

The Dietsch is an old Alsatian family. 1363: there are now many Dietschs in Colmar. In a census list of the residents of Colmar from the Middle Ages, we discover the following entry:

"At the time, of Dietsch, we have the word of Trumbel F.C. from Suterlin of Dekers /Trumbel was a man's name, the F.C. could have been a title or it may have stood for French Citizen or French Catholic: Suterlin of Dekers was probably the village and area he was from/ next to St. Katherine's /a church/ next to Siegfried Koltzneckt." /As there were no street addresses this was the method used to locate or identify people./¹

1386 Walter Dietsch of same house in the town, in the large lane beside his sister-in-law.²

1419 At this time, Dietsch the Gardner Ref. C. /could this stand for Reformed Catholic?/ of the same house in the large lane next to Oswald Hurst.

1468 At this time Henry Dietsch F.C. of the same house in the large lane next to Oswald Hurst.

1540 There is one Dietsch in Schlettstadt and of him it is well recorded. Jacob Dietsch, the Judge of the Court of Schlettstadt.

1570 Comes up the name Dietsch for the first time in Grussenheim, in the church body's yearly tithing and contributions from the patrons of Grussenheim. This was taken from the church manuscript from the year 1570...

HANS DIETSCH THE MILLER AND MAYOR

He took over the loan of Bartlin Karcher, the Mayor, and of Jacob Spolin³ and of Rumkist. /The jobs of mayor, bailiff and sheriff were often bought from the fuedal lord of the area, similar to franchise stores today, the installment plan was also in use at that time./ In 1589 He (Hans Dietsch) owed the church factory a viertel of rye and a viertel of barley. /The church factory was a business run by the church and supported by the parishioners. The church factory lent money just as a bank would. For viertel see weights and measures at the back of report./

Where does Hans Dietsch come from?⁴ From the mill by the marsh. This young miller married the daughter of the Miller of Grussenheim. Since he was rich and intelligent by nature, he immediately became the Mayor of the community, succeeding Bartlin Karcher. In 1604 Hans Dietsch is now also the Bailiff of the community.

The Mill of Grussenheim is mentioned since the year 1031. Since 1570 into the last half of the 18th century, the Dietsch Family have owned the mill. In 1802 the mill also owns an oil press. Later a saw mill was added. All of the buildings at the mill burned down during the night between the 2nd and 3rd of September in 1879. Nothing was left. It was not rebuilt. The family then moved to the village.

GEORGE DIETSCH THE SON OF HANS DIETSCH

He managed the mill as had his father, he went into farming also. He owed, in the year 1614, to the Church Factory: 2 viertel rye and 2 viertel barley. In the year 1617, he owed three days work of reed mats from the lower reeds and he owed a half days work of reed mats made from the Elwen reed of the Linden, Colmar area. Item: near Ill⁵ from the Robrich next to Rhine of the ditch site... the lower side next to Beatus Seilers, from Schlettstadt, heirs; the upper side near Georg Bantzen from Jebnheim...(he owed) 1 Livre and several Rappen. /for Livre and Rappen see weights and measures/

In the year 1617 George Dietsch borrowed 50 Livre principal from Andreae Apostoli.⁶ According to letters of the last of November in 1610... so and so much money of this is owed to the Priest, the Sigristen and the Schoolmaster. /Sigresten is a job title we have not discovered the meaning of the word as of yet. Possibly it is a tax officer or village recorder/

1621 George's name again appears in the "Invoice of the Holy People" entries.⁷ After that there is no more reference in the records until after the "Thirty Years War",

George Dietsch had to witness the atrocities of the war. Peter Van Mansfield's mercenaries and the Swedish mercenaries of King Gustovus Adolphus have plundered and burned his mill. He and his family had to flee and take shelter in the fortified towns in the surroundings over in the Voges Mountain's woods.

After this hard trial of that sorrowful time, he went back to settle in his village. About the middle of the century (1650) he died.

1674 again finds another Georg Dietsch in the church records. Surely this is the son...

GEORGE DIETSCH SON OF GEORG

He must have been bom during the "Thirty Years War". At the end of the war he returned to Grussenheim and rebuilt his destroyed mill. It must have been very difficult. He must have been short of money because in 1675, which is 65 years after his father received a loan of 50 Livre from the Church Factory, this money still had not been repaid. He (Georg Dietsch the son) is still paying the yearly interest on the principal.

Georg Dietsch does some farming aside from what he owns, a few acres which are owned by the Church Factory, Here is what is said in the church records:

In 1675 he took over the Feudal Tenure (lien) from Claus Oberlin and gave for that year; 2 sester nuts, 1 gulden and some rappen, /see weights and measures for gulden, rappen and sester/ Until further notice he should give as money; 2 gulden and some rappen from a Juchert and a Margel farm in the upper field in the Strangen that the Westermann from Schlettstadt owns with the lower site of the long wall with the loading place of Jebnheim Feild across from the Rhine near the Rotheiler Church Property⁸ where Mathias Strawel built against Ill near Nicola Becour the Schutzen, and George Schossen. /Schutzen is once again a job title, it could be guard or protectorate, Juchert and margel see weights and measures/

1678 Georg owes the interest of 8 Gulden and 2 Batzen... 1684 he owes the same sum, 1700 Georg owes for years as follows: 5 viertel 2 sester nuts and in money 1 Batzen 2 Pfennig from his Juchert and a viertel field from Westermann area property in the upper field in the Strangen place, the hilly

land⁹ at the top is Jebzheimer Feild at the bottom of the long wall, across from the Rhine next to the Rothweiler churchfarm where Georg Strawel built¹⁰, across Ill near the Heiligen Kreutz¹¹ church property farm where Caspar Lithy's widow built and Thei /Thei is an incomplete word/ near the Johanniter Herren of Schlettstadt church property /Johanniter Herren is a religious order/ where Hanns Ehringer built.¹² Further Georg Dietsch paid 10 Livre on the principal and 7 Batzen, 5 Pfennig of interest from a viertel in Middle field¹³ against the hilly land⁹ over the path and of the Nieder field against the Rhine near Adam Klinger's farm against Ill next to the large farm owned by a noble man where Hanns Schueber¹⁴ built.

Mow this entry appears: of the 50 Livres debt a balance of 10 Livres remains, /for 3atzen and Pfennig see weights and measures/

His family: He /Georg son of Georg/ was married with Maria Klingler. The same Klingler family were first to appear in Grussenheim during the Thirty Years War. Maria Klingler was Godparent to the child Maria Haab, the same girl was killed at the age of twelve by her own father.

Georg Dietsch and Maria Klingler had 7 children: Adam*, Johannes Georg, Andreas, Simon, Maria, Johannes-Georg and Mathias. Not much is known of them. What is well known is that they often stood as Godparents for immigrated Germans and Swiss.¹⁵ Georg Dietsch /the father/ was Godparent for:

Elisabeth Jeglin 1688

Johannes Georg Bissier 1688

Elisabeth Jeglin 1689

Johannes Georg Bissier 1690

Franz Zimmer 1692

Then came his children on file:

Adam was Godparent of Martin Bissier 1686

Andreas who married near Bootzheim was Godparent of:

Matteus Strauel 1690

Johannes Michael Hechler 1690

Katharina Weissbrunn 1692

Katharina Strauel 1693

Maria Weissbrunn 1694

Andreas Strauel 1698

Maria Dietsch was Godparent of:

Margaritha-Katharina Schwindenhammer 1690

of the twins Johannes and Martin Schmid 1691

Johannes Meyer 1691

Anna Winckler 1693

Johannes Winckler 1696

Johannes Littich 1696

Antonius Littich 1697

Maria Rosine Schueber 1697

Johannes-Georg Dietsch is Godparent of:

Anna Rickling 1696

Mathias Bernkolt 1696

Johannes Georg Holl 1697

Johannes Georg Bernkolt 1698

Katharina Winckler 1698

Johannes Georg died on the 23 of April, 1699. He was provided with the last sacraments. Adam Klingler, the brother of his mother, and Georg Ehringer, the Village Mayor, signed the death certificate. They both were the oldest son of Georg.

Johannes-Georg the II married near Bootzheim. He is a Citizen and Miller. He also is a Godparent there of:

Johannes Georg Strauel 1696

Simon Dietsch likewise has several turns as Godparent of:

Maria Magdalena Wittmer 1701

Katharin Strauel 1702

Johannes Georg Wittmer 1702

Mathias Strauel 1703

Barbara Winckler 1704

Barbara Winckler 1706

Katharin a Wittmer 1708

Anna Maria Strauel 1708

In most cases the parents of the christened children were workers of the mill.

Mathias Dietsch, the youngest child of Georg, came into the world on the 8th of May, 1689. He had as 'Godfathers Joh Georg Wolff and Georg Strauel and as Godmother Katharine Jehl, wife of Joh Georg Ehringer, the town Mayor.

This is the evidence that the Dietsch's were connected with the best families of the town.

Georg Dietsch himself died on the 16th of May, 1702 and was provided with the last sacraments. Andreas Dietsch, Citizen of Bootzen and Hans Georg Dietsch, Citizen and Miller in Bootzen, both signed the death certificate. They both were the oldest son of Georg.

All the Dietsch men could read and write. They signed their name on all their documents.

THE MYSTERY OF THE THREE GEORGES¹⁶

#1 Georg the Father

#2 Georg the Second Born Son

#3 Georg the Sixth Child

#1 Georg the Father In the next set of taxes, it says Georg Dietsch's heirs owe the taxes from the year 1701. It must be that he, the father, died in 1702 before the taxes were paid.

#3 Georg the Sixth Child¹⁷ The Johannes Georg that died in 1699 had the death certificate signed by his mother's brother. Therefore, it could not have been the father. It had to have been one of the Johannes Georg sons. The death certificate was signed by his uncle from Grussenheim and the Mayor of Grussenheim, so it is natural to assume that he also was from Grussenheim. As the older Johannes Georg had moved to Bootzheim, this must be the sixth child. Also, he is listed after Maria in the Godparent list for 1696 until 1698 but not mentioned again.

#2 Georg the Second Born Son¹⁸ It says one of the two witnesses to the death of Georg in 1702 was Hans Georg of Bootzheim. As it is the father who died in 1702 and apparently the younger Johannes Georg died in 1699, this Hans Georg must be the Johannes Georg II who moved to Bootzheim and also the Johannes Georg, the second son.

Why were Hans Georg Dietsch and Andreas Dietsch both listed as the oldest son? Adam is not mentioned after having been a Godparent in 1686. Could be he died. By 1690 Andreas was in Bootzheim.

By 1696 Johannes Georg was also in Bootzheim.

Was the sentence a mistake in grammar? I don't think so. The word both was used as well as the singular son. If Adam was dead before 1702 and Georg and .Andreas were twins, the sentence is correct as it reads!!

SIMON DIETSCH THE MILLER

The son of Georg Dietsch and of Maria Klingler. He was born in the year 1670. He married on the 26th of February, 1702 to Katharina Schmitt. She was the daughter of Mathias Schmitt from his first marriage. The Schmitt's are an old Grussenheim family. They were already settled here at the time of the Thirty Years War. Katharina is Godmother of Katharina Haumesser - 1702, and of Johannes Haumesser - 1703.

Then to the married couple a child is born: Johannes Georg on the 15th of February in 1703. His Godparents were Georg Strauel and Katharina Birgler. The mother, Katharina Schmitt, died as a result of that birth. Simon Dietsch married on May 2nd with Anna Seelig, the daughter of Johannes Seelig. Mathias Dietsch, the brother of Simon, was a witness to the marriage, and on the 4th of November, 1709, he, Mathias was married.

Simon Dietsch died on the 30th of March, 1720. "He was a young person himself, being about 50 years old, The mill was now taken over by his younger brother, Mathias.

In the Holy Records it is registered of Simon the Miller, for these times:

1701 Georg Dietsch's heirs (his children) owed 1 Gulden, 9 Batzen and 7 Rappen
1702 the same amount
1707 of Simon Dietsch; 4 Gulden, 1 Batzen, 6 Rappen
1708 1 Gulden, 4 Batzen, 2 Rappen
1713 the same amount
1714 he owed 1 viertel and 2 sester corn, furthermore 1 viertel and 5 sester barley

1714 of Simon Dietsch has received a loan of 280 Gulden, 6 Batzen and 6 Rappen from the Holy Guardian for which the Holy Guardian received 45 Gulden and 1 Batzen and 4 Rappen. More of Simon Dietsch. from his Agreement: 13 Gulden, 7 Batzen, 5 Rappen... Item of Simon Dietsch 1 Gulden, 12 Batzen, 8 Rappen... Item of Simon Dietsch 1 Gulden, 6 Batzen, 5 Rappen.

"Simon Dietsch must have been in great money difficulties. They have caused him to arrange this type of loan with the Church Factory. The interest rate for that sum was very large. He probably needed to take the loan because his mill had burnt down and he was compelled to take the loan. These circumstances are possibly the cause for his early death."

We gather further:

1714 item from Simon Dietsch: 1 viertel, 2 sester corn and 1 viertel, 5 sester barley; furthermore 11 Gulden, 12 Batzen, 4 Rappen. Item from Simon Dietsch because of the principal of 221 Gulden, 12 Batzen, 7 Rappen on his agreement for a year, the compound interest of 11 Gulden, 1 Batzen, 2 Rappen.

1717 Item from Johann Schwein stated his predecessor, the Holy Guardian of 1714, named Simon Dietsch as owing to the church accounts the remaining agreement of 221 Gulden, 12 Batzen and 7 Rappen.

1718 Stayed the same

1719 Stayed the same

In 1720 Simon died. From that year to 1736 he is not mentioned in the Holy Records accounting books. It could be that his family paid the debt off after his death.

MATHIAS DIETSCH THE MILLER, BROTHER OF SIMON

He was born on the 8th of May, 1689, as the son of Georg Dietsch and of Maria Klingler. He died on the 6th of June, 1759, in his 70th year. He was married in 1709 when he was 20 to Katharina Untz of Hessenheim, whose brother Johann Caspar was Mayor in 1759. Their marriage took place in Hessenheim. Eight children were the fruit of this marriage:

Anna-Maria born 30.9.1710

Mathias born 26.7.1712. He married Katharina Uhl

Johann-Georg born 1.1.1716. He died on 18.10.1720 at 4 years of age

Johann born 26.1.1718. He married into the mill of Ebersheim.

Johann-Michael born 27.9.1720. He married with Anna Romer of Ebersheim

Katharina born 4.4.1723. A twin, she died on 11.1.1742 at 19 years

Theresia born 4.4.1723. A twin, she married Johann-Adam Schage of Wickerswihr on 17.2.1744

Maria-Salome born 19.11.1725. She married Joseph Allon on 3.11.1746

Mathias was a devout man. He assumed the responsibility of being God-father for at least 50 poor children. During 1739 and 1740 he is the Holy Protector of the parsonage, a sure sign that he has the trust of the parish priest. He often makes many pilgrimages back and forth to the Ill wood chapel of Maria of the Snow /this was a chapel shrine/. On 14.3.1741 he received from the manager of the chapel 150 Gulden, which he was to repay yearly at 7 Gulden and 5 Schillinge to the chapel. The interest on the capital was increased in 1772 for Michael Dietsch.

Of his /Mathias/ Fuedal tenure lien, he owed the church factory of Grussenheim in 1736; 1 viertel 5 sester 1½ corn, further 1 viertel 4 sester 1½ barley, further 3 Gulden, 8 Batzen, 6 Rappen interest.

In 1739 he owed of 73 Gulden capital from the obligation from 11 April 1737, 3 Gulden, 8 Batzen, 5 Rappen... In the developing years he owed exactly the same as in 1736.

Before his death in the year 1759, he made this testament in the presence of a Notary, written by himself /Mathias/:

"I am lying in bed, my body is sick. I commend my soul into the hands of my Redeemer and Maker, Christ Jesus, as soon as it separates from my dying body. My dead body I commend to Mother Earth's womb from which it came and it is to be buried according to Catholic Ritual."

He donated money for masses to be said forever and ever, "Each year on the 8th of June a singing Mass is to be celebrated for the deceased Mathias Dietsch, miller, and for Catherine Untz, his wife... according to his will; 60 Livres French, which the priest received $\frac{1}{2}$ Imperial. Established 6.6.1750 The Priest Scheuermann."

After his death an inventory of his holdings ordered on the 21st of June, 1759, favored his children: Anna-Maria, Johannes of Ebersheim, Michael, the miller of Grussenheim, Salome, the wife of Joseph Allon and Mathias Dietsch, all the children.

Mathias was there during the beautification of the church by the Baroque artists Ketterer and Suob, also he was there curing the rebuilding of the church in 1750. He was witness to the building of a new parish house in 1747.

His wife died early, probably after the birth of the last child. It can be assumed that after her death Anna-Maria, the sister of Mathias, remained single so that she could care for the household /Anna-Maria is the child born on 30.9.1710/.

In what position were his children? Johann, at 20 years of age married near Ebersheim. A young widow, Barbara Lorber, whose first marriage was to Joseph Lorber, was his /Johann's/ life companion. In the chronicles of the village of Ebersheim we gather this about him. "On the 30th of March, 1748, Franz Ernst of Halm, the Cathedral, was asked for permission by Johann Dietsch, himself, to build a new mill. Johann Dietsch, himself, was in agreement that the cost would be his and it would be on his property. Permission was given to build a meal mill /flour mill/ on his property at Ebersheim at the so called millbrook. The mill would have two gears or speeds, and certain clauses were placed on the building of the mill: that great care would be taken that no one would be harmed by the waterfall, and the waterfall would be regulated that no damage would come /such as flooding or depriving someone of the water/. Johann Dietsch, citizen of Ebersheim in the Ebersheim area, built the mealmill and he had to pay to the same High Cathedral for 4 viertel of wheat and 4 viertel of rye. The waterfall delivered that quota."

At the marriage of Johann Dietsch, his /Johann Dietsch's/ apprentice and also the son of Mathias, there he is soon to know his future wife. He is Michael, who on the 24th of November, 1743, married Anna Rohmer of Ebersheim. Anna was the daughter of Anton Rohmer and Elisabeth Ringeisen. The Rohmer's name is mentioned in 1479 in Ebersheim.

Johann Dietsch owned this mill for only one generation. After his death, the name of the mill changed. Apparently he had no male descendants. In 1765 Nicholas Kircher owned the mill. His son Martin found himself a wife in the Dietsch family from Grussenheim. On the 11th of May, 1785, he married Maria-Elisabeth Dietsch, the daughter of Michael and Anna Rohmer (the daughter of the brother of Johann who had built the mill). Consequently, the blood of

those from the mill of Grussenheim is still at the mill of Ebersheim. It appears, however, that the Kircher's were not unknown in Grussenheim at that time. Around the middle of the century there is in Grussenheim a Joseph Kircher, school teacher. It is likely he originated from Ebersheim.

MICHEL DIETSCH, MILLER

He was born on the 27th of September, 1720, as the son of Mathias Dietsch and Katharina Untz. He died on the 15th of June, 1776. He was 56 years old. His wife died on the 8th of May, 1780, at 55 years old. Both died early. He married Anna Rohmer of Ebersheim on the 24th of November, 1743. They had eight children:

- 1) Franz Anton born 29.4.1745. He married Maria Salome Rosenberger of Ebersheim on the 23rd of November, 1767. In the year 1759 he is Godfather of Franz Anton Schueber while Elisabeth Schnoller is the Godmother of the child. This Elisabeth is the daughter of Joseph Michael Schnoller, the Baroque style builder of our village church in the year 1749. Schueber, the father of the child, was his co-worker.
- 2) Franz Joseph born 23.7.1748. He married Maria-Theresia Krell of Marckolsheim in the year 1776.
- 3) Anna Maria Dietsch born 17.5.1751. She married Johann Georg Jehl in May of 1781.
- 4) Johann Michael born 9.1.1754. He died on 15.6.1776 at 22 years of age.
- 5) Maria-Anna born 11.7.1756. She died near 12 days of age.
- 6) Anna-Maria born 8.9.1757.
- 7) Franz born 10.4.1760. He married Franziska Utard of Saasenheim on 27.11.1780.
- 8) Maria-Elisabeth born 9.4.1763. She married Martin Kircher, the Miller of Ebersheim on 11.4.1785.

Michael Dietsch is the Guardian of the Saints in the years 1749 and 1750. Also in that year the large remodeling of the church in the Baroque style happened. Father Bernhard Scheuermann selected Michael for that office, although he is only 30 years old. This signifies the trust that the priest had for the young man. He took the office again in 1766/1767 for the second time.

In 1754. Andreas Ehringer and his wife, Barbara Thomann, went bankrupt. He owed a large debt everywhere, and also with Michael Dietsch, citizen, as a church member. The matter went to court; Ehringer had to pay his creditors in full. To Michael Dietsch he owed 36 Gulden, 2 Batzen and 8 Rappen for the benefit of the church factory which he was accounting for. Here is the text:

"He owes to Michael Dietsch the sum of 36 Florins, 2 Batz, 8 Rappen in the money of Colmar for interest due on the money that Andre Ehringer owed the factory of Grussenheim for the year 1750. A judgment was ordered for Ehringer to pay by the 3rd of July, 1752 - 48 Livres, 15 Sols for 6 sacks, 3 bushel of rye and interest of 7 Livres, 6 Sols to the sack and 33 Livres, 15 Sols for the 6 sacks and 3 bushels of barley and interest of 5 Livres, 10 Sols to the sack. The whole sum is the price of great profits on the income from grains that Ehringer received for the year 1750. And that with 23 Francs, 2 Sols in expenses reach the sum due to settle the tax bill for the 23rd of July, 1752, is nearly the same sum. The amount 165 Livres, 18 Sols except 57 Livres must be produced by many seizures and forced sales by the next oral report due the 15th."

In the year 1744 came the legal division of property between Mathias Dietsch, the father, and his children. In the accounting of his holdings that is ordered, it says, "The father must pay to his son Michael 104 Gulden, 2 Batzen, 5 Rappen as payment for lodging and for housing. On the other hand Michael must give his father 860 Gulden to pay for the flour mill. The 860 Gulden had been a marriage gift. The mill would be given to him when he becomes a master miller. /Apparently Michael had been given a gift of cash upon his marriage under the assumption that the older brother Mathias would inherit the mill. For some unknown reason the brother Michael returned from his brother's mill in Ebersheim, and in order to inherit the mill he had to forfeit and return his wedding gift. At the same time the father was now placed in the position of a rentor until the matter was resolved./ Further, Michael owes his brother Mathias 143 Gulden, 5 Batz because he assumed the mill; for 1/3 part of a 1/2 Juchert field he owes him 15 Gulden and for the millwork's inventory he /Michael/ owes him /the brother Mathias/ 1 Gulden, 12 Batzen, 5 Rappen; because of the wooden inventory 1 Gulden, 6 Batzen; because of a two year old male horse 7 Batzen, 5 Rappen; because of his old negro 14 Batzen /this seems almost unbelievable until you realize that about this time France had spent a lot of time plundering its way through Egypt where there were a number of black slaves!/ This makes a total of 163 Gulden, 10 Batzen. He must in the same way settle accounts between himself and Johann, the Miller of Ebersheim, also between himself and Theresia and Salome. Each of these siblings he owed about the same sum.

When Mathias the father died in 1759 of his holdings there is the following remarks in his will, "Inventory and orderly portioning at the time of the honest and modest Mathias Dietsch, citizen and miller to all here in Grussenheim; My worldly goods are left to my children and children's children...

platters and plates made of English pewter as well as ordinary tin,...
4 new hemp shirts...4 hemp table cloths...candlestick of English Pewter...
a copper oil kettle...a wooden tub...an old oaken arm chair, and old spruce
stool, a spruce chest, a spruce bed with storage box, a spruce trough /a
type of box for making bread/. From the deceased himself remains; a new
hemp shirt, a woolen kamisol, a used blue woolen coat, an old ribbon or
tie /often used as arm bands to signify a death/."

His remark about the Baroque builder, Joseph-Michael Schnoller, the
lyroler, from the parish church: "About Joseph-Michael Schnoller, the mason,
for all here to use him further." /This statement of recommendation was
probably to aid the non-citizen to be accepted by the community./

Now an interesting entry: 1777 with his church appointed guardian a
settlement to benefit Johann Michael Dietsch an orphan of the family Dietsch,
Michael Dietsch, Mathias and his wife Katharina Rosenberger were guardian to
this orphan; /was this Mathias Dietsch (born in 1712) and his wife Katharina
Uhl (not Rosenberger) an error or possibly a second wife?/ From 10.2.1768 to
16.1.1777, about this Johann Michael this is said: He has learned the trade of
wood worker by understudying Martin Muller, master wood worker of Schlutstadt.
He /the orphan/ was in addition to this trade a soldier "in the famous
regiment of Husaren called Nassau". In order to make his journey on foot
easier and to enable him to pay his debts, his church-appointed guardians
have given him 24 Gulden.

There is another court case between Michael Dietsch, the citizen and
miller, and a certain Marc Bertsche. Michael is the plaintiff, because of the
fruit that was delivered for 69 Gulden and 5 Batzen...

After the early death of the couple Michael Dietsch and Anna Rohmer, *
the Notary Public of Jebnheim looks at the following inventory: on May 22,
1780... of worldly goods at hand a newly built house and an old meal mill
including stable, cabbage and grass gardens situated on the millbrook named
Blind... about 28 fields these goods have a value of 14,800 Gulden which is
a very large fortune for that time. All these goods were portioned onto the
children. Further Johann-Michael shall receive a milk cow with a fiery red
one year old calf, Maria Anna should get the second best milk cow with a calf,
Franz gets the best milk cow, the third in the stable with this year's calf.
Maria Elisabeth the second milk cow in the stable with a yellowish red calf.
Also the horses are to be distributed: there is a brown with a blaze worth
132 Gulden, an older brown one worth 48 Gulden, a grey 5 year old worth
72 Gulden, a black brown worth 36 Gulden, a brown foal worth 45 Gulden, a pair
of draft oxen worth 104 Gulden, then 6 calf and 2 small oxen. The household
goods also are to be counted... it is about the same as the inventory of the
father Mathias Dietsch from the year 1759. In conclusion it can be said,
Michael Dietsch was a rich man.

Michael Dietsch and Anna Rohmer are buried together in a Family grave.
Their children erected a new gravestone for them. It is the oldest in the
cemetery today. It is near the Lourds^f Grotto, by the wall. The children
founded a perpetual Holy Mass for them to be said on the 6th of June every year.

FRANZ DIETSCH, THE MILLER

The youngest son of Michael Dietsch assumed the mill. He was born on 10.4.1760. When his father died he was just 16 years old. The oldest brother had been married 9 years and the second was married just before the death of the father. The mother, Anna Rohmer, died in May, 1780, and later that year on the 27th of November, Franz was married. He was just 20 years old. He married Franziska Utard of Saasenheim. They had only two living children:

- 1) Franz born 16.8.1782
- 2) Franz-Joseph born 8.1.1788

Two other children were stillborn.

His brother Franz Joseph married with Theresia Krell of Marckolsheim. They had more luck. They had eight children.

Franz Dietsch lived at the time of the French Revolution. It was at that time that Johann Baptist Andre, the local priest, had to twice take refuge out of the country. He hid in Jechtingen and in Baden, also. At night, sometimes, he came across the Rhine near Sponeck. Franz Dietsch, the young miller, did valuable service in often escorting the priest on this dangerous to and fro. In any case, on 3 November, 1795, Father Andre had the great luck after his first immigration of once again to be permitted to baptize in the church. Then, directly on that same day in the early morning, the brother of Franz, Franz-Joseph, had placed into the cradle the baby Theresia. /A very poetic way of saying his daughter was born/ Immediately that evening, the child was blessed with Holy Baptism in the church. Franz Dietsch the miller had the honor of being the Godfather on that occasion. It must have been a great joy for him

to see his Pastor freed and he could once again do his duty as a Pastor. This freedom did not last long. At the end of the same year he once again made the flight over the Rhine. Franz was once again a faithful escort to the Priest during his after-light flights. Had that clergyman been secretly celebrating the Holy Mass in the mill? It can be. It is not impossible!

On 15 April, 1823, Franz Dietsch died. He was 63 years old. His wife he had already lost during the French Revolution. She died on 3 January, 1793 while the priest was living in exile. She was just 32 years old. Johann Michael Waffner, the teacher in the community, presided over the funeral. The children had a fine gravestone built in the Empire style. Surely it is the most beautiful in our cemetery. As decoration it shows the skull, spade and hourglass, all covered with bunting. Today the gravestone stands on the wall near the Lourds Grotto.

What do we know about Franz Dietsch? In the church records for the year 1781 stands this entry: "Franz Dietsch the oilmaker of here, supplied oil for this year for the hanging perpetual lamps and for other things for the church. According to receipt no. 8: 34 Gulden, 16 Batzen." Before him Mathias Dietsch also supplied the church with oil... the amount supplied each year varied depending on consumption. The church factory sometimes paid, 46 Gulden then again 35, or even 69... and because of the Revolution caused such inflation and ruined the value of money sometimes there is mentioned the sum of 372 Gulden. In the year 1789, Franz Dietsch is the church accountant and, empowered as such, he contested the accounts for the accounting year 1789: "accountant Franz Dietsch charges that in the year 1787, Kirchenmeyer /a man's name/ removed 4 Gulden from the entries in his accounts because of orders given by Herrn Herrenberger personally, the money had been given for 10 masses." He signed the objection Franz Dietsch, member.

Did he play a role in community life? For 1777 there is word that a fire engine house needed to be built and for this reason he brought the sand needed for the building. The community paid him in return 8 Batzen. During the French Revolution he is spoken of often. In the protocol book of the community we have a rich selection about him.

"Today the 25th of Germinal, 10 and 5 of the Republic; /the 15th year of the new republic; for Germinal see weights and measures/ acting as agent for the government to the community of Grussenheim was the citizen Franz Dietsch, Miller Master, living here at the mill, who declared that he prevented all fighting in the district of Grussenheim. In Obernfield, they sided against Ill /a name/ with Steiner of the upper cabbage land to billet some soldiers. We could not turn down his offer, as it prevented a dispute in the long run. To speak about this business of the marker being moved, we have four citizens of this community; we believe they were appointed because of their knowledge of the billet, that was reported by the Farmers and the Oberkrautenaularden /people from the upper cabbage land/ as to the names: Philipp Wendling, Johann-Georg Graff, Johann-Georg Wiss, Johannes Schwein, those with the agent representative Franz Dietsch proceeded to the Farmers Square and have made a judgment to the best of our conscience to replace the stone markers back to where they lawfully belong.

"Today the 26th of Floreal, 10 and 5 of the Republic /for Floreal see weights and measures/ as the undersigned agent of the community of Grussenheim with Johann-Georg Graff as expert, and Johann Michael Waffner also as expert same to Franz Dietsch, citizen and miller in my own meal mill, then they all proceeded to the village square. They took him /Franz/ to the department

of Administration to discuss a yearly ground rent that is owed to the community. This payment is awarded to the community for the Plaza and an asseyor is to measure the field. The money was owed by Franz.

"Today the 19th of Pluvios, in the 9th year of the Republic /for Pluvios see weights and measures/ have the members of the General Municipal Community of Grussenheim... has placed and promised to support... from this day forward with Franz Dietsch, member of the Village Council.

"Today the 19th of Ventos, in the 9th year of the Republic /for Ventos see weights and measures/ had the citizen-mayor and the agent of the community of Grussenheim with the cooperation of the town council a small plaza about 34 feet long and 8 feet broad sold to Franz Dietsch, miller to whom all here owe thanks, for his oil trott /possibly a path for the oxen to walk as they turn the oil press/. He will pay the sum of 10 Sols yearly to the community.

"Today the 19th Ventos, the City Council has decided that the citizen Mathias Dietsch must remove the wooden wall that he erected on the allmend /commons or public park/ which blocks the way. If he does not do this voluntarily, he must be made to do so by law.

After the French Revolution, Franz Dietsch is still an important man in the village council as well as in the church council. From 1814 to 1817 in the protocol book of the community, it says of him, "Installation of the council of the church factory of Grussenheim on Sunday the 6th of January, 1811 during a High Mass, he returned to us the Mayor of the Community of Grussenheim, the professor of Catholic religion. At the premises of the rectory he executed an Imperial Decree of 30.12.1809. The Monsieurs Francois Dietsch the older,

Francois Antoine Suhr, Jean Strauel the elder, Matthew Meyer and Joseph Wendling of this parish are named as councilors of the church factory of Grussenheim and they were given their appointments and these were respectively delivered by Monsieur Eveque of Strabough²³, the Prefect of the Upper Rhine. He individually prepared the Oath of Obedience to the Constitution of the Empire and the Pledge to the Emperor, that they would administer with zeal and honesty and deal properly with the factory of the parish. After which they proceeded to their installation, swearing to uphold the law – each councilor signed with him /the Prefect/.

"In the year 1818 on the occasion of the meeting of the city council, the purpose of which was to repurchase the clergyhouse that the Jew Nathan Levy Schoengrun has owned." Those of the village who had contributed heavily were invited. Franz Dietsch is one of these large taxpayers. Joseph Dietsch also signed the protocol book on the occasion of the birth of the Duke of Bordeaux, the son of the King of the French Kingdom /Louis the 18th/. He /Joseph Dietsch/ was one of the Community of taxpayers who freely paid the gold necessary for the Festival of Lights to honor the small Majesty.

FRANZ-JOSEPH DIETSCH, THE FARMER FROM GARTNERSHOF

He is the youngest son of Franz Dietsch, the miller. The oldest, Franz, who was born in 1782, remained at the mill. This latter /Franz/ married Anna Maria Meyer from Wickerswihl on 9.2.1808. In the year 1824, he was appointed to the village council and in April, 1826, he was Mayor of the community. He numbered 44 years. He only held this office two years. Franz died early on 26.10.1829 at the age of 48. His brother Franz Joseph played a more humble role. He was a member of the village council. Physically, he must have been very tall because in all the village records he is called Francois Joseph, the Tall. Franz Joseph was born on the 8th of January, 1788. He married in 1812 to Katharina Eckerle of Houssen... a very rich farmer's daughter. She was supposed to be carrying her gold on her head when she came to Grussenheim; that's how rich she was. The marriage took place in Houssen. The Eckerle family are not unknown in the village. They have already figured here in the 18th century prior to the French Revolution. They were most likely relatives of Katharina. Both spouses manage the farm in the Obergasse /upperstreet/ and build a new house in 1833. They have 10 children:

Christine born 15.12.1813. She married Gregorie Bernard Graff on 7.6.1837.

Maria Anna Theresia born 14.11.1815. She married Johann Schwein on 7.2.18__.

Maria Helena born 14.5.1818. She married Ludwig Strauel on 26.8.1845.

Maria Antonia Josepha born 13.6.1822. She married Bernard Strauel on 8.7.1845.

Franz Joseph Markus born 25.4.1824. There is no further remark about him in the records.

Victoria born 24.12.1825. She married Franz Serephin Wendling of Hartman's farm in the school lane on 14.2.1850. They traveled to America in the year 1855 and settled in Independence in the state of Iowa, westerly from Chicago. There they worked a farm of 80 Hektar /200 acres⁷. They have two children, Maria Agatha and Nicolaus Serephin. The latter will be the ancestor for the Wendling's of Independence, Iowa. The farm exists today and is now in the fourth generation and is owned by James Wendling. Of the Family Wendling-Dietsch. have come four priests:
#1 Reverend Louis E. Wendling, priest of North Washington in the state of Iowa. #2 Reverend Karl Glovik of the Diocese in Dubuque, Iowa. He has been in Europe often. #3 Reverend Kelly Donald (or Donald Kelly), Columbian Missionary in the Fiji Islands. #4 Lery Wendling is a Franciscan in Emporia, Kansas.

Maximin Serephin Franz born 27.5.1828.²⁴ Married Maria Josephine Wagner of Obersaasheim on 22.2.1854. He traveled with his wife to America. They went with his sister, Victoria, and his brother-in-law, Franz Serephin Wendling. They settled themselves in Naperville in the boundary area of Chicago. In 1871 they left Naperville. Franz Serephin purchased a farm in Independence, Iowa. Max Serephin settled near New-Ulm (Minnesota) and worked at his profession as a baker. *It appears that he died early and only his son was left behind. John, who on 4 November, 1890, married Maria Gratwohl (according to a letter from the rectory of the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity of New-Ulm from 4.3.1980.

* This Maximin Serephin Franz a.k.a. Charles Wendling Dietsch moved to Aurora, Illinois. A section on him is in the back of this document.

Johann-Baptist born 11.2.1830. He married Victoria Wendling of Hartmann's farm in the school lane on 6 May, 1852. She is the daughter of Franz Wendling and Maria Magdalena Suhr and also the sister of Franz Serephin, who traveled to Independence, Johann-Baptist remained on the farm (Gartner's) and carried the lineage further.

Leonard born 4.6.1832. Married Karoline Schmitt of Ebersheim on 21.10.1862.

August Bernard born 25.3.1837. He died in 1841.

JOHANN-BAPTIST DIETSCH AND MARIA VICTORIA WENDLING

They married on 6 May, 1852. He died on 4 October, 1870. He was 40 years old. Apparently the cause was pneumonia, which he had caused himself from having gone hunting. It was during the 70 Years War. Their parlor was filled with soldiers who were billeted there. Five years later, his wife died on 9 October, 1875 of typhus. It was as a consequence of the parents' death that the farm was auctioned off. A Jew bought it. The children were all under age and were torn apart and distributed to Family relatives. The oldest were apprenticed out. Here is a list of the children; 12 in all:

- 1) Franz Joseph Nicolas born 29.11.1852. He died a month later.
- 2) Joseph born 1853. Died 30.11.1875 at 22 years of age.
- 3) Anton Theodor born 15.1856. After the death of the parents, he was apprenticed in Bergheim, then in Schlettstadt as a companion to the Jew Weil. He earned a little money and in 1892 decided to travel to America. He settled in Excelsior. It was 30 km from Minneapolis on Lake Minnetonka. His wife Mary Rafferty was from Ireland. They married in 1896. From 1895 to 1907, Theodor lived in Minneapolis and was a driver for the railroad company, M & St L Railroad. After 1907 he lived with his family in Excelsior where he acquired a little vegetable farm. He died in 1927 on the first of May. His wife and daughter went back to Minneapolis. Claire, his daughter, was born in October, 1897. She worked in 1918 as a stenographer in Minneapolis for Weyerhaeuser Lumber Company. From 1921 to 1928, she worked for the M & St L Railroad and lived in Eureka. She married John Burson Caughrean, who was baptized on 11 August, 1891 in the Catholic Church of St. Stephen in Minneapolis. They were married on 27 November, 1930 in St. Stephen's. John is the son of Burson Caughrean and Mary Buckley.

- 4) Marie Amelio born 12.1.1858. She died 24.12.1858.
- 5) Eduard Leonard born 11.10.1859. He married on 6 November, 1888 to
Ludwine Schwartz, daughter of Franz Anton Schwartz and Maria Anna Jehl.
He died on 11.3.1942 and she on 18.9.1933. Their children:
- Eduard August born 12.10.1889. He died single on 16.2.1967.
- Eugen Theodor born 11.7.1891. He died single on 2.8.1970.
- Emil Joseph born 13.3.1893. He married on 30.4.1927 with Marie Jehl,
daughter of Xavier Jehl and Josephine Spiegel. Their children:
- #1. Charles Robert bom 15.4.1928. Married to Lucie Dietsch on 5.11.1935.
His child, Damien, born 30.4.1968.
- #2. Marie Lydia bom 19.2.193? Married to Emile Dietsch on 7.4.1953.
Their children: Collette born 27.1.1955, married to Gerard Marot of
Paris on 2.7.1977 (One child, Sophie, bom 24.4.1979); and
Christine born 23.12.1959, married to Jan Pierre Wemelinger of
Battenheim on 23.6.1979.
- #3. Auguste Emile born 21.7.1933. Married in Wittenheim to Germaine
Raehm of Elsenheim in 1961. Their children: Yolande and Jean Francois.
- #4. Leonard Alfred born 4.11.1940. Married with his cousin Valerie on
27.1.1968. He is a baker in Altkirch.
- Marie Leonie bom 3.2.1895. She died 19.12.1902.
- Ludwine Augusta born 17.6.1899 a lady.
- 6) Jean Baptiste born 11.11.1860. He married Marie Elisabeth Schwartz,
daughter of Anton Schwartz and Maria Anna Jehl on 22.1.1884. He died on
2.1.1927; she on 15.8.1920. He was a cabinet maker in Beruf.
Their children:

Henri born 13.7.1886. He was drafted in World War I. His active duty was in Mulhouse, then his battalion was sent west and they marched through Grussenheim on Assumption Day, 1914. They came east and he was with 4th Rifleman in Prussia. He wrote a card from the west to his home. "Have been detailed here since the 3rd of January. I am a keeper of the Military Cemetery here to bring order. The job is to be wreath and coffin maker also. (Henri was a cabinet maker by trade) I thank the Lord, that He has made such a father like protector. If ever we need further of God's help He is here to build and we live in hope that it is likely we soon will meet again in our Homeland. Greet your family, your loving brother /s/ Heinrich". Heinrich was a non-commissioned officer. On 22.8.1915, he was killed in Northern Poland. On 14.9.1915, there was a requiem said for him at the church here.

Albert born 16.11.1884. He married Marie Caspar, daughter of Philipp Caspar and Adele Wendling on 23.2.1911. He died on 3.8.1959; she in March, 1962. Their children:

1. Charles Philippe born 23.10.1911. Died the following day.
2. Marie Eugenie born 2.5.1914. She was a nun in the kloster Niederbroun²⁵ under the name Prisca. She worked in Santarem (Portugal), then in Angolo (Africa). Presently she is in the Mother House of their congregation in Strasbourg.
3. Aloyse Ernest born 9.5.1918. Died 1.6.__?__.
4. Adele Felice born 28.8.1919. She married Antione Jean Baptiste Frick of Ammerschwihr on 17.11.1945, in Dijon where she resides. Their children: Jean-Lor,²⁶ Bernard, Marie, Gerard and Martine.

5. Helene born 21.9.1920. She married Leon Wurth of Riedwhr²⁷ on 13.5.1952. He died on 3.4.1969. Their child, Marie Chantel, was bom 22.1.53. Marie married Marcel Specht in 1973. Marie-Agnes was born 3.5.1954, and Veronique was born 31.3.1957, and Francois on 22.1.1961.
6. Louis-Philippe born 23.9.1924. He began studies at the Brothers of the Holy Ghosts at Elotzheim²⁸... returned to the Trappists at Aiguebelle. His first mass was at Grussenheim on 14.9.1950. From 1950 until 1961 he was east at Cameroun in the Monastery of Notre Dame of Grande Selve, near Yaounde. From 1961 until 1964 he is at Aiguebelle. From 1964 until 1968, he is Prior of Notre Dame de l'Atlas near Medea in Algeria. Then he returned to Aiguebelle, next assignment to a Monastery of the Trappist in the Campeneac in Bretagne in 1972, and lastly at Notre Dame of Port du Salut at the entrance in the Mayenne.

Jean-Baptiste born 14.8.1888. He married Marie Strauel on 14.1.1920. She was the daughter of Edouard Strauel and of M. Carola Fehrenbach. He had the father's farm from the Jew Joseph Netter and rebuilt anew. He died on 29.7.1969. She died on 9.1.1935. Their children:

1. Maria-Elisabeth born 4.12.1920. She is married to Eugene Haberkorn. He was born 2.10.1922. They married on 19.4.1947. Their children: Lisbeth born 14.5.1949, married to Georges Vacher of Thodure, and mother of Philippe and Stephan; Christine born 8.1.1948; Angele born 1.11.1952; and Raymond born 1.3.1954, married to Marguerite Bentz of Jebnheim in 1976, and father of Fanny and Louis.

2. Edouard born 2.5.1924. He was conscripted in the second World War in the R.A.D. /this was a youth work group, a cross between the national guard and the conservation corp of our depression times/ in Munich. Then he was drafted into the army and stationed in Horn, Hellabrunn, and Znain in Austria... and finally stationed in Italy, north of Fiorenzuola by Piacenza. He was found dead. The cause was a head shot.

3. Henrietta born 30.6.1929. She married Marcel Meyer, a farmer from Marckolsheim. on 21.10.1950.

Maria-Anna born 14.7.1890, She married Charles Emile Hoff of Schiltigheim.

Maria Victoria born 18.9.1892.

Eugen born 26.8.1894. He married Louise Jehl on 30.4.1927. Their children:

1. Ernest born 26.1.1928. He married with Anne-Marie Bosshard. Their children: Gilbert-Laurence, Clarisse, Alex and Francis.
2. Cecile born 20.2.1931. Married to Andre Schmitt on 19.11.1957. Their children: Michel and Eric.
3. Francois born 24.8.1934.
4. Angelique born 29.5.1937. Married to Elienne Schwein²⁹ on 16.11.1960. Their children: Maxime, Elisabeth, Regine and Catherine.
5. Richarde born 28.10.1943. Married to Bernard Stoffel of Elsenheim on 10.8.1966. Their children: Martine and Anita.

Isador born 12.12.1896. Married to Adele Haberkorn on 23.4.1932. He died on 8.9.1969. Their children: Jeanette born 27.5.1936, married to Ferdinand Naegele of Siweisheim. He is a Doctor in Eschau. They were married on 11.8.1959; Bernadette born 20.5.19__, married to Pierre Romy of Selstat on 21.10.1964; Claire born 15.5.1939, married to Marcel Schneider of Villerue. Their children – Yves, Isabelle and Luc.

Ernest born 25.10.1898. He died 31.5.1915.

Elisabeth born 1.1.1901. She is a nun in the kloster of Niederbroun under the name Rose Elisabeth. As a young girl she was a hired hand to the Brucherol family of Paris, where she lived for six years (1920 to 1926). Abbe Guerin of Paris sent her to the Niederbroun nunnery. In 1928 she worked in the clinic of Saint Odile in Neudorf, then in the clinic of St. Joseph in Colmar. From there she went to Lapoutroic³⁰ and finally, in 1937, to Lingolsheim, where she is today.

Josephine born 18.3.1905. She, too, became a nun in the kloster of Oberbroun under the name Bernadette. She is presently installed in Stratsbourg-Neuhof.

- 7) Maria Victoria born 16.2.1862. She married Louis Wagner (born 7.10.1857) from Algolshe____.³¹ He was a crew leader with the R.R. He was the son of Joseph Wagner and Maria Bernert. They had nine children, of them six lived:

Eugen from Bollwiller

Emil died in Paris

Charles died in Feldki_____³²

Joseph died in Mulhouse

Louis died in Lingolsheim at 33 years of age. His son Louis is a painter in Rosheim.

Remi of Bollwiller born 18.1.1899. His children:

1. Raymond, he was in the employment of the R.R. He married Maria Hartmann of Feldkirch. Their children: Raymond born 23.7.1929 in Feldkirch is presently a priest of Spechbach. Marie-Jeanne born 16.4.1933. She is in Soultz and married to Antoine Albrecht. They now live in Berlin. Albrecht is in care of the housing for the policemen. She had four children: Daniel, Beatrice (studying pharmacy in Toulon), Claude (a carrier in the military at the base in Orange), and Denis.
- 8) Marie-Melanie born 7.6.1863. She traveled to America near Minneapolis. She married her cousin Henri Strauel, born 26.7.1852. She had two children: Fredrick (a structural engineer of bridges and streets) and Florence. Marie-Melanie and Henri were married by her uncle, Franz Serephin Wendling's place in Independence, Iowa. Two letters sent from her are in the archives of the church.
- 9) Marie-Anna-Adele born 29.6.1864. She died 13.8.1864.
- 10) Alphons-Eugen born 5.11.1865. He traveled to America and settled near Independence, Iowa, by his uncle.
- 11) Marie-Celestine born 7.1.1867. She married Jean Kleinhaus of Eschentzw-ler.³³ He was a letter carrier in Strasbourg. They had no children. Till the end

of his life they lived in Gartner's farm.³⁴ She died in an old people's home in Colmar.

12) Maria-Anna born 6.7.1869.

MAXIMIN SEREPHIN FRANZ DIETSCH

All information is from Abbe Seeman's church records from Grussenheim, France.

He was born in Grussenheim on 27.5.1828

He was baptized in Grussenheim

He was married on 22.2.1854 to Maria Josephine Wagner of Obersaasheim

He and his wife traveled to America in 1855. They accompanied his sister Maria Victoria and her husband Franz Serephin Wendling.

They settled in Naperville, Illinois

In 1871, both couples moved to Independence, Iowa

Max Serephin moved to New Ulm, Minnesota

He worked at his trade as a baker

He sold a field in Grussenheim for 160 marks on 27.4.

There is no further record of him

CHARLES WENDLING DIETSCH

Sources of information are listed after each event.

Anything without a source listing is oral family history.

He was born on 19.5.1828 (Family Bible, Death Certificate, Obituary Aurora Beacon News 1916)

He was born and baptized in Grussenheim, France (Family Bible)

He left France because of trouble in his homeland

He changed his name for the same reason. He assumed the name of ship's captain, whom he admired greatly

Josephine Dietsch Backus was named after her Grandfather Dietsch's first wife

He lived in Aurora, Illinois in 1856 – 9 miles west from Naperville (City Directory of Aurora)

He lived in Aurora for one year before Aurora received its special charter to unite East Aurora and West Aurora, said charter granted in 1857 (Aurora Beacon News, Dec. 1916)

In 1860 he married an Irish girl(c)

She was Mary Burke (Death Certificate of Charles Deach (Dietsch)

She was Mary Ellen Berke (Death Certificate of Mary Ellen Dietsch Sharrah)

#1 a daughter was born to them, Mary Ellen Wendling on 25.3.1861 (Family Bible)

She was baptized at an Irish Catholic Church in Aurora, Illinois (Family Bible)

#2 a son was born to them, Charles Wendling on 3.8.1862 (Family Bible)

He was baptized at an Irish Catholic Church in Aurora, Illinois (Family Bible)

Mary Berke (Burke) died in 1863(c)

Charles Wendling married Philomene Phedora Gain on 28.10.1868 in Aurora, Illinois (Family Bible, Marriage License)

She was born in Plattsburg, New York, on 4.4.1843 (Family Bible)

On 28.10.1868, Charles Wendling Dietsch of Aurora, Illinois, received his naturalization papers in Kane County, Illinois (Aurora Herald Newspaper, 1868 List of Eligible Voters)

#3 a daughter was born to the couple, Delia Emily Wendling on 1.11.1869 (Family Bible)

She was baptized in a German Catholic Church in Aurora, Illinois (Family Bible)

#4 a daughter, Harriet Phedora, was bom to the couple on 8.2.1871 (Family Bible)

She was baptized at an Irish Catholic Church in Cedar Falls, Iowa (Family Bible)

#5 a daughter, Hellene Elizabeth, was born to the couple on 28.7.1873 (Family Bible)

She was baptized at an Irish Catholic Church in Cedar Falls, Iowa (Family Bible)

Charles had come to this country with his sister Victoria and her husband Franz. They moved to Iowa with then. They left Iowa and Victoria and Franz behind and went on to Minnesota.

His occupation from the time he arrived in Aurora was as a baker (City Directory of Aurora)

#6 a son, Joseph Alphonse, was born to the couple in Austin, Minnesota on 9.9.1875. (Family Bible)

He was baptized in an Irish Catholic Church in Austin, Minnesota (Family Bible)

#7 a son, Artemus Eugene, was born to the couple in New Ulm, Minnesota on 24.4.1877 (Family Bible)

He was baptized in a German Church in New Ulm, Minnesota (Family Bible)

#8 a son, Alphonse Edward, was born to the couple in New Ulm, Minnesota on 21.5.1879 (Family Bible)

He was baptized in a German Catholic Church in New Ulm, Minnesota (Family Bible)

#9 a daughter, Josephine Catherine, was born to the couple on 19.1.1881 (Family Bible)

She was baptized at a German Catholic Church in New Ulm, Minnesota (Family Bible)

At this time Charles received a large sum of money from the sale of property in France

He returned to Aurora and built a bakery on S. River Street

#10 a daughter, Martha Belle, was born to the couple on 31.3.1883
(Family Bible)

She was baptized in a French Catholic Church in Aurora, Illinois
(Family Bible)

Charles Dietsch, Baker, 437 S. River Street 1886
(City Directory for Aurora)

Charles and Phedora obtained title to the property at 437 S. River
Street, Aurora, Illinois on March 15, 1893 (Kane County Land Records)

Charles and Phedora took a \$3000 loan from the Fox River Valley
Savings and Loan (Kane County Land Records)

Charles Wendling Dietsch gave money to his oldest son, also a baker,
to start his own business

In 1888(c) Charles F. Dietsch rented and rail a bakery and confectioners
on W. Main at the corner of Second, Aurora, Illinois (Kane County
Directory)

Charles Wendling Dietsch died 27.12.1916 at the home of his
daughter, Martha Belle Larson (Death Certificate)

He was buried in Mount Olivet Cemetery in Aurora, Illinois on
1.2.1917 (Death Certificate)

At the time of his death he had 36 grandchildren

Parallel Points Between Maximin Serephin Franz Dietsch and
Charles Wendling Dietsch:

Birthplace and birth month and year
Religion
Sister's name
First wife's name
Association with the name Wendling
Arrival in the United States of America
Residence in Naperville, Illinois area
Time of departure for Iowa
Time of residence in New Ulm, Minnesota
Ownership of property in France
Sale of that property
Time of the sale of property
Occupation as baker
Time of departure from New Ulm, Minnesota
Spelling of the name Dietsch

Sixteen (16) parallel points seems to rule out coincidence and establishes the fact that the two names are really the same man. It is also a fact that there is nothing known about either man that disagrees with the conclusion.

THE MILL OF GRUSSENHEIM

The Mill of Grussenheim is mentioned since the year 1031. Since 1570 into the last half of the 18th century, the Dietsch Family have owned the mill. In 1802, the mill also owns an oil press. Later a saw mill was added. All of the buildings at the mill burned to the ground during the night between the 2nd and 3rd of September in 1879. nothing was left. It was not rebuilt. The family then moved to the village.

HANS DIETSCH (first mentioned in 1570) He married the daughter of the miller of Grussenheim.

GEORG DIETSCH (first mentioned in 1614)

GEORG DIETSCH (first mentioned in 1674) Son of Georg Dietsch, the miller. He married Maria Klingler of Grussenheim. They had 7 children: Adam, Johannes Georg, Andreas, Simon, Maria, Johannes Georg and Mathias.

SIMON DIETSCH Born in 1670. Son of Georg. He married Katharina Schmitt. Katharina died during the birth of their first child, Johannes Georg. Simon then married Anna Selig. Simon died in 1720. He was about 50 years of age. Because his son was only 12 years old at that time, the mill went to Simon's brother Mathias.

MATHIAS DIETSCH Born the 8th of May, 1689. He is the youngest son of Georg Dietsch. He was married to Katharina Untz of Hessenheim. They had 8 children: Anna Maria, Mathias, Johann-Georg, Johann, Johann-Michel, Katharina, Theresia and Maria Salome.

MICHEL DIETSCH Born the 27th of September, 1720. Son of Mathias. Michel had apprenticed at his brother Johann's mill in Ebersheim.

He married Anna Rohmer. They had 8 children: Franz Anton, Franz Joseph, Anna-Marie, Johann Michel, Maria Anna, Anna-Maria, Franz and Maria Elisabeth.

FRANZ DIETSCH Born on the 10th of April, 1760. He was the youngest son of Franz Dietsch. He was only 16 years old when his father died. He was 20 when his mother died. Later that same year he married Franziska Utard of Saassenheim. They had only two living children: Franz and Franz Joseph.

FRANZ DIETSCH Born on the 16th of August, 1782. He was the oldest son of Franz Dietsch. He married Anna Maria Meyer. He died in 1829. We have no further trace of this family.

JOSEPH CASPAR married MARY ANNA WENDLING on May 9, 1871. Mary Anna Wendling's father ~~was~~ Frank Wendling and her mother was Mary Magdalene Suhr, the widow of Martin Dietsch. Mary Magdalene Suhr was the daughter of Salome Allon and Antony Suhr, the High Mayor of Grussenheim. (Could it be that Mary Anna Wendling was the great great granddaughter of Mathias Dietsch?) Mary Anna's sister, Mary Victoria married John Baptist Dietsch.

THE MILL BURNT IN 1879

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

MONTHS

FLOREAL8th month of the French Republic Revolution calendar. Took place during our April and May.
GERMINAL.....	7th month of the French Republic Revolution calendar. Took place during our March and April.
PLUVIOS.5th month of the French Republic Revolution calendar. Took place during our January and February.
VENTOS.6th month of the French Republic Revolution calendar. Took place during our February and March.

MEASURES

BATTEN.	a bundle of straw
HEKTAR.equivalent to 2½ acres
JUCHERT.	a scratch, in this case possibly a rough, rocky parcel of land.
MARGEL.. . . .	marked off field, margined, bordered
SACS.	a sack or pouch
SCHUH.. . . .	a shoe, in this case a shoe's length
SESTER.	a pile, a stack
SESTERCE.	an old Roman measure for 1½ times as much
VERTTEL.	a fourth or quarter, ¼ of a hundred weight or ¼ of a year's harvest

COINS

BATZ/BATZEN.	an old silver base coin of S. Germany and Switzerland worth 4 Kreuzers: ½ and 10 and 40 Batzen coins were used
FLORIN.	an old gold coin first struck in Florence in 1252 weighing about 54 grains and noted for the purity of its gold
FRANC.	an old gold coin struck in 1360; an old French silver coin issued 1575 to 1641
GULDEN.	a German, Dutch or Austrian gold coin patterned after the Florentine FLORIN /an old German coin issued from the 15th to the 17th century/
IMPERIAL.	a golden coin of Imperial Russia worth 10 RUBLES when first issued in 1745 and 15 RUBLES from 1897-1917; a medieval coin
LIVRE.	unit of weight, a former French unit of value worth about a pound of silver in the reign of Charlemagne, an antiquated literary word for FRANC
PFENNIG.	in Germany before 1871 any of several coins and their unit of value /after 1871 a unit of money equal to 1/100ths of a MARK; the forerunner of our penny
RAPPEXN/RAPPES. . . .	a small Swiss coin, the Swiss Centime, it also means a raven or crowthis nickname was given as a humorous reference to the eagle that was on the first RAPPEN
SCHILLINGS.	a gold coin
SOLS.	an old French coin equal to 12 DENIERS or 1/20th LIVRE

PLACE NAMES

Colmar
Suterlin
Dekers
Sant Katherinen (church)
Schlettstadt
Grussenheim
Rumkist
Elwen Ried (Elwen reed)
Linden
Ill
Rhein (river)
Schildgraben
Jebsheim
Vogesenwaldern
Oberfeld
Strangen
Gewandt
Juchert
Westermanner
Margel
Breysach
Oberhofgut
Bootzheim
Bootzen
Hessenheim
Ebersheim
Illwald Kapelle (Illwoods Chapel)
Schlutstadt
Saasenheim
Marckolsheim
Ausland (Austria)
Beruf
Konigsberg
Bielsk
Norden Polund (North Poland)
Portugal

Jechtingen
Baden
Gartnershof
Wickerswihl
Houssen
Dorf
Hartmann
Schulgasse
Amerika(USA)
Independence, Iowa
Chicago
North Washington, Iowa
DuBuque, Iowa
Europe
Fidchi Inseln(Fiji Islands)
Pazifik(Pacific)
Emporia(Kansas)
Obesaasheim
Napperville(Naperville,111)
New Ulm, Minnesota
Schulgassol
Elsenheim
Stellung
Bergheim
Excelsior(Minn.)
Minneapolis(Minn.)
Minnetonkasee
Irlanderin(Irish)
Eureka (Kansas?)
Paris
Battenheim
Santarera(Portugal)
Angalo Afrika (Africa)
Strasbourg
Ammerschwihl
Dijon
Riedwihl

Family Names other than Dietsch and page number

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Hechler;7	Spolin;2	
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Ketterer;13	Utard;16,21	
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Kircher;14, 15, 16	Van Mansfield;3	
Kirchenmeyer;22	Waffner;22,, 23	
Kleinhaus;35	Wagner;27, 34	
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Krell;16, 21	Weissbrunn;7	
Lithy;6	Wendling;7, 23, 25, 27, 28, 29, 31	

DIRECT LINEAGE OF MARGARET KEINER SAUNDERS

DIETSCH of Colmar (1st M) 1363

WALTER DIETSCH of Colmar (1st M) 1386

DIETSCH, the Gardener of Colmar (1st M) 1419

HENRY DIETSCH of Colmar (1st M) 1468

JACOB DIETSCH, Judge of the Court of Schlettstadt (1st M) 1540

HANS DIETSCH, Miller and Mayor of Grussenheim (1st M) 1570

son Georg

GEORG DIETSCH, Miller of Grussenheim (1st M) 1614

son Georg

GEORG DIETSCH, Miller of Grussenheim (1st M) 1675

wife Maria Klingler

children: Adam, Johannes George, Andreas, Simon, Maria, Johannes

Georg and Mathias

MATHIAS DIETSCH, Miller of Grussenheim. Born 8 May 1689. Died 6 June 1759

Married Katharina Untz of Hessenheim on 4 November 1709

Children: Anna Maria, Mathias, Johann Georg, Johann, Johann Michel,

Katharina, Theresia, Maria Salome

MICHEL DIETSCH, Miller of Grussenheim. Born 27 Sept. 1720. Died 15 June 1776

Married to Anna Rohmer on 24 November 1743

Children: Franz Anton, Franz Joseph, Anna Maria, Johann Michel,

Maria Anna, Anna Maria, Franz, Maria Elisabeth

FRANZ DIETSCH, Miller of Grussenheim. Born 10 May 1760. Died 15 April 1823

Married to Franziska Utard of Saassenheim on 27 November 1780

Children: Franz, Franz Joseph

FRANZ JOSEPH, the Farmer of Grussenheim. Born 8 January 1788. Died ?

Married to Katharine Eckerle of Houssen in 1812

Children: Christine, Maria Anna Theresia, Maria Helene, Maria

Antonia Josepha, Franz Joseph Markus, Victoria, Maximin Serephin

Franz, Johann Baptist, Leonard, August Bernard

MAXIMIN SEREPHIN FRANZ, the Baker. Born 27 May 1828

a.k.a.

CHARLES WENDLING DIETSCH, the Baker. Born 19 May 1829. Died 29 Dec. 1916

1st Marriage to Maria Josephine Wagner on 22 February 1854

2nd Marriage to Mary Berke. She died about 1863, buried in

Aurora, Illinois. She was from Ireland (also spelled Mary Burke).

Children: Charles Wendling, Jr. a.k.a. Charles F. Deach Born 8 Aug. 1862

Married to Elisabeth Deach. He was born in Illinois. Retired from

St. Paul, Minnesota, Fire Department in 1933. Died 16 Sept. 1937.

Buried in Calvary Cemetery, St. Paul, Minnesota.

Mary Ellen Dietsch Born 25 March 1861

Married Dell Sharrah. Lived in Ladysmith, Wisconsin.

Died 24 February 1950, buried in Tony Cemetery at Tony, Wisconsin.

3rd Marriage to Phedora Gain, born 4 April 1842 in Plattsburg,

New York. She was the daughter of Delia Paridise and John Gain.

She died 23 December 1920 in Aurora, Illinois, buried in Mt. Olivet
Cemetery in Aurora.

Children: Delia Emily, Harriet Phedora, Hellene Elizabeth,

Joseph Alphonse, Artemus Eugene, Alphonse Edward, Josephine

Catherine, Martha Belle.

ARTEMUS EUGENE DIETSCH, Stove Maker. Born 24 April 1877. Died 31 Jan. 1943

Married to Ellen Dora Hilderbrand on 13 February 1899 in Aurora, Ill.

She was born 13 April 1880 in Kendall County, Illinois. Her parents

were James Hilderbrand of Indiana and Mary Curtain of New York.

She died 20 May 1941 in Aurora, Illinois, buried in Mt. Olivet Cemetery in Aurora.

Children: Louella, Artemus James, Mary Thedora, Eleanor Margaret, Margaret Blanche, Mildred Catherine, Clara Cecelia, Edwin Eugene, Loretta Martha, Jean Lydia, Shirley Leah, Nellie (Nellie is the daughter of Louella, she was adopted by the grandparents).

MILDRED CATHERINE DIETSCH Born 2 January 1909 in Aurora, Illinois

Died on 12 March 1980 in Naperville, Illinois, buried at S.S. Peter & Paul Cemetery, Naperville.

Married Adam Keiner, shoe repairman of Naperville, Illinois.

He was born in Marionfield, Russia, on 28 December 1909•

Children: Paul Edward, Margaret Mary, Deloris Ellen

MARGARET MARY KEINER Born 14 October 1935 in Aurora, Illinois

Married to Richard F. Saunders, Operating Engineer, on 26 August 1962 in Lisle, Illinois. He was born 4 August 1930 in Chicago, Illinois.

Children: Richard William, Doloris Delaine, Gerald Frank, Nancy Annette, from his first marriage.

Children: Stevan Dean, Tomi Jean of their union.

Alice Mosley Siedelman and Barbara Mosley Peck have been working for over twenty years researching our family's history. A few others have joined with them, but the bulk of the work and time has been theirs. Recently Janet Fries of Bloomington received some very interesting papers and she passed them on to Barb and Alice.

These papers are 12½ single spaced, typewritten pages. They were compiled by Abbe Raymond Seeman of Grussenheim, France. This is a part of his ongoing search for the descendants of the villagers of Grussenheim.

There was only one problem with these papers. They were written in medieval and modern French and German. We tried, unsuccessfully, to find someone who would translate the papers for us. Being stubborn and naive, I decided to translate the papers myself. I was fully immersed and in eminent danger of being fully submerged, when a good friend came to my rescue.

Inga Kremeyer is a well educated lady who speaks German and French. She was raised in Germany and has a good understanding of German-French history. After I had researched each word, and listed all the possible meanings, Inga and I would place ourselves mentally into the historical time frame and then Inga would translate. As she read, I would check the words against my research and sometimes I was able to correlate English words or terms that eluded Inga. There is one word that we were unable to translate: SIGRESTEN. If you know the meaning, please let us know.

I have placed this document in notebook form so that it can be

expanded. When we have more information we will share it. At the end of the papers you will find a form that you can use for your own family history sheet.

- I have used slash marks (/) to separate my own comments from the main body of the translations. I hope these comments and explanations will clarify the more confused parts of the papers. You will also note that the European method of dating has been used. Example: 29.5.1856, 29th of May, 1856 - day/month/year.

If you can add anything to our information about our family, we would like to hear from you.

Marg Saunders

Barbara Peck
216 Madison Street
Montgomery, Illinois 60538

Alice Siedelman
Route 2 box 305
5th Avenue Road
Aurora, Illinois 60505

Margaret Saunders
5915 S. Lee Street
Downers Grove, Illinois 60516

As we go to the printer's, we have found the meaning of the word "Sigresten". It is of Swiss dialect, a sacristan, an officer in church entrusted with the care of the sacristy, a sexton.