

Zölsmann-Zelsmann-Zelsman

As I have been doing research on the Zelsman - Zelsmann family name, stories and facts have been told to me.

So for the name Zelsmann has been researched back to 1494 when a T. Zöltzmann was given a deed to land in Phanstangen Germany. During our last visit to Germany we visited the village of Phanstangen and found a Günter Zölsmann family still living there. He stated his ancestor purchased his farm in 1600.

The name was always Zelsmann although different families from father to son changed different letters in the name by using ö for e or tz for s or a double s, but it still read as Zelsmann. In the locality where Gottfried settled in Jefferson County Missouri the pronunciation for Zelsman is selsman as in seltzer or cellsman.

I found the Zelsmann ancestors to be above average intelligence for their time as many were Burgermeister of their village. They needed to know Latin fluently so they could trade with other towns and converse with Burgermeister from other areas of the country, because Latin was the language of commerce. It showed that they received some formal education as the earliest report of a school in Gefell was in 1463. By the mid 1500's children from a large area outside of the town were also attending school in Gefell. The Zelsmann's seemed to have been religious as their children were all christened soon after birth and some were Elders in their church, which was the highest office a lay person could hold in their church at that time. They were hard working people. Many worked as blacksmiths, grain millers, butchers, etc. Gefell was one of the larger thriving communities for those early days and was in the middle of an important 4-way road. Many market days and festival days were held. I believe our ancestors not only worked hard but I am sure they also had the opportunity to play hard.

I will continue to research the Zelsmann family name, as one is never finished. So for now I will start my ancestral line with --

T. Zöltzmann had a son named Christoph Zölmann born in Phanstangen. Christoph had a son born in the mid 1500's named Erhart Zölmann. Erhart married Margarethe Encke in 1612. They had a son named Erhardt born in 1621 in Phanstangen. He married Anna Oefner in 1644.

Anna and Erhardt Zölmann had a son in 1651 whose name was also Erhardt Zeltzmann. This Erhardt married Eva Rudiger in 1676 in Bohmsdorf. They had two sons. The oldest son was Erhard Zeltzmann, born in 1679. Their youngest son was Johannes Zelssmann, born 1682. Johannes married Maria Reissig in 1705. They had a son named Johann Erhard Zeltzmann, born in 1712.

Erhard Zelsmann born 1679 in Phanstangen Prussia. Burgermeister of Oberkoskau Prussia, died 29 July 1742 Oberkoskau, married 21 Nov. 1702 in Oberkoskau to Johanna Eva Eiller b. 15 Jan. 1679 Oberkoskau d. 19 May 1745 Oberkoskau: They had 7 children:

1. Johann Adam b. 26 Feb. 1704 Oberkoskau
2. Johann Georg b. 16 Jul. 1706 Oberkoskau
3. Johanna Christina b. 22 Sep. 1708 Oberkoskau
4. Maria Catharina b. 26 Nov. 1711 Oberkoskau
5. Maria Elizabeth b. 01 Nov. 1714 Oberkoskau
6. Catharena Elizabeth b. 13 Nov. 1720 Oberkoskau
7. Johann Nicol b. 23 May. 1723 Oberkoskau

Hans Johann Nicol Zelsmann, born 1723, died Jul 26, 1804. 9 Feb. 1747 married Anna Eva Lonitzen, b. Dec. 7, 1714, and d Dec. 17, 1757. They were married in Unterkoskau, February 9, 1747. They had 2 children. The first was Johann Adam Zelsmann - born in Oberkoskau on December 16, 1747 - died August 19, 1821. Johann Adam, married in Unterkoskau on Jan.30 1781 to Catherina Erdmutha Seyfert, born? Spilmes Germany died? The second child was Maria Elizabeth b. 10 Mar. 1753 Oberkoskau she married John Christoph Rudolph.

Johann Adam b. 1747 and Erdmutha Seyfert had 4 + Children:

1. Johann Adam born 1781 Oberkoskau
2. Erdmutha born 178? Oberkoskau died? Married? Roth, in Spilmes
3. Maria Sophia born 178? Oberkoskau died? ? M - an Schnappauf in Unterkoskau
4. Johann Nicol Gottfried born 179?

The parents of Gottfried Zelsmann born July 13, 1819 were Johann Nicol Gottfried Zelsmann b.? D.? And Johanna Christiana Maria Rudolph b. Nov. 14 1794. D.?

On November 18, 1819, Christiana Maria Rudolph and Johann Gottfried Casper Thauwaldt were married in Gefell. On August 20, 1820, Johann Nicol Gottfried Zelsmann married Marie Elizabeth Ecknerin at the church in Stelzen, Germany. His father, Johann Nicol and his stepmother Maria Elizabeth in Oberkoskau raised Gottfried Zelsmann. From this marriage Gottfried had stepbrothers and stepsisters, listed as follows:

- 1820 - July 16, twin sons were born. They died the same day. They were baptized and named - Johann Heinrich and Johann Gottlieb Zelsmann.
- 1822 - December 24, a sister Hanne Christiana Frederika Zelsmann.
- 1823 - October 14, a brother Johann Heinrich Joseph Zelsmann.
- 1826 - April 23, a sister Caroline Sophia Dorothea Zelsmann.
- 1827 - December 27, a brother Johann Gottfried David Zelsmann.
- 1832 - February 18, a brother Carl Christian Wilhelm Zelsmann.
- 1834 - January 23, a sister Henrietta Caroline Wilhelmine Zelsmann.
- 1836 - July 3, a sister Henrietta Clementine Wilhelmine Zelsmann.

Before marrying Gottfried Zelsmann, Johanna Christiana Frederika Bodenschatz married Christoff Gottfried Simon on April 24, 1836 in Gefell.

Christoff Gottfried Simon died July 10, 1844; He was a blacksmith in Gefell. From this marriage four children were born:

1. Johanna Christiana Henrietta Simon b. Jun. 30 1836,
2. Gottlieb August Heinrich Simon b. Aug. 23 1838, d. Aug. 31 1897,
3. Johann Friedrich Louis Simon b. Jan.7 1841 d. Aug. 28 1849,
4. Friedrika Sophia Margaretha Simon b. Feb. 14 1843.

At this time we know very little about Johanna Christiana Henrietta Simon. She and Sophia came to the U.S. with Gottfried and Johanna Christiana Zelsmann. While doing research in Trinity Lutheran Church in St. Louis we found a Christiana Dede was a witness to the baptism of one of Caroline Zelsmann Kuehner's children, we feel this was Johanna Christiana Henrietta Simon. We traced her back to Altenberg Missouri where she married a Dede in 1864.

Sophia Simon married Adam Vierheller on February 22, 1866 at the Holy Cross Church in St. Louis (Brother of George Vierheller curator of the St. Louis Zoo for many years).

Johann (Gottfried) Carl Zelsmann was born in the state of Sachsen, County Meiningen, City of Oberkoscaw on the edge of the Thuringian Forest, Prussia. Married Johanna Christiana Frederika (Gretel) Bodenschatz Simon 1849 in the church in Gefell. Johanna Christiana was born Jan. 9, 1818 in Gefell. After their marriage they lived on a farm in the Gefell area raising goats. Feeding them the cut grass from the fields. This is what my grandfather had said was how they made their living when times became difficult.

In the years before coming to the United States, Gottfried worked in the stocking factory as a weaver for the town of Gefell. From that marriage the following children were born:

1849 - son died at birth.

1850 - March 10---Christiana Caroline Frederika Zelsmann.

1851 - Christiana Ernestina Frederika Zelsmann - lived 7 months, 23 days.

1853 - March 17---Johann Heinrich Carl Augustus Zelsmann.

1855 - July 13----Johann Friedrich Heinrich Zelsmann.

1856 – May-----Whilemina Zelsmann.

1859 - a child lived for 2 days.

There may have been other miscarriages or stillborn births between 1856-59.

Gottfried and Johanna Christiana and family boarded the Ship Adler (Eagle) in Bremen, Germany arriving in New York, October 28, 1864 with destination being St. Louis. The ship register read as follows -- Zelsmann, Carl 44, Johanna 46, (Christina 28, Sophia 21, not listed as a Simon) Caroline 15, Heinrich 12, Carl 8, Mine 7, and Fritz 6. The ages of some of the children are incorrect due to ship passage cost. During first few years in the United States, their name was not found in the St. Louis Register until 1869, where Gottfried was listed as a stocking weaver until the machine age proved more productive.

It is possible they lived in Chicago or in Perry County, Missouri for a short time, as there were Bodenschatz relatives living in both areas. Perry County, located about 90 miles south of St. Louis was a stopping off community for German Emigrants arriving in this country. It was a large Lutheran German community that the original Saxons had settled in 1838. It was a farming community where one could work and earn a little money while deciding in which direction they wanted to go. In 1852 Christiana Bodenschatz Zelsmann's mother, Maria Frederika (Knoll) Bodenschatz immigrated to Perry County Missouri. Christiana's father had died in Gefell, the mother most likely emigrated with her youngest son, and she is buried in Altenberg Mo. Erdman Bodenschatz and his family, sending letters back to the family still living in Gefell advised them to come to America.

With declining economic situations in the stocking factory it was an incentive for Gottfried and Johanna to relocate their family in the United States.

Caroline Zelsmann b.1850 married Jakob Kuehner - February 1872 at the Bethlehem Lutheran Church in St. Louis. Jakob and Caroline had 5 daughters. Caroline born 1871, Louise born 1875, Amelia born 1877, Matilda born 1879 and Pauline born 1884.

I was talking with a cousin the other day 11/96 and this is what she told me. There was a family story (Scandal) concerning Henry. It was heard through the ears of a small child many years ago.

The story was Henry had 2 wives; he had his wife and her daughter pregnant at the same time. The church records show he married Emma Knecht October 31, 1875 in St. Louis and she was

17 at the time of their marriage and Emma's father was most likely living at this time. This is the way I believe the story should be; Henry's father Gottfried Zelsmann who was married to Johanna Christiana Bodenschatz had a child in 1851 and Henry was also born in 1851. The child born to Gottfried and Johanna Christiana lived for 7 months and 23 days and died in 1852. Johanna Christianna's daughter, Christiana Henrietta Simon, Henry's mother, had just turned 15 at the time Henry was born. Gottfried and Johanna Christiana raised Henry as their own child and he used the name Zelsmann, although Henry's christening name was Carl Gottfried Heinrich Simon. The mystery of who was Henry's father has been solved. Perhaps a few other questions I have will be answered some day. Henry and Emma lived on the south side of St. Louis after they were married. They were listed as living on Carondelet (South Broadway now) Henry was listed as working for a shoe manufacture; later as a shoe manufacture himself. Heinrich owned and operated a shoe store in North St. Louis. He specialized in custom-made shoes. Heinrich and Emma raised eight children:

1. Wilhelm Jacob born 22 Aug. 1876
2. Henry F. born 8 Apr. 1878
3. Elenora born 19 Feb. 1880
4. Emma born 19 Jan. 1882
5. Clara born 1888
6. Paul born 1890
7. Edgar F. born 1892
8. Alma (Toots) born 15 Oct. 1894

Heinrich and Emma are buried in New Bethlehem Cemetery in St. Louis. Statistics on Henry and Emma's children are: Wilhelm died at age 17. Henry married Margerate Kulage. Elenora married George Funde. Paul married Leora Granneman. Henry, Elenora, and Paul did not have children. Clara married Henry Kraushaar and had three children and four grandchildren. Emma married John Unland and had two children but did not have grand-children. Edgar married May McDonnell they had one son named Edgar. Edgar Sr. was killed in an automobile accident in 1936. Alma married William Schaefering. They had one daughter named Jane and she had two sons. Emma lived to 108 years and 7 months. Several of Heinrich's other children came close to the century mark. Paul was in the restaurant business and became quite wealthy. Since they did not have children, upon the death of his wife, the estate was left to the maid.

In 1874 Charles (Carl Augustus 1853) married Emma Louise Mehnert at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in St. Louis. They didn't meet until they were 16 and both came to St. Louis. The Mehnert Family lived in Perry County until they came to St. Louis in 1873. Emma was born in the town of Marnen, which is near Berlin. She was born into a family of some wealth. The family had land holdings in Switzerland and Germany. It may have been her father or other close relative that was the Burgermeister of their town, Marnen. Charles and Emma moved to Lebanon, Missouri after 1877, and in 1892-1896, he served that town as its fourth Mayor. He was a wagon maker and a blacksmith in Lebanon, Mo. He operated his business under the name of Charles Sack, and Charles Zelsmann. I believe he learned some of his black-smiting skills from his grandfather Johann Bodenschatz, as he was the blacksmith for the town of Gefell. Charles was 11 or 12 when he left for America with his family. They raised 11 children to adulthood. They had several more children including a set of twins, which died near or at birth. Their children were Emma, Bertha, Ella, William, Louis Lee, Ida, Charles Jr., Edward, Robert, Harry and Frederick. At this time the statistics on Charles and Emma's children are: Emma never married and worked as a seamstress. Bertha married Walter Teague and had two sons, Harold and Lawrence. Grandchildren? Ella married Barney Archer and had two daughters, Clara and Helen. Grandchildren? William married Dessie McKnight. No children. Louis Lee married Maude Holman. They had one son Elmer Lee and two grandsons, Roger

and Jack. Louis Lee operated a butcher shop in Wichita, Kansas and Little Rock, Arkansas. Ida married Roy Crow. They had one son named Winston. Winston had one daughter, Sandra, She married Gene Williams JR, and they had 3 children. In later years, Ida and her family moved to Whittier, California, where Winston attended grade school with Richard Nixon. Charles Jr. christened as Karl Adam Louis, married Zoe Turner and had three sons. Fred, Earl, and Mehnert. Edward married Beryl Henderson. They had one daughter Mary Jane. They also lived in Whittier, California. Edward lived to 101+ years. Robert married Mary Sue Catterton. They had two sons Bill and Bob and one daughter Mary Louise. Frederick married Grace McFarland. They had two sons, Paul F. and Max. Paul remained in the Versailles Missouri area and married Leida Van Stavern. Max was an engineer and worked on the Panama Canal and met and married Emilia Queros of San Jose, Costa Rica. Max died in Costa Rica.

Wilhelmine Zelsmann born 1856 married Julius Schlegel in 1873 at Holy Cross Lutheran church in St. Louis. From this marriage four children were born.

1876 - March, Rudolph Schlegel

1879 - October, Emilie Paulina Schlegel.

1885 - December, William P. Schlegel.

1893 - January, Edwin Schlegel.

The only information at this date: Rudolph C. married Lena Hoegemeyer on 16 Nov. 1903. Emilie Paulina married Edward L. Muckerman. From this marriage three children were born. Ruth E., Raymond E. And Marie P. Muckerman. Paulina died in 1924 during a diphtheria epidemic. Edwin died at a young age. Raymond had one son, named Edward L. Edward L had 10 children. He moved his family to Arizona and Southern California.

Frederick Zelsmann was born July 13, 1855 and was Christened July 19 at the Evangelical Church in Gefell. He was Christened Johann Frederick Heinrich Zelsmann. He was 9 years old when he came to the United States. Frederick worked as a baker in St. Louis for several years before moving to Jefferson County with his mother and father. Frederick (Fritz) married Christina (Fina) Oehlert in 1893. Her family also lived in Perry County and later moved to Jarvis. He was 18 years her senior at the time of their marriage. In 1880s, Gottfried and Fritz were listed as being members of Zion Lutheran Church in Jarvis. In the 1880s they purchased a 40-acre farm in the Joachim Twp. across from Zion Lutheran Church, in Jarvis. He provided for his parents until their death.

Johanna Christine Gretel died in 1891. Christine died from a stroke and the last months of her life were mentally impaired. At the time of her death she had coal black hair without gray in it. Gottfried died in 1898. At the time of his death, he was working outside. He tapped on the window for attention, when Fritz came outside to him; he was dead, apparently from a heart attack. The family did there own funeral preparations of bathing and dressing the deceased. They went by horse and wagon 30 miles to purchase a \$27 coffin. Both are buried at Zion Lutheran Cemetery. Frederick became an U.S. citizen in 1891. Frederick and Fina raised four children. Two sons and two daughters. Theodore, Henry, Louise Gretel and Clara Magdalena. Louise and Clara never married and worked in a shoe factory in St. Louis. Henry moved to Chicago and worked as a chef in the Merchandise Mart Bldg. He was married twice but had no children. Theodore was my father. He was in the First World War. He drove an ammunition and supply truck in France and Belgium during his time in the service.

When he returned from the war, Pevely Dairy Co. employed him in St. Louis, making a salary of \$1 a day. With all that money he provided for his parents and saved enough money to get married. He married Ida Rosine Dittmer in 1922. He purchased a general merchandise store in

Jarvis and operated it until the time of his death in 1963. They raised four children. Loren, Velma, Laverne and Elaine. They had eight grandchildren.

The second N on the name Zelsmann was dropped after the First World War, approximately 1918, when they realized their allegiance was no longer with Germany but with the United States as did many other German families living in America.

The modern day Zelsman's have varied occupations and interests. We have merchants, teachers, engineers, florists, helicopter pilot, farmers, bank presidents, doctors, realty business, Olympic finals, some are artistic and musically talented, and the list goes on----all fine exceptional and talented persons.

This information was taken from the Church Books of Gefell and Unterkoskau Germany. German Emigrants to America Books. Marriage Books of St. Louis, and personal information from grandchildren and great-grandchildren of Gottfried and Johanna Bodenschatz Zelsmann.

In doing our research. I found names that were related to the Zelsmann family living in different parts of the USA. I know that large family groups immigrated together and also many families from the same town left for America together. In Perry County Missouri, I found the names Bodenschatz, Sittner, Preuser, Knoll, Thauwald, Feig, Roth, Hopfer and I probably overlooked one or two names that were related to the Zelsmann family of Gefell area.

There were 2 half sisters of our ancestor Gottfried that left for America soon after their weddings. One family settled in Wisconsin. There are about 5 families still living there. The Schnappauf family, the only living members with that name live in St. Louis. They are elderly and didn't seem to want to talk with me about family.

I found a Zelma Zelsman living in Columbus Ohio. Her husband's name was Herbert. She was very ill when I called her, so she could not speak with me very long. She did give me some information. Herbert's father's name was Charles and she said there was a grandfather. He had originally lived in Pennsylvania and she talked about him crossing the Allegany Mountains and being destitute when he arrived in Ohio. Herbert was 25 years her senior when they married and there was no other Zelsman's living in that could give me any information. I have not researched this Zelsman fully at this time, but I found a Charles Zelsmann from Rempendorf Germany, which is about 10 miles from Gefell, that immigrated to the USA in 1854 and applied for citizenship in 1870 in Allegheny County PA and listed his occupation in Germany as a key maker. This may have been a half brother to Gottfried.

In the Henry Zelsmann (1851) family tree, Allen Casey researched the Kraushaar family and Rev. Fugua researched the Knecht heritage. There were a couple of well-known forbearers in the Knecht family. "Meriwether Lewis" Emma Knecht's mother was a Lewis. Meriwether was to have been in the family line. "Jesse James" Emma Knecht's aunt in the Lewis family was also the aunt of Jesse James.

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~stlrw/>

While looking for a correct address of a Zelsman living in Florida, on the Internet, I found an Alvin Zelsman in Delray Beach. I called Alvin and had a very nice conversation with him. He can only research his family back to his grandfather. There were three brothers living in "Leanitz" at that time it was called White Ukraine and under Russian rule. The three brothers left for Canada shortly after the First World War. Each spelled his name differently. One spelled it Zeltzman, the other spelled Saltzman and the third spelled his name another way. They had a cousin in Toronto Canada that they were going to visit by the name of Jacob Zelsman and he told them to spell their name like his name so they would not confuse the

immigration official. I know there were people from Gefell area that immigrated to Russia about 1850. It may have been possible one of our Zelsmann cousins were among those leaving Gefell looking for a better life. Alvin did not believe his ancestors always lived in the Ukraine, but were uprooted from another country farther west, possibly Germany. Alvin was overwhelmed that the name Zelsman was a real name with many of us spread across the USA. He always thought it was just a made up name.

On the ancestor Bodenschatz side of the family, Erna Bodenschatz Kleine has researched this name and she is still working with the name.

I have enjoyed talking with all of my new cousins and hope to meet all of you someday. I will continue to research the name Zelsmann. I still have birth and deaths dates to pursue and put the information in the computer and if there are additions, corrections or deletions to make and of course I am always looking for pictures, which tell a story in themselves. I hope I hope to go further back then 1494 and as I write down ancestor's names and dates I find myself imagining what life must have been like in the 15th and 16th centuries. It has been a fun project and I can't wait to get out there and do some more.

Bodenschatz Family History

Johann Nicol Bodenschatz born 1720 Gefell married Dorothea Kandler born 1725. Children 5:

#1. Johann Reinhardt b. 4 Jul. 1739 Gefell married 11 Jan. 1777 Gefell to Justina Elizabeth Wachter her father Johann Christopher Wachter.

Children 4:

- 1. Gottlieb Bodenschatz Wachter b. 19 Aug. 1770. No history**
- 2. Maria Sophia Bodenschatz b. 20 Oct. 1777. Gefell. Married 7 Apr. 1799 to Carl Heinrich Lorenz. No history**
- 3. Johann Gottfried Bodenschatz born 15 Nov. 1780 in Gefell. Married 14 Feb. 1821 Gefell to Johanna Eva Maria Schulz.**
- 4. Johanna Sophia Maria Bodenschatz born 18 Aug. 1784 in Gefell. Married 14 Jan. 1813 Gefell to Johann Adam Schneider. No history**

***2. Johann Erdmann Bodenschatz b. 16 May 1760 Gefell. Married 8 Feb. 1778 Gefell to Rosina Koenig. Children 7:**

- 1. Johann Carl Fredrick b, Nov. 1778 d. 12 Jan. 1783**
- 2. Johann Fredrich Otto born 9 Feb. 1781 in Gefell. No history.**
- 3. Johann Christian Carl b. 3 Jan. 1784 Gefell. No history**
- 4. Auguste Christiane Charlotte b. 4 Feb. 1787 Gefell. Married 19 Jan 1809 Gefell to Heinrich Christian Schmidt. No history.**
- 5. Johanna Christiana Frederika born 21 Feb. 1790 in Gefell. No history**
- 6. *Johann Christian Gottfried b. 13 Oct. 1792 Gefell married 13 May 1813 Gefell to *Augustina Maria Fredericha Knoll b. 26 Sep. 1788 Gefell. Father Johann Karl Knoll.**
- 7. Johanna Christine Elizabeth b. 12 Feb. 1795 Gefell d. 22 Feb. 1797 Gefell.**