

Galician Family Study

Introduction: The partition of Poland took place in 1772. It was divided among Russia, Prussia and Austria. Joseph II, Emperor of Austria, wished to place skilled farmers in his territory. In 1781, he appealed to the Mennonite community in the German Palatinate to relocate to an area called Galicia, Austria. He granted numerous concessions relating to their doctrine and offered other incentives for them to come. They were settled on well-equipped homesteads made available with liberal terms. Of some 3,300 German families that accepted this offer and other offers, 28 families from the Alsace, Palatinate, and Montbeliard relocated to the vicinity of Lemberg, Galicia, Austria. [Now part of Ukraine and named Lwow.] 15 of these families of Swiss and German descent located to new communities located around Lemberg, where they lived in peace and prospered for about 100 years.

100 years later, there were 144 Mennonite families in Galicia. As the population increased, there was a need for additional homesteads. There also was a shift in the attitude of the ruling governments. The young men were no longer exempt from military service.

70 families moved to America in the period of 1880-1890. They found settlements at Arlington and Hanston, Kansas. In 1882, the Winona and St. Peter Railway Company advertised in Europe for settlers to develop property along their right of way. They offered 1,160,000 acres of choice farming land for \$2 to \$8 an acre in southern Minnesota and eastern Dakota. This enticed additional families to leave Galicia, Austria and come to the United States. Some settled in Kansas and others in Minnesota.

Those that came to Minnesota were comprised of 22 families. They settled in Westbrook, Butterfield, Rosehill, and Des Moines River Township around 1882. Many of their descendants still live in the area while others have dispersed to Kansas, Iowa, California, Canada, and elsewhere. This study is addressed to that group of settlers.

Control of Galicia was returned to Poland in 1919 after World War I. After the Russian-German treaty was signed in 1939, the area was ceded to Russia. All Germans were evacuated to western Poland. In 1945, they left their home and went west as the Russian armies swept through the area. About a third of the surviving Mennonites lost their lives at this time. In 1948, many resettled in Uruguay with the Danzig Mennonite community. Many of these later returned to Germany to live out the rest of lives in what they considered their homeland.

Centennial Celebration: Arnold Bachmann published the book Galizien Mennoniten in Wandel der Zeiten in Germany in 1984. This work was done in conjunction with people on both sides of the Atlantic. It was an extension of the volume published in 1934 by Peter Bachmann titled Mennoniten im Kleinpolen. The work was introduced in 1982 following the 1981 100th anniversary of the arrival of ancestors who came from Galicia, Austria to Minnesota in the 1880's. These German volumes relate the saga of those Mennonite families that came to America as well as those that remained in Europe.

Over the years, a number of errors have been identified in the original work. Additionally, the place of birth and death were shown without indicating the State or Province. There also have been numerous additional family connections identified as well as new

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generations of children.

The use of computers in genealogy has provided the motivation to revise this data. This process has been diligently pursued since about 1991. It is hoped that more families will provide their updated information with available source documentation.

Problems: There are a few problems that arise when working with the existing “Bachmann” reference numbers.

1] The position of the sibling within the family becomes confusing when there are more than nine children. To resolve this problem, all values greater than 9 are enclosed in brackets. E.G.”[12]”. Thus, all entries should coincide with the assigned generation value and there should be the corresponding number of digits after the decimal point when the numbers within the brackets are counted as 1.

2] There are instances where Bachmann did not record infant births and deaths. This resulted in errors relative to the family position when these omissions are added. This problem has been handled by assigning a supplemental alpha character after the reference number. “a” through “z” as required. This means that the previously assigned reference numbers are preserved but are modified by the addition of the postscript letter. In almost all cases, the “a” reference will refer to an infant death that preceded the known individual’s reference number, which is then modified by adding the letter “b”.

Current Updated Files: The original Bachmann files contained information on about 20,000 family members. The current files contain about 20,749 names, 4,612 different surnames and 7,167 marriages. The earliest birth date listed is 1525. It covers the known families of those that stayed in Europe

as well as those that later went to Canada and South America.

Reference Numbering: Each individual is assigned a reference code comprised of an alpha series and a decimal numeric value. The alpha characters define the genealogical family. [Reference the attached table.] The genealogical references follow the male line. Therefore, if both the husband and wife are from a Galician family, the children are extended from the husband’s family line. If the wife is a Galician descendant and the husband is not, the children follow their mother’s family code.

The family alpha code designation must be comprised of at least two characters. Each assigned code must be unique and mutually exclusive to allow search of the genealogical database. This uniqueness must also be preserved if more than two characters are used. That is, any two-character code set may not appear in any other character code set of the same size or larger. The special postscript code of [sp] and [fc], described later must be excluded from use within the family code to avoid ambiguity.

The numeric value is assigned based on the generation and the position of the sibling within the family. The first Galician progenitor of a family is assigned a generation value of 0. The next generation is given the value of 1 and so on. The numbers after the decimal point represent the order of birth within that family entity. Thus, the reference number ew2.34 defines a Ewy family member of the second generation who is the fourth child of the third child of the first generation.

Special Notation Symbols: The “[sp]” or “[so]” postscript is used to connect a spouse or “significant other” to a specific family member. The “[fc]” designation is used to

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define a family connection outside of the Galician Group. It is most often used to define a non-Galician spouse's family member. E.g. The parents or family of a spouse. This information is used in the construction of the USG reports.

Bracketed Surnames: If the name is enclosed in brackets [name], it refers to an unknown surname. In most cases, it is an unknown maiden name of the wife. However, if the surname of the husband is unknown, the wife's surname is enclosed in [brackets]. This results in the children, if any, being assigned the same [bracketed] surname as the father. It is hoped that the correct information will eventually be found and the correct surname data entered.

Surname Spelling: Some surnames may have different spellings due to German to English and also due to sensitivity to anti-German sentiment during World War I and II. The use of diacritical marks has been used on the original European names when known.

Date References: The calendar dates in this document are expressed in the European fashion of placing the day of the week first followed by the month and then the year. To avoid ambiguity, the month is printed in an abbreviated form. E.G. 29 Sep 1930. Unfortunately, some of the Bachmann work contains errors because of the practice followed in the United States. Thus, consider the possibility of the fact that the month and day may have been interchanged when doing your family research.

Birth Dates: The date of birth is estimated if unknown. This allows printing of reports that follow the approximate generations of the individuals. The birth date of the wife is estimated based on the age of the husband, if known, by adding two years to his birth year.

The reverse applies if the birth year if the wife is known. The age of the children is estimated by assuming the first child is born 22 to 25 years after the birth of the father or one-year after the date of the marriage if known. The other children follow in two-year intervals. Again, these methods are not perfect but they place people in their approximate generation and are a far better alternative than leaving the birth year blank. All estimated birth dates are identified by the "abt" prefix.

Adopted and Stepchildren: All adopted and stepchildren are included in the printed publications. The adoption or step status is recorded in the database when it is known.

Unidentified Children: There are some instances where the name and sex of a child is not known. The entry will reflect a marriage with an unknown date, the first name is identified with a "?", and the age of the child is estimated as mentioned above. The sex of these children is left with the default of "female". Again, it is hoped that the correct data will come to light allowing corrections to be made.

Death Dates: The date of death is entered as unknown if there is no source of factual data and the age of the individual exceeds 95 years. The Social Security records have been used to determine some of the death dates. Most of these records only give the month and year. These records may also be used to provide the last known location of the person if there is no other data. However, it should be remembered that these records reflect last known address of the office where the death benefit was paid. Thus, it may be possible that the person died elsewhere.

Marriage Dates: The order of the spouse in a multi-spouse relationship is determined by the date of the marriage. Thus, the date of the first

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marriage must precede the second marriage, etc. If the actual date of the marriages is not known, the order must be defined by the use of "bef" for before and "aft" for after. These are prefixed before the estimated marriage dates to force the order of the spouses to comply with the defined information. Divorce information is recorded if known.

Data Management Program: The genealogy program that was used to enter the data was Family Tree Maker for Windows Version 11 published by Broderbund.

Document Organization: There is only one entry per individual in the main database covering the families listed. That is, even though a person may appear in more than one family tree, there is only one entry logged in the database. This entry may include other details on the family group sheet such as when they left Europe, and where they resided at different times. The descendent trees are printed with the following information depending on its availability: Name; reference number; birth date; birth location; death date; death location; marriage date; and last known residence location. The place of residence is entered for the principal Galician family member. Residence for the spouse is not normally included.

Notes regarding published descendent trees: There are two sets of outline descendent trees available, the complete Galician family tree and the limited family tree. Duplicate descendants are suppressed in both instances. A unique number is placed in brackets in front of each duplicated individual as the result of intermarriage within the same family. The children of such a marriage will be associated with the first person printed in the outline descendent tree.

The full Galician family tree is constructed

using the entire database. Both the male and female descendant trees are extended from the progenitors of the original European Mennonite families. This allows for a more meaningful ancestor trees to be prepared. However, this also results in large family trees since it shows the extensions on the male and female side of the family. Due to the frequent inter-marriages within the families, there are many common ancestors shared between the various family lines. The full family database is particularly useful in creating ancestor charts.

The limited family tree is constructed by creating a separate data file comprised of only those members from a specific family group. Those spouses that are part of a different Galician family are merged into this database but the children appear on their paternal tree only. The limited database of a specific family reference code is particularly useful in creating descendent charts from the prime progenitor of a family line. Remember that the "xfam" code must also be entered for the parents of intra-family spouses to enable that information to be included on USG and DAR genealogical reports.

Corrections and additions: Please note that there are constant corrections and additions being made to the database. The database is always being searched for inconsistencies and outright errors. New data and corrections to the file will be made on a periodic basis and addenda issued. It is planned to publish notices of such updates in various Genealogy publications to enable people to acquire copies of the latest updates.

The editors solicit corrections and additions. Corrections will be accepted in any form, verbal, hand written, or **GEDCOM**.

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Residence Information: A reference to a Galician residence is shown as a house number in a particular town. E.G. Rosenberg, #8. All other references should reflect the town and

the State in the US or the town and country if outside the US. The last known residence address is included in some cases.

Privacy Policy: *The information that relates to living people is restricted to family members only. All data files that relate to living persons are disclosed only to those recognized genealogical organizations that are committed to not publishing data on living persons. These organizations are committed to withhold such information until more than 95 years after the established birth date or if the death of the person has been recorded.*

Notice: *Any distribution of the information contained on the source documentation in printed or digital form must acknowledge the source and author of this work. All inquiries requesting copies of this work shall be directed to the author.*

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Principal progenitors and reference codes assigned as of November 1997.

	Surname	Reference Code	Given Name	Birth date
01	Bachmann	ba	Michael	05/Jan/1739
02	Bergthold	be	Daniel	01/Apr/1747
03	Brubacher	br	Tobias	15/Aug/1743
04	Ewy	ew	Christian	06/Dec/1754
05	Forrer	fo	Abraham	03/Oct/1833
06	Huwen/Hubin	hu	Johann [von]	02/Jan/1739
07	Jotter	jo	Johannes	14/Apr/1836
08	Klein	kl	Friedrich [von]	05/Mar/1776
09	Kintzi	ki	Peter	05/Apr/1740
10	Laise	la	Rudolf	abt 1791
11	Linscheid	li	Jakob	15/Jan/1759
12	Merk	me	Daniel	06/Dec/1764
13	Müller	mj	Jakob, Jr	03/Jan/1753
14	Müller	ms	Jakob, Sr	12/Dec/1740
15	Rupp	rh	Heinrich	01/Dec/1760
16	Rupp	rj	Johann	05/Apr/1745
17	Schmidt	sc	Jakob	05/Apr/1750
18	Stauffer	stja	Jakob	01/Feb/1835
19	Stauffer	stjo	Johann	07/Dec/1847
20	Stauffer	stch	Christian	08/Feb/1865

Abbreviations used for U S States, South America, and Canada

AL	Alabama	HI	Hawaii	MA	Massachusetts
AK	Alaska	ID	Idaho	MI	Michigan
AZ	Arizona	IL	Illinois	MN	Minnesota
AK	Arkansas	IN	Indiana	MS	Mississippi
CA	California	IA	Iowa	MO	Missouri
CO	Colorado	KA	Canada	MT	Montana
CT	Connecticut	KS	Kansas	NE	Nebraska
DE	Delaware	KY	Kentucky	NV	Nevada
DC	District of Columbia	LA	Louisiana	NH	New Hampshire
FL	Florida	ME	Maine	NJ	New Jersey
GA	Georgia	MD	Maryland	NM	New Mexico
NY	New York	PA	Pennsylvania	TN	Tennessee
NC	North Carolina	PR	Puerto Rico	TX	Texas
ND	North Dakota	RI	Rhode Island	UT	Utah
OH	Ohio	SA	South America	VT	Vermont
OK	Oklahoma	SC	South Carolina	WV	West Virginia
OR	Oregon	SD	South Dakota	WI	Wisconsin
				WY	Wyoming