

NEW SOUFFLENHEIM RESEARCHERS

Mark Obermeyer

mwobermeyer@gmail.com

Researching the name Obermeyer.

Mark has done a tremendous amount of research on Martin (Matern/Mattern) Obermeyer, found via Google Drive at: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1em826WX1xxCTSx9Fklzsn5R51hkr22uI>

Martin/Matern was adopted by Obermeyers in Soufflenheim. If you can't open the document, feel free to contact Mark and he will allow you access.

Bill Uhrich

billuhrich@yahoo.com

Researching the name Uhrich.

Bill's "a descendant of Christian and Lousia Uhrich who emigrated from Soufflenheim to the United States in 1866. They lived for a couple of years in Batavia, Genesee County, New York and then moved to South Dakota."

RECORDS IN OTHER VILLAGES

Contributed by Mark Drexler

CATHARINA HENN

Gunstett 28 March 1723 (On-Line Page 23/78) Burial Record

Catharina Hennin (deceased), daughter of Conradi Henn of Suffleheim.

Comments: One declarant was Georg Wernert. Catharina's presumed sister Susanna married Georg Wernert in Gunstett 13 Jan 1699 (see above).

ANTONI MITTLEWEG & MARIA EVA BUSSER(?)

Surbourg 15 June 1733 (On-Line Page 6/289) Marriage Record

Antonius Mittelweg (groom), son of Georgii Mittelweg of Sufflenheim.

Maria Eva Buserin(?) (bride), daughter of Baltasar Busser(?) of Surburg.

GASPARD PARIS & MARIA CATHARINA GÖTZ

Fort Louis 11 February 1749 (On-Line Page 3/196) Marriage Record

Maria Catharina Götz (bride), daughter of deceased Wendelini Götz and deceased Catharina Hitzinger of Sufflum.

Michael Götz (witness), of Sufflenheim.

Gaspardus Paris (groom), of Fort-Louis, widower of Christina Cadet.

CONRAD HEFFELIN & ELISABETHA VOGELE

Beinheim 07 January 1751 (On-Line Page 67/184) Marriage Record

Elisabetha Vögelin (bride), daughter of deceased Francisci Vögele and deceased Anna Maria Bühlerin(?) of Soufflenheim.

Joannes Müller (witness), of Soufflen.

Conradus Heffelin (groom), of Forschfelden, widower of Catherina Casserin.

JACOB RIEBEL & ANNA MARIA JOST

Fort Louis 24 January 1752 (On-Line Page 26/196) Marriage Record

Caspar Trexler (witness), of Sufflum. [Drexler / Drechsler]

Joannes Jacobus Riehbhel (groom), son of Antonii Riehbhel and Maria Studer of Gambsheim.

Anna Maria Jost (bride), widow of Francisci Paris of Fort-Louis.

Comments: The witness Caspar Wilhelm Drechsler's marriage was recorded in Fort-Louis 30 June 1750 (on-line page 14/196); his wife was from Gambenheim; they settled in Soufflenheim shortly after their marriage.

PETER VINCENT & MARGARETHA MARY

Fort Louis 4 November 1754 (On-Line Page 42/196) Marriage Record

Margaritha Mary (bride), daughter of deceased Protasii Mary and Anna Maria Brucker of Sufflenheim.

Franciscus Mary (witness), origin not stated.

Petrus Vincent (groom), son of deceased Petri Vincent and Joanna Endel of Soyers, diocese Lingonensis.

Comments: The witness Frantz Mary was probably the bride's brother from Soufflenheim. Peter Vincent's origin was Soyers, Haute-Marne (Lingonensis = Langres).

ANNE MARIE MESSNER

11 January 1724 Roeschwoog Marriage, Contributed Michael J. Nuwer

Marriage record of Joseph Stenzler of Roeschwoog and Anne Marie Messner, born in Soufflenheim, daughter of Sebastien Messner and Eve Weber. [Anne Marie Messner had a family and eventually died in Roeschwoog.]

[Mark Drexler: The Roeschwoog item is involved in important progress regarding the origin of the Soufflenheim SCHMUCK. The baptism records of the Stenzler children (in Roeschwoog) led to Forstfeld and a rather cryptic exposition of the parents (and their origins) of Martin and Anna Maria Schmuck (brother and sister in Soufflenheim; the earliest Schmuck there). The evidence is not absolutely definitive, but it seems compelling.]

CHURCH ACCOUNTS

The church accounts (Fabrique) are the general ledgers of St. Michael's Church in Soufflenheim, listing income and expense. They are found in series G6614 and G6634 at the Archives of Bas-Rhin.

The earliest accounts, 1678 to 1699, are found in G6634, with the exception of 1687, which is missing. Accounts in 1751 and from 1754-1783 are found in G6614. Years 1758-1760 have been compiled into one account.

Series G6614 contains a twelve page document from 1758, signed by 12 people, including members of the town council, vicar and scribe, with summaries of the 1719, 1720, and 1721 accounts. Another document from 1758, fifteen pages, provides summaries of various accounts from 1722 to 1757.

EMIGRATION

Many emigrants from Soufflenheim to the United States and Canada are found on the website of Brian Smith at: www.smithancestry.com/places/souff/fams.htm

According to Brian "Many Soufflenheim emigrants settled in the Buffalo, New York area, including my own ancestors. Erie County seems to have been the second most popular landing place, the first being Waterloo County Ontario. Several have been found going to Stark County Ohio. On this web page if you search for "Buffalo", "Erie County", and "Stark County" you can see them." Source: Brian J. Smith, Carlsbad, California, www.smithancestry.com

In addition to the above locations, many from Soufflenheim began emigrating to Manhattan in the early 1840's and later to Brooklyn and nearby parts of New Jersey on the waterfront.

CHRISTIAN UHRICH

Christian and Lousia Uhrich emigrated from Soufflenheim to the United States in 1866. They arrived in New York City and were processed for entry into the country through the Castle Garden port. They lived for a couple of years in Batavia, Genesee County, New York and then moved to South Dakota.

HENRIETTA ZAY

John Leonard Schroeder, born November 1845, died April 12, 1907 in NEW ORLEANS, Louisiana, aged 61 years old. Married on May 25, 1867 in New Orleans, Louisiana, to Henrietta Catherine Zay, born November 25, 1848 in SOUFFLENHEIM, Bas-Rhin, France, died February 13, 1926 in New Orléans, Louisiana, aged 77 years old.

The parents of Catharine Henrietta Zay are Charles Constantin Zay, innkeeper, born March 8, 1819 in Seltz, Bas-Rhin, living in Soufflenheim, and Marie-Anne Messner, born April 1, 1825 in Soufflenheim. They were married on July 28, 1846 in Soufflenheim.

Source: Antoine Merkel

JOSEPH REITMEIER

Greetings, I had originally discovered that my ancestors were from Soufflenheim through this marriage record from St. Boniface Catholic Church in Buffalo, NY, (found on FamilySearch) recording the 24 October 1852 marriage of Joseph Reitmeier of Soufflenheim (son of Joseph Reitmeier and Magdalena Burger) and Veronica Daul of Soufflenheim (daughter of Francis Joseph Daul and Catherine Besson). I don't know much about the St. Boniface Catholic community in Buffalo, but just looking across to the other side of the page, there is another recorded marriage of a man from Soufflenheim (John Mosak son of Mathew Mosak and Elisabeth Eck?). Other records on the page list people from Baden, Wurttemberg, Bavaria, Prussia and Lorraine. The Reitmeier family ended up moving to the Massillon, Ohio area just a few years later (mid 1850's). While I do know Massillon had an Alsatian immigrant community, I don't know if other families from Soufflenheim ended up in the area, though there were other Dauls buried in the cemetery.

Regarding the names listed above, Burger and Daul both go quite a ways back in Soufflenheim, while the Reitmeier and Besson families both came to Soufflenheim in the late 1700's from the nearby community of Fort Louis, and don't show up much in the area otherwise. Fort-Louis seems to have had residents from all over French and German speaking Europe, and many of the last names are clearly not Alsatian in origine. Besson, for example, originated from Megevette in Haute Savoie. It seems to me that a good number of Fort-Louis residents ended up in Soufflenheim in this time period, though my perception might be skewed by the fact that those are the cases I've been interested in. The Joseph Antoine Mittelhauser family is another to have moved from Fort-Louis to Soufflenheim by the 1790s.

Source: John Rogalewski

JEAN BAPTISTE AND FRANCIS XAVIER HAASER

Two sons of Jean/Johannes Haaser and Marie Antoinette Daul (m. 1842, see Soufflenheim marriage index) settled in Titusville, Pa.

Jean Baptiste Haaser, b. 24 June 1845, Soufflenheim, emigrated in 1872 and the same year married (order uncertain) Josephine Mathern (maiden name from daughter's death record) and was in Titusville in 1879 when a daughter died, and in Cherrytree Twp. Venango Co. Pa in 1880 (as Hawser). He was again in Titusville at least by 1883 (directory). He appears there in 1900 (though his age is off by 5 years), and died there 1 Jan 1910 (PA death cert). Josephine had died in Titusville 27 May 1905 (Crawford Co. death record). They apparently had two daughters, though it is a little confusing:

There is a Crawford Co. death record for Mary L. Haser, daughter of John Haser, on 31 July 1879, aged 5. However, they had a daughter Mary Louise born 27 October 1875 who is with them in 1880 and 1900, then married at Buffalo in 1906 to Edward Yanke, and lived with him in Titusville in 1910, Buffalo in 1920, and Los Angeles in 1930-1940, dying there in 1957.

I think the most likely explanation is that the record of the dead daughter gave her the wrong name, rather than that they had two daughters both named Mary L., though I guess they could have been Mary Leopolda (or something else) and Mary Louise.

Francis Xavier, b. 1 December 1856. He emigrated in 1880, and married in 1886 to Augusta Gageski, daughter of Stephen and Justina Gageski, living in Titusville where he is found in 1900, 1910 and 1920, in the last explicitly giving his birthplace as Soufflenheim. He died 9 November 1925 (Pa death cert), and his

widow was living with their son in 1930. Augusta lived to 1949 (PA death cert) They had three known children:

- Theodore John Haaser, b. 10 April 1887, Titusville, d. 1968 Titusville (PA death cert)
- Theresa J Haaser, b. 2 Feb. 1891, still with them in 1910, married Richard Moran and died at Titusville, 1946, Titusville (PA death cert)
- Florence Haaser, b. ca. 1894, d. 29 Dec. 1900, Titusville, of diphtheria (obit on Find-a-Grave)

Another crop of immigrants belonging to the same Soufflenheim Haaser family:

Jean Adam Haaser, born in Soufflenheim to parents from Soufflenheim died at Roeschwoog 6 Feb 1812, aged 62 (as reported at the time of his death) leaving widow Marie Barbara Brenner. They had three sons born at Roeschwoog:

- Anselme, b. 22 October 1800
- Jean Adam, b. 16 May 1802
- Joseph, b. 17 May 1804

Jean Adam Haaser is then found on 31 December 1825 at Roeschwoog marrying Madeleine Phillipps of Leutenheim. They moved to Leutenheim and there had 12 children. I lose track of Madeleine with the 1866 census, but Adam emigrated in 1879 to Sandusky Co., Ohio, where he died in 1888.

He was preceded to Fremont, Sandusky Co., by son Joseph A., born 1830 at Leutenheim

Joseph A. Haaser is gone from home in 1851, but it is not clear whether he had already emigrated or did this later. The 1900 census puts his immigration in 1860, but he had children born in Ohio before that date. He may be the Joseph aged 20 who arrived in NY in 1850 on the Statesman. He married Margaret Miller, and had six known children born in Fremont, but there is a big gap in the string where there were likely additional children who died as infants. He died in 1907.

- Mary Anne Haaser, b. 1857
- Christina Haaser, b. 1858
- Laura Theresa Haaser, b. 1866
- George James Haaser, b. 1868
- Anthony William Haaser, b. 1871
- Charles Haaser, b. 1873

Also ending up in Sandusky Co. was Barbara Haaser, b 1832 daughter of Jean Anton Haaser and Magdalena Philipps. She married Alexander Halm and died in 1911. Her death record, though calling her Margaret (perhaps she was Barbara Margaret, or maybe just a mistake), calls her parents Adam Haaser and Magdalena Phiplis (sic). Her known children, born at Fremont, were:

- Joseph Halm 1857
- Mary M Halm 1860
- George A 1869

But wait, there's more . . .

Joseph Haaser, b. 17 May 1804, son of the elder Jean Adam Haaser and Barbara Bremmer, appears identical to the Joseph Haaser of Sandusky county, whose birthdate remembered by the family was 17 May 1803. He appears in Riley Twp, Sandusky County, having married Catherine Yost.

So, these emigrants are a step removed from Soufflenheim, via Roeschwoog. As to the Johann Adam/Jean Adam from Soufflenheim born about 1750 at the start, the only man who seems to be in the right age range of this name is the one whose 1756 baptismal record calls him Johannes Athanati Haaser, but who appears in his father's probate as Hans Adam, son of Joseph Hasser and Maria Anna Kayser.

Source: Todd Farmerie from the FamilySearch database.

JEWISH

1753 CHURCH ACCOUNT

Received as Pfenning Zins Land Tax:

From Hirtz Jew's heirs and Christian Elchinger before him Simon Mössner on their farm house, each for a half : 7 s 6 d

1753 CHURCH ACCOUNT

Income Money Pfenning Zins:

Same Michel Zettwoch before him Joseph Jud on his farm house : 5 s

HISTOIRE DES JUIFS D'ALSACE

The earliest mention of Jews in Soufflenheim, circa the end of the 15th century, are found on pages 80 and 135 of the book *Histoire des Juifs D'Alsace*, by Elie Scheid, Publisher Librairie Armand Durlacher, 83 bis rue Lafayette, Paris, 1887, French, 424 pages. Found at:

- Europeana Collections: <https://www.europeana.eu/portal/en>
- Universal Israelite Alliance: <https://www.bibliotheque-numerique-aiu.org/records/item/17810-redirect>

History of the Jews of Alsace : Part One : Chapter VIII

Page 74

The Jews were in this very precarious position when, towards the end of the year 1476, the Swiss Confederates passed through Alsace on their way to France. On their journey in the Haut-Rhin, they pillaged the Jews of Mulhouse, Colmar, Kaysersberg; they even killed a few (1).

In 1477, on their return from Nancy, the same confederates sacked part of the Bas-Rhin. The Jews especially were once again the main focus of this horde of savages. The most mistreated were those of Sélestadt (2).

Also, for fear, on the one hand, of being still tormented by the Swiss, because of the Jews; on the other hand, taking advantage of this excuse to get rid of the latter, Ammerschweiller, Rosheim, Obernai, Sélestadt, Colmar, Mulhouse and Kaysersberg no longer allowed the Jews to return to their walls (3).

(1) Memmerbuch, Niedernai.

(2) Strobel, *yt. gesch.*, t. III, p. 403.

(3) Arch, du Bas-Rhin, C. 78.

Page 75

In order not to be caught off guard, the cities held, the same year, a conference in Colmar, and made the commitment not to accept any more Israelites.

They took refuge, while waiting, in a few villages in the diocese of the Bishop of Strasbourg (1); a good part went to Châtenois and Scherwiller. The Jews addressed themselves to all the great personages who, without distinction, promised to intercede for them.

The Elector Palatine Philip wrote, in fact, to the towns in order to succeed in diverting them from their design. They refused by mutual agreement, claiming that they had been forced by the Confederates to expel the Jews (2). The Swiss, on the contrary, replied to the Alsatian authorities that they knew nothing about it and that they were in no way opposed to the taking back of the Jews.

At the head of the coalition was Colmar. Also, Frédéric Ritter, in the name of the Count Palatine, thinking that the day when this city would give way, the others would follow its example, he addressed to her, to make her reconsider her decision (3).

(1) Arch, de Strasb., L., 174, n . 1 7

(2) Arch, du Bas-Rhin. Fonds de la préfectur de Haguenau.

(3) Arch. de Colmar GG. - Plus loin, n 2 4 .

Page 76

Colmar, Rosheim, Bischoffsheim and Dachstein then resumed. Obernai persisted despite everything. And when, in 1479, Albert, bishop of Strasbourg, drove the Jews from his diocese, and they were, despite himself, received in Niedernai, Obernai, like the closest neighbor, still kept its doors closed to them (1).

Selestadt, for fear of being forced to accept it, begged Frederick to allow him to do without. The latter finally consented to it, giving him the requested privilege, dated Graetz, in 1479 (2). However, two households were admitted there a few years later, as well as in Kaysersberg (3).

Already in 1490, Selestadt wanted to drive them out again. It was only thanks to Henri de Fleckenstein, grand bailiff at Haguenau, that they were able to stay (4). These towns, however, continued to correspond with each other, to find the best way to get rid of it.

Munster did even better. She ordered its inhabitants to liquidate all the debts they had contracted with the Jews, and not to do any more, under penalty of being driven from the city and the Valley (5).

The Israelites, for their part, did not waste their time and petitioned constantly so that they could return to the places they had inhabited before the Confederates arrived in Alsace.

-
- (1) Arch, de Strasb., L. 174, 17.
 - (2) Aich, de Seiest GG. — Plus loin, n° 25.
 - (3) Arch, du Bas-Phin, C., 78.
 - (4) Arch, du Bas Rhin, G., 78.
 - (5) Arch, de Munster, FF., 81.

Page 77

Finally, in 1497, Maximilian I interceded for them with the harshest of all these cities, Obernai (1), who then accepted two households from Bischoffsheim, soon followed by several others.

For the moment, the Jews naturally believed themselves to be out of danger and had no idea of the steps that the towns kept taking, in secret, to succeed in driving them out.

Obernai was the most obstinate and did not cease to genuflect with all those who had influence on the emperor. The latter, tired of hearing the same complaints over and over, granted him, on March 21, 1507, the desired privilege (2):

“We, Maximilian, etc., have granted to the bourguemaistre and council of Obernai, to no longer need in the future to tolerate in her bosom any Jews, and we promise them, for us and our successors in the Holy Empire, that they will never be forced to receive in any way. In witness whereof we affix on the present the royal seal. Given in Strasbourg, March 21, 1507, in the 22nd year of the empire and the 17th year of our reign of Hungary.”

-
- (1) Arch. d'Obernai, B. B. 9. — Plus loin, n» 26
 - (2) Arch. d'Obernai, A. A. 25

Page 78

Munster, who no longer had any Jews either within its walls or in its surroundings, but fearing that it would one day be obliged to receive them, had taken advantage of the same opportunity to have its freedoms

confirmed again by Maximilian, who had acceded to his wishes by sending him from Constance the privilege requested in the terms of that of Obernai, under the date of March 21, 1507 (1).

- Turckheim did not manage to get rid of the Israelites who were in his bosom, six in number: Gotschel, Aron, Todorus, Judah, Nathe and Raphael (2).
- Like those we have just cited, the Jews of Kayersberg and Mulhouse had gradually found a place to settle, some still in Oberbergheim, others, for the most part, in the seigneurie of Ensisheim. Oberbergheim, who held the lead by number, had in his midst the Rabbi of all these Jews, Rabbi David (3).
- The others from the locality were: Meyger, David, Costmann, Elias, Jackelin, Meyerlé, Jacob, Isaac, Hess, Schmohel, Isaac, Nathan, Abraham, Low, Lazarus and Isaac.
- Ensisheim had one by the name of Lazarus.
- Réguisheim had: Jeckelin, Ruband, Jacob, Meyger, Jacob, Fiadenzan, Michel, Hirtz and 'Haym.

(1) Arch, de Munster, A. A. 1. - Plus loin, n1 27.

(2) Arch, du Bas-Rhin, C. 78.

(3) Archiv, de Colmar, G. G.

Page 79

- Isenheim contained: 'Haym.
- In Battenheim there was: Todorus.
- In Rixheim: David, Raphaël.
- In Münchhausen: Jackelin.
- In Habsheim: David, Matis, Hirtz.
- In Pfstadt: Jackelin.
- In Morschwihr: Joseph. Michel, Michel.
- In Wintzenheim: Babel, Mennlé, Meyger.
- In Kiienlzheim: Costman, Raphaël, Abraham, Aron.
- In Ammerschwih: Mossé.
- In Orschwih: Hirtz.

Other families even rose a little more and spread in Switzerland or on its direct borders in the following villages:

- In Mussich: Seligman, Gerstel.
- In Krotzingen: Joslin, Abraham.
- In Sultzberg: Isaias, Isaac, Liepmann.
- To Wolfenwyler: Marx, Lemann.
- In Newershausen: Beniamin, 'Haym.
- To Brutbach: 'Haym.
- In Twingen ob Waldhut: Simon, Simon, Abraham, Matis and Schmahel.

Apart from all these Jews scattered in the places we have just named, there were still sixty families scattered around the prefecture of Haguenau (1).

The main villages that had given them asylum were:

(1) Arch, du Bas-Rhin, G. 78.

Page 80

Riedseltz, Soultz, Surbourg, Hatten, Bühl, Betschdorf, Eschbach, Sessenheim, **SOUFFLENHEIM**, Runtzenheim, Herrlisheim, Schweighausen, Wittersheim, Batzendorf, Bruinath, Wingersheim, Waidenheim, Ettendorf, Bouxwiller, etc., etc., either in the prefecture, either in the county of Hanau, or on the lands of the nobility of Lower Alsace.

End of Chapter 8.

History of the Jews of Alsace : Part Two : Chapter 1

Page 135

About sixty families were spread across the prefecture of Haguenau.

The barony of Pleckenstein had also allowed some Jews to settle in Soultz, Trimbach, Riedseitz, Oberbronn, Niederbronn, Gundershoffen, Mertzwiller, Uhrwiller, Lembach, etc.

Finally, Wissembourg and Lauterbourg had also taken pity on them and had, in turn, taken back some of those whose ancestors these towns had persecuted, and along the Rhine, the Israelites were still established in Sessenheim, Runtzenheim, **SOUFFLENHEIM** , etc.

By recapitulating all the Jews who, in 1689, were spread over the territory of Alsace, we find them to the number of 587 families (1).

All these Jews were, it goes without saying, treated in various ways. The lords, as well as their cities, acting according to their good will or their greed, had begun to take special taxes, and for the rights of protection and for exemptions from drudgery.

(1) J.-F. Fischer. *De statu Judaeorum*, p. 94.