth Tiefenbach, and had a son named Heinrich and four daughters when he died of Asthma on 6 May 1913. He was buried 9 May 1913, and born 24 May 1850. (<http://www.stmarksymco.org/funeral.html>).

8 „Pre-1907 Wisconsin Marriage Record“ (State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 818 State Street, Madison, Wisconsin), Vol. # 3, Page # 340 Brennenstuhl-Assmann.



Marriage Date	Name & Residence of Groom	Groom's Age/ Birth date	Groom's Residence	Bride's Name	Bride's Age/ Birth date	Bride's Residence	Witnesses/Other Comments
March 25, 1894	Joseph Brennenstuhl	24 years; March 12, 1870	Union, Wisconsin	Katarina Assmann	22 years; 1872	Union, Wisconsin	Philipp Roland, Johann Assmann

1930) St. Mark's Lutheran Church<sup>9</sup>

The couple settled in Union or at least in the vicinity as their two children seem to have been born there. **Anna Brennenstuhl**, Katharina and Joseph's first-born daughter arrived on 9 May 1895 in Union, Wisconsin. She was baptised on 2 June 1895 by Pastor D. Jaeger. The sponsors were Elisa Roland and Joseph Nemetz.<sup>10</sup> Her confirmation took place on 4 April 1909 in Symco. She went on to marry Oscar Julius Kretchmer. They had three sons and a daughter, Oren, Francis, Harold, and Lillian.

**Karl (Carl) Richard Brennenstuhl**, (also called Charles or Charlie), followed on 6 June 1897.<sup>11</sup> He was baptised on 11 July 1897, also by Pastor D. Jaeger, with Johann Roland and Mathilde Ellish registered as the sponsors. He was confirmed in Symco on 31 March 1912. Unfortunately, he suffered an untimely death, which is explained farther along in this chapter.



Six months after Karl was born, Katharina died on 7 January 1898 at the age of twenty-five years, two months and twelve days in Symco, Waupaca County, Wisconsin.<sup>12</sup> The cause of her death is listed as Schwindsucht [translated as consumption or pulmonary tuberculosis (TB)]. She was buried two days later, on 9 January 1898, in Union Cemetery.<sup>13</sup> Her demise left a gaping hole in the family with a baby and a toddler to be cared for.

*Katharine (Assmann) Brennenstuhl Headstone, Union Cemetery<sup>14</sup>*

After her death, at the time of the 1900 US Federal Census, Joseph was noted as living at house #307 in Helvetia, Waupaca, Wisconsin. Still a widower at this time, he is listed as a servant, where he may have been boarding in a men's rooming house.<sup>15</sup> There is also the possibility

9 St. Mark's Lutheran Marriage Symco, Waupaca County, Wisconsin records 1893-1930, Joseph Brennenstuhl and Katarina Assmann, March 25, 1894.

10 [http://www.stmarksymco.org/uploads/3/4/8/1/34810467/st\\_mark\\_baptism\\_records\\_1893-1919.pdf](http://www.stmarksymco.org/uploads/3/4/8/1/34810467/st_mark_baptism_records_1893-1919.pdf)

11 [http://www.stmarksymco.org/uploads/3/4/8/1/34810467/st\\_mark\\_confirmation\\_records\\_1893-1931.pdf](http://www.stmarksymco.org/uploads/3/4/8/1/34810467/st_mark_confirmation_records_1893-1931.pdf)

12 St. Marks Lutheran Church Death/Burial Records 1893 - 1931, Katharine Brennenstuhl, January 7, 1898.

13 Katharine Assman Brennenstuhl, Section I Row 16, Union Cemetery, Symco, Waupaca County, Wisconsin, Find-A-Grave, (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/133261266/katharine-breunenstuhl> : accessed 12 May 2018).

14 Shelley Kloczko photos.

15 Year: 1900; Census Place: Helvetia, Waupaca, Wisconsin; Roll: 1823; Page: 18A; Enumeration District: 0126; FHL microfilm: 1241823, 1900 United States Federal Census, Ancestry.com.

that he was working for someone and this was the housing for the men who worked for the company, or that he was responsible for the running of the rooming house.

What Joseph did with his two very young children after Katharina's death, isn't entirely clear. However, from the same Federal census of 1900 of the Union and Helvetia Towns in Waupaca County, the children were listed as lodgers, living with Philip and Elisabeth Rollan.<sup>16</sup> It seems that Philip and Elisabeth were both related. Elisabeth<sup>17</sup> was a sister to Sophia Tiefenbach, the wife of Johann Assmann, so a sister-in-law to Katharina. Philip was a brother of Johann who married Katharina's sister Caroline.

Katharina Assmann m: Joseph <u>Brennenstuhl</u>	-	Johann Assmann m: Sophie Tiefenbach	-	Caroline Assmann m: Johann Roland
Elizabeth Tiefenbach (sister to Sophie) married Philip Roland (brother to Johann)				

Later in 1900, on the 24 of November, Joseph married his second wife, Pauline Amalie Bonikowske (21 September 1879-5 November 1958).<sup>18</sup> Pauline "Lena" Amalie Bonikowske was the daughter of Michael Fredrik Bonikowske (1842-1903) and Amalie Hedke (1854-1925). Lena was born in Sipiory, Kuhawsko-Pornorskie, Poland, which had belonged to Prussia, Germany, after the First Partition of Poland until after WWI. Lena emigrated to Wisconsin with her family in 1882. Joseph and Lena had several children, the oldest of which later contacted and visited the relatives in Canada.



*Joseph Brennenstuhl and Pauline "Lena" Amalie Bonikowske wedding photo<sup>19</sup>*

16 Year: 1900; Census Place: Helvetia, Waupaca, Wisconsin; Page: 5; Enumeration District: 0126, 1900 United States Federal Census, Ancestry.com.

17 As noted in the footnote related to Katharina and Joseph's marriage, where one of the witnesses was Philipp Roland, whose death noted his wife's name.

18 Pauline Amalie "Lena" Bonikowske Brennenstuhl, Section II, Union Cemetery, Symco, Waupaca County, Wisconsin, Memorial Id: 133277888, (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/133277888/paulina-amalie-brennenstuhl>)

19 Linda Windmoeller originally shared this photo from her family tree on 10 Oct 2015, [ancestry.ca](https://www.ancestry.ca).

Children of Joseph Brennenstuhl and Pauline Amalie Brennenstuhl (née Bonikowske):

**Wilhelm Friedrich (Willie) Brennenstuhl** was born 24 November 1901 in Helvetia. His place of baptism is listed as St. Lawrence. He was confirmed on 16 April 1916.<sup>20</sup> He went on to marry Hilda Verg in 1926 and they had one son, Donald, and two daughters, Ruth and Fay.

**Louisa Amalie Brennenstuhl** was born 7 March 1903 in Helvetia and confirmed 16 April 1916 in Symco at St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church. Her confirmation verse was Ephesians 2, 8-9. She married August Drath and they had a family of five. Vincent, Dale and Vernon were their first three sons, and a daughter Arleen followed, with another son Harland.

**Mathilde Brennenstuhl** appeared a year later in Helvetia on 15 September 1904. Her confirmation took place in Symco on 13 April 1919. Her confirmation verse is recorded as Matthew 24. 42. She married Edward Luckjohn and they had at least two sons, Kenneth and Earl, and a daughter named Anna.

**Herman Albert Brennenstuhl** arrived on 16 May 1906. His confirmation also took place in Symco, and it was held on 20 March 1921. His confirmation verse was Romans 5, 8. Herman married Helena Schmidt and they had three children.

Joseph Brennenstuhl is listed as being naturalized on 12 July 1909 in the Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin, Iowa Court District. At the time of the 1910 federal census, he was living at Helvetia, Wisconsin with his family on a mortgaged farm, working as a farmer.<sup>21</sup>

Then in 1912 tragedy struck the family, when Katharina and Joseph's son Carl died in a tragic rifle accident on 11 November. He and an uncle were target practicing when he was shot in his right side. He was buried on 13 November 1912 in the Symco cemetery.

Oshkosh.—Carl Richard Brennenstuhl, aged fifteen, died from a rifle wound while being removed from a train to an ambulance. The boy, a son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Brennenstuhl of Waupaca county, was shot in the right side while at target practice.



*Above: Newspaper notice of Carl's rifle accident.<sup>22</sup>  
Right: Carl Brennenstuhl Headstone, Union Cemetery<sup>23</sup>*

For whatever reason – possibly the headstone was it was added many years later – the death year on Carl's headstone is wrong. Carl clearly died in 1912, according to newspaper accounts, and the St. Mark's Lutheran Church records in Symco.

<sup>20</sup> [http://www.stmarksymco.org/uploads/3/4/8/1/34810467/st\\_mark\\_confirmation\\_records\\_1893-1931.pdf](http://www.stmarksymco.org/uploads/3/4/8/1/34810467/st_mark_confirmation_records_1893-1931.pdf)

<sup>21</sup> Year: 1910; Census Place: Helvetia, Waupaca, Wisconsin; Roll: T624\_1743; Page: 5A; Enumeration District: 0076; FHL microfilm: 1375756, 1910 United States Federal Census, Ancestry.com.

<sup>22</sup> Online publication - Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2003. Original data - Gazette. Stevens Point, WI, USA. Database created from microfilm copies of the newspaper. Original data: Gazette. Stevens Point, WI, USA. Database created from microfilm.

<sup>23</sup> Shelley Kloczko photo collection, Wisconsin Research 2014.



In 1920 Joseph Brennenstuhl was listed as living at Little Wolf, Waupaca, Wisconsin, with his second wife Lena and three of their children, with the oldest presumably living elsewhere by this time. They eventually were living about two and a half miles SW of Symco or five miles north of Manawa in about 1917-1918, where they lived the remainder of their lives.



Photo of Brennenstuhl family circa 1940s with members of Hedtke family (Lena's relatives).  
L to R: Joseph Brennenstuhl, Hilda Brennenstuhl, Louis Hedtke, Lena Brennenstuhl (wife of Joseph), Pauline Hedtke Henry (from Kansas), Bill Brennenstuhl, Lillie? (2nd wife of Fred Hedtke), Fred Hedtke.<sup>24</sup>

**Manawa**—Rev. Alvin Klug officiated at funeral services Monday, Nov. 8, for Joseph Brennenstuhl, 84, who died Friday morning, Nov. 5, at the home of a son, William, in Manawa. **1954**  
Mr. Brennenstuhl was born Mar. 22, 1870, in Austria, and moved to the U. S. in 1892. He was married to Katherine Asman, who died in 1898. In November, 1900, he was married to Pauline Bonikowske. They lived on a farm in the town of Little Wolf from 1919 until 1941, when they moved to Symco.  
He was a member of St. Mark's Lutheran church in Symco, where funeral services were held. Burial was in the Symco cemetery. Private services were held at 11 a. m. Monday at the Voss Brothers Funeral home in Manawa.  
Survivors, in addition to his widow, include one daughter, Louise, (Mrs. August Drath), Shiocton; two sons, William of Manawa, and Herman of New London; one brother, George of Weyauwega; two sisters, Mrs. Joe Nemmetz, Manawa, and Mrs. Marie Schindel, Canada, 15 grandchildren and 29 great-grandchildren. One daughter, Mrs. Ed Luckjohn, preceded him in death in October, 1953.

Joseph died on the 5 November 1954 and is buried in the Union Cemetery of Symco, Wisconsin. Lena died four years later to the day of her husband and is buried beside him.

#### Obituary for Joseph Brennenstuhl<sup>25</sup>

<sup>24</sup> Photo from Ancestry, posted by Linda Windmoeller from Phillips, Wisconsin. Lena's mother, Amalie (Molly) was a Hedtke and her brother William Hedtke lived in Kansas. They apparently made several trips from Wisconsin to Kansas to visit over the years.

<sup>25</sup> "Online publication – provo, UT< USA: Ancestry.com OPerations Inc., 2003. Original data – Gazette. Stevens Point, WI< USA> Database created from microfilm copies of the newspaper.

In the meantime, Katharina and Joseph's daughter Anna was married on 5 March 1913 in Symco to Oscar Julius Kretschmer. Oscar was a cheesemaker.<sup>26</sup> They had four children together, before she died on 4 April 1926 in Shawano, Wisconsin at the age of 31.

Anna Brennenstuhl and Oscar Kretschmer Family:

1. Oren Leonard Kretschmer (1915–1997)
2. Francis M. Kretschmer (1916–1995)
3. Harold Carl Kretschmer (1917–2002)
4. Lillian Joyce Kretschmer (1919–1975)

Of Joseph Brennenstuhl's second family, the oldest son William married Hilda Verg. They had three children who all married. Some of you may remember their visit to Canada sometime in the 1960s.

*Below, left: Relatives from Wisconsin visiting the Jacob and Carrie Assman family in the 1960s<sup>27</sup>.*

*Below, right: William Brennenstuhl and Hilda Brennenstuhl (née Verg)<sup>28</sup>*



William died on 27 November in 1971 in Clintonville, Wisconsin, and Hilda on 26 June 1982 in Dupont, Wisconsin.

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26 Correspondence from Oren Kretschmer January 1983 to Judith Silverthorne.

27 Assman family photos, collection of Elaine Iles. Accessed 27 June 2018.

28 Photo from ancestry tree, Photo courtesy hedgeapple10. (sherrysfile3292012-1\_AutoBackup\_2013-10-31\_2013-11-13wmedia\_2014-04-01\_2016-05-16\_01(1) : accessed 20 June 2018).

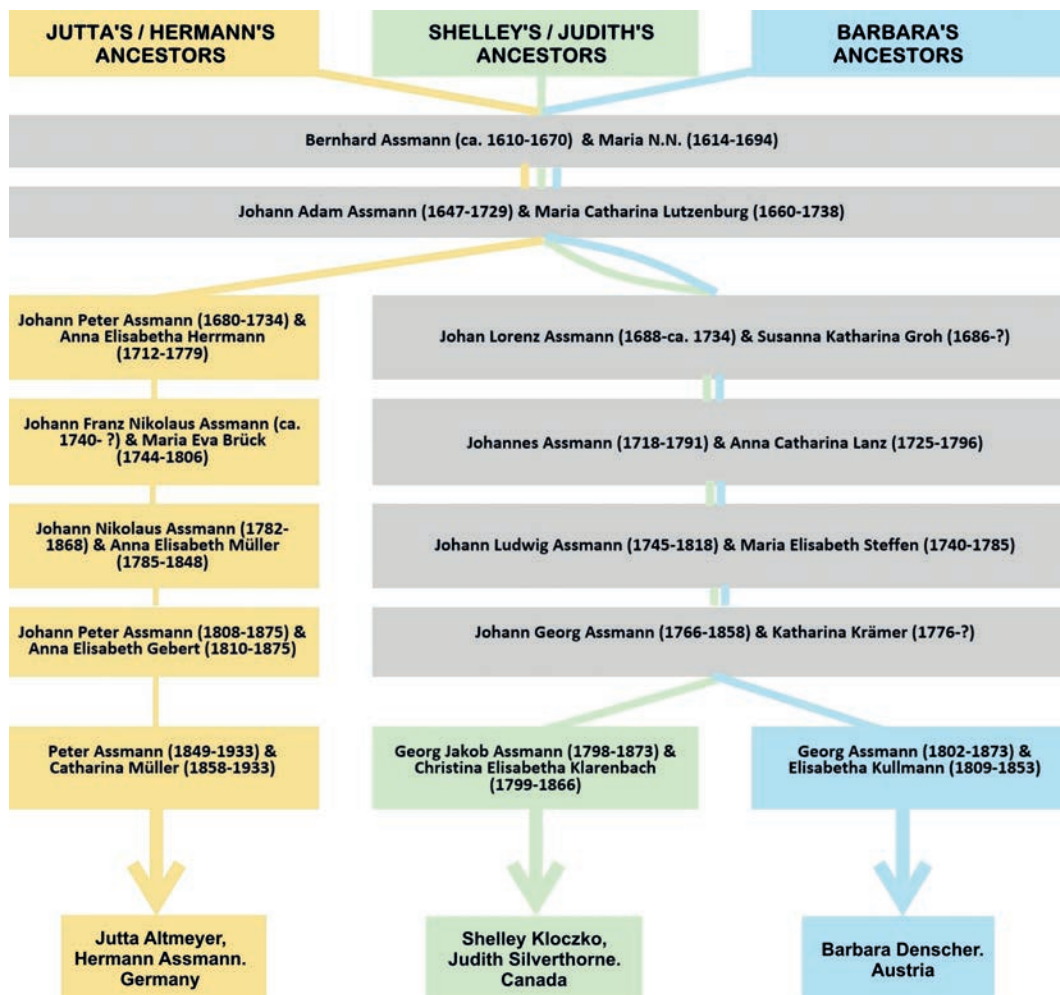
## Appendices

Although Shelley and I followed the direct line of our ancestors which began in North America, our research took us back to Volhynia then to Galicia and finally to the earliest known homeland in Germany. We were thrilled to discover not all descendants emigrated from one country to the next.

Some stayed in Germany, where many generations have lived for the past several hundred years. Shelley and I were lucky enough to meet some of these cousins, in particular Jutta Altmeyer and her family. We have also been in communication with her brother Hermann Assmann. Our common ancestor is Bernhard Assmann (ca. 1610-1670) and our great-grandfathers several times removed were brothers. *Their ancestral stories follow in "Assmanns in Germany"*.

As well, not all the descendants of those Assmanns who emigrated to Galicia or Volhynia migrated overseas to North America. They stayed in Galicia - until political developments forced them to leave the country, i.e. until the first decades of the 20th century. One of them is Elisabeth Assmann, who went to Vienna and was the grandmother of our cousin Barbara Denscher. Our common ancestor was Johann Georg Assman (1766-1858), and our great-grandfathers too were brothers. *Their story follows in "Assmanns in Galicia and Austria"*.

The following chart shows the shared ancestry of Shelley and myself and our cousins, some of whom, such as Jutta Altmeyer and Hermann Assmann, live in present-day Germany, and others, such as Barbara Denscher, in present-day Austria.





## Assmanns in Germany

### JOHANN PETER ASSMANN & MARIA ANGELA N.N. & ANNA ELISABETHA HERMANN

The following information is taken from „FAMILIE ASSMANN aus Gehlweiler und Kellenbach“, compiled by Dieter Assmann in Germany, who has consulted numerous church and archive resources.

**Johann Peter Assmann**, born 5 December 1680 in Gehlweiler, County of Sponheim (today Gehlweiler, Rheinland-Pfalz, Germany); died sometime before 1670.

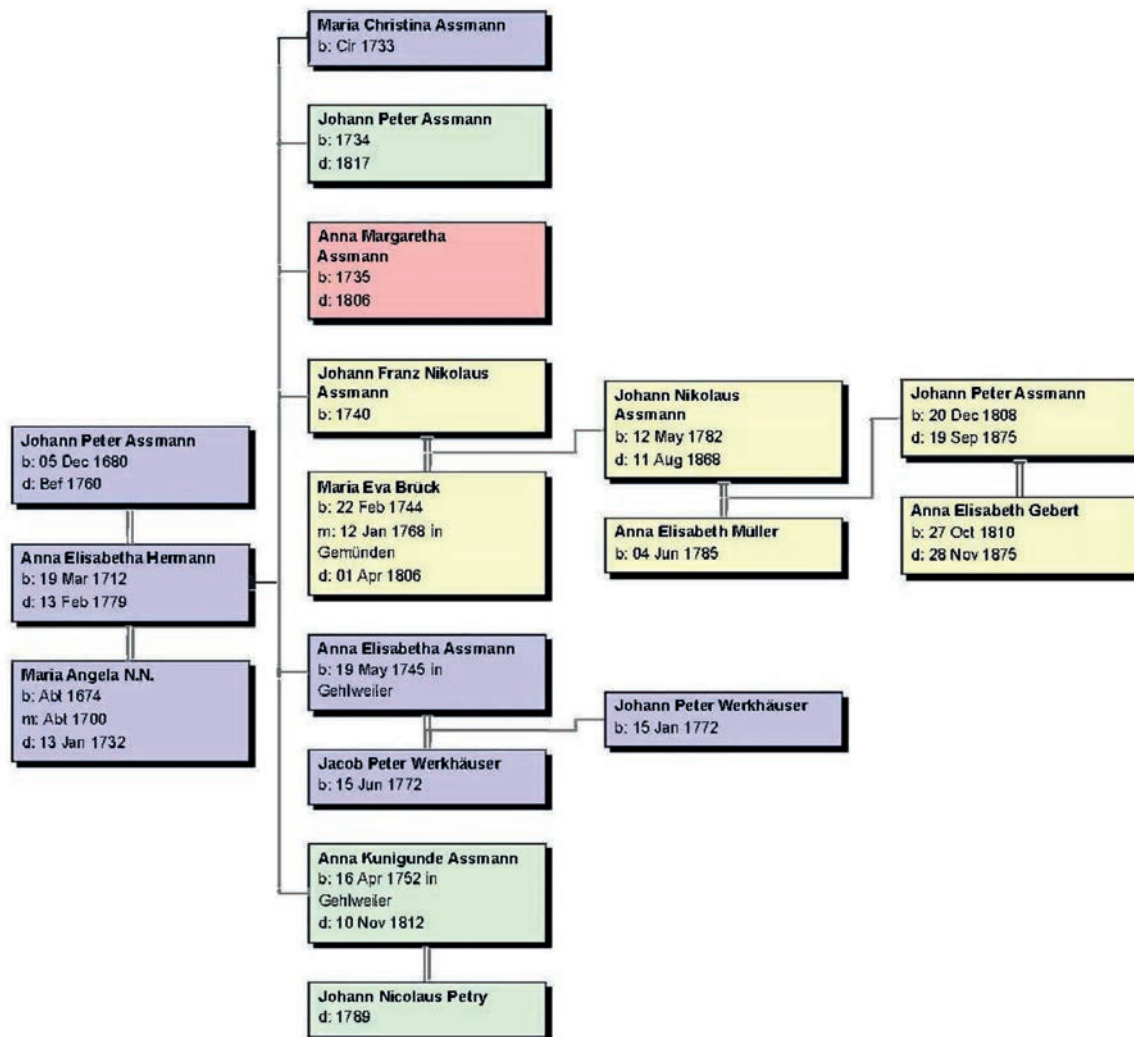
Johann Peter Assmann was on born 5 December 1680 to Johann (Hans) Adam Assmann (1647-1729) and Maria Catharina Lutzenburg (1660-1738). His godparents are recorded as Philipp Lutzenberger and Hans Peter Dreher; Anna Lucia, Fr v [= wife of] Frantz Hofweyer.

Peter married his first wife Maria Angela N.N. about 1700. She was born around 1676 and died in January of 1734. That same year, he married **Anna Elisabetha Hermann** on 24 June 1734 in Gemünden, County of Sponheim.

Anna Elisabetha Hermann was the daughter of daughter of Johann Nikolaus Hermann and Susanna Christina König. She was born on 19 March 1712 in Rohrbach, and died on 13 February 1779 in Gehlweiler, County of Sponheim.

There is no record of Peter and Maria having any children; however, he and Anna had six that are known. Johann Franz Nikolaus Assmann, the fourth child, is the direct link to the current generations in Gehlweiler.

1. Maria Christina Assmann was born in Gehlweiler. Godmother in 1774 with Johannes Jakob Krämer in Rohrbach, godmother in 1780 with Maria Christina Petry, she was single. She was confirmed in 1759. There is a marriage with Johannes Ochs, but this is not documented.
2. Johann Peter Assmann was born around 1734 in Gehlweiler and died on 4 February 1817 in Gehlweiler. He married Anna Magdalena Sahm (18 June 1735 - 13 March 1798) on 24 January 1758.
3. Anna Margaretha Assmann was born on 15 June 1735 in Gehlweiler and died on 13 March 1806 in Gehlweiler. She married Johann Nickel Schneider on 18 April 1758 in Gemünden. Johann Nickel was born around 1730.
4. **Johann Franz Nikolaus Assmann** was born around 1740 in Gehlweiler. He married Maria Eva Brück (22 February 1744 - 1 April 1806) on 12 January 1768 in Gehlweiler.
5. Anna Elisabeth Assmann was born on 19 May 1745 in Gehlweiler and died on 22 December 1799 in Gehlweiler. She married Jakob Ernst Werkhäuser. (1749 - 7 June 1796).
6. Anna Kunigunde Assmann was born on 16 April 1752 in Gehlweiler and died on 10 November 1812 in Gehlweiler. She married Johann Nicolaus Petry (died before 1789).



The following chart continues the direct line of Johann Peter Assmann and Maria Catharina Lutzenburg, starting with their son Johann Franz Nikolaus Assmann who married Maria Eva Brück. The chart continues through the generations to Peter Assmann, born 19 April 1892. Chapters of Peter and his descendants follow this one to present day.





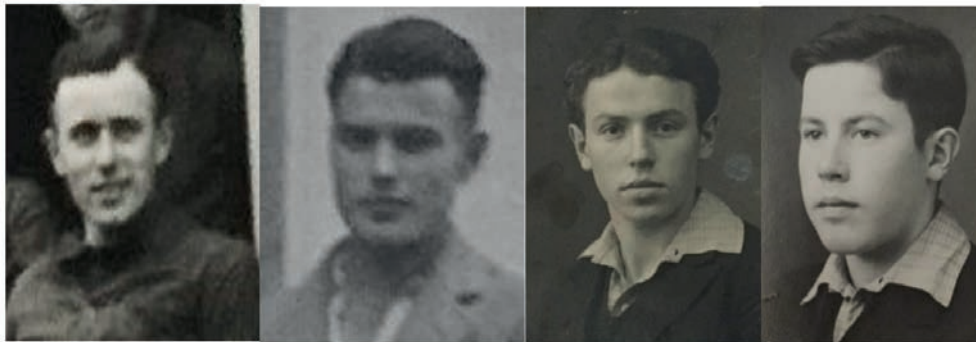
## PETER ASSMANN & MARIA MICHEL

**Peter Assmann** was born 19 April 1892 to Peter Assmann (1849-1876) and Catharina Müller (1858-) in Gehlweiler.

Peter Assmann and Maria Michel were farmers. They loved singing although they had a hard life. Peter took part in the First World War as a soldier and survived.

They had four sons, Friedrich, Hermann, Erich, Ewald

1. Friedrich Assmann was born around 1920 in Gehlweiler. He died in the Second World War.
2. Hermann Jacob Assmann was born 16 January 1923 in Gehlweiler and died on 27 August 1986 in Gehlweiler. He married Elisabeth Martha Müller (29 May 1927 - 18 July 2018) on 14 April 1951.
3. Erich Assmann was born on 15 November 1927. He married Christa Müller (25 December 1934 - 1 July 2010) in May 1956.
4. Ewald Assmann was born on 15 November 1927. He died in the Second World War.



Friedrich

Hermann

Erich

Ewald

*Erich and Ewald were twins.  
Here at school in the year 1936 at the age of nine.*



## HERMANN JAKOB ASSMANN & ELISABETH MARTHA MÜLLER

**Hermann Jakob Assmann** was born on 16 January 1923 to Peter Assmann (1892-1982) and Maria Michel (1892-1975), at Gehlweiler, Germany, and died 27 June 1986. He married **Elisabeth Martha Müller** 14 April 1951 at Gehlweiler. She is the daughter of Friedrich Müller (1879-1950) and Johanna Müller (1887-1966). She was born 29 May 1927 at Gehlweiler and died 18 July 2018.



Hermann was one of four sons born to Peter Assmann and Maria Assmann (née Michel) at Gehlweiler. His brothers were Friedrich, Erich and Ewald Assmann. (See *Johann Peter Assmann & Maria Angela N.N. & Anna Elisabetha Hermann chapter.*)

After the Second World War he used to work in several construction companies and also did farming and he took care of community and club work, fire brigade etc. He got a cancer-disease in his late fifties and at that time he liked to do gardening.

Maria did most of the farming work, also community and club work such as choir leading, churchwork, old peoples' celebrations. Later on, she helped in a bakery of her sister's and took care of the old people in the family. She also enjoyed doing some journeys, for example to Berlin or France or Italy. She then helped her daughter Jutta's family as long as possible until Jutta in turn took care of her. Both Hermann and Maria were quite extroverted and knew many people all over the place. They helped to manage the village in their kind ways.

Hermann and Elisabeth had 7 children: Margot, Ursula, Hermann, Peter Friedrich, Jutta, Maria Elisabeth and Ewald.



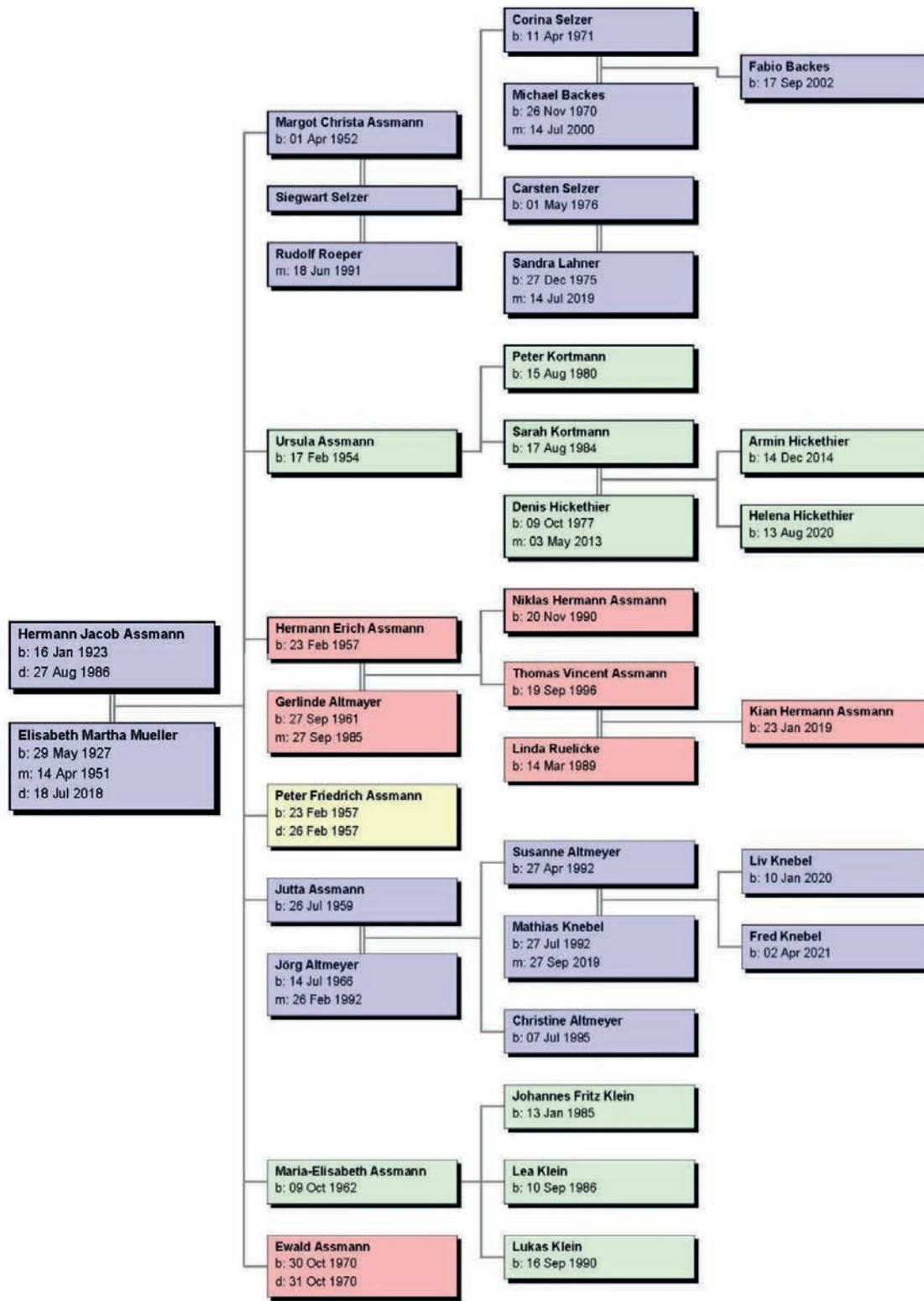
*Peter Assmann (the fourth from left) with his family and some relatives in front of his house in Gehlweiler, which was the home of Maria. Hermann is the second person from left, Maria the second from right and the twins Erich and Ewald are the boys right in front of them.*



*Wedding day of Hermann and Elisabeth on the 14th of April 1951 at Gehlweiler, Germany*



## Family Chart



## MARGOT CHRISTA ASSMANN

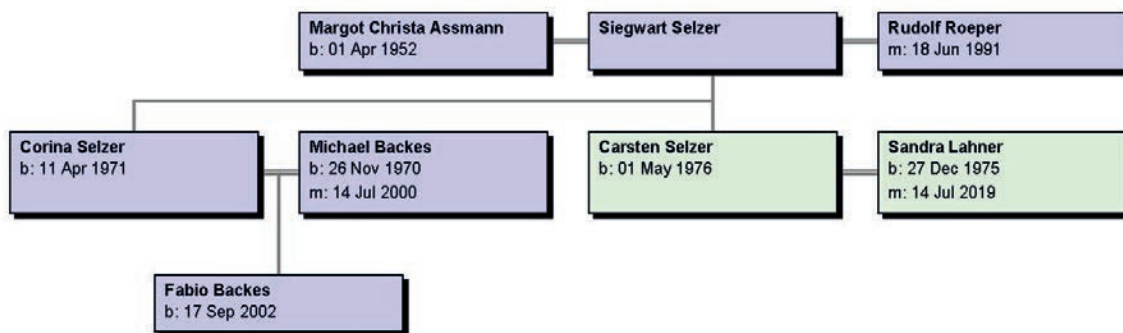


Margot was born on 1 April 1952 and married 18 June 1991 to Rudolf Roeper.

Margot used to work as a nurse and her husband Rudolf used to work for the German Telecom. He is also politically active with the Socialists.

Margot's daughter Corina became a teacher for the young (age 6 to 9). Her husband Michael works for the police administration. Their son Fabio studies with an IT company in Munich.

Margot and Rudolf's son Carsten works with the German automobile manufacturer OPEL as an engineer. His wife Sandra works in a wine-laboratory.

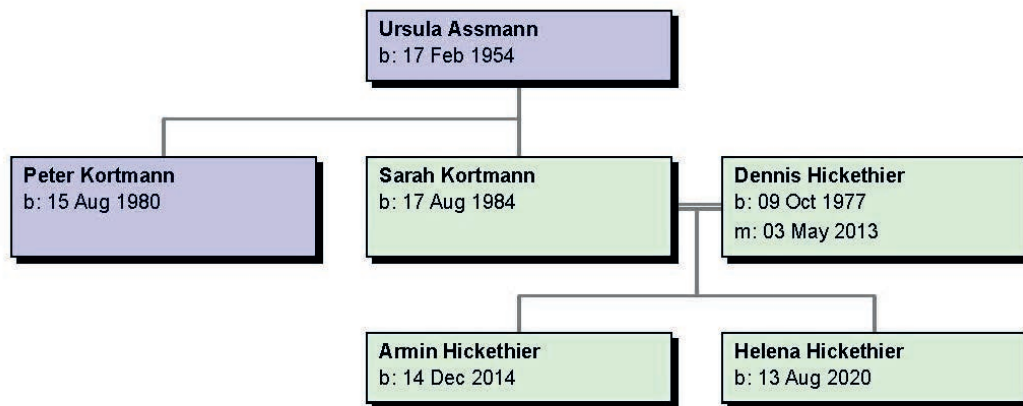


## URSULA (ASSMANN) KORTMANN



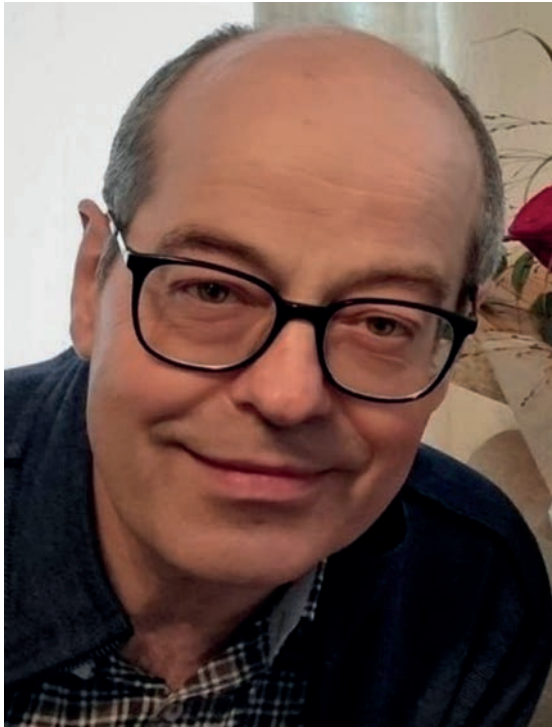
Ursula Assman was born on the 17 February 1954. She married and had two children, Peter and Sarah, and is now divorced. Ursula and her sister Jutta had a nursing service, and Ursula is now a pensioner. She is extroverted, knows very many people and keeps in contact with many of them. She also sings in a choir and looks after the grandchildren, when necessary.

Her son Peter lives near Karlsruhe. He used to work as an organ-builder, but he does not have much contact with the family at the moment. Ursula's daughter Sarah studied opera-singing in Karlsruhe. She then moved back to the Hunsrück and teaches music lessons at several schools, does concerts and choir work. Her husband, Dennis, comes from Eastern Germany and works at a pension-insurance company. Their son Armin plays "Fussball" - football - and drums and their daughter Helena attends kindergarten.





## HERMANN ASSMANN



Hermann Assmann was born on 23 February 1957 at Gehlweiler, Germany. He married Gerlinde Altmayer on 27 September 1985 at Gehlweiler. She is the daughter of Vinzenz Altmayer (1926-2022) and Helga Altmayer (1930-2018). She was born 27 September 1961 at Kirchberg/Denzen.

They have two sons Niklas Assmann, born 20 November 1990, and Thomas Assmann born 19 September 1996, both at Kirn, Germany.

Hermann Assmann used to have a company for electronic engineering nearby for computer automation. He is now a pensioner and does many projects, for example improving climate conditions.

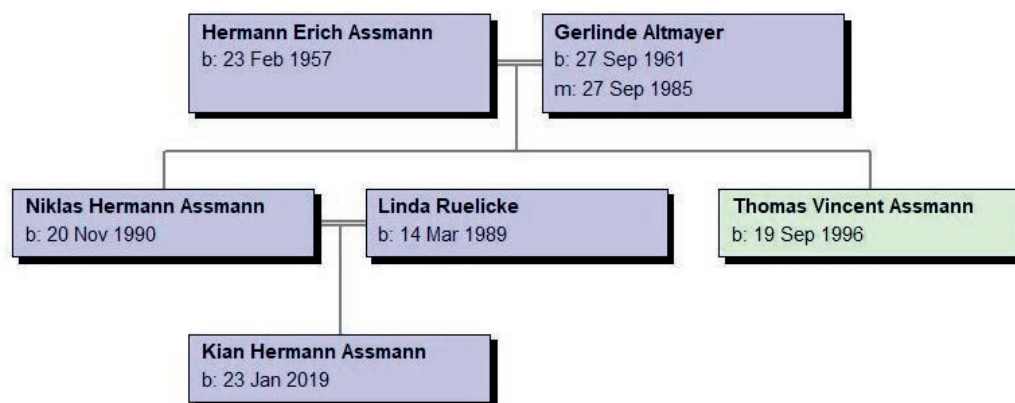
He is interested in many subjects, a bright person, and sometimes worried about the future of the world. He has always been a good counselor for the family and took over very much of the responsibility in the family. He is also the one who is always there if problems need to be

solved. He is more sort of introverted and describes himself like ... "if everybody goes right, I will go left." He can play guitar and can be very funny with a great sense of humor.

His wife Gerlinde works in a pharmacy. She is a great gardener and is very helpful when needed.

Hermann and Gerlinde have two sons, Niklas and Thomas. Niklas lives near Frankfurt and is a partner in a Japanese company for software solutions. He studied informatics (the study, design, and development of information technology that generates, stores, processes, and presents information). His wife Linda works for the Fraunhofer Institute in Kassel. Their son Kian attends kindergarten.

Thomas, the second son lives in Frankfurt. He became a Media-economist, and he likes film-making too and already has produced some short ones.



## PETER FRIEDRICH ASSMANN

Peter Friedrich Assmann was the twin brother to Hermann. He only lived for three days, 23 February 1957 - 26 February 1957.

## JUTTA ASSMANN



Jutta Assmann was born in Gehlweiler on 26 July 1959. She married Jörg Altmeyer on 26 February 1992. Although Jutta eventually became a nurse and worked with her sister, she did other things previously, she says:

“First after school, I became industrial clerk (which I did not like) and went to England for one year to improve my English as an au-pair. After that I used to work in Frankfurt as a secretary at Price Waterhouse (accountancy company) which again was not ‘my type of thing’ before I started with the school for nursing. In that profession I used to work in Mainz and Simmern and at my sister’s service... So I was the one looking after our old mother here in her home. Keeping the home for all took lots of my lifetime but that was ok.

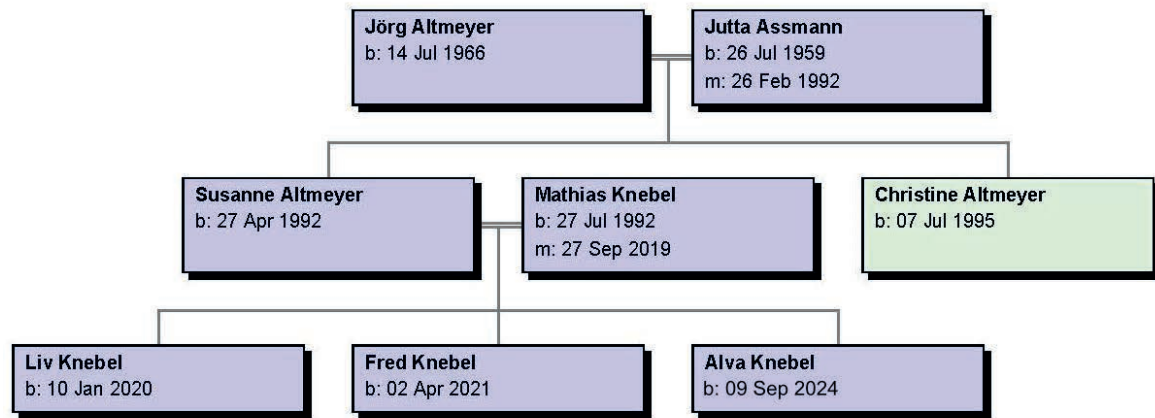
I used to go singing also but spent more time directing theatre-plays here for about 25 years. In this context I would like to mention that I

(and about 17 members of my family) took part in a huge film-project called “HEIMAT” by Edgar Reitz who comes from our area. It is also known as “home from home” in many countries and describes the German history based on a family-chronicle that starts at 1900 to 2000.

The filming kept us all busy. It was quite exciting but also chastening in a way. We helped a lot and coached actors in how to speak our dialect or how to do handcraft-work or farming-work, etc. It was much fun also. The project took time from 1984 to 2000 and in 2012 Edgar Reitz did another film called “the other Heimat” that describes the time around 1840 when many people emigrated because of hunger and need. So, we spent more than 30 years with Heimat films. I like reading and writing, hiking, and cycling. I look after the grandchildren too.

My husband Jörg complemented my interests for theater and film projects, and he was very much into it too. He became a mechanical engineer and works with a Japanese company for car-parts... I would say that I am also more introverted, but my husband is not. He is very popular, helpful and diplomatic.

Our daughter Susanne went to New Zealand after school for work and travel. She became a physiotherapist. So does her husband Matthias and they have a service for that... Susanne likes drawing. Their children Liv and Fred attend Kindergarten and their daughter Alva was born in September 2024. Our daughter Christine became a police officer and works in Mainz. She just changed to work in the criminal-police. Christine also likes singing, reading and writing. Both of our girls are more introverted.



## MARIA ELISABETH ASSMANN

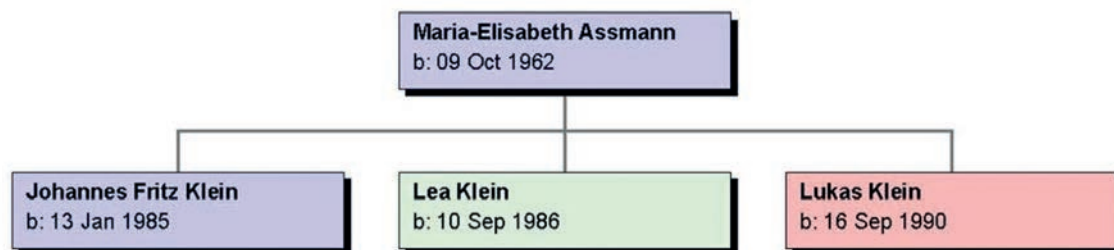


Maria-Elisabeth Assmann was born on 9 October 1962. This youngest sister is often called "Marliese". She used to study journalism and art in Berlin but came back here before taking her final exam. She was pregnant and decided to live in the Hunsrück. She married and divorced. She did several jobs in shops and cooking places. She is also an extroverted type of person.

Her son Johannes used to work as a commercial clerk but now makes music for the public (guitar and accordion)

Daughter Lea became a teacher and works and lives in Berlin.

Marliese's son Lukas became a teacher and works at the University of Siegen as an assistant.



## EWALD ASSMANN

The last child to be born to Hermann and Elisabeth Assman, was Ewald who was born on the 30 October 1970. Unfortunately, he only lived one day.



# Assmanns in Galicia and Austria

## ELISABETH ASSMANN (Text by Barbara Denscher)

**Elisabeth Assmann** was born 25 February 1905 in Stradcz (Galicia, today Ukraine); married **Rudolf Bauer**; died 28 March 1983 in Vienna, Austria. Her parents were **Felix Assmann** (1864–after 1905 / before 1914) and **Katharina Assmann** (née Klarenbach, 1863–1940).



Elisabeth grew up with 5 siblings, three brothers and two sisters: **Johann Assmann** (1890–1949), **Felix Assmann** (1892–?), **Wilhelm Assmann** (1899–?), **Katharina Assmann** (md. Smarczewski, 1901–1970), **Karoline Assmann** (md. Eisenmagen, later Herdegen, 1903–1979). (See family trees at the end of this text.)

*Elisabeth Assmann, Vienna, 1919/1920<sup>1</sup>*

### Rottenhan and Stradcz

Elisabeth, her parents and siblings lived in Stradcz, while relatives of theirs – including her mother's family – lived in Rottenhan. Elisabeth later recounted that she had never felt that these were two separate villages. That is why, when asked about her home village, she used to say Stradcz one time and Rottenhan the next. "For us it was one unit", she said. This certainly had something to do with the fact that not only the school, but above all the Protestant church, which was the community centre for the German-speaking population, was located in Rottenhan.

Bezirke, Gemeinden, Ortschaften, Gutsgebiete (Powiaty, gminy, miejscowości, obszary dworskie)	Häuser (domy)	Anwesende Bevölkerung (Ludność obecna)							Umgespr. der einheim. Bevölk. (język towarzys. ludność. obec.)			
		männlich (męska)	weiblich (żeńska)	zusammen (razem)	Confession (wyznania)				deutsche (niemiecki)	polnische (polski)	ruthenische (ruski)	andere (inne)
					röm.-kat. (rzym.-katol.)	gr.-kath. (grecko-katol.)	israelit. (izraelski)	andere (innego)				
<b>Rottenhan</b> (Dorf, wies) 1.80 km <sup>2</sup> . . . . . Sch. — szk.	19	76	61	137	4	15	.	118	118	5	14	.
<b>Stradecz</b> (Dorf,wies)4.57km <sup>2</sup> G.-k. Pf. — gr. kat. pl.	100	293	279	572	50	453	23	46	72	26	474	.

*Rottenhan and Stradcz in a gazetteer of Galicia published by the Austro-Hungarian Statistics Authority in 1893<sup>2</sup>*

1 Photo: archive Barbara Denscher, Vienna, Austria.

2 Special-Orts-Repetitorien der im österreichischen Reichsrathe vertretenen Königreiche und Länder. Herausgegeben von der K.K. Stastistischen Central-Commission. Vol. XII. Galizien. Wien 1893. p. 172.

In 1893, based on the 1890 census, the Austro-Hungarian Statistics Authority published a gazetteer of Galicia written in German and Polish. The diagram on the previous page shows the data for Rottenhan and Stradcz:

Rottenhan:

Area 1.80 km<sup>2</sup>, there was a school (Sch. - szk.) in the village

Houses: 19

Population: male: 76, female 61, total 137

Religion: Roman Catholic 4, Greek Catholic 15, Jewish -, Protestant (here called "andere" = "others") 118

Language: German 118, Polish 5, Ruthenian (= Ukrainian) 14

Stradcz:

Area 4.57 km<sup>2</sup>, there was a Greek-Catholic church (G.-k.Pf. – gr.kat.pl) in the village

Houses: 100

Population: male: 293, female 279, total 572

Religion: Roman Catholic 50, Greek Catholic 453, Jewish 23, Protestant 46

Language: German 72, Polish 26, Ruthenian 474

## Floods and Fires

It was a difficult time into which Elisabeth Assmann was born on 25 February 1905. In those years, Galicia had been repeatedly hit by catastrophic crop failures. The main cause had been heavy rainfall and subsequent flooding of farmland. The situation was particularly bad in the summers of 1906, 1907 and 1908. For example, the Viennese newspaper "Neuigkeits-Welt-Blatt" reported on 19 July 1906 :

*"We are informed from Lemberg: Galicia has not had such a bad year as this one for many years. Since March there have been few rain-free days. And what the humidity and hail spared was destroyed by the floods of the last few days. (...) As a result of this weather, there is fear of an outbreak of famine in Galicia this year. The grain is hardly growing, the potatoes are turning black and rotting, the hay harvest has failed almost everywhere."*<sup>3</sup>

1906 became, as predicted in the article, a famine year, as did 1907, when Galicia lost three quarters of its harvest due to flooding. In the following years, too, there were repeated catastrophic floods in Galicia. Elisabeth remembered throughout her life that it happened again and again that houses were flooded, that food was scarce and the available supplies went mouldy.

For the population of Galicia, the situation was dramatic. Around 80 percent lived from agriculture, whose productivity was significantly lower than in other parts of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. The difficult living conditions were the cause of increasing emigration from Galicia from the 1880s onwards, and the catastrophic years of the beginning of the 20th century considerably intensified this trend. In the first decade of the 20th century, a total of around 490,000 people emigrated from Galicia to the USA, Brazil and Canada.<sup>4</sup>

"You can run away from fire, but you are at the mercy of water", was the summary that Elisabeth drew from her childhood experiences. The reason she mentioned fire in addition to water was that the house she lived in with her parents and siblings in Stradcz had been hit by fires several times. That had to do with the location of the house. Elisabeth's father, Felix Assmann, was the village blacksmith, just as his father (Felix Assmann) and grandfather (Georg Assmann) had

<sup>3</sup> Neuigkeits-Welt-Blatt, 19.7.1906, p. 10.

<sup>4</sup> Purchla, Jacek (ed.): Mythos Galizien. Wien, 2015. p. 310.



been. And as was customary almost everywhere in Europe at that time, the blacksmith's house was located on the edge of the village because of the danger of fire emanating from the forge. However, Elisabeth could not remember that there had ever been a fire in her father's workshop. The danger came from elsewhere: it was the railway that ran past the edge of Stradcz. At that time, of course, this was a steam railway, which several times caused fires in the surrounding buildings due to flying sparks.

### By Train to Lemberg

Despite the possible fire hazard, the railway line, which was opened on 21 November 1895, was very positively received by the inhabitants of Stradcz and Rottenhan, as it was a significant improvement in the infrastructure of the region. It was a local railway that initially ran from Lemberg to Janów (today Iwano-Frankowe, ukr. Івано-Франкове). In 1903, an extension from Janów to Jaworiv (ukr. Яворів) was put into operation. The Stradcz railway station, named Kozlinka, was only a few minutes' walk from the Assmanns' house.



*Map of the railway section between Lemberg and Janów<sup>5</sup>*

Statistics show how well received the new means of transport had been by the inhabitants of the region. Within nine years, the number of rail passengers between Lemberg and Jaworiv had more than doubled – from 57,026 in 1898 to 131,424 in 1906.

	1898	1899	1900	1901	1902	1903	1904	1905	1906
<b>Personenverkehr.</b>									
Anzahl der Reisenden I. Klasse	174	162	152	98	79	58	404	381	429
" " " II. "	3.374	4.668	4.288	4.017	3.276	4.091	6.173	6.651	7.150
" " " III. "	52.326	62.113	67.405	57.491	61.737	72.904	91.122	93.795	121.974
" " Militär . . . .	1.151	586	778	818	878	449	1.535	1.701	1.871
<b>Zusammen .</b>	<b>57.026</b>	<b>67.529</b>	<b>72.623</b>	<b>61.924</b>	<b>65.470</b>	<b>77.502</b>	<b>99.233</b>	<b>102.528</b>	<b>131.424</b>

*Number of passengers on the Lemberg – Jaworiv local railway between 1898 and 1906. The passengers of the I., II. and III. class as well as the members of the military who travelled by train were counted separately<sup>6</sup>*

<sup>5</sup> Ziffer von Teschenbruck, Emanuel Alois: Die Localbahnen in Galizien und der Bukowina im Anschlusse an die k.k. priv. Lemberg-Czernowitz-Jassy Eisenbahn. Wien 1908. p. 33.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid. p. 33.



With the opening of the railroad line, not only passenger transport but also the transport of goods became much easier. At first glance, it seems to be a curious detail that three “express goods” (Eilgut) were particularly highlighted in the tariff overview: namely horses, foals and mules. However, horse breeding was an important source of income for the farmers in Galicia. With the railroad, the animals could now be brought to the markets much more easily and quickly.

Gewöhnliches Eilgut	Pferde	Fohlen und Maultiere	
Heller für 100 Kilogramm und 1 Kilometer	für 1 Stück	für 2 Stück	für 3 und mehr Stücke pro Stück
	Heller für Kilometer		
3	24	34	14

While 100 kilograms of “ordinary express goods” cost 3 Heller per kilometre by train, the tariff for 1 horse was 24 Heller per kilometre, for 2 foals or mules 34 Heller per kilometre, and if you wanted to transport 3 or more foals or mules by train, so you had to pay 14 Heller per animal and kilometre.<sup>7</sup>



Oskar Laske: *Viehmarkt in Galizien* (Livestock market in Galicia), ca. 1910<sup>8</sup>

As was common in most parts of Europe at that time, there were three different classes of carriages, which differed in their comfort. For example, while there was heating in winter in the first and second class, this was missing in the third class, which also only had hard wooden benches. Nevertheless, as the above statistics show, the cheap third class was the most popular.

<sup>7</sup> See footnote 5, p. 32.

<sup>8</sup> Oskar Laske: *Viehmarkt in Galizien* (Livestock market in Galicia), painted ca. 1910. Wien Museum Inv.-Nr. 75394, (<https://sammlung.wienmuseum.at/objekt/40497/>), CC BY 4.0, Photo: Birgit and Peter Kainz.

This was mainly due to the low financial means of the population; moreover, it was probably not worth spending a lot of money for the relatively short journey: from Stradcz-Kozlinka to Lemberg, for example, it was just a 20-kilometre train ride.

Elisabeth remembered that her two elder brothers Johann and Felix liked to travel to Lemberg by train at weekends to meet friends in one of the coffee houses. The coffee houses were an institution typical of the large cities of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. They could be found in Vienna, Budapest, Prague – and also in Lemberg.

Lemberg had developed from a provincial town into a booming metropolis in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. In 1867, the population was 87,100; by 1914, the number had risen to 212,000.<sup>9</sup> This made Lemberg the fifth largest city in Austria-Hungary after Vienna, Budapest, Trieste and Prague.<sup>10</sup>

In these last decades of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, numerous infrastructure measures had been undertaken in Lemberg: for example, urban lighting was installed, the water supply and sewage system were modernised, residential quarters needed for the growing city were built, and in 1904 the new, monumental central railway station was put into operation. Numerous new hotels and restaurants also opened their doors, as Lemberg increasingly became a destination for guests from other parts of the Austro-Hungarian Empire and from abroad. The hotels and restaurants therefore needed staff who had a certain amount of schooling and spoke not only Polish and Ukrainian but also, and above all, perfect German. For the young people from the German settlements in the region around Lemberg, where the economic situation was increasingly deteriorating, this was a career opportunity that was used on quite a large scale. From 1900 until the outbreak of the First World War in 1914, the majority of employees in the Lemberg hospitality industry came from the German communities – including Felix Assmann, Elisabeth's brother, who worked as a waiter in one of Lemberg's fashionable restaurants.

### Going to School in Galicia

When it became part of Austria in 1772, Galicia was a region dominated by illiteracy. Being able to read and write had until then been essentially a privilege of the Polish upper class, while the broad mass of Polish and Ruthenian (Ukrainian) peasants were illiterate. With the beginning of the Austrian administration, compulsory education, which applied throughout the other parts of Austria, was also extended to Galicia. This meant that all children from the age of 6 were obliged to complete a six-year elementary school education.

In order to make this possible not only in the towns but also in the villages, Emperor Joseph II ordered the widespread construction of school buildings as quickly as possible. However, the ambitious project of rapid literacy in Galicia failed. The 1890 census showed that of 1,324,405 school-age children in Galicia, only 660,100 actually attended school. More than 50% of all children thus grew up without any schooling. This was dramatic compared to other parts of the Austro-Hungarian Empire: for example, 1.3% of children in Moravia and 2.6% in Lower Austria did not attend school.<sup>11</sup>

The reasons for the low school attendance in Galicia were manifold. One was that many children had to work intensively on the farms from a very early age. This left no time or energy for school attendance, and families often lacked the money. Another reason was that the construction of schools did not progress as quickly as had been hoped. In addition, the mostly Polish landowners were not particularly interested in a school education for their peasants. In 1869, for example,

<sup>9</sup> Universität Klagenfurt: Enzyklopädie des europäischen Ostens. Lemberg (Stadt) (<https://eeo.aau.at/eeo.aau.at/index45f5.html?title=Hauptseite>).

<sup>10</sup> Wikipedia: „Österreich-Ungarn“ (<https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/%C3%96sterreich-Ungarn>).

<sup>11</sup> Mößler, Adolf: Oesterreichische Volksschulzustände. Wien 1897. p. 10.



compulsory schooling was extended to eight years in Austria-Hungary (from 6 to 14 years), but in Galicia this was reduced again to six years in 1873 by the Polish-dominated Galician parliament.

In the Protestant communities of the German colonists, a different attitude towards school attendance prevailed. Education and knowledge have always been important values in Protestantism, because they are seen as a prerequisite for every person to make a positive contribution to society and to be able to read and understand the Bible. Already the first German reformers of the 16th century, such as Philipp Melanchthon, called for compulsory education. Therefore, there is traditionally a strong striving for education in Protestant communities. This was also the case in the Protestant communities in Galicia. From the beginning, German-language elementary schools were established there by the colonists.

Elisabeth Assmann and her siblings attended the Protestant school in Rottenhan.

**Rottenhan. (Oeffentlichkeitsrecht.) Der evangelischen Privatvolkschule in Rottenhan, Bezirk Grodek, in Galizien hat das Ministerium für Cultus und Unterricht mittelst Erlasses vom 24. December 1900, Z. 34100 vom Schuljahr 1900/1901 angefangen das Oeffentlichkeitsrecht verliehen.**

*Announcement in the "Evangelische Kirchen-Zeitung für Österreich" (Protestant Church Newspaper for Austria) that the Protestant elementary school in Rottenhan, district of Grodek, received the same status as a school under public law from the Ministry of Education by decree of 24 December 1900, no. 34100, beginning with the school year 1900/1901<sup>12</sup>*

Like most German Protestant schools in Galicia, the school in Rottenhan had initially been a private school run by the local German-speaking community. Among other things, this meant that examinations taken at this school were not officially recognised. That changed when the school, in 1900, received the same status as a school under public law. In addition, it now also received state support, although this was not very high. For example, the Rottenhan teacher's annual income at the beginning of the 20th century totaled 834 crowns (Kronen). Of this, 200 crowns were paid by the state, 284 were paid by the Protestant community in Rottenhan, and 350 came from various Protestant charities.<sup>13</sup> The 834 crowns corresponded to the average income of a primary school teacher at that time. In addition, the teacher was provided with a house and a garden, and he received firewood and grain free of charge from the local farmers. So when the old teacher retired in 1906, it did not take long to find a successor<sup>14</sup> and to continue running the school in the spirit of the Protestant settlers.

The situation in other communities was far less positive. For example, in 1908 the newspaper "Deutsches Volksblatt für Galizien" published an article entitled "Reiseindrücke aus den deutschen Siedlungen in Galizien" ("Travel impressions from the German settlements in Galicia"). About Weißenberg (today Dobrostan, ukr. Добростани), located about 15 kilometres west of Rottenhan (and at that time already noticeably affected by the emigration of the German settlers), the article said: "The village has 62 farms, of which 35 with 270 souls are still German,

<sup>12</sup> Evangelische Kirchen-Zeitung für Österreich, 1.2.1901, p. 44.

<sup>13</sup> Evangelische Kirchen-Zeitung für Österreich, 1.7.1906, p. 19.

<sup>14</sup> Evangelisches Gemeindeblatt für Galizien und die Bukowina, November 1907, p. 148.



*the rest have been sold to Poles and Ruthenians". According to the article, the former German private school had been converted into a Polish public school. Although still 40 of the village's 70 school-age children were German, "from the first year on, they are taught only in Polish, and only in the later classes are there a few hours of German lessons per month."*<sup>15</sup>

After Galicia had been granted extensive autonomy within the Austro-Hungarian Empire in 1873, the Polish-dominated administration began a massive Polonisation of the country. This was primarily directed against the other large ethnic group in Galicia, the Ruthenians, but, as the example of Weißenberg shows, it also made itself clearly felt in the German villages. *"And as in school, so it is in church",* the article continued: *"Here only Polish is sung, prayed and preached; rarely is a German translation added to the Polish sermon, despite the fact that far more than half of the churchgoers are Germans and the older people hardly understand Polish."*<sup>16</sup>

The censuses of that time clearly show the disappearance of the German language from Galicia. In 1880 the language distribution was: Polish 51.50%, Ruthenian 42.94%, German 5.46%. In 1910 it was: Polish 58.55%, Ruthenian 40.20% and German 1.13%.<sup>17</sup>

Elisabeth Assmann liked going to school and she later complained all her life that her time at school had been too short. She started attending school in September 1911 (in Austria, school years always last from the beginning of September to the beginning of July). But already after she had completed the third grade, regular schooling was over, because on 28 July 1914 the First World War broke out.

A little later, in mid-August 1914, one of the great battles of this war began, the so-called "Battle of Galicia"<sup>18</sup> between Austria-Hungary and Russia. The two villages of Rottenhan and Stradcz were soon affected in the most terrible way. For on 11 September 1914 there was fierce fighting in this area between Austrian and Russian divisions. Most of the houses in Rottenhan and large parts of Stradcz were burnt down. It was the result of the terrible military strategy of "scorched earth", the aim of which is to destroy everything that could be useful to the enemy. In this case it was the two villages.<sup>19</sup>

Once again, Elisabeth and the other villagers had to flee from fire. They found temporary accommodation in villages in the surrounding area which – for the time being – had been spared from the fighting. Only when the Austrians succeeded in recapturing Lemberg and eastern Galicia from June 1915 onwards could the – albeit rather makeshift – reconstruction of the villages begin. However, schooling was out of the question. In its January 1916 issue, the "Evangelisches Gemeindeblatt für Galizien und die Bukowina" ("Protestant Parish Bulletin for Galicia and Bukovina") described Rottenhan as a *"poor, small community, half of whose members lost all their possessions in the fires"*. Quite a few members of the Protestant community, it continued, *"were deported by the Russians, while others were so badly looted that there are some who do not even own a cow anymore."*<sup>20</sup>

It was not until 1917 that there were regular school lessons again in Rottenhan.<sup>21</sup> However, it is questionable whether the lessons were very profound. There was only one teacher for all classes and the children had little time to learn. For the war was still going on and most of the men had

15 Deutsches Volksblatt für Galizien, 3.7.1908, p. 7.

16 Ibid.

17 The percentage points missing on 100% refer to very small language groups, such as Romanian or Armenian. Universität Klagenfurt: Enzyklopädie des europäischen Ostens. Galizien (Region) (<https://eeo.aau.at/eeo.aau.at/index45f5.html?title=Hauptseite>).

18 Wikipedia "Battle of Galicia" ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle\\_of\\_Galicia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Galicia)).

19 Neue Freie Presse, 20.10.1914, p. 8.

20 Evangelisches Gemeindeblatt für Galizien und die Bukowina, 1.1.1916, p. 17.

21 Ibid., 15.1.1917, p. 1; and 1.2.1917, p. 57.

been called up for military service. The rebuilding of the villages and the work in the fields had to be done almost entirely by the women and children. In addition, the “Battle of Galicia” had triggered an enormous flight movement and decimated the population. In 1914/1915, for example, around 200,000 people fled from Galicia to Vienna.<sup>22</sup>

### Galicia Ceases to Exist

The First World War, which lasted from July 1914 until November 1918, claimed an appallingly high number of victims: a total of 9 million soldiers died on the battlefields, and there were around 6 million deaths among the European civilian population.

Elisabeth Assmann’s brothers – Johann, Felix and Wilhelm – had also been called up for military service. Fortunately, they survived the war. But the country they had had to fight for no longer existed. Because as a result of the war, Austria-Hungary collapsed and Galicia became part of Poland. The name Galicia was now no longer used in Poland, but the region was called Lesser Poland (Małopolska in Polish).

In former Galicia, which had already been severely affected by the World War, the subsequent conflicts between Poles and Ruthenians (Polish-Ukrainian War, 1918/1919)<sup>23</sup> and the Soviet Union’s claims to supremacy in the region (Polish-Soviet War, 1919–1921)<sup>24</sup> led to further destruction. The social situation became increasingly difficult also for the German-speaking population, whom the collapse of Austria-Hungary forced to choose a new national identity.



*Elisabeth’s brothers. Left: Johann Assmann (in Austro-Hungarian uniform) with his wife Maria, née Cernik, Vienna, 1917/18. Centre: Felix Assmann, Lemberg, around 1930. Right: Wilhelm Assmann (in Polish uniform) at his wedding to Sophie Baczinsky, Stradcz, around 1925<sup>25</sup>*

22 Rauchensteiner, Manfred: Flüchtlingsströme in Österreich während des Ersten Weltkriegs. (<https://www.bmeia.gv.at/oesterreich-bibliotheken/kaffeehaus-feuilleton/detail/article/fluechtlingsstroeme-in-oesterreich-waehrend-des-ersten-weltkriegs/>).

23 Wikipedia ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Polish%E2%80%93Ukrainian\\_War](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Polish%E2%80%93Ukrainian_War)).

24 Wikipedia ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Polish%E2%80%93Soviet\\_War](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Polish%E2%80%93Soviet_War)).

25 Photos: archive Barbara Denscher, Vienna, Austria.

This also affected Elisabeth Assmann's family. Elisabeth's eldest brother, Johann Assmann, moved to Austria, to Vienna. Soon after he and his wife Maria had found a suitable apartment and he had got a job as a clerk at the Austrian National Bank, he organized the move of his two youngest sisters, Elisabeth and Karoline, to Vienna.

It was, as Elisabeth often recounted later, a difficult and dangerous journey due to the unstable political situation in the region. Since it was not possible to travel directly from Lemberg to Vienna, the two young girls had to take a long detour via Romania. Fortunately, the two – Karoline was 16 years old and Elisabeth had just turned 14 – arrived safely at their brother and sister-in-law's home in February 1919.

For a while they lived with her brother and sister-in-law. Since Elisabeth and Karoline had received good training in housekeeping from their mother, they both found work as housekeepers for Viennese entrepreneurial families. On 18 July 1925 there was a double wedding in the Protestant Lutherkirche (Luther Church) in Vienna: Elisabeth Assmann married Rudolf Bauer and Karoline Assmann married August Eisenmagen. The best man of both brides was their brother, Johann Assmann.



*Elisabeth Assmann (standing) and Karoline Assmann, Vienna, around 1921<sup>26</sup>*

Throughout their lives Elisabeth and Karoline had a very close relationship. And some things in their biographies were similar: both had one child, their children were born a short time apart and both were girls, who in turn each had three children, two boys and a girl. Elisabeth and Karoline lived in Vienna until their deaths. Their brother Johann Assmann, his wife Maria and his son Hannes moved to Klagenfurt, the capital of the Austrian province of Carinthia, in the 1930s. Johann remained in close contact with his two sisters until his death in 1948.

<sup>26</sup> Photo: archive Barbara Denscher, Vienna, Austria.



The oldest of the three Assmann sisters, Katharina, had stayed in Stradcz after the First World War. The reason was that she had married a Pole, Henryk Smarczewski. The two brothers Felix and Wilhelm (married to a Polish woman) also decided to live in Poland. And the mother of the Assmann family, Katharina Assmann, also continued to live in Stradcz.



*Katharina Assmann, née Klarenbach (centre) with her sisters Christina (left) and Elisabeth (right), 1929 in Rottenhan<sup>27</sup>*

Although living conditions had by no means become easier under the new political circumstances, everyday life for the Assmanns who remained in Poland seemed to have been relatively peaceful until the 1930s. There were numerous contacts with the family members in Austria, and several times Johann Assmann and his sister Elisabeth (perhaps also their sister Katharina, but nothing is known about this) visited their old home.

All this came to a tragic end in 1939 with the beginning of the Second World War. Due to the so-called Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact<sup>28</sup>, whose goal was the division of Eastern Europe between National Socialist Germany and the Soviet Union, the German population of former Galicia was forced to move to the western part of Poland, a region that was annexed by National Socialist Germany at the time. Katharina Assmann, then 76 years old, her daughter Katharina Smarczewski and her two granddaughters Hilde and Emilie also had to leave their home in Stradcz and were ordered to move to Ostrowo (today Ostrów Wielkopolski, Poland). Grandmother Katharina Assmann died there in 1940. Later in the war, her daughter and two little girls had to flee Ostrowo because of the advancing Soviet troops and eventually found a new home in Drebkau, about 100 kilometres southeast of Berlin.

After the war, this was part of the communist German Democratic Republic (GDR). In the summer of 1961, Elisabeth Assmann (married Bauer), and her husband Rudolf visited Katharina and her

<sup>27</sup> Photo: archive Barbara Denscher, Vienna, Austria.

<sup>28</sup> Wikipedia ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Molotov%E2%80%93Ribbentrop\\_Pact](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Molotov%E2%80%93Ribbentrop_Pact)).

family there. During this visit, the construction of the Berlin Wall<sup>29</sup> began (on 13 August 1961), which meant a further escalation of the prevailing Cold War between East and West. The border between the German Democratic Republic and the Federal Republic of Germany was closed. Elisabeth and Rudolf's family in Vienna were very worried because no one knew if and when the two would be able to make the train journey home. Fortunately everything worked out, but Elisabeth and Rudolf arrived back in Vienna with an enormous delay and shocked by the events.



*The three Assmann sisters: Elisabeth Bauer, née Assmann (centre) with her sisters Katharina Smarczewski, née Assman (left) and Karoline Herdegen, née Assmann (right), Vienna, Austria, 1960<sup>30</sup>*

In the 1960s, Katharina twice received permission from the communist authorities to visit her two sisters Elisabeth and Karoline in Vienna. Her daughters, however, were not granted a travel permit. In addition, as was customary in the communist states, all contact with the West was made difficult for them. As a result, contact with this part of the Assmann family unfortunately broke off after Katharina's death (1970).

Katharina's husband, Henryk Smarczewski, had been drafted into the war as a Polish soldier. After the end of the war, his family received no information about what had happened to him. It was one of the tragic, fateful consequences of the war that it was not until the mid-1960s that it became clear that he was still alive. The Red Cross Tracing Service had found out that he had returned to his home in Stradcz to look for his family. But Henryk had been told by the authorities that they were all dead. Stradcz, like all of former Galicia, belonged to the Soviet

<sup>29</sup> Wikipedia ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Berlin\\_Wall](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Berlin_Wall)).

<sup>30</sup> Photo: archive Barbara Denscher, Vienna, Austria.



Union after the war, and Henryk was not allowed to leave the USSR. Katharina and Henryk Smarczewski never saw each other again.

It was another tragic consequence of the war that the three Assmann sisters were never able to find out what had happened to their brothers Felix and Wilhelm. It is to be feared that they died in the war, but no one knows when or where.



Throughout her life, Elisabeth Assmann remembered her childhood and life in the German villages around Lemberg with a certain melancholy and longing. She told her grandchildren a lot about Stradcz and Rottenhan. Some of her attitudes and habits showed how much she was shaped by the way of life she had experienced there as a child: for example, the Protestant faith was always very important to her and she was a committed member of the small Viennese Protestant community (Austria is a Catholic country, only about 3,8% of the population is Protestant). She was always happy when she met someone with whom she could speak Polish, which she liked very much as it was the second language of her childhood after German. And she loved to serve her family typical German-Galician food!

*Elisabeth Assmann, married name Elisabeth Bauer, 1905–1983 (photo taken 1980)<sup>31</sup>*

### Elisabeth's Family

Elisabeth's husband, Rudolf Bauer, who had worked for the Austrian Post, died in 1972. The two had a daughter, Gertrude (1926–1986) – my mother.



*Elisabeth Bauer, née Assmann, and her daughter Gertrude, Vienna 1934<sup>32</sup>*

31 Photo: archive Barbara Denscher, Vienna, Austria.

32 Ibid.



Gertrude studied English and French at the University of Vienna and worked as a secretary. She was married to the technician Alfred Nedoma (1925–1982) – my father – and had three children: Harald (1952–2015), Barbara (\*1956, that's me) and Anton (\*1963).

Like our father, my brothers Harald and Anton completed an education at a higher technical college.

Harald, who died completely unexpectedly in 2015 after a heart attack, worked as a sound technician at the Austrian Broadcasting Corporation (ORF), like our father before him.

Anton was initially a technician at the Austrian Post and is now self-employed in the IT- and publishing sector. In addition to his professional activities, he completed a degree in computer science.

I, Barbara, studied German and English literature at the University of Vienna and Danish in Copenhagen / Denmark. I first worked as a secondary school teacher and later – until now – as a freelance publicist in the cultural field and as a translator from Danish. In addition to my professional work, I completed a doctorate in theatre studies some years ago.



*From left to right: Barbara, Harald, Anton and Gabriela (Anton's wife) on the stairs of the University of Vienna, where Anton received his diploma in computer science in 2012<sup>33</sup>*

The house where we – Harald, Anton and I – had grown up was on the outskirts of Vienna. Our grandparents Elisabeth and Rudolf had built it in the 1930s. After their daughter, our mother, got married, Elisabeth and Rudolf left the house to her and moved into a slightly smaller house that was right next door. We children spent a lot of time with our grandparents, and grandmother often told us about her childhood in Stradcz and Rottenhan. So (as I later found confirmed by historical research) we had a pretty good idea of what life was like in the German villages around Lemberg in the first half of the 20th century.

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33 Photo: archive Barbara Denscher, Vienna, Austria.



*The house that Elisabeth Bauer, née Assmann, and Rudolf Bauer built on the outskirts of Vienna and where their daughter and grandchildren grew up. Photo from the late 1940s.<sup>34</sup>*

Grandmother also knew quite a bit about the family's origins in Germany – apparently in her parental home they had been careful not to forget the family history. For example, she knew from which region of Germany and when the family had immigrated to Galicia (Judith and Shelley's research now confirms that grandmother's information was correct). She also had some family trees of her parents' families (although this is more about the maternal line, i.e. the Klarenbach family, than the Assmanns).



*Barbara Denscher (née Nedoma) and Anton Nedoma with their (great-)grand cousin Judith Silverthorne, November 2021 in Wolkersdorf (a small town about 20 kilometres north of Vienna, where Anton lives with his family)<sup>35</sup>*

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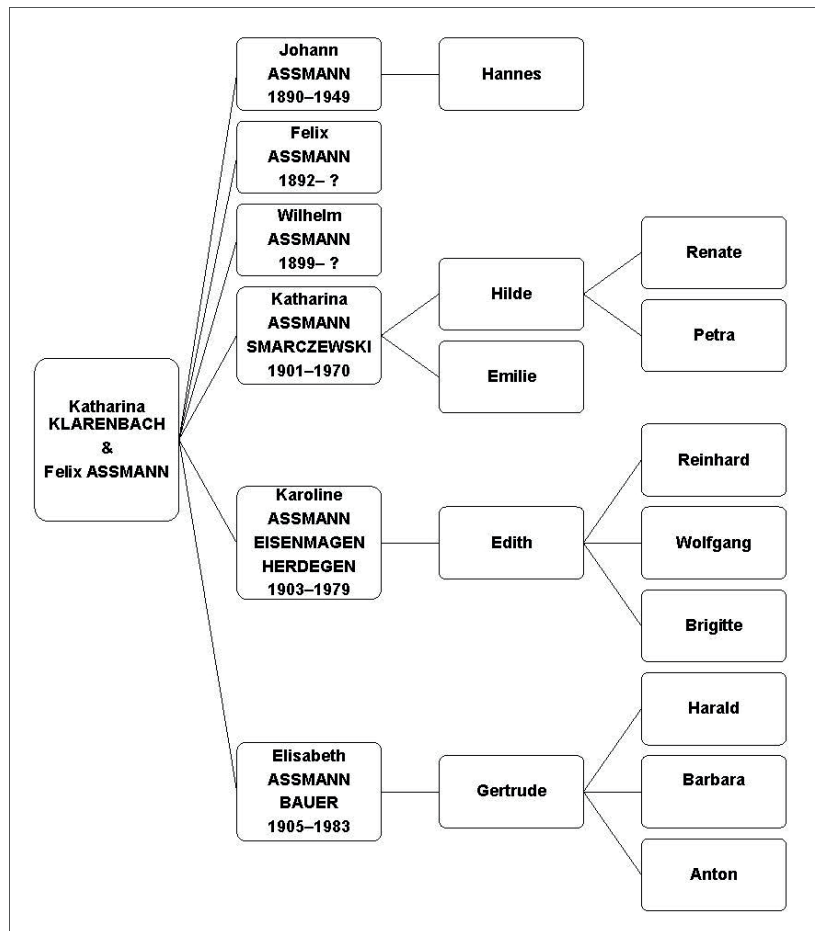
<sup>34</sup> Ibid.

<sup>35</sup> Ibid.

What we didn't know, however, was that we also had relatives in Canada! Grandmother suspected that parts of the family had emigrated to the USA, but she didn't know any more details. Therefore, we (I can also speak for my brother Anton here) are very grateful to Judith Silverthorne and Shelley Kloczko that they "found" us in the course of their family research. It turns out that we are even connected to them in two ways, as we have two pairs of great-great-grandparents in common: Katharina Krämer and Johann Georg Assmann in our paternal line and Anna Maria Stoffel and Heinrich Klarenbach in our maternal line.

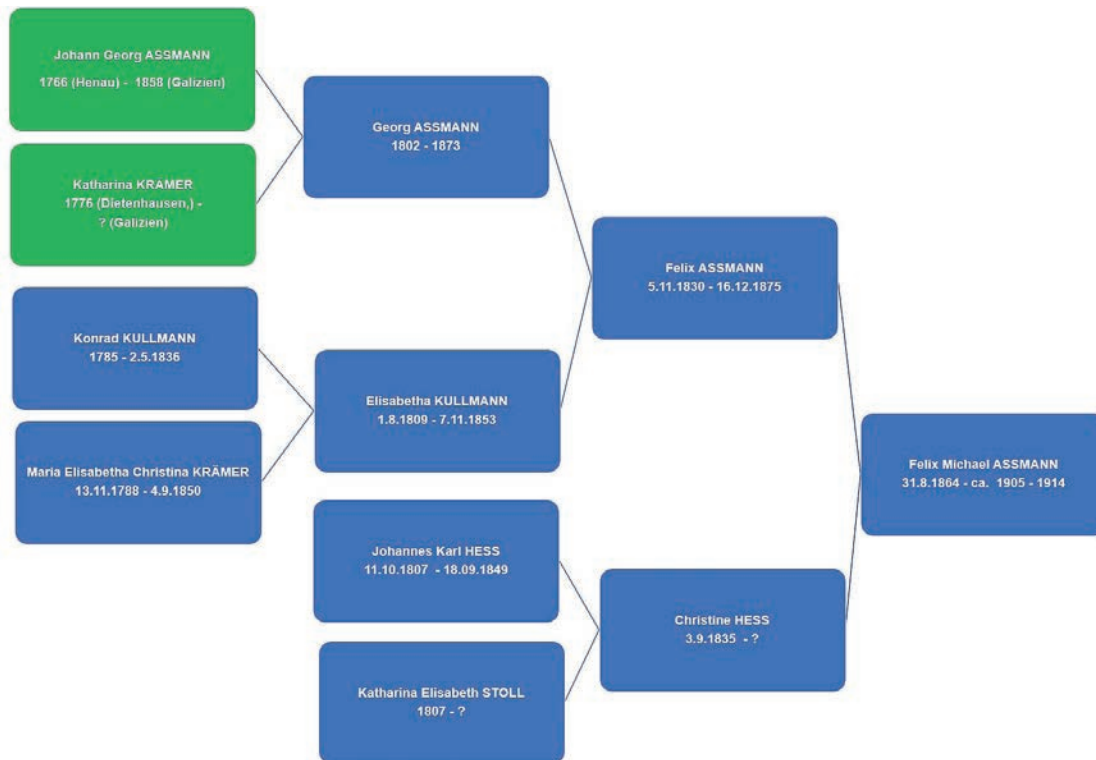
Through the admirable work of Judith and Shelley, we have not only received new information about our family, but also many interesting facts about European migration history and the settlement of Germans from Galicia in Canada and the USA.

It is a great achievement that our two cousins have accomplished with their Assmann family history. Their research will certainly be interesting and important for many members of the Assmann family – wherever they live!



*Children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren of Katharina Assmann, née Klarenbach, and Felix Assmann*





Family chart of Felix Assmann. Green = persons born in Germany, blue = persons born in Galicia.



Family chart of Katharina Assmann, née Klarenbach. Green = persons born in Germany, blue = persons born in Galicia.

## RECIPES

### Potato Dumplings (or Snowballs)

submitted by Sharon Assman

4 cups cooked mashed potatoes  
2 eggs  
salt  
flour, start with 3 cups

Mix and knead all ingredients until dough doesn't stick to hands. Roll out in 1 inch diameter rolls. Cut into 1 to 1 ½ pieces. Boil in salted water for 2 minutes until they float like perogies.

Serve pan fried in butter and bread crumbs (if desired).

If freezing, freeze uncooked pieces on a cookie sheet. Cook in boiling water as above and an additional 2 minutes after they float.

### Big Perogie

submitted by Sharon Assman

1 container dry curd cottage cheese  
10 lbs white potatoes  
10lbs red potatoes



Cook a Dutch oven of a mixture of half and half red and white potatoes mash and cool

I use a juicer to take juice out of the mixture of red and white raw potatoes that I have peeled. I peel about half of all the potatoes for the raw portion. Once juice out of raw potatoes in juicer I take the dry portion and mix with about same quantity of cooked potatoes. Must be able to stick together to make the outside of perogy. Mix cottage cheese and about same quantity of cooked potato together for inside of perogy. Add 1 egg and salt and pepper and onion powder to your taste.

Then flatten outside of perogy in your hand about the size of your hand. Fill with about a heaping tablespoon of filling. Shape to close. If too dry moisten with a drop or two of water. Make all perogies. Then I boil in salted water for 10 minutes stirring once in a while so they don't stick.

Then to serve I either cut in half and fry in butter or steam and serve with butter or heat in microwave. I do freeze these fully cooked also by wrapping individually in Saran Wrap then in a freezer bag. These are really hard to describe how to make. My

grandma Sophie Weger made these at Christmas but she never had a juicer so hand grated the raw potatoes and wrung the juice out by squeezing in a tea towel. My mother in law Eleanor Assman was the one who taught me how to make with a juicer. I used just red potatoes once and ended up with broken perogies so that is why I use a mix of white and red potatoes.

## German Potato Perogies

submitted by Shelley Kloczko

Makes 10 perogies, serves 5 – 6.

10 lbs potatoes, peeled

4 cups dry cottage cheese, reserve some for garnish

2 eggs

2 tsp salt

$\frac{1}{4}$  tsp pepper

$\frac{3}{4}$  cup butter

$\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup whipping cream

In advance, cook 8 large potatoes (about 4 lbs), mash or whip (without milk) while hot. When cool, add 1 cup mashed potatoes with dry cottage cheese, eggs, salt, and pepper. Texture should stick together. Form balls, about 2 tbsp each.

Finely grate remaining peeled potatoes or use a blender. Remove the water by Pouring blended or grated potatoes into a colander lined with a sturdy straining cloth (tea towel or cheese cloth and squeeze dry. In a large mixing bowl blend raw grated potatoes, 2 tsp salt, pepper and a portion of the mashed potatoes. (Ratio is 2 cups mashed to 9 cups raw potato.) Add enough of the mashed potato to make the raw potato stick together.

Scoop a handful of the mixture into your palm and flatten. Place rolled filling into the mixture and cover completely with raw potato. Place in medium hot oiled frying pan. Cook for about 30 minutes watching carefully and turning as they brown. Add butter occasionally to enhance the flavour.

Puree raw potatoes in a blender, squeeze out water with cheese cloth or tea towel. Mix with  $\frac{2}{3}$  mashed potatoes, add 2 tsp salt.

Filling:

Mix  $\frac{1}{3}$  mashed potatoes and 1 lb cottage cheese, 1 egg, 1  $\frac{1}{2}$  tsp salt and  $\frac{1}{2}$  tsp pepper.

Form as described above. Makes 19 perogies. Fry in frying pan turning to brown all sides.

Topping:

Fry 1 cup onions in 1 cup butter slowly so they don't burn (can substitute with some margarine.) Cook until translucent or caramelized.

Mix dry reserved cottage cheese with whipping cream and serve as garnish. onions are tasty on the perogies. Some like to top with sour cream.



## List of Village Names

As noted in the Introduction, the village names of our ancestors in Galicia, Austria, and Volhynia, Russia, were changed over the years from the time they first lived in them. Our ancestors would have known them in German, which we've taken in English, but they were also spelled in Polish and today are translated or changed into Ukrainian, including the Cyrillic spelling.

We have therefore compiled a list of the names of the most important places where our ancestors lived in Galicia and Volhynia in German, Polish and Ukrainian (plus English transcription). This is supplemented by the geographical standard data.

We have also compiled a list of the places where our ancestors lived in Germany, plus the data of the two cities that became the most important points on their journey to Galicia, namely Ulm and Vienna.

GERMAN	POLISH	UKRAINIAN / ENGLISH TRANSLITERATION	NORTH	EAST	GOOGLE MAPS
Alt Jazow Alt-Jazow	Jazów Stary	Старий Яр / Staryi Yar	49.988611	23.416389	49° 59' 19" N, 23° 24' 59" E
Hartfeld	Rzeczyczany	Речичани / Retschytschany (lost, today part of Horodok)	49.830278	23.591944	49°49'49.0"N 23°35'31.0"E
Heinrichsdorf	Nowa Wieś / Henrykowa	Нова Весь / Heinrichsdorf (lost)	50.363056	24.578889	50°21'47.0"N 24°34'44.0"E
Jadwinówka	Jadwinówka	Ярівка / Yarivka	50.548333	24.901111	50°32'54.0"N 24°54'04.0"E
Jadwinin / Jadwigin	Jadwinin	Новосілка / Novosilka	50.255000	26.504167	50°15'18.0"N 26°30'15.0"E
Josefow	Józefów	Йосипівка / Yosypivka	50.304167	24.599444	50°18'15.0"N 24°35'58.0"E
Josefsberg / Josephsberg	Korosnyzja	Коросниця / Korosnytsia	49.405000	23.778611	49°24'18.0"N 23°46'43.0"E
Kaltwasser	Zimna Woda	Зимна Вода / Zymna Voda	49.820000	23.897500	49°49'12.0"N 23°53'51.0"E
Lemberg	Lwów	Львів / Lviv	49.839444	24.032778	49°50'22.0"N 24°01'58.0"E
Metnitz	Mytnica	Митниця / Mytnyzja	50.318333	25.153611	50°19'06.0"N 25°09'13.0"E
Moosberg / Berdichau / Berdikau	Berdychów	Бердихів / Berdikhiv (lost)	49.885278	23.528056	49°53'07.0"N 23°31'41.0"E
Natalien	Natalivka	Наталівка / Natalivka	50.623889	27.584722	50°37'26.0"N 27°35'05.0"E
Neudorf	Nowa Wieś / Polminowice	Нове Село / Nove Selo	49.348889	23.600556	49°20'56.0"N 23°36'02.0"E

Rottenhan	Porzecze	Поріччя / Porichchya	49.882222	23.769722	49°52'56.0"N 23°46'11.0"E
Sabinowka	Sabinówka	Сабанівка / Sabanivka	50.338611	24.644444	50°20'19.0"N 24°38'40.0"E
Schumlau	Ożomla	Віжомля / Vizhomlya	49.850000	23.420000	49°51'00.0"N 23°25'12.0"E
Selena / Zielona	Zielona	Зелена / Zelena	51.170000	24.689444	51°10'12.0"N 24°41'22.0"E
Starzyska	Starzyska	Старичи / Starychi	49.977222	23.556667	49° 58' 38" N, 23° 33' 24" E
Stradcz	Stradcz	Страдч / Stradch	49.893889	23.765833	49°53'38.0"N 23°45'57.0"E
Suschno	Susznno	Сушно / Sushno	50.333889	24.529167	50°20'02.0"N 24°31'45.0"E
Torki	Torki	Торки / Torki	50.415000	24.568333	50°24'54.0"N 24°34'06.0"E
Zboiska	Zboiska	Збоївська / Zboivska	50.382500	24.576111	50°22'57.0"N 24°34'34.0"E

	FEDERAL STATE (GERMAN / ENGLISH)	COUNTRY	NORTH	EAST	GOOGLE MAPS
Dickenschied	Rheinland-Pfalz / Rhineland-Palatinate	Germany	49.900556	7.420000	49°54'02.0"N 7°25'12.0"E
Gehlweiler	Rheinland-Pfalz / Rhineland-Palatinate	Germany	49.883333	7.466111	49°53'00.0"N 7°27'58.0"E
Gemünden	Rheinland-Pfalz / Rhineland-Palatinate	Germany	49.894444	7.477500	49°53'40.0"N 7°28'39.0"E
Henau	Rheinland-Pfalz / Rhineland-Palatinate	Germany	49.869167	7.499722	49°52'09.0"N 7°29'59.0"E
Kellenbach	Rheinland-Pfalz / Rhineland-Palatinate	Germany	49.847500	7.495000	49°50'51.0"N 7°29'42.0"E
Meisenheim	Rheinland-Pfalz / Rhineland-Palatinate	Germany	49.705556	7.670556	49°42'20.0"N 7°40'14.0"E
Schlierschied	Rheinland-Pfalz / Rhineland-Palatinate	Germany	49.876111	7.442778	49°52'34.0"N 7°26'34.0"E
Womrath	Rheinland-Pfalz / Rhineland-Palatinate	Germany	49.917500	7.448611	49°55'03.0"N 7°26'55.0"E
Ulm	Baden-Württemberg	Germany	48.400833	9.987222	48°24'03.0"N 9°59'14.0"E
Wien / Vienna	Wien / Vienna	Austria	48.208333	16.373056	48°12'30.0"N 16°22'23.0"E

## SUMMARY

Researching and exploring the lives of our ancestors has been an incredible experience, the results of which culminated in this Family History. As you will no doubt have ascertained from reading the amazing adventures in Part One, our ancestors were an incredible hardy and resourceful bunch! Part Two continues their bold resourcefulness.

In reviewing their lives, an over-arching theme emerges about moving, and the motivations for this. Whether they emigrated from Germany to Galicia in Austria, from Galicia to Volhynia in Russia, or from Volhynia to Canada, they were enterprising, active, energetic people who chose to seek better lives for themselves and their families.

We can also note, the historical pattern which begins in Part 1 is repeated at the end: Austria (Joseph II) did a lot of advertising in Germany at the end of the 18th century for emigration to Galicia, because it needed capable, hard-working people there. And at the end of the 19th century, Canada did a lot of advertising for emigration in Galicia and Russia because it needed capable, hard-working people in Canada. It's exactly the same pattern!

Hardly ever did the rich, established people respond to this propaganda; it was people who came from poorer backgrounds, like our ancestors. Only a few were forced to emigrate, and there were also many who stayed: in Germany, Galicia, Russia, hardworking and able to resourcefully maintain their lives there. Those who emigrated were energetic optimists, also hardworking, and ambitious, and I would say daring adventurers. If one were to ask them, "Was the old thing, so bad?" They would likely say, "No, but the new one is better!"

Even though our ancestors' lives were sometimes riddled with political and religious uncertainties, climate and natural disasters, a wide variety of pestilence, crop failures, famine, and so many other trials and tribulations, they persevered. Sometimes it became absolutely necessary to emigrate as the only way out of almost unbearable living conditions. But our ancestors should not always be seen as victims of their circumstances. Wherever the situation, they rose above their adversities, surviving and thriving always with the end goal to pursue a better life for their children. They were enterprising, active, energetic people. They were heroes, paving the way for the privileged lifestyles we have today.

Their amazing saga continues in Part Two.

NB: Barbara Denscher, our wonderful cousin from Vienna, Austria, did the print layout of the book, and we can't thank her enough! She says her grandmother, Elisabeth Assmann (1905-1983), would have been very, very happy and proud with this family history.

Shelley and I are grateful for Barbara's support. Her resourcefulness and assistance with translations, research and insights has added a richness to our family's history. I know our grandfathers would be thankful too!



