

Robert Wideen : 2025

Soufflenheim Genealogy Research and History

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New Soufflenheim Research : May 4, 2025



Art Nouveau vase, needle and cone decoration, circa 1910,  
Léon Elchinger, Ceramics Elchinger, Soufflenheim

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## CÉRAMIQUES ELCHINGER

Céramiques Elchinger is manufacture located in Soufflenheim in Alsace, which operated from 1834 to 2016. Before 1834, the company was a small tile factory founded by Michel Elchinger around 1792 on the same site.



Léon Elchinger, Ceramics Elchinger, Soufflenheim, 1905-1918

Céramiques Elchinger is a family business that Wendelin Elchinger (1809-1895) founded in 1834 on the current site. He transformed the tile factory inherited from his father which was founded around 1792. The production was initially dedicated to culinary pottery. One of his sons, Philippe (1842-1906), took over and developed, from 1870, an outdoor ornamental pottery focused on garden and facade elements.

His son Léon Elchinger (1871-1942) left a remarkable artistic work.

In 1889, he was at the École des Beaux-Arts in Nancy; in 1890 in Germany at Höhr-Grenzhausen for the technical part. Until 1892, he toured France as a companion. From 1892 to 1893, the École supérieure des arts décoratifs in Strasbourg, where he was a student, entrusted him with the decoration of the facade of the new school. On this occasion, he created fabulous ceramic panels and thus signed, at the age of 21, his first work. He made many study trips to England, Hungary and Italy and returned to Soufflenheim to give new impetus to his workshops.

He launched into artistic ceramics. His works, in particular flamed stoneware, were very noticed at the beginning of the century during many international exhibitions. Several museums acquired them.

His son Fernand Elchinger (1911-1975) took over in 1936, developed and modernized the factory and built a second one in 1975 on another site. He installed the first six-pass continuous-fire electric kiln made in France and thus industrialized a production for earthenware.

Driven by the craze for Vallauris ceramics, the Alsatian manufacture achieved a strong reputation with its productions from the 1950s and 1960s. These creations, vases and pitchers with refined shapes, stood out from the exuberant creations of the workshops in the South.

From 1975 to the present day, the Elchinger dynasty is represented by Marc Elchinger. Production is resolutely oriented towards high-end tableware and home decor. Internationally renowned designers create colorful ranges that are always on trend. In addition, the company, which is very attached to its regional culture, has been publishing the original and exclusive versions of the watercolors of Jean-Jacques Waltz, known as "Hansi" for about fifteen years.

Thibaut Elchinger now represents the sixth generation of ceramists. The company has been called "Elchinger Couturier de la Terre" since 2008. The Céramiques Elchinger brand is still used for its licensed productions (Hansi, etc.) and other subcontracting and the Elchinger Couturier de la Terre brand for its contemporary collections.

The factory closed its doors for good on June 30, 2016 after more than 200 years of existence and eight generations.

Source: Art Deco Ceramic Glass Light <https://www.artdecoceramicglasslight.com/home>

## RECORDS IN OTHER VILLAGES

Contributed by Todd Farmerie.

## **ANDREAS MULLER**

### **Nieuwer-Amstel, Nord-Holland 16 November 1847 Death Record**

Died aged about 68 years, Andreas Muller, grand engineer born at Sufflenheim (Fransch Elzas) [came] 20 years ago to Amsteldyk. Husband of Euphemia Ten Bos, son of Andreas Muller and Margretha Kieffer, both deceased.

<https://wiewaswie.nl/detail/46175643>

## **JOSEPH SCHWARTZENBERGER & MAGDALENA KRAMFORT**

### **Iffezheim, Baden, 17 May 1796 Marriage Record**

Josephus Schwartzenger (groom, signed), widower and burgher of Sufflenheim

Magdalena Kramfort (bride), legitimate daughter of Josephi Kramfort and Elisabetha Beindlerin, spouses of Beinheim.

## **JOSEPH KIEFFER & MARIA ANNA LÖFFLER**

### **Ettenheim, Baden, 17 August 1801 Marriage Record**

Josephus Kieffer (groom, signed), resident of Sufflenheim, Alsatia, son of Georgii Kieffer burgher and farmer and Maria Anna Haberkorn his wife

Maria Anna Löffler (bride), daughter of Ignati Löffler burgher and miller and Anna Maria Haal(?) his wife

## **JOHANNES SENSENBRENNER**

### **Muhlethurnen, Switzerland 19 October 1800 Baptismal Record**

Johannes Sensenbrenner

Parents: Joseph Sensenbrenner of Sufflenheim, Department of Bas Rhin, and Maria Weiss of Riggisburg

Comment: This record has an annotation dated 22 May 1801.

## **JOSEPH, SON OF SEBASTIAN SIMON & CATHARINA BURGER**

### **Schwarzach, Baden 20 March 1794 Baptismal Record**

[section labelled Strangers]

Josephus, son of Sebastiani Simon and Catharina Burger burghers of Sufflenheim in Alsatia, born this night about the twelfth hour.

Godfather is Josephus Kiefer (signed, as Kieffer), burgher in Sufflenheim; Godmother is Margaretha Burgerin (signed), daughter of said Sebastian Burger

Comment: The record was subsequently marked with a cross, indicating the child had died.

## **MICHAEL JÄCK & MARIA CATHARINA WINTZ**

### **La Wantzanau 10 April 1780 (On-Line Page 164/206) Marriage Record**

Michael Jäck (groom, signed) resident of Sufflenheim, son of Antonii Jäck, burgher of Shierhoff (Scherrhoffen) and Maria Eva Möss his wife Maria Catharina Wintz, daughter of deceased Joannis Wintz, burgher of this place [La Wantzenau] and Maria Margaretha Schoffer witnesses include Franciscus Josephus Jäck (signed Frantz Joseph Jäg) of Sufflenheim

Comment: This corresponds to a Soufflenheim marriage contract dated 6 April 1780.

## **JACOB, SON OF JOHANN MICHAEL GUTTMAN and ANNA STÜCKELREISER**

### **Weyersheim 12 July 1744 (On-Line Page 142/191) Death and Burial Record**

Died the infant Jacobus, son of Johannis Michaeli Guttman (signed Gutman) resident of Sufflenheim, who due to the turmoil of war took refuge here, and Anna Stückelreiser his wife. Buried the next day.

Witnesses include Jacobo Stuckelreiser (signed Jacob Stückhelreisser), resident of Sufflenheim.

[I checked for a baptism, but there is none there, so apparently bap at Soufflenheim before the parents fled.]

## **JOANNE MEY & BARBARA KIENTZ**

### **Herrlisheim 06 January 1743 (On-Line Page 86/241) Bride's Marriage Authorization**

Joanne Mey (intended groom; widower) of Sufflenheim.

Intended Soufflenheim marriage of Barbaram Kientz, daughter of deceased Michaelis Kientz and deceased Anna Huck of Herlisheim.

Comments: This corresponds to a 3 January 1743 Soufflenheim marriage contract, indicating they were to "celebrate this union in front of a priest very soon." This is immediately prior to the earliest surviving Soufflenheim marriage record.

## **ANTOINE LOUIS SILVAIN ROBERT & MARGUERITE MARCHAND**

**Strasbourg, 08 February 1826 (Online image 29/38, #51) Civil Marriage Record**

Marguerite Marchand (bride, signed), born 17 Vendémiaire Year VII (8 October 1798) at Sufflenheim, resident of Strasbourg, daughter of Jean Baptiste Marchand, died [at Strasbourg] 9 April 1820, and Catherine Fischer, present and consenting

Antoine Louis Silvain Robert (groom, signed), born 16 Messidor Year X (5 July 1802) at Strasbourg, son of Conrad Robert, died here 11 October 1811 and Barbe Munschein, present and consenting

**FRANZ ANTONI KIEFFER & MADELAINE BEISTEL**

**Strasbourg 25 June 1812 (Online Image 40/45, #259) Civil Marriage Record**

François Antoine Kieffer (groom, signed Franz Antoni), cooper's assistant of Strasbourg, born 14 February 1782 at Sufflenheim, son of Jacques Kieffer, farmer, died at Sufflenheim 16 March 1789, and Barbe Gotz, died the same place 13 Ventôse Year V (3 March 1797)

Madelaine Beistel (bride) of Strasbourg, born 21 May 1779, Kattenhausen, daughter of André Beistel, tailor died at Kattenhausen 5 February 1783, and Madelaine Vetter, died same place 2 September 1784

**LORENTZ FISCHER & MARIE ANNE BURGHARD**

**Strasbourg 16 October 1823 (Online Image 33/43, #353) Civil Marriage Record**

Marie Anne Burghard (bride, Marie Eva in margin and elsewhere in record), of Strasbourg, born at Sufflenheim 26 April 1787, daughter of Bernard Burghard, died at Sufflenheim 30 Pluviôse Year II (18 February 1794), and Marie Eve Matern, present and consenting.

Laurent Fischer (groom, signed Lorentz Fischer), carpenter of Strasbourg, born 1 August 1785 at Zillishausen, Würtemberg, widower of Marie Catharine Wackermann, died [at Strasbourg] 30 July 1818, son of Urban Fischer, carpenter, and Jeanne Keller.

Witnesses include a Michel Schoeffter, aged 49.

**ANTONI BURGER & MARIA MAGDALENA FENNINGER**

**Strasbourg 03 May 1815 (Online Image 6/36, #236) Civil Marriage Record**

Antoine Burger (groom), retired soldier and pensioner of Strasbourg, born at Sufflenheim 7 June 1787, son of Antoine Burger farmer, died at Sufflenheim 19 September last, and Barbe Rieder, died the same place 4 June 1807

Marie Madeleine Fenninger (bride), of Strasbourg, born 18 October 1786 at Hattstatt, Haut-Rhin, daughter of Jean Michel Fenninger of Hattstatt and Anne Marie Fichter, died that place 15 Floréal Year XI (5 May 1803)

Contributed by Todd Farmerie.

## **ANTONI BURGER & MARIE ANNE HÜRSTEL**

### **Strasbourg 18 April 1831 (online image 39/49, #187) Civil Marriage Record**

Antoine Burger (groom, signed), innkeeper and state pensioner of Strasbourg,. widower of Marie Madeleine Fenninger, who died here 27 September 1830, born at Sufflenheim 7 June 1787, son of Antoine Burger, farmer, died at Sufflenheim, 19 September 1814, and Barbe Reider, died the same place, 4 June 1807

Marie Anne Hürstel of Strasbourg, born at Kertzfelden 27 Frimaire Year VI (17 December 1797) daughter of Michel Hürstel, farmer, died at Kertzfelden 30 September 1822, and Madeleine Sur, domestic of Kertzfelden, present and consenting

## **MARIE ANNE EISEN, DAUGHTER OF MARIE ANNE EISEN**

### **Strasbourg 19 Brumaire Year X (10 November 1801, online image 87/233, #246) Civil Birth Record**

Marie Anne Eisen, born previous day 18 Brumaire, 5th hour of the morning, daughter of Marie Anne Eisen, aged 21, dwelling here, native of Sufflenheim, Bas-Rhin, unmarried daughter of Sandre (sic) Eisen, lumberman, and of Marie Anne Schwartz

## **JEAN LOUIS ADRIEN RICARD & MARIE ANNE EISEN**

### **Strasbourg 24 August 1814 (Online Image 45/49, #218) Civil Marriage Record**

Marie Anne Eisen (bride) of Strasbourg, born 1 June 1777, Sufflenheim, Bas-Rhin, daughter of André Eisen, carpenter, died at Sufflenheim, 14 Vendémiaire Year XI (6 October 1802) and Marie Anne Schwartz Jean Louis Adrien Ricard (groom, signed surname only) tailor's assistant, Strasbourg, born 10 March 1787 at Bézancourt, Seine-Inférieure, son of Jean Louis Adrien Ricard, Tailor, died Bézancourt, 18 Nivôse Year V (7 January 1797) and Marie Anne le Roux

## **JEAN HABERKORN & HENRIETTE WILHELMINA KLINGENHOFFEN**

### **Strasbourg 11 January 1816 (Online Image 9/57, #15) Civil Marriage Record**

Jean Haberkorn (groom, signed as Joen Haberkorn), retired officer and pensioner residing at the Strasbourg Citadel, born 30 March 1781 at Sufflenheim, Bas-Rhin, son of Laurent Haberkorn, farmer of Sufflenheim and Catherine Kuhmann

Henriette Wilhelmine Klingenhoffen (bride, signed), resident of the [Strasbourg] Citadel, born 26 March 1785 at Colmar, daughter of Ladislas Frédéric Klingenhoffen, guard-general of the waters and forests of Sufflenheim, and Catherine Bürckhoffer

## **MICHEL JACK**

### **Strasbourg 09 March (died 8 March) 1808 (Online Image 87/260, #337) Military Death Record**

Michel Jack, aged 39 years, armory-master of the 12th Company, Artillery works (?), unmarried, native of Sufflenheim, son of Ignace Jack, farmer, and of Gertrude Mayer, died 8 March.

## **MAGDALENA SCHÄFFTER, WIDOW OF FRANTZ JOSEPH DÜRRENBARGER**

### **Colmar, Haut-Rhin 13 Nivôse Year XII (04 January 1804) (Online Image 261/607 Civil Death Record**

Madeleine Schächter, widow of Francois Joseph Dürrenberger, journeyman in life, aged 87 years, born at Sufflenheim, Department of Bas-Rhin, died at Colmar.

<https://archives68.alsace.eu/ark:/46858/zhbx7pdc4lw0/23e550c3-acf8-42b3-ab6a-de1d7b253f52>

## **JEAN BAPTIST VONDEVEYER (VONDEWEYER) & EVE WINTER**

### **Gries, Bas-Rhin 11 November 1824 (Online Image 4/7) Civil Marriage Record**

Jean Baptist Vondeveyer (Vondeweyer elsewhere in same record, groom) born at Soufflenheim, 15 July 1793, son of Jean Vandevoger, journeyman of Sufflenheim, died 10 February 1814 at Haguenau, and Madeleine Sensbrenner of Sufflenheim, died 23 Fructidor Year V (9 September 1797) at Soufflenheim

Eve Winter (bride), born at Gries 15 July 1791, daughter of Casimir Winter, mason of Gries, and Eve Vetter of Gries

Comments: The birthday assigned Jean Baptist is in error as he was baptized at Soufflenheim 14 July - they appear to have mistakenly given him that of his bride. The couple had an out-of-wedlock daughter born at Gries in 1817 (image 10/17), recorded as Catherine Winter daughter of Eve Winter, with no named father, but the record was subsequently modified to Catherine 'Vondenveyer' after her parents' marriage. She later appears in records as Catherine 'Fundenweyer'.

## **JEAN SCHÖFFTER & GENEVIEVE REBEL**

### **Rixheim, Haut-Rhin 20 February 1820 (Online Image 6/15) Civil Marriage Publication**

Jean Schöffter (groom), aged 35, of Soufflenheim, son of Francois Schöffter and Catherine Bauhman

Genevieve Rebel (bride), aged 21, of Saverne, daughter of Antoine Rebel and Catherine Ludwig of Saverne

Comment: Marriage record not found in Rixheim, Saverne nor Soufflenheim.

<https://archives68.alsace.eu/ark:/46858/ml65jqbp932c/293181c3-311d-434e-9c19-71ac596b2777>



## **FRANÇOIS MEYER & MARGUARITHE SCHOEFFTER**

### **Battenheim, Haut-Rhin 14 May 1834 (Online Image 229/387) Civil Marriage Record**

Marguerithe Soeffter (Schoeffter in margin and label of mark, bride), of Battenheim, aged 35, born at Sufflenheim, daughter of Antoine Schoeffter, aged 66, journeyman of Sufflenheim, and Maruerithe Leppert, died 12 April 1829.

François Meyer (groom), farmer, aged 31, born and living at Battenheim, son of Henry Meyer, died at Battenheim 10 Sep 1829, and Catherine Weiss, farmer, ated 69 of this palce.

<https://archives68.alsace.eu/ark:/46858/z1jfm65tc37r/11933de1-5073-4860-9fd6-366f524fb3e7>

## **JOHAN BAPTIST VAN DE WEYER & MAGDALENA SENSENBRENNER**

### **Bischwiller 11 May 1789 Marriage Permission Civil Record**

Magdalena Sensenbrenner (bride), daughter of Dominci Sensenbrenner and Barbara Gress, married couple of Sufflenheim.

Johannem Baptistam Vande Weyer (groom), of my parish, son of Joannis Baptista Vande Weyer of Liagastal (?), Diocese of Liege, and Maria Cops.

Comment: This corresponds to a 9 April 1789 marriage contract and an 11 May 1789 Soufflenheim marriage record.

## **PETER HEISSER & BARBARA TIRI**

### **Schirrhoffen 05 May 1815 (On-Line Image 3/8) Civil Marriage Record**

Barbe Tiri (bride, mark), resident of Shirrhoffen, born 8 June 1787 at Sufflenheim to Jacques Tiri, journeyman of Sufflenheim and Madlaine Staunn (?) of Sufflenheim

Pierre Heisser (groom, mark), resident of Shirrhoffen, journeyman, born Shirhoffen 20 December 1756 [no parents given]

## **FRANZ JOSEPH GÖTZ & ANNA MARIA NARZ**

### **Barr 01 October 1798 (On-Line Page 4/146) Civil Marriage Record**

Franz Joseph Götz (groom, signed), aged 22, resident of Barr, potter, son of Mihael Götz, potter and Maria Anna Löffel, of Sufflenheim

Anna Maria Narz (bride, mark), aged 18, daughter of Frantz Narz, laborer, and Barbara Joslerin of Epfig

## **JOHANNES GÖTZ & ANNE MARIE WALTER**

### **Epfig 11 July 1813 (On-Line Page 10/14) Marriage Publication Record**

Jean Götz (groom), adult resident of Epffig, earthenware potter, born at Sufflenheim, to Michel Götz, earthenware potter of Sufflenheim and Marie Anne Löffler

Anne Marie Walter (bride), adult resident of Epffig, born at Epffig to Jean Michel Walter, journeyman of Epffig and Marie Marguerith Bös

### **JOHANNES GÖTZ & ANNE MARIE WALTER**

#### **Epfig 27 July 1813 (On-Line Page 14/21) Civil Marriage Record**

Jean Götz (groom, signed as Johannes), born 5 July 1781 at Soufflenheim, resident of Epffig, earthenware potter, son of Michel Götz, potter of Soufflenheim, died 30 Ventose An. II, and Marie Anne Löffler, died at Soufflenheim 8 Thermidor An. XI

Anne Marie Walter (bride), born 28 January 1778 at Epffig, widow of Pierre Strabel, died at Erstein 25 February 1808, daughter of Jean Michel Walter, journeyman of Epffig and Marie Marguerith Bös, longtime resident of this commune

### **FRANTZ JOSEPH GÖTZ & MARIE ELISABETH SCHLEISS**

#### **Epfig 08 August 1813 (On-Line Page 10/14) Marriage Publication Record**

François Joseph Götz (groom), adult resident of Epffig, earthenware potter, born at Sufflenheim to Michel Götz, earthenware potter of Sufflenheim, and Marie Anne Löffler

Marie Elisabeth Schleiss (bride), adult, resident of Epffig, born at Epffig, daughter of Nicolas Schleiss, journeyman of Epffig and Anne Marie Abt

### **FRANTZ JOSEPH GÖTZ & MARIE ELISABETH SCHLEIS**

#### **Epfig 23 August 1813 (On-Line Page 15/21) Civil Marriage Record**

François Joseph Götz (groom, signed as Frantz Joseph), born 5 May 1766 at Soufflenheim, resident of Epffig, earthenware potter, son of Michel Götz, potter of Soufflenheim, and Marie Anne Leffler

Marie Elisabeth Schleis (bride), born 7 May 1780 at Epffig, resident of Epffig, daughter of Nicolas Schleiss, resident of Epffig and Anne Marie Abt

Comment: Neither publication nor marriage record report Frantz Joseph's prior marriage.

### **JOHANNES GÖTZ & MARIE ANNE KOOG**

#### **Epfig 17 January 1819 (On-Line Page 3/6) Marriage Publication Record**

Jean Götz (groom), adult resident of Epffig, earthenware potter and widower of Anne Marie Strabel, born at Soufflenheim to Michel Götz deceased and Marie Anne Löffler deceased

Marie Anne Koog (bride), adult resident of Epffig, born to Antoine Koog deceased and Anne Marie Uhl deceased.

## **JOHANNES GOTZ & MARIE ANNE KOOG**

### **Epfig 27 January 1819 (On-Line Page 4/11) Civil Marriage Record**

Jean Gotz (groom, signed as Johannes), born 5 July 1781 at Soufflenheim, resident of Epffig, earthenware potter, son of Michel Götz of Soufflenheim, died 30 Ventose An. II, and Marie Anne Löffel, died at Soufflenheim 8 Thermidor An. XI

Marie Anne Koog (bride), born 30 December 1779 at Epffig, daughter of Antoine Kooga (?), of Epffig, died 11 Vendemiaire An [unreadable], and Anne Marie Uhl, died 5 Nivose An. VIII

Witnesses include Joseph Gotz (signed), earthenware potter of this place, aged 42

## **JOHANNES GÖTZ**

### **Epfig 08 January 1822 (On-Line Page 3/23) Civil Death Record**

Jean Götz, aged 42, born at Soufflenheim, earthenware potter, resident of Epffig

[wife and parents not named]

## **JOSEPH GOETZ**

### **Epfig 11 April 1841 (On-Line Page 10/28) Civil Death Record**

Joseph Goetz, aged 63(?), born at Soufflen, earthenware potter, resident of Epffig, widower in first union of Anne Marie Nartz and husband in second union of Elisabeth Schleiss

Father Michel Goetz, deceased, earthenware potter, born at Epfig, resident of Soufflen

Mother Marie Anne Löffel, born at Epfig, resident of Soufflen

## **NAPOLEON'S HEIGHT**

Contributed by Lynda Goldman

A quick Google search brought me to an article on the origins of Napoleon being diminutive (or not).

<https://www.history.com/articles/napoleon-complex-short>

Says, in part:

"But was Napoleon really short?

In fact, he was probably of average height. According to pre-metric system French measures, he was a diminutive 5'2." But the French inch (*pouce*) of the time was 2.7 cm, while the Imperial inch was shorter, at 2.54 cm.

Three French sources—his valet Constant, General Gourgaud, and his personal physician Francesco Antommarchi—said that Napoleon's height was just over '**5 *pieds 2 pouces*' (5'2")**. **Applying the French measurements of the time, that equals around 1.67 meters, or just under 5'6"**, which is a little above average for a French man in the early 1800s"

Kind of hard to wrap your head around 5'2" is actually about 5'6", but c'est la vie.

From Todd Farmerie: I have seen this reported elsewhere - that Napoleon was not the short man he is usually portrayed as, but was of average (or slightly more) height, and that this was in part due to the Brits misinterpreting the pouce as directly equivalent to an inch. Basically, she has gone through the same process of calculating true height from pieds and pouces as I did for Joseph Haaser all the way back at the start (though I think I had a slightly different conversion factor).

## ALTAR FROM THE OLD CHURCH OF SOUFFLENHEIM

Contributed by Michael Nuwer.

The altar at Saint Augustine church in Bischwiller is from the previous church in Soufflenheim, completed in 1766.

- Saint Augustine : <https://www.ville-bischwiller.fr/tourisme-patrimoine/les-monuments/>
- Alter : [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/%C3%89glise\\_St\\_Augustin\\_\(Bischwiller\)](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/%C3%89glise_St_Augustin_(Bischwiller))

The first stone of the church of Saint-Augustin (current nave) was laid and blessed on July 15, 1835. The church was inaugurated two years later, on August 28, 1837, by the Vicar General of the Diocese of Strasbourg, Bruno François Léopold Liebermann, in the presence of all the notables of the canton, with Father Joseph Voltz. The altar comes from the old church of Soufflenheim and the pulpit from the old church of Brumath. Both elements were donated free of charge by the two parishes.



Interior view of the nave towards the choir.



Neo-Gothic high altar (19th century), originally from the old church in Soufflenheim.





Altar front Virgin Mary surrounded by angels.