

## SOUFFLENHEIM EMIGRATION TO THE BLACK SEA

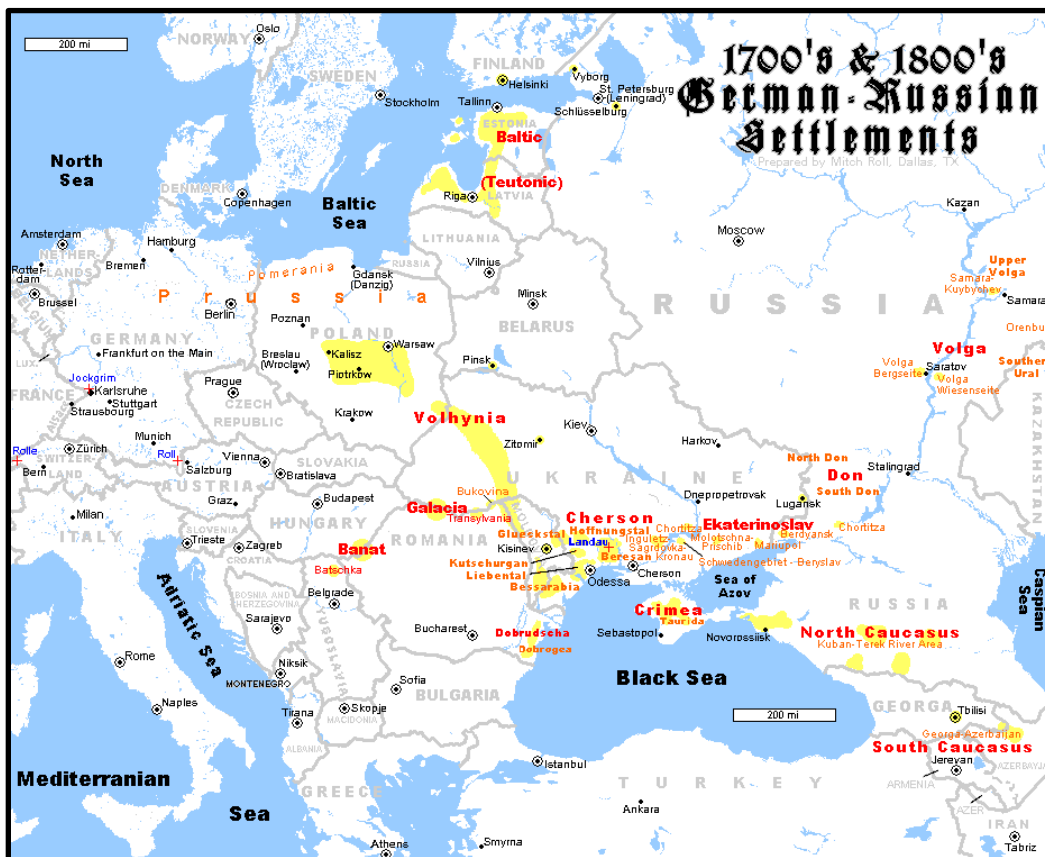
Robert Wideen : 2017

Soufflenheim Genealogy Research and History  
[www.soufflenheimgenealogy.com](http://www.soufflenheimgenealogy.com)

The Black Sea Germans were ethnic Germans, primarily from Wurttemberg, Palatinate, Alsace-Lorraine and Bavaria, who settled off the north coast of the Black Sea, mostly in southern Russia, including present day Ukraine. They were invited by Russia to colonize large areas following victories over the Ottoman Empire (1768-1774) and the Crimean Khanate (1783). They were granted freedom of religion, self-government, and various economic privileges.

Nearly all of the Alsatian emigrants, including those from Soufflenheim, settled near Odessa. Most came from the northernmost part of Alsace, and a lesser number from the district of Haguenau. The emigrants from Alsace in 1808 and 1809 were predominately Catholics who established Catholic colonies. There were two large emigrations, in 1804 and 1808, and increased emigration during the famine of 1817.

### German/Russia Settlement Map



Present day countries and German settlement areas in the 1700's & 1800's.

<http://www.rollint.com/roll/grsettle.htm>

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## EMIGRANTS TO THE BLACK SEA

The following people emigrated from Soufflenheim to the Black Sea area in the early 1800's. Most of the information is from *The Emigration from Germany to Russia in the Years 1763-1862*, by Karl Stumpp, translated and contributed by John Leppert. Notes provided by Mark Drexler.

### Soufflenheim Emigrants

Name	Wife	Year Emigrated	To	From
Jakob Gell	Magdalena Burger	1805	Kleinliebental	Soufflenheim
Joseph Leppert		1805	Kleinliebental	Soufflenheim
George Leppert		1805	Kleinliebental	Soufflenheim
Ignatz Leppert		1805 & 1821	Kleinliebental	Soufflenheim
Margaretha Leppert		1821	Kleinliebental	Soufflenheim
Johannes Behler		1808	Mannheim	Soufflenheim
Joseph Estreicher		1808	Mannheim	Soufflenheim
Johannes Meyer	Maria Anna Estriecker	1808	Mannheim	Soufflenheim

Joseph Schneider	Margaretha Estreicher	1808	Mannheim	Soufflenheim
Joseph Schneider (The Younger)		1808	Mannheim	Soufflenheim
Jakob Schnell	Maria Anna Uhrich	1808	Mannheim	Soufflenheim
Christian Held		1809	Kandel	Soufflenheim
Aloisius Arquin	Elisabeth Jaeck	1809	Rastatt	Soufflenheim
Michael Stein		1808		Soufflenheim
Andreas Wollung		1808		Soufflenheim
Joseph Bürger		1817		Soufflenheim
Joseph Haller		1817		Soufflenheim
Joseph Kiefer		1817		Soufflenheim

## **ALOISIUS ARQUIN & ELISABETH JAECK**

### **Emigration from Germany to Russia: 1763-1862. Pages 209 and 786.**

Alois Arquin, age 35, from Soufflenheim, District of Haguenau, Alsace. Emigrated in 1809 to Rastatt, in the region of Odessa. Index of Emigrants. Page 209.

Aloys Arquin, from Soufflenheim, District of Haguenau, Alsace, his wife Elisabeth [Jaeck] age 37, his daughter Katherina Arquin age 17. Rastatt 1811 Revision List, *The German Colonies in South Russia, 1804-1904*, by Conrad Keller.

Aloisius Arquin, a pioneer, age 38, from Soufflenheim, District of Haguenau, Alsace, his wife Elisabetta [Jaeck] age 41, his stepdaughter Katherina Burger age 21. Rastatt 1816 Revision List. Page 786.

Katherina is listed as Arquin's 17 year old daughter Katherina Arquin in 1811, and as his 21 year old stepdaughter Katherina Burger in 1816.

[Note: Marriage Record. On-line page 13: Alloysius Arquin, age 26, born in Renchen-Oberkirch on 08 July 1775, residing in Wagshurst, son of Antres Arquin, innkeeper of 'The Oxen', of Wagshurst and deceased Anna Maria Weber, married Maria Elisabetha Jäck, age 31, born in Schirhoffen on 11 November 1769, residing in Soufflenheim, widow of Joseph Burger, deceased tiler and innkeeper of 'The Crown'. Married in Soufflenheim on the 28 August 1801 (Renchen-Oberkirch located in the Black Forest, at the present Land Baden-Württemberg, not far from Strasbourg. Marriage act says: "Heumonat" = "hay month" = July, and "Wintermonat" = November). Marriage Record: On-line page 26: Joseph Burger, tiler, widower of Catharina Moser, married Elisabetha Jaek, daughter of Antoni Jaek, royal forest guard, and Maria Eva Paulin [Daul], in Soufflenheim on the 23 February 1789. There is no direct record establishing this Joseph

as the son of Michel Burger and Margaretha Stickelreisser; but the body of indirect evidence, including his occupation 'tiler', is convincing. Judging from his description in a series of Soufflenheim church records, Joseph became innkeeper of 'The Crown' in 1786 or late 1785. He died in Baden, Baden on 21 February 1795, according to the Soufflenheim marriage records dated 18 November 1809 and 16 August 1810 of his children Barbe Burger and Ignace Burger. This family apparently participated in the Great Flight, and the daughter Catharina might have been born in Baden about 1794 or 1795 as her birth was not recorded in Soufflenheim.]

## **JOHANNES BEHLER**

### **Emigration from Germany to Russia: 1763-1862. Pages 221 and 642.**

Johannes Behler, from Soufflenheim, District of Haguenau, Alsace. Emigrated in 1808 to Mannheim, in the region of Odessa. Index of Emigrants. Page 221.

Johann Behler, age 35, from Soufflenheim, District of Haguenau, Alsace. His wife Augustina age 35, his children Maria Anna, died 1811, Jakob age 2 1/2, Katharina age 2 1/2, Johann age 1 1/2, Marianna age 1/4, Augustina, died in 1815. Mannheim 1816 Revision List. Page 642.

[Note: Johannes Behler might be Johannes Baptist Boehler, baptized 16 June 1782, on-line page 370. Parents: Joannis Boehler and Maria Anna Lehmann, both of Sufflenheim. The father was a 'fabri lignarii' (woodworker or carpenter). Godfather: Jacob Schitt. Godmother: Magdalena Metzler, daughter of deceased Petri Metzler and Elisabetha Kurtz. There are no Soufflenheim burial records for the first few years after Boehler's birth, nor death records from 1863-1869. The 10 Year Tables have no marriage or death record, other than 3 death possibilities from 1866-1868, to argue against this candidate.]

## **JOSEPH BURGER**

### **Emigration from Germany to Russia: 1763-1862. Page 237.**

Joseph Bürger, the Wagner (carriage builder). Five family members from Soufflenheim, Canton of Bischwiller, Alsace. Emigrated in 1817. From index of Professor Künzig. Index of Emigrants. Page 237.

The entry in Stumpp's book reads: "Bürger, Joseph, Wagner (Kü) (5), aus Sufflenheim/Bischweiler-El, 1817". (Kü) (5) means the information is from the index of Professor Künzig and (5) is the number of family members who emigrated. There is no mention of where Joseph Burger emigrated. Probably to the region of Odessa near the Black Sea. He emigrated in 1817, so probably not found in an 1816 Revision List. In the event he was related to Magdalena Burger, the Rastatt 1816 Revision List and the GRHS genealogical data base were searched for him without success. There are no Revision Lists for Rastatt after 1816.

[Note: I have been able to account for the many Joseph Burger who appear in the Soufflenheim indexes and who might seem like candidates for the emigrant under consideration. The only ones I know to have left Soufflenheim permanently were Great Flighters who died on the other side of the river. One seemingly unlikely possibility is the son, born in 1792, of Elisabetha Jaeck.]

## **JOSEPH ESTREICHER**

### **Emigration from Germany to Russia: 1763-1862. Pages 258 and 644.**

Joseph Estreicher, shoemaker, from Soufflenheim, Canton of Bischwiller, Alsace. Emigrated in 1808 to Mannheim, in the region of Odessa. Index of Emigrants. Page 258.

Joseph Estreicher, 49, from Soufflenheim, District of Haguenau, Alsace, his wife Christina, 50, his daughter Barbara, 20, his foster son George Wüst 11. Mannheim 1816 Revision List. Entry 26. Page 644.

[Note: Joseph Estreicher: The primary candidate was born 17 December 1766 (Baptism Record 18 December 1766), on-line page 191. Son of Lorentz Estreicher and Magdalena Biff. This Joseph's sisters, Margaretha (married Joseph Schneider) and Maria Anna (married Johannes Meyer) were almost certainly other emigrants to Mannheim (see their entries herein). No other candidate is apparent in the Soufflenheim records. The occupation of Joseph, son of Lorentz and Magdalena, appears, on slim evidence, to have been 'tailor' rather than 'shoemaker' (noted in his mother's death record of 1804, see the Joseph Schneider entry herein). I found no record of his marriage, nor of a daughter Barbara born around 1796. Likewise, I found no likely candidate for a wife Christina who might have brought a Wust, or similarly named child, to their marriage. I did not find a child with such a name born about 1805 in Soufflenheim.]

## **JAKOB GELL & MAGDALENA BURGER**

### **Emigration from Germany to Russia: 1763-1862. Pages 276 and 609.**

Jakob Gell (Hell/Kehl) from Sulz, Weissenburg, Alsace. Arrived and settled in Kleinliebental in 1805, in the region of Odessa [Black Sea]. Index of Emigrants. Page 276.

The following family arrived and settled in Kleinliebental in 1805 and lived in the same house. Kleinliebental Colony. March 12, 1816 Revision List. Page 609. Family 62.

- Jakob Gell. Age at Previous Revision [1811]: 50. Died in 1811. [age 50 at time of death in 1811]
- Jakob Gell's Daughter Marianna. Age 13.
- Jakob Gell's Step-son Ignatz Leppert. Age at Previous Revision: 18. Ran Away in 1811.
- Jakob Gell's Step-son Georg Leppert. Age at Previous Revision: 21. Current Age: 26.
- George Lepperts's Wife: Barbara. Died in 1815.
- George Leppert's Daughter From His First Marriage: Theresia. Age 4.
- George Lepperts's Second Wife: Helena. Age 23.

After the death of her first husband George Leppert in May 1793, Magdalena Burger left in the "Great Flight", returning to Soufflenheim on 17 March 1795 with her four children: Margaretha, Joseph, George, and Ignatz. There is no death record for Magdalena Burger in Soufflenheim, so she probably emigrated in 1805 with her husband and children to Kleinliebental in the Ukraine. Magdalena was probably born about 1767, so was about 38 years old when she emigrated. The most likely candidate is Magdalena Burger, born in 1765 in Soufflenheim, daughter of Sebastian Burger and Catherine Reiter. This is the only Magdalena Burger born within 10 years of 1767.

Johann Jacob Gell and Magdalena Burger Marriage: The marriage was made 25 vendemiaire year 6 of the French Republic (15 October 1797) at 4:00 PM in the afternoon in the Soufflenheim City Hall. The

registrar was Karl Roller, who had been elected to this office. The Groom: Johann Jacob Gell, 36 years old, a tailor, born in Koenigsberg, Prussia but living four years in the French Republic and working as a tailor. He was the son of Johann Jacob Gell, a shoemaker and Regina Hamann who had lived in Koenigsberg but are now deceased. The Bride: Magdalena Burger, 30 years old, a widow of the deceased Georg Leppert who was a tailor and citizen of Soufflenheim. Eight people from Soufflenheim accompanied the couple. List of Witnesses: Franz Joseph Jaek, 50, a farmer. Joseph Berger, 45, a farmer. Joseph Schaeffer, 44, a shoemaker. Bastian Berger, 57, a farmer. Bastian Simon, 28, a carpenter. Anton Burger, 43, a farmer. Peter Metzler, 48, a joiner. Christian Bildstein, 42, a hunter. All of them were citizens of Soufflenheim and knew the spouses. When the registrar asked the groom for attestation of baptism, he said it was impossible to get it because he left his country as a soldier and couldn't find a priest or a civil agent to give him that attestation. The eight witnesses testified that he had an honest life since he was there and he was the son of Johann Jacob Gell and Regina Hamann. The bride could show attestation of the death of her Husband Johan Georg Leppert who died 02 May 1793 in Soufflenheim. The bans of marriage had been published 17 vendemiaire year 6 (08 October 1797).

Maria Anna Gell Birth: Born 18 December 1802 in Soufflenheim. The notification of the birth was made 28 Frimaire, year XI of the French Republic (19 December 1802). She was born the day before at 7:00 PM in the evening. She was the daughter of Jacob Gell, a tailor, and Magdalena Burger, both citizens living in the commune of Soufflenheim. The witnesses were Balthasar Illenberger, 49, a mason, and Maria Anna Franck, 24, the daughter of Egidius Franck, a carpenter and Magdalena Haser, both citizens of Soufflenheim. The public officer was the Mayor of Soufflenheim, Joseph Messmer.

Magdalena Burger Statement: The 28 ventose year 3 (18 March 1795), the mayor and the town council of Soufflenheim certify with the testimony of 8 citizens of Soufflenheim that Magdalena Burger, 30 years old, left the soil of the Republic the 3 nivose year 3 (23 December 1793), before that date she was a day laborer in Soufflenheim and she came back in the town 27 ventose year 3 (17 March 1795), with four of her children, Margaretha Lebert 11 years, Joseph Lebert 8 years, Georg Lebert 5 years and Ignaz Lebert 2 years. In front of the town council and the witnesses she made a sworn statement that she was never in touch with any foreign agent. (Note: In the French Text for the District office of Haguenau, there is a note in the margin that says she was the widow of George Lebert of Soufflenheim. Except for the spelling of the surname, the names and ages of the children match the record for those of Johannes Leppert and Magdalena Burger.)

[Note: There is no Leppert-Burger marriage record. They probably married about 1783 (the gap in the records runs until 1788) judging from the first of her Leppert children's baptism records dated 1784. The Jacob Gell/Magdalena Burger marriage of 15 October 1797 claimed Johann Georg Leppert had died in Soufflenheim on 02 May 1793, but I did not find such a death record nor did I find it represented in the 10-year tables. The baptism of Magdalena Burger, daughter of Sebastian Burger and Catherina Reiter, is dated 04 April 1765 (born the previous day), on-line page 174. Her father described simply as a resident of Soufflenheim. Godfather: Joannes Adam Meyer, son of deceased Mathia Meyer and Catharina Harterin(?). Godmother: Magdalena Zollenmeyer, daughter of deceased Danielis Zollenmeyer and Magdalena Dangel.]

## **JOSEPH HALLER**

### **Emigration from Germany to Russia: 1763-1862. Page 292.**

Joseph Haller. Three family members emigrated. From Soufflenheim, Bischwiller, Alsace. Emigrated in 1817. From index of Professor Künzig. Index of Emigrants. Page 292.

There is no mention of where Joseph Haller emigrated. Probably to the region of Odessa near the Black Sea. Because he emigrated in 1817, he would not have been found in the 1816 Revision List. There is no marriage record for Joseph Haller in Soufflenheim.

[Note: "Haller" is not a name found in the Soufflenheim records. It is possible it was a mistaken writing/reading of "Halter".]

## **CHRISTIAN HELD**

### **Emigration from Germany to Russia: 1763-1862. Pages 301 and 637.**

Christian Held, Age 30, from Soufflenheim, Canton of Bischwiller, Alsace. Emigrated in 1809 to Kandel, Odessa. Revision List: Family 22. Son: Christian, Age 3. Index of Emigrants. Page 301.

Christian Held, age 34, from Soufflenheim, District of Hagenau, Alsace, his wife Maria, age 36, his children Christian age 7, Mariana age 5, Georg died 1813, Leonhard age 1-3/4, his step children Barbara Bauman age 16, Magdalena Bauman age 14. Kandel 1816 Revision List. Page 637. Family 22. See also Family 84.

Family 84, Page 640, is Jokab Bauman from Hegeneu, District of Hagenau, Alsace, with a reference to both Family 22 and Family 76 (Page 640). Presumably the only reason Held is referenced to Family 84 is because of the surname, Bauman, as there is no other obvious tie mentioned in Stumpp. Family 76 is referenced because one of Jokab's daughters married a Muellers from Family 76. The Muellers were from Wingen, Weissenburg, Alsace.

Christian Held was 34 in 1816, so born about 1782. No record of Christian Held found in Soufflenheim. He may have been single when he emigrated in 1809, and married in Kandel.

## **JOSEPH KIEFER**

### **Emigration from Germany to Russia: 1763-1862. Page 328.**

Joseph Kiefer, profession schmierhändler (seller of grease - animal fat or oil). From Soufflenheim, Canton of Bischwiller, Alsace. Emigrated in 1817. From index of Professor Künzig. Index of Emigrants. Page 328. The only other Kieffer from Alsace mentioned in Stumpp's book is Christian Kieffer from Görzdorf, Wörth, Alsace. Emigrated in 1807 from Hungary to Josefstal, Odessa. Revision List House Number 42.

## **GEORGE LEPPERT**

### **Emigration from Germany to Russia: 1763-1862. Page 609.**

George Leppert, from Soufflenheim, Canton of Bishwiller, Alsace. Arrived and settled in 1805 in Kleinliebental in the region of Odessa. His wife Barbara died in 1815. Kleinliebental 1816 Revision List. Page 609.

In 1834: "The richest farmers in Kleinliebenthal were Ignatz Most and George Leppert; each this year seeded wheat, 14 dessatine, oats 7 dessatine, rye 5 dessatine, potatoes 3 dessatine." *German Colonies in South Russia 1804-1904*, by Conrad Keller. Reprinted by AHSGR. Volume 1, Page 163.

George Leppert is the son of Johannes George Leppert, tailor, and Magdalena Burger of Soufflenheim, and the stepson of Jakob Gell. He was 26 years old in 1816. He probably married Barbara in Kleinliebenthal as their daughter Theresia was four in 1816, the year of the Revision List. Barbara died in 1815. George married his second wife Helena by 1816, who was 23 that year.

## **MARGARETHA LEPPERT**

### **Kleinliebenthal Administration Report: 04 October 1821**

Margaretha (Leppert) Mahler, widow, age 36, her three children and her brother Ignatz, age 26, emigrated in 1821 to Kleinliebenthal in the Ukraine, and lived at the house of her brother George Leppert. Kleinliebenthal Administration Report, 04 October 1821.

Margaretha Leppert, born 20 October 1784 in Soufflenheim, is the daughter of Johannes George Leppert, tailor and Magdalena Burger of Soufflenheim, and the stepdaughter of Jakob Gell. No record of her marriage to Mahler has been found, nor her children's birth records. She may have lived outside of Soufflenheim prior to emigrating. Margaretha (Leppert) Mahler's children: Theresia born 1805, Aman born 1809, Stephan born 1812. Theresia married Johann Merklinger (born 05 February 1801) who died shortly after being married. In 1825 Theresia married Johann Mock, born 16 May 1801, from Franzfeld. Aman married an Elizabeth, born 1812, and moved to Nikolajew where he made a contract with the Admiralty as a metal worker and blacksmith. Stephan, also a blacksmith, married Elisabeth Wetsch, daughter of Jakob Wetsch. He died in February 1849. His widow married Ludwig Wittibschlager from Katzenbach, Bessarabia. Source: Leppert Family History.

## **JOSEPH LEPPERT**

### **Emigration from Germany to Russia: 1763-1862. Pages 356 and 609.**

Joseph Leppert, from Soufflenheim, Canton of Bischwiller, Alsace. Emigrated to Kleinliebenthal, in the region of Odessa [Black Sea]. Index of Emigrants. Page 356.

The following individuals lived in the same house. Kleinliebenthal 1816 Revision List. Page 609. Family 65.

- Joseph Leppert. Arrived and settled in Kleinliebenthal in 1805. Age at Previous Revision: 24. Died in 1811 at age 24.
- Heinrich Schüler. Current Age: 20. Arrived via marriage from the colony of Marienthal in 1812.
- Heinrich Schüler's Wife: Barbara [Joseph Leppert's Widow]. Current Age: 26
- Heinrich Schüler's Son: Martin. Age at Previous Revision: Newborn. Current Age: 3
- Heinrich Schüler's Daughter: Elizabetha. Current Age: 1
- Heinrich Schüler's Step-son: Joseph Leppert Age at Previous Revision: 2. Died 1814.
- Heinrich Schüler's Step-daughter: Marianna Leppert. Current Age: 6.



Joseph Leppert, born 03 Jun 1787 in Soufflenheim, is the son of Johannes George Leppert, tailor, and Magdalena Burger of Soufflenheim, and the stepson of Jakob Gell. He was about 18 years old when he emigrated in 1805.

Heinrich Schüeler arrived in Kleinliebental from Marienthal in 1812, married Joseph's widow Barbara, moved into his house and adopted his two children, Maria Anna Leppert and Joseph Leppert (died 1814). Heinrich Schueler and Barbara had two children, Martin and Elizabeth. Heinrich Schüeler, in 1811, at the age of 24, went to Kleinliebental to get married. Marienthal 1816 Revision List. Page 616.

[Note: There is no Joseph Leppert/Barbara marriage in the 10-Year Tables of that period. The only Leppert-like marriages were: Joseph Lebert and Maria Anna Emm(?) married 20 Nivose Year 9, and Michel Lebers and Catharina Schaeffter married 27 Pluviose Year 12.]

## **IGNATZ LEPPERT**

### **Emigration from Germany to Russia: 1763-1862. Pages 356 and 609.**

Ignatz Leppert [listed as Johann Leppert], from Soufflenheim, Canton of Bischwiller, Alsace. Emigrated in 1805 to Kleinliebental, in the region of Odessa [Black Sea]. Index of Emigrants. Page 356.

In 1805 Ignatz, his stepfather Jakob Gell and his brother George, arrived and settled in Kleinliebental. He ran away in 1811. Kleinliebental 1816 Revision List. Page 609.

Ignatz, age 26, and his sister Margaretha (Leppert) Mahler, widow, age 36, and her three children, emigrated to Kleinliebental in the Ukraine, and lived at the house of his brother George Leppert. Kleinliebental Administration Report, 04 October 1821.

Ignatz Leppert, born in Soufflenheim in 1793, is the son of Johannes George Leppert, tailor, and Magdalena Burger, and the stepson of Jakob Gell. It is not known where Ignatz lived between 1811, the year he ran away from Kleinliebental, and 1821 when he returned. Ignatz married Gertruda, who died in 1851. In January 1847, Ignatz's eldest son, Johann (1828-1852) married Maria Anna Bienfet (born 24 December 1826 in Kleinliebental). She was the daughter of Joseph Bienfet (1797-1851).

Ignatz's youngest son, Gabriel, born January 1833, married Katharina Waldman, born 1833 in Kleinliebental, daughter of Benedikt Waldman and Maria Anna Paris and moved to Neu-Liebental. They had eight children: Peter, Martin, Franziska, Johann, Valentin, Maria Anna, Magdalena, and Helena, all born in Neu-Liebental. Gabriel's son Johannes Leppert, his wife Helena (Braun) Leppert and their children Katherine, Joseph, and Aloisa sailed from Bremerhaven, November 13, 1900 on the Norddeutscher Lloyd Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse arriving November 23, 1900 at the Port of New York, Ellis Island. Source: Norddeutscher Lloyd, Bremen: List or Manifest of Alien Immigrants for the Commissioner of Immigration. Source: Leppert Family History.

Baptism Record: Ignatius Leppert baptized Ignatus, son of the tailor Gerogius Leppert and of Magdalena Burger, local citizens, married and residing here [Soufflenheim], was born today 27 January 1793; he was baptized in his father's home by the midwife during the time of the Schism (exile); the [prescribed] ceremonies [or rites], exorcism and sacred anointing's were performed on the 4<sup>th</sup> of November of the same year. Godfather Antonius Schofter citizen here in this place, godmother Margaritha Hecht who, together with me and the father, signed their names below. No signatures.

[Note: Regarding the discrepancy in dates in the baptism record of Ignatius Leppert (Sacraments several months after the birth date). It is pretty clear that a batch of these 'midwife baptisms' were recorded (in the book) well after-the-fact. They all indicate, by one wording or another, that Sacraments were administered on 04 November 1793. Pages 120-133 contain such records of births from September 1792 to September 1793. The priest apparently returned to baptizing babies himself by mid-October 1793, as pages 133-135 have records from October to December with no midwife baptism. It is easy to understand why there are no signatures on the records that were written after-the-fact. It is not so easy to understand why signatures are absent from records dated October to late November. Signatures did not return thoroughly until mid-December. The priest wrote an explanatory paragraph at the beginning of the 'midwife baptisms' (on-line page 120)].

## **JOHANNES MEYER & MARIA ANNA ESTRIECKER**

### **Emigration from Germany to Russia: 1763-1862. Pages 375 and 645.**

Johannes Meyer, tiler, from Soufflenheim, Canton of Bischwiller, Alsace. Emigrated in 1808 to Mannheim, Odessa [Black Sea]. Registration List, House 42, Sons Philipp age 7, Johannes age 5, Engelbert age 3, Heinrich age 2. Index of Emigrants. Page 375.

Johann Meyer, 43 from Soufflenheim, district of Haguenau, Alsace. His wife Marianna [Estreicher] age 43, his children Philipp age 11, Johann Peter age 9, Engelbert age 7, Heinrich age 6, Johann age 3  $\frac{3}{4}$ , Magdalena age 1  $\frac{1}{2}$ . Manheim 1816 Revision List. Page 645.

[Note: Johannes Meyer and Maria Anna Ehstreicher: The primary candidate couple was married 11 August 1802, page 11. Johannes Meyer, 30, born in Gries, in the former parish Weitbruch, 11 August 1772, tiler, son of deceased Johannes Meyer, tiler, and Catharina Heitz (presumably of Gries; word hidden in book spine); and Maria Anna Ehstreicher, 29, born in Soufflenheim on the 29 September 1772, daughter of deceased Lorentz Ehstreicher, tailor, and still-living Magdalena Biff; one witness was Joseph Schneider, 39, farmer. The baptism of Johannes Meyer is in the Weitbruch church records 11 August 1772, on-line page 124. Maria Anna Estreicher was baptized 29 September 1772 (born the previous day), on-line page 250. Birth record for Engelbert Meyer on the 27 February 1807; son of Jean Meyer, 34, laborer, and Marie Anne Estreicher; one witness was Michel Leppert, 28, tailor. The name Engelbert was highly uncommon, so this record offsets the apparent absence of the elder children's names in the Soufflenheim records. The available evidence seems convincing, this is the emigrant family listed.]

## **JOSEPH SCHNEIDER & MARGARETHA ESTREICHER**

### **Emigration from Germany to Russia: 1763-1862. Pages 432 and 644.**

Joseph Schneider, shoemaker. From Soufflenheim, Bischwiller, Alsace. Emigrated in 1808 to Mannheim, Odessa. Revision List Entry 53. Sons: Jakob age 10, Josef FW 1. Index of Emigrants. Page 432.

Joseph Schneider, 48 years old in 1812. From Soufflenheim, District of Haguenau, Alsace. He died in 1814. His wife Margaretha [Estreicher] age 50. His children Marianna age 19, Jakob age 14, Jakobina age 8, Joseph age 5. His son-in-law Andreas Fortmaier age 22. From Hoerd, Germersheim, Pfalz, [Germany] arrived in 1808, from the Liste der Alleinstehenden Number 5 ueberschreiben worden, his wife Magdalena age 23. Manheim 1816 Revision List. Page 644. Entry 28. (See entry 53, arrived in 1808).

[Note: Joseph Schneider and Margaretha Estreicher: The clear match for this emigrant couple is Joseph Schneider, son of Johannes Schneider and Elisabeth Zircher, and Margaretha Estreicher, daughter of Lorentz Estreicher and Magdalena Biff. The couple's marriage record is dated 25 May 1789, on-line page 27. Parents were named as above; groom (no occupation stated) was from Schirhoffen; his father was a farmer in Schirhoffen. Joseph's occupation was 'farmer', as shown in his children's birth records; I found no support for the occupation 'shoemaker'. I did not find his birth record, but his age was reported in some of his children's birth records: age 32 as of 30 December 1795, and age 44 as of 29 April 1807. Margaretha Estreicher was baptized in Soufflenheim on 27 June 1765 (born the previous day), on-line page 177. The three elder children listed for the emigrant couple are found in the Soufflenheim records: Maria Anna, born 30 December 1795, on-line page 74. Jacob, born 03 July 1801, on-line page 23, and Jacobe, born 29 April 1807 (one witness in this record was Michel Leppert). It is interesting to note that the death record of Magdalena Biff (Margaretha Estreicher's mother), dated 09 June 1804, on-line page 14, included witnesses Joseph Ehstreicher, son, tailor; and Joseph Schneider, son-in-law, farmer; and one other signatory was Johannes Meyer.]

### **JOSEPH SCHNEIDER (The Younger)**

#### **Emigration from Germany to Russia: 1763-1862. Page 645.**

Joseph Schneider the younger, age 32. From Soufflenheim, District of Haguenau, Alsace. Emigrated in 1808 to Mannheim, Odessa [Black Sea]. His wife Eva Age 29. His children Joseph age 5, Lorenz age 3 ¼, Agnes age 1 ¾. Mannheim 1816 Revision List. Entry 53. Page 645. (See entry 28).

Joseph Schneider was born about 1784. The name Schneider is not found in the Raiman Baptism Index, so Joseph was not born in Soufflenheim, nor is there a marriage record for him in Soufflenheim. He probably married Eva in Mannheim, as his oldest child was age 5, so born in 1811.

[Note: The term 'the younger' might have been applied in Russia, and might not indicate that he is related to the husband of Margaretha Estreicher. I did not find a record of him in the early civil records of Schirrhein and Schirrhoffen, and there are no older church records.]

### **JAKOB SCHNELL & MARIA ANNA UHRICH**

#### **Emigration from Germany to Russia: 1763-1862. Pages 433 and 643.**

Jakob Schnell, Tailor, age 41. From Soufflenheim, Canton of Bishwiller, Alsace. Emigrated in 1808 to Mannheim, Odessa. Revision List Entry 15. Son: Jakob. Index of Emigrants. Page 433.

Jakob Schnell, age 45. From Soufflenheim, District of Haguenau, Alsace. His wife Marianna age 45. His children Margaretha 16, Jakob 14, Gertraude 9, Magdalena 6. Mannheim 1816 Revision List. Page 643.

[Note: This emigrant couple is clearly the one married in Soufflenheim on 07 August 1797, on-line page 23. The marriage record shows Jacob Schnall, a tailor, age 27, resident of Soufflenheim, born in Roeschwoog on 03 September 1770, son of deceased Balthasar Schnal and Elisabetha Dita of Roeschwoog; and Maria Anna Uhrig, age 26, born in Soufflenheim on 24 June 1701 (sic), daughter of deceased Johannes Uhrig and still living Maria Anna Mossack of Soufflenheim. The Roeschwoog records include the baptism of Jacob Schnall on 03 September 1770, on-line page 125. Wherein his parent's names appear to be spelled Schnall and Dieta. The Soufflenheim baptism record of Maria Anna Uhrig is

dated 11 June 1770, on-line page 229. The three elder children of the emigrants, as listed, match children of Jacob Schnall and Maria Anna Uhrich, as found in the Soufflenheim birth records: Margaretha Schnall, born 16 September 1799, on-line page 32. Jacob Schnall, born 02 April 1801, on-line page 13. And Gertrude Schnall, born 13 March 1806.]

## **MICHAEL STEIN**

### **Emigration from Germany to Russia: 1763-1862. Page 454.**

Michael Stein, day laborer. From Soufflenheim, Bischwiller, Alsace. Emigrated in 1808. From the index of Professor Künzig. Index of Emigrants. Page 454. There is no mention of where Michael Stein emigrated. Probably to the region of Odessa near the Black Sea. No mention of Michael Stein in the 1816 Mannheim Revision List. No Michael Stein marriage prior to 1808 in the Raiman Index. The name Stein is not found in the Raiman Baptism Index.

## **ANDREAS WOLLUNG**

### **Emigration from Germany to Russia: 1763-1862. Page 491.**

Andreas Wollung (Wolljung). From Soufflenheim, Bischwiller, Alsace. Emigrated in 1808. From the index of Professor Künzig. Index of Emigrants. Page 491. There is no mention of where Andreas Wollung emigrated. Probably to the region of Odessa near the Black Sea. There is no mention of Andreas in the 1816 Mannheim Revision List.

[Note: The two Andreas Wollung's mentioned in the church records continue to appear in Soufflenheim well after 1808. Perhaps he was born somewhere other than Soufflenheim but was living there, perhaps with relatives, as of 1808.]

## **ANDRE WOLJING** [Possible Emigrant to Russia]

### **Alsace Emigration Book. Volume 1 & 2.**

Andre Woljing, carpenter, from Soufflenheim, with wife and six children, emigrated in 1817 to either Russia or the United States.

[Note: The only Andres Wohljnung of Soufflenheim I know about fits the description insofar as being a carpenter and having a wife and six children as of 1817. His wife was Marie Anne Drechsler. These were the adoptive parents of my great-grandfather Sebastian (son of Marie Anne's unmarried sister Margaretha Drechsler). They continued to live in Soufflenheim. I can imagine they might have intended to emigrate (and filed the paperwork), but ultimately decided to stay. If they did actually leave in 1817, they were back in Soufflenheim for the birth of their seventh child on 18 Feb 1819.

From Brian Smith:

According to the Alsace Emigration Book by Cornelia Schrader-Muggenthaler, Andre Woljing is listed in 1817 in both Volume 1 and Volume 2.

From Alsace Emigration Book Volume I: WOLJING, Andre, with wife and 6 children. No birth year given. Birthplace Soufflenheim. Emigration 3/4/1817. Destination A (= "America"). Profession not given. Source FILM (see my note below)

From Alsace Emigration Book Volume II: WOLJING, Andre, with wife and 6 children. No birth year given. Birthplace Soufflenheim. Emigration 1/1/1817. Destination A (= "America"). Profession CARP (= "carpenter"). Source PA = Emigrants found on lists from National Archives in Paris

The glossary of destination codes, such as A for America, does not include any locations east of Bavaria.

Here is the definition of "Source FILM":

*"The information for this source has been taken from the Alsace Emigration Index, a cardfile archive put on microfilm by the Mormon Archives in Salt Lake City. It does include immigrants to USA, Russia, Germany, and many other countries. We only sorted out the emigrants to USA for this book.*

*If the emigration year is 1817 and the source is FILM, it can be that some of the listed people migrated to Russia and not America, they applied for a passport for both."*

By "Mormon Archives" I believe they mean the FHL. Some years back I looked at one of the FHL microfilms that I believe to be this source. As I recall, it does not contain any additional information beyond the little bit shown in the book. However, the book's note above does suggest that the microfilm contains emigrants to Russia whom the book authors did not transcribe into their database.

## GERMAN COLONIES IN THE BLACK SEA REGION

### The Colonies of Grossliebental

Grossliebental was the center of the region densely populated by Germans. It included the colonies of Kleinliebental, Franzfeld, Mariental, Josefstal, and Lustdorf. Approximately 60% of the earliest emigrants to the Colony of Kleinliebental were from Alsace. There were 49 Alsatian families by 1809, including at least two from Soufflenheim. The majority came from the Wissenbourg area in northern Alsace.

Emigrants from Soufflenheim to the Colony of Kleinliebental in the District of Grossliebental:

- Jakob Gell & Magdalena Burger (1805)
- Joseph Leppert (1805)
- Ignatz Leppert (1805 & 1821)
- George Leppert (1805)
- Margaretha Leppert (1821)

"Kleinliebental was settled in 1804 by immigrants from various regions of Germany. Sixteen families destined for this colony had arrived in Russia in 1803, but because the land had not yet been purchased for them, they had to be quartered in Odessa. In March 1804, 48 families arrived and settlement was

begun. There were 50 lots measured out, 25 on the east side and 25 on the west side of the river. On every lot a reed hut was built as a shelter for the people and the meagre belongings that they had brought with them. So Kleinliebental came into existence. In 1805, 20 more families arrived; in 1807, one; in 1808, four; and in 1809, seven, making a total of 82 households." From *The German Colonies in South Russia 1804 to 1904* by Conrad Keller.



Grossliebenthal District, Odessa. <http://www.rollintl.com/roll/liebenthal.htm>

### The Colonies of Kutschurgan

Colonies were founded along the Kutschurgan River beginning in 1808, primarily by Catholic families, of whom the majority were from Alsace, including at least seven families from Soufflenheim. The most important colonies were Strasbourg, Baden, Seltz, Kandel, Mannheim, and Elsass.

Emigrants from Soufflenheim to the Colony of Mannheim, founded in 1808, in the District of Kutschurgan

- Joseph Estreicher (1808)
- Johannes Behler (1808)

- Johannes Meyer & Maria Anna Estriecker (1808)
- Joseph Schneider & Margaretha Estreicher (1808)
- Joseph Schneider the younger (1808)
- Jakob Schnell & Maria Anna Uhrich (1808)

Emigrants from Soufflenheim to the Colony of Kandel, founded in 1808, in the District of Kutschurgan:

- Christian Held (1809)



Kutschurgan District, Cherson, South Russia. <http://www.rollintl.com/roll/kutschurgan.htm>

### The Colonies of Beresan

The Beresan District was one of the largest in the Black Sea region. The founding families were comprised of 220 families from Alsace, including at least one from Soufflenheim. Plus 317 from the Palatinate, 255 from Baden, 84 from Württemberg, and 79 from Poland.

Emigrants from Soufflenheim to the Colony of Rastadt, founded in 1809, in the District of Beresan:

- Aloisius Arquin & Elisabeth Jaeck (1809)



Beresan District. South Russia. <http://www.rollintl.com/roll/beresanmap.htm>



## FAMILIES FROM THE CANTONS OF BISCHWILLER AND HAGUENAU

The number of families emigrating to the Black Sea from the Cantons of Bischwiller and Haguenau according to *The Emigration from Germany to Russia in the Years 1763-1862*. Seven families are listed for Soufflenheim. However, a search of the *Index of Emigrants to the Black Sea* found 16 families from Soufflenheim, plus two Leppert families were found in other sources, so 18 families total. Emigration was even higher, as many records do not list a place of origin.

Canton of Bischwiller	Families	Canton of Haguenau	Families
Auenheim	3	Geudertheim	1
Bischwiller	2	Haguenau	1
Fort Louis	5	Hochstett	1
Hanhofen	1	Kaltenhausen	2
Leutenheim	6	Mariental	3
Neuheausel	2	Schweighausen	4
Offendorf	1		
Roeschwoog	7		
Rohrwiller	4		
Roppenheim	4		
Schirrhein	6		
Schirrhoffen	1		
Sessenheim	3		
Soufflenheim	7		
14 Communities	55 Families	6 Communities	17 Families

## THE MIGRATION FROM ALSACE TO THE BLACK SEA

Excerpts from *The Migration from Alsace to the Black Sea Region and the Location of the Genealogical Materials in the Homeland Area*, by Professor Jean Schweitzer, Strasbourg, France, 1990.

## **The Migration from Alsace to the Black Sea Region**

Only the most northern part of Alsace near the Palatinate border was concerned with the emigration to Russia. Only this extreme northern nook of Alsace was involved. Roughly speaking, the district of Weissenburg, where the population is of Franconian descent, whereas the larger part of Alsace is of Alemanic origin.

Because of its geographical location Alsace has always been a crossing country and has seen many invaders come and go during the 2,500 years of its known history. The first known invaders were the Celts, followed by the Romans who occupied Alsace for about 500 years (58 BC - ca 450 AC). The Romans were "rolled back" by Germanic tribes. The first ones were the 'Alemannen' followed by the 'Franken' in the late 5th century.

This later event will be of greater importance for Northern Alsace, where the emigrants to Russia came from, because it explains the characteristic features of this area where the political and religious parameters had been changing for centuries, and where the dialect limits were fixed over a thousand years ago. Here in this little area of Northern Alsace, the dialect is a Franconian one like in Palatinate, whereas, in all the other parts of the province, they speak the Alemanic dialect (about 85% of the population).

Nearly all the Alsatian emigrants to Russia came from the northern circle of Weissenburg, and a lesser number from the district of Haguenau.

As to the emigration itself, two years must be remembered: 1804 and 1808. Because emigration was forbidden in those days by the French government, the Alsatians had to leave secretly. When the authorities got wind of the mass exodus in 1804, they tried desperately to stop the emigration. For a while, it seemed that the Alsatian exodus had ended in a fiasco. It was only a setback. The second wave in 1808 was much more important. Many of these emigrants got their passports from the Jewish banker Bethmann in Frankfurt/Main, who was appointed the Russian consul in this big city.

Nearly all the Alsatians were settled in the Black Sea region: Beresan, Liebenthal and chiefly in the Kutchurgan district. Therefore, it is not amazing that many colonies were given Alsatian names: three of five Kutchurgan colonies had Alsatian names: Elsass, Selz, Strassburg; Kandel belongs to south Palatinate and Mannheim was taken over from Baden. And when nearly a century later their descendants came over to the new world, they brought many an Alsatian place name with them such as Strasburg and Selz in North Dakota and in Saskatchewan.

The most important historical period relating to the emigration to Russia is the French Revolution. A period of confusion, big changes and great turmoil, which caused an important emigration across the Rhine, but not yet to Russia. The fatal date was December 23, 1793 when over 20,000 people (some historians estimate even 30,000) only from Northern Alsace, the region of the future emigration to Russia, fled when Revolutionary armies invaded the territory. Its deeply religious population now feared the anti-religious revolutionary troops and the guillotine.

Upon returning home some years later, many of these exiled people were ruined because their goods had been confiscated by the new political regime. Moreover the troops too often plundered the country: the peasants had to furnish provisions and animals, give extra horses and wagons, perform enforced labor, pay war tribute, suffer the quartering of soldiers etc. There is no doubt that there was a great dissatisfaction in the country. Thousands and thousands of families felt depressed and discouraged.

Another inequity was the confiscation and selling of church properties. This brought many a family a shortage of farmland. Catholic families were forbidden by the ecclesiastical authorities to buy confiscated church property, which consequently was bought cheaply by the local protestant farmers. For those Catholic farmers working mainly on rented church-owned land this meant economic ruin.

The Revolution years were followed by the conquests of Napoleon who ruled over a great part of Europe from 1805-1814. His campaigns and conquests added much to the turmoil in this region. And it is easy to imagine why many young men avoided enlisting.

These few main reasons added to many others were combined with overpopulation, which periodically causes an important emigration. It must be pointed out that these reasons, political and economical, were closely interrelated. And in many cases we may add secondary reasons, such as domestic, family or law troubles etc.

The immigration to Russia at that time was not merely an event of Alsatian history; it affected a much larger area of the Upper Rhine including South Palatinate, and Central and North Baden on the Eastern side of the Rhine as well. There has always existed relationships of many kinds with these two neighbors, such as economical, social, and even family relations. And mostly they all spoke, and still speak, the Franconia dialect which they took with them to the Black Sea region, the same as their descendants did in the late 19th century when homesteading in the New World.

## SOURCES OF INFORMATION

### Church Records

The Grossliebental district had Catholic churches in Kleinliebental, Josefstal, Mariental, and Franzfeld. The Beresan district had Catholic churches in Landau, Speyer, Sulz, Karlsruhe, Katharinental, Rastadt, and München. The Kutschurgan district had Catholic churches in Strassburg, Baden, Selz, Kandel, Elsass, and Mannheim.

Church records were recorded in Latin until the 1840s, and after that in Russian Cyrillic. They can be found in the State Archives of the Saratov Oblast in the city of Saratov. Parish records of the Black Sea German Catholics are found in these files:

- Fond 1166: Mogilev Roman Catholic Church Consistory: 1801-1853.
- Fond 1167: Kherson Roman Catholic Church Consistory: 1850-1853
- Fond 365: Tiraspol Roman Catholic Church Consistory: 1853-1918.

### Websites

- American Historical Society of Germans From Russia (AHSGR)
- Germans from Russia Heritage Society (GRHS)
- Germans from Russia Heritage Collection (GRHC)
- Black Sea German Research Group

- Germans from Russia Settlement Locations
- Odessa Digital Library: A German- Russian Genealogical Library

### **The Emigration from Germany to Russia in the Years 1763-1862**

By Karl Stumpp, 1973, Two Volumes, 1018 Pages, Reprinted in 1997 by The American Historical Society of Germans from Russia (AHSGR). Entries in German. Lists of German emigrants to Russia, many with vital statistics, place of origin in Germany, and locality of settlement in Russia. The information is nearly complete for Black Sea immigrants.

Part I: Pages 204-498. Contains an alphabetical index of names of approximately 17,600 emigrants from Württemberg, Baden, Alsace, Palatinate, Bavaria, Hesse, Rhenish-Hesse, Danzig-West Prussia, and other areas in the years 1789-1862, to South Russia (Black Sea region), including Bessarabia, the Crimea, and the South Caucasus, but not Mennonites. Part II: Pages 499-957. Contains Revision Lists (Immigration Lists) for the Black Sea area for the years 1816, partly also 1811, 1808, and 1858. Data includes the emigrant, his wife and children, and their ages.