## The Origin of the Early Kamenka Settlers, 1823 - 1825

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#### Introduction

In 1805, Count Peter Wittgenstein purchased the Kamenka estate in Podolia. He used his right and influence to invite Germanic settlers to join him on his estate. Wittgenstein singled out a part of his land, arranging a colony named Antoinettental, in honour of his wife Countess Antoinette Snarskaya.

In 1823, a group of Germanic immigrants, 14 families numbering 60 people, arrived in Kamenka. Many of these people were our ancestors. Some of the family names were Denger, Germann, Jaworsky, Mueller, Schaefer, Schmidt, Stadelmeyer and Zipp. Most of them came from developed regions of viticulture and winemaking in Baden-Wurttemberg. The migrants knew that they could use their skills in their new home which had favourable conditions for growing grapes.

In 1824 - 1825 another 26 families, mostly natives of Wurttemberg arrived in Kamenka. Some of the family names were M. Kleinknecht, G. Lang, G. Loeffler, G. Mueller, K. Steigmann and B. Schmidt.

This introduction was taken from a book about the development of the German Colony of Antonovka (Antoinnethal), a colony adjacent to Kamenka, by E. Shiplova.

We have noticed that there are generally three groups of Germanic peoples that emigrated to Kamenka in the mid 1820's - those who came from Galicia (who lived there for 30-40 years after leaving Wurttemberg), those who came directly from Wurttemberg, and those who came from Prussia. The Prussian Germans had very little interaction with the Wurttembergers - there were very few intermarriages and godparent relations in the early years. As the decades went on, by the end of the 19th century, the Prussians and the Wurttembergers started mixing more.

We have worked for the last 8 months trying to identify the parents of Margaretha Schmidt (Reinhold Rollers' mother) and Jacob Schmidt and Elisabeth Schmidt (Parents of Antonetta Schmidt, the mother of Philipp Henry Burron). Through this work we have also uncovered the origin of most of the original families that emigrated to Kamenka. Let's take a look at each one.

### **Section 1: Origins of the Families Mentioned in the Book**

**Denger:** We believe this is a spelling mistake, the settler who arrived in 1823 was *Christoph Carl Edinger*. In Kamenka he is listed as being the father of 3 children with Margaretha Clemens, with a 4th later found through a marriage record. At some point after 1838, the family

moved to the Gluckstahl region, where they had a child Christina born in Jahorlik in 1844, and may have had more children in Gluckstahl after that. As his earliest known child was in 1827 (known from a marriage record), when his wife Margaretha was 25, it is likely they had previous children who were born between 1823-1833, when there were no records available.

We found a death record in Kamenka for a Friedrich Edinger, born in 1819 in Austria. The terms Galicia and Austria were often interchanged in these records - Galicia was a province of the Austrian Empire. Since there were no other known Edinger's in Kamenka, it could be deduced that Friedrich is either a son or brother to Christoph Carl, which implies that Christoph Carl was born in Galicia as well.

If Friedrich was Christoph Carl's son, it would have to have been with a first wife, as he married Margaretha Clemens in Gluckstahl sometime after 1823.

**Germann:** Johann Jakob Germann was born in 1768. We do not know where he was born, as we have no death record or first marriage record for him. We know the year of his birth from his marriage record to his second wife Anna Katharina Elisabetha Mueller in 1804. The earliest mention we have of Johann Jakob was in Hohenbach, Galicia, in 1791. There are no church records for Hohenbach so we are lacking information on his early family. His first wife was named Katharina and they had 3 daughters born in Hohenbach.

The family moved to Josefow, Galicia sometime between 1792 - 1799. Katharina died sometime after 1799, and he remarried in 1804. Johann Jakob and Anna Katharina Elisabetha had 6 children born between 1805 - 1818 in various settlements in the Josefow area. In 1823 the Germann family emigrated to Kamenka, where his children had their own families.

We have no emigration record of Johann Jakob from Germany to Galicia in 1783-1784. He would have been too young to have his own card, his father should have had one. We have only found one Germann family that emigrated to Galicia and there is no proof that Johann Jakob is related to them. It is possible that Johann Jakob snuck in and was not an official citizen.

There is a death record for a Helena Ormann, it lists her birth year as 1795, birth location as Loffingen, Wurttemberg, and her fathers name as Peter Germann, and that he was a Kamenka colonist. This Peter Germann is unrelated to Johann Jakob Germann as in 1795 he was living in Galicia.

**Jaworsky:** The Jaworsky family is quite interesting, as they are the only Catholic family that emigrated to Kamenka from Galicia. From the records we've seen, they did not keep separate from the Lutheran families, which was a common practice. His children married into Lutheran families, and Johann and his family were often listed as godparents to other Lutheran children, which was very uncommon at the time.

Johann Jaworsky and Elisabetha Keichel had 6 children that we know of. Records are sparse with Catholic families so most of what we have is from the marriage records of his children that married into Lutheran families. We don't know Johann and Elisabetha's year of birth, year of marriage, or when they died. But based on the ages of the children we know, and the ages of this children when they married, it is safe to estimate the birth years of Johann and Elisabeth between 1790 - 1800.

So what do we know for certain? Johann and Elisabeth were living in Suszno in 1818 when their son Johann was born. They left for Kamenka in 1823, and their children had their own families there. Their son Matthias had something extraordinary happen - when he was 20, in 1838, he married Maria Germann (daughter of Johann Jakob), who was widowed and 46 at the time! She might have been older than his mother. Maria passed away sometime before 1855, when Matthias had his first child with his new wife, Catharina Roller, daughter of Aloisius. Aloisius was the brother of Michael Roller, so Catharina would have been the cousin of Friedrich Roller.

Anyways, Matthias started his family late due to his first wife being 26 years older than him. His first child with Catharina Roller was born in 1855, when he was 37, and she was 22. He and Catharina had 5 more children, with the last being born in 1875 when he was 57.

Two of Matthias's siblings moved to Gluckstahl, which was a common occurrence that we discussed in a previous post. Johanna Jaworsky married Johann Heib, and no children were recorded. His brother Wasil was found to have died in Gluckstahl in 1850 at the age of 23.

**Mueller:** There were multiple Mueller families that emigrated to Kamenka from Galicia in 1823. We have the families of: Peter Mueller and Anna Maria Mueller, Wendel Mueller and Katharina Senft, Heinrich Mueller and Anna Maria Weisbrodt, and Nicolaus Mueller and Maria Catharina Germann. Anna Maria Mueller (the wife of Peter Mueller), Wendel Mueller and Anna Katharina Mueller (the wife of Johann Jakob Germann) were all siblings. Nicolaus's wife Maria Catharina Germann was the one who married Matthias Jaworsky, mentioned previously.

**Peter Mueller:** Peter Mueller was born in 1788 in Josefow, Galicia, to Adam Mueller and Anna Elisabetha Schultz, who were from Deimberg, Wurttemberg. Peter married Anna Maria Mueller and they had two children that we know of - Katharina Sophia and Johann Jacob. The family moved to Kamenka in 1823 and Johann Jacob had his family there.

**Wendel Mueller:** Wendel Mueller was born in 1788, likely in Josefow, Galicia, to Philipp Mueller and Maria Catharina Holtzderber, who were from Woerrstadt, Rheinland. They had 10 children, and we have a record of Wendel and his two sisters emigrating to Kamenka. Wendel married Katharina Senft in 1808 and they had 5 known children. Their two sons Wilhelm and Friedrich both had families in Kamenka. Friedrich married Albertina Buro, the sister of Friedrich Christian Buro.

**Heinrich Mueller:** We have records of Heinrich Mueller and Anna Maria Weisbrodt having a child in Kamenka in 1834, and records of Heinrich as a godparent a few years later. We do not

have death records from Kamenka for Heinrich and Anna Maria so we can't say with certainty where they were born. There are a Heinrich Mueller and Anna Maria Weisbrodt in Josefow that would be of the right age, and they are missing marriage and death information in the Galician records, so this could likely be them. Weisbrodt was a very common name in Josefow and Suszno, areas where many emigrants from Galicia to Podolia lived, so it would be an incredible coincidence that Anna Maria Weisbrodt and Heinrich Muller did not come from the Josefow area.

Heinrich Mueller may have been the father of Maria Margaretha Mueller (b. 1822) and Maria Catharina Mueller (b. 1831). Maria Margaretha married Philipp Jakob Wagner in 1844 and it lists her father as the deceased Kamenka colonist Heinrich Mueller. Maria Charlotte married Gottfried Zipp in Kamenka in 1853, the record also lists her father as the deceased Kamenka colonist Heinrich Mueller. No mother is mentioned in either case.

There may have been a second Henrich Mueller in Kamenka, possibly a son of the initial Heinrich Mueller, or somebody completely different. There is a marriage record for Maria Catharina Mueller to Franz Ruck in 1853, which lists her father as the Kamenka colonist Heinrich Mueller. It does not list him as deceased.

Since these records never mention the name of the mother it makes it very difficult to figure out who is who.

**Nicolaus Mueller:** Nicolaus Mueller was the first husband of Maria Catharina Germann, who we mentioned earlier marrying Matthias Jaworsky, who was 26 years younger than her. We have a record of Nicolaus and Maria Catharina having a son, Gottfried, in 1832 in Kamenka. Nicolaus must have passed away before 1838 when Maria Catharina remarried, but we have no record of his death.

**Schaefer:** We believe this to be another typo, and the settler mentioned is Andreas Schiefer. Andreas was born around 1780 in Gultstein, Wurttemberg. Andreas was the stepfather of Jacob Schmidt, the husband of Maria Rosina Bredy, and Wendel Schmidt, the husband of Magdalena Zipp. Andreas married Maria Dorothea Erhard in 1804 after her husband Nickel Schmidt passed away. They had 4 children together, the first three in Smolin, and the last one in Josefow in 1817. The Schiefer's emigrated to Kamenka in 1823, and their fate after that is unknown. Except their daughter Margaretha - she married Friedrich Baesler in Kamenka and they had many children and grandchildren there.

**Schmidt:** The Schmidt family that arrived in Kamenka in 1823 was the family of Nickel Schmidt and Maria Dorothea Erhard who came from Reichenbach, Rhineland. As previously mentioned, Nickel Schmidt passed away in Galicia and Maria Dorothea remarried Andreas Schiefer. Three of their children married and had families in Kamenka - Jacob Schmidt and Rosina Bredy, Wendel Schmidt and Margaretha Zipp, and Anna Katharina Schmidt and Johann Christian Baesler. We have mentioned Rosina Bredy before - she is the presumed sister of Peter Bredy,

the direct ancestor of all of the Bredy's in our family. Jacob and Rosina had 5 children and 26 grandchildren, and their descendants married into many of the different Kamenka families.

Looking back even further, Nickel Schmidt's great grandfather was called Johann Veith Schmidt. He was born in 1660 in Elsass-Lothringen (the region between France and Germany which has changed hands many times over the centuries). His death record states that he was living in Heimbach, Rhineland when he died, and was buried with the permission of a "Madame de Werthenstein". This implies he had some connections to nobility and was from a French speaking region of Lothringen.

Stadelmeyer: The Stadelmeyer family originated in Talheim, Wurttemberg. Balthasar Stadelmeyer emigrated to Galicia with his family as a child and settled in Rudki in 1798. Balthasar married Christina Link and they had 6 children together in Stanin, Galicia. The family emigrated to Kamenka in 1823. Two of their children married and had families of their own in Kamenka - Johann Martin Stadelmeyer and Christina Cresentia Wechselbrau had 7 children, and Johann Friedrich Stadelmeyer and Catharina Elisabetha Steigmann had 6 children together. Johann Martin and Christina's son Heinrich Jacob and his wife Maria Elisabetha Nussberger lived in Jahorlik in 1846 - we mentioned them in the previous post about Margaretha Schmidt, the wife of Friedrich Roller. Johann Martin Stedelmeyer died on the 29 Dec in 1884 Odessa. The death record mentioned that he died "aboard" and that he was a "Kamenkaner colonist" and a "widower" of 77 years old.

Johann Friedrich and Catharina's daughter Friederike married Georg Martin Roller, the brother of Friedrich Roller.

**Zipp:** Johann Heinrich Zipp and Elisabetha Katharina Steuernagel were from Niedershausen, Hesse. They emigrated to Galicia in 1783 and settled in Unterwalden. Their son Wilhelm Zipp was a baby when they arrived in Galicia. He married Magdalena Wirsching before 1802 and they had 6 children. The family emigrated to Kamenka in 1823. Their daughter Magdalena married Wendel Schmidt, as mentioned before, and their son Franz Jakob married Appolonia Stadelmeyer. Their descendants married into many of the Kamenka families, and Franz and Appolonia are direct ancestors of members of our group.

- **M. Kleinknecht:** Michael Kleinknecht and Sara Hutterichs were from Erdmannhausen, Wurttemeberg, born in 1775 and 1781 respectively. We have already done a post on the Kleinknecht family so we won't go into too much detail here. Michael and Sara brought 10 children with them to Kamenka, and most had families of their own. Their youngest daughter Henriette married Michael Roller, their son was Friedrich Roller, the father of Reinhold Roller and direct ancestor to many of those in our group.
- **G. Lang:** We believe G. Lang is Adam Gottlieb Lang. Adam Gottlieb was from Sulzfield, Baden, born in 1781. He had 5 children with Dorothea Lutz, and after she passed away he had 3 more with Luisa Wurich. Adam Gottlieb was listed as one of the founding members of the Bessarabian community of Naslawtscha in 1817, which may throw some doubt that he is the G.

Lang mentioned emigrating to Kamenka in 1824. He may have moved to Kamenka in 1824 from Naslawtscha, the two communities had a close connection and many people moved back and forth.

The other option is Adam Gottleb's son Gottlieb Michael - he was listed as having 6 children with Auguste Propp between 1839 - 1850 in Dunjawice, Podolia, a nearby settlement. He was born in 1805 so he could have been listed as a head of household in 1824.

**G. Loeffler:** The only Loeffler we see in the early Kamenka records is Martin Loeffler, who married Franciska Roller (sister of Michael Roller) and had 6 children between 1832 - 1847. We have two options here as to Martin's identity:

- Martin Wilhelm Loeffler, born to Georg Martin Loeffler and Anna Barbara Waegel in Waldbach, Wurttemberg. George Martin's sister Rosina married Friedrich Gottlieb Mueller, who also emigrated to Kamenka. Two of Martin Wilhelm's sisters married men from Gluckstahl, a colony with close relations to Kamenka, and had their families there. The Steigmann family was also from the Waldbach region - so three families from the same place emigrated to Kamenka.
- 2. We have found the emigration record of a Gottlieb Loeffler, a wine maker (a profession which was highly sought after by the authorities in Kamenka), saying that he and his family went to Russia in 1818. We see no more evidence of this family after that. We have records of their children born in Wurttemberg but Martin is not listed among them.

It is possible that both Loeffler families emigrated to Kamenka. It is very likely that the Martin Loeffler in Kamenka is the son of Georg Martin Loeffler, option 1, given the connection with the other families from the same town that also came to Kamenka. Often families would travel together when emigrating for safety reasons.

**G. Mueller:** We first found Gottlieb Mueller through his death record in the Kamenka church records. He was born in 1789. These death records are sparse and the majority of the settlers are missing, but Gottlieb was there. It listed his birth year, father and place of birth. We searched for a long time but found no trace of him with those facts. It turns out there was an error in the death record, and his place of birth was incorrect. We found him living in Waldbach, Wurttemberg. There were emigration records for him and his children, showing their application to emigrate to Russia.

This Mueller family was from the same small town as the Loeffler's previously mentioned, and the Steigmann family too! All three families emigrated to Kamenka in 1824-1825. Gottlieb married Rosina Loeffler, the sister of George Loeffler, mentioned in the previous section. Gottlieb and Rosina had at least 4 children, 3 of them were born in Waldbach, and 1 in Kamenka. Carl Christoph Mueller married Elisabeth Ruck, Friedrich Gottlieb Jr married Anna Maria Reis, and Friederike Friederike Mueller married Johann Thomas Kleinknecht. All three of the couples had many children and they married into the other Kamenka families.

Now here is a connection to a more familiar name - Margaretha Schmidt.

Gottlieb and Rosina had a daughter born in Kamenka in 1826 - Margaretha Mueller. She married Johann Friedrich Schmidt, the son of Jacob Schmidt and Maria Rosina Bredy, mentioned in the a previous section and in the previous post. We believe Margaretha Schmidt to be the daughter of Johann Friedrich Schmidt and Margaretha Mueller. So for all of those reading this who are descended from Reinhold Roller and Alvina Schmidt - these are likely your ancestors we're talking about! We are hoping to prove that they are Margaretha Schmidt's parents through DNA analysis in the near future.

Gottlieb's sister emigrated to Kamenka as well - her name was Regina Magaretha Mueller, she was married to Johann Georg Steigmann before emigrating to Kamenka. This is another common name you'll see in a lot of records.

**K. Steigmann:** We believe K. Steigmann to be Johann Konrad Steigmann from Scheppach, the third family from Scheppach who emigrated to Kamenka. Konrad was born in Scheppach in 1781. He married Katherine Dorothea Mulfinger, and they and their 5 surviving children emigrated to Kamenka. Two of Konrad's brothers also left Scheppach with him - Johann Friedrich and Johann Georg.

Johann Friedrich Steigmann married Maria Dorothea Simpfendoerf, and they and their children emigrated to Kamenka.

Johann Georg Steigmann married Regina Margaretha Mueller - the previously mentioned sister of Gottlieb Mueller. They and their children moved to Bessarabia instead of Kamenka, and lived in the settlements of Bergdorf and Teplitz.

The descendants of Johann Friedrich and Johann Konrad married into the Kamenka families, such as Nussberger, Stadelmeyer, Schmidt and Mueller.

**B. Schmidt**: B Schmidt is Hans Bernhard Schmidt. He was born in Mossingen, Wurttemberg in 1792 to Dionysius Schmidt and Agnes Maria Katharina Haap. In his life he emigrated from Mossingen to Brigidau, Galicia, to Suszno Galicia, and to Kamenka, Podolia. Bernhard is part of a larger discussion so we will talk more about him later in the post.

So now we know the origins of all of the initial Kamenka settlers mentioned in the official history of Kamenka. But this was not a comprehensive list, there were many other families that emigrated as well. What do we know about them? Let's go through them one at a time.

Johann Philipp Ormann: Johann Jakob Ormann was born in 1764 in Ramstein-Meisenbach, Rheinland. In 1792, in Josefow, Galicia, he had a son named Johann Philipp Ormann with Juliana Steinkonig. In 1799 the Germann family moved to Josefow, and their daughter Juliana married Johann Philipp Ormann. Johann Philipp's brother, Philipp Jakob, was married to Helena Germann in Hoffnungstal, Bessarabia and moved to Kamenka to be with his brother in 1824. It seems that Helena Germann and Julianna Germann were not related.

Philipp Jakob Ormann and Helena Germann had at least 2 more children in Kamenka in the late 1830's. It seems Johann Philipp Ormann and Juliana Germann decided against staying in Kamenka and moved to Hoffnungstal shortly after 1824.

**Gottfried Nieder:** Gottfried Nieder and his wife Anna Maria Germann feature prominently in the early Kamenka church book records. They are listed as godparents to many children between 1833 - 1850. Gottfried Nieder and Anna Maria had 4 known children between 1832 - 1846, and two of them married and had families in Kamenka. We know Anna Maria Germann, she is the daughter of Johann Jakob Germann and Anna Katharina Mueller, who we have mentioned previously. Gottfried Nieder's origin is unknown. It does not appear he came from Wurttemberg or Galicia, it is likely that he is one of the Prussian immigrants that we know very little about.

Christian Fassler: We know very little about Christian Fassler's origins. He had 9 known children with Elisabeth Zimmermann between 1841 - 1861. Based on that Elisabeth would have been born around 1820, and assuming it was Christian's first marriage, he would have been born around 1815. This means it would have been his parents who were the initial immigrants. We did find in the Wurttemberg emigration records a Michael Faisler from Deckenpfronn who emigrated to Russia in 1817. Michael could be the father of Christian but we have no proof of this.

**Johann Albrecht Hemminger:** The Hemminger family has been extensively researched by other genealogists. Catharina Elisabetha Hemminger was born in 1815 to Johann Albrecht Hemminger. She married Johann Carl Schmidt, who we will speak of in the next section.

This extract is from the genealogist named Jerry Frank, who is a descendant of the Hemmingers:

"The Hemminger family came from Nagold, Wuerttemberg (source: Nagold Ortssippenbuch). The family can be further traced back to ca. 1560 in that community. All the other Hemmingers at Kochanow (Volhynia) were related and originated in Nagold as did the Raff family who were related. Some Hemminger families migrated to Zapust, Volhynia in the early 1830s. Later descendants migrated from Volhynia to Manitoba in the 1890s. All the Hemmingers now scattered throughout Canada descend from this family. At least one branch of the Hemmingers remained in Kochanow and descendants are known to be living in Wisconsin. Records tracking this relationship are not available. These would have been included in the Rawa Mazowiecka Lutheran records known to have been destroyed during WWII."

From the genealogist Thomas A. Stangl:

"...Some of the Kochanow families, including members of the Hemminger family, departed after the 1830s to Podolia (Nemirow Parish) and probably to Volhynia as well."

This would be the connection between the Hemminger's in Kochanow and the Hemminger's in Podolia. We believe Johann Albrecht Hemminger is the son of Albrecht Hemminger and Elisabeth Raisch, born in Nagold, Wurttemberg in 1790. Catharina Elisabetha would have been born in Kochanow (Rawa Mazowiecka) in 1815 and her family would have moved to Kamenka, where she married Johann Carl Schmidt in 1837.

**Peter Bredy:** We know that Philipp Bredy was the son of Peter Bredy and Elisabetha Huber. But who was Peter Bredy and where did he come from? Records of the Bredy family in Podolia are sporadic, it is very difficult to see the full picture.

Peter had 4 children born in Podilia that we know of: Christian Bredy b. 1827 in Kostnitza, to Anna Herbst Johann Philipp Bredy b. 1830 in Kamenka, to Anna Herbst Heinrich Jacob Bredy b. 1832 in Krasnadolien, to Anna Herbst Johann August Bredy b. 1835 in Kamenka, to Elisabeth Huber

The church records in Podolia start in 1833 so we only have birth records for Heinrich Jacob and Johann August. We have seen Peter Bredy listed as the father to Christian and Johann Philipp in their marriage records.

It is unlikely that there were two Peter Bredy's in Kamenka, so it is safe to assume that Anna Herbst passed away after 1832 and Peter remarried Elisabeth Huber prior to 1835.

We are missing key records - Peter's marriage records, his death record, his first wife Anna Herbst's death record, and likely records for other children born before 1827. We do have the death record for Peter's second wife, saying she came from Galicia. That gives us a possible lead of where to search.

There is one other Bredy in Podolia of Peter's generation - Maria Rosina. Maria Rosina Bredy married Jakob Schmidt. Her death record states that she was born in 1798 in Galicia. They had 5 children together in Podolia born between 1821 and 1836. There is no marriage record for them either.

Since there are only two Bredy's in Podolia, it is likely that Peter and Maria Rosina were siblings, or possibly cousins. Since Maria Rosina was from Galicia, we searched there for Peter as well. We searched high and low and found no trace of him! But we did find other Bredy's in Galicia - they emigrated from Germany in 1783 and lived in a few towns close to each other - Weinbergen, Unterbergen, and Rosenberg. There was the father Wenzel Bredy b. 1727, and sons Johann Jacob b.1760, Johann Heinrich b.1767, Nikolaus b.1772, Heinrich b.1775, and

daughters Maria Elisabeth b.1764 and Maria Katharina b.1775. From what we can see, they were the only people with the name Bredy that left Germany for Galicia. So Peter and Rosina must be related to them, right?

We mapped out all of the families of the Galician Bredy's and found no trace of Peter and Rosina. There are always missing records though so this does not disprove anything. For example, one of the sons Nikolaus (b. 1772) lived in Rosenberg, and birth records are missing between 1790 and 1806 - meaning that if Peter and Maria Rosina are children of one of the four Bredy siblings, it would be Nikolaus. The first mention of a child for Nikolaus was Johannes born in 1801, when Nikolaus was 29.

In the search for Peter in the Galician church records - we found something amazing - the birth record of his first wife, Anna Herbst. She lived in the same town that the Bredy's lived in. There are no other Herbst's that we know of in Kamenka, meaning she did not arrive there with her family.

It is very likely that Peter Bredy married Anna Herbst in Galicia, and they emigrated to Kamenka together, and took his likely sister Maria Rosina along with them. She married Jakob Schmidt in Kamenka.

We also looked into the town in Germany that the Bredy's in Galicia came from - Gross Winternheim, near Mainz. In those records we found a Johann Peter Broede, born in 1801. (Broede was an alternate spelling) Could this be our Peter?

In summary, either Peter Bredy was Johann Peter Broede from Gross Winternheim, who traveled to meet his cousins in Galicia. There he met his wife Anna Herbst, and he left with his sister or cousin Maria Rosina for a new life in Kamenka.

The other option is that Peter Bredy and Maria Rosina Bredy were both born to Nikolaus Bredy in Rosenberg, where the birth records were missing. There he met Anna Herbst and the three of them emigrated to Kamenka.

It's sad that we couldn't solve this mystery, but we have two very strong theories, and either way we're 95% confident that the Bredy (Broede) family came from Gross Winternheim.

Johann Buro: Johann Buro married Louisa Fenske, EDB 1780 from Wielen in Prussia (Filehne, based on her second wedding record), lived in Woloschenko (based on her death record, and we don't know where this place is). They had 4 children that we know of (3 girls and 1 boy). Louisa died on 17 Dec 1860 in Gluckstal where she lived with her daughter Justina and her son-in -law Christian Bredy. Johann Buro died at some point between 1833-1836, and Louisa remarried in 1836 to Christoph Sturmer. We assume that Louisa was her full name, but we've seen before that Louisa is used as a nickname for Elisabeth.

From the Koblenz exodus questionnaires I discovered long ago that the name attributed to the oldest ancestor who emigrated was Friedrich Buron and it is said that he emigrated from Posen in the year 1800 (I assume this is an approximation). I was at the time not sure that name, date and place could be right as you and I have experienced that these files are often filled out with approximate information, or wrong information. In Albertina Buro's (who married Franz Mueller in 1843) it is said that she is the daughter of "Johann Buro from Prussia" which makes me think that the recollection of Posen from the EWZ records is right. But the name of the ancestor is wrong unless Johan's second name would be Friedrich. And as to the date I cannot judge. We also know they may have lived somewhere else between the emigration from Posen and the arrival in Kamenka.

As mentioned above, the VKP indexed records list a Friedrich/Christian Buro married to Aleksandra Bolkanowska in Nemirow. They had several children but the births started only later, after the other Buron women who married in Nemirow had children. The files list both Friedrich and a Christian Buro married to a Bolkanowska woman (sometimes Olga, sometimes Aleksandra) who is listed as catholic. I am pretty sure that these 2 men are not different men. It is one man. And his name is probably Christian Friedrich Buro. From my current interpretation he is the youngest son of Johann Buro.

The research in Prussia was so far non productive. There are literally tonnes of Buro, Buhro, Burow, Bueren, Buraw in Prussia and in the Posen province and most of it is not indexed. If we wanted to give a pinch of trust to the Koblenz exodus we could theorize that Johann Buro was actually named Johann Friedrich Buro and names his son Christian Friedrich. But that is all speculation.

Another thing we could look for are the places the Nemirow parishioners came from in the early years of the colony (places of origin located in Prussia) and among those we may find the place where the Buro family came from. But these are just assumptions. This can be done by looking at the death records but I would do this as a last resort as it is very time consuming. So far we have not followed up on this lead.

Another possibility is that the place of origin was not the Posen district but the Poznan district

**Georg Friedrich Roller:** Michael Roller, Reinhold Roller's grandfather, was born in 1822 and he married Henrietta Kleinknecht. Michael and Henrietta had 9 children together between 1846 and 1871, the eldest being Friedrich Martin Roller, Reinhold's father. Michael had a brother with a very unique name, Alois, born in 1803.

The origin of the family turns out to be Baden-Baden, the great thermal city and grand holiday resort of the 1800s. In fact all the records for this family come from the <u>Stiftskirche</u>, a church in Baden-Baden. The father of Michael and Alois was George Friedrich Roller and the mother Marianna/Maria Anna Steiner.

When I started, thanks to the sophisticated search engine available at familysearch, I looked for Alois Roller as a person having siblings by the name of Michael, Francisca and Carolina Roller. and I found one family who had children with these names between 1802 and 1822. They had many more children although many of them died.

Now as much as this sounded like a right match we could not be 100% sure it was the match we were looking for. So we started analyzing all the records from Podolia for all the children the 4 siblings had to see who the godparents were. And amazingly we came across one of the Roller baptism records that had Friedrich Roller and Mariana Steiner as godparents!! The same parents we found in the Catholic German records of Baden-Baden!

So now we know that Georg Friedrich Roller (b. 1776) and Maria Anna Steinel (b. 1781) emigrated from Baden-Baden to Podolia sometime after 1822, likely between 1823 - 1825.

George Friedrich Roller Jr. was born in 1776 in Haiterbach to George Friedrich Roller Sr. (b. 1739) and Anna Maria Schaup (b. 1750). He was not born in Baden-Baden but moved there after. His mother died at only 28 years of age in 1778 and his father remarried and had 8 more children. Please see their attached Church Family Table.

George Friedrich Roller Sr. was born in a nearby town called Wornersberg in 1739. He was a master miller. But here's the catch - unlike his son, he was not Catholic.

Geroge Friedrich Jr. converted to Catholicism when he married his Catholic wife Maria Anna Steinel. Can you imagine the controversy this would have caused in 1802??

**Georg Michael Kolb:** Gerog Michael Kolb was born in 1812 and married Jakobina Friederike Steigmann sometime before 1837, and had 4 known children. Their daughter Friederike married Jakob Peter Schmidt, the son of Johann Carl Schmidt and Catharina Elisabetha Hemminger. It appears the Kolb family arrived in Dzugastro from Satteldorf, Wurttemberg. Making the journey were Johann Michael Kolb and his wife Eva Barbara (last name unknown), and their two sons Johann Georg and Georg Michael.

Johann Melchior Baesler: Johann Melchior Baesler was born in 1777 in Kleiningersheim, Wurttemberg. He married Anna Maria Eisele and they had 6 known children. Their daughter Friederike Baesler married Wilhelm Mueller, the son of Wendel Mueller from Windmuhle, Galicia. Their son Gottlieb Baesler married Apollonia Hermann, and their two remaining sons, Christian and Friedrich, married two half-sisters, Anna Katharina Schmidt and Elisabetha Schiefer. (from the Nickel Schmidt family from Smolin, Galicia)

Their 4 children had large families of their own and the Baesler name became common in Kamenka.

**Johann Andreas Ruck:** Johann Andreas Ruck and Christina Lenz married in 1818 in Eschenau, Wurttemberg. They had 8 known children - the first 3 born in Eschenau before the emigrated to Kamenka in 1824, and the remaining 5 born in Kamenka. Most of their children had large families and there are many Ruck descendants of Johann Andreas and Christina. Some of the people in our Facebook family group are direct descendants.

Johann August Nussberger: The Nussberger family came from Marbach, Wurttemberg and settled in Kamenka sometime after 1824. Johann August Nussberger and Magdalena Brauer had 7 known children, most of whom had large families and married into many of the other Kamenka families. Their son, Johann Karl Nussberger, married Anna Maria Schmidt, the daughter of Jacob Schmidt and Rosina Bredy. Johann Karl was a godparent to two of Johann Friedrich Schmidt and Margaretha Mueller's children, and to two of Friedrich Roller and Margaretha Mueller's children. Karl's relation to the family of Jacob Schmidt and Rosina Bredy was instrumental in the formation of belief that Margaretha Schmidt is the daughter of Johann Friedrich Schmidt and Margaretha Mueller.

Johann August and Magdalena's eldest child was Maria Elisabetha Nussberger. She married Heinrich Jakob Stadelmeyer in 1846, who was living in Jahorlik at the time. Presumably they moved there after the marriage, as was custom. There are no church records for Jahorlik, and this explains the fact that they have no recorded children. They were married on the same day as Johann Friedrich Schmidt and Margaretha Mueller - which further displays the close bond between the families. Johann Friedrich Schmidt was living in Jahorlik at the time as well - and presumably they moved to Jahorlik after the marriage as well, and we believe Margaretha Schmidt was born there. Their family moved back to Kamenka in 1853, but we believe the Heinrich Jakob Stadelmeyer and Maria Elisabetha Nussberger stayed there.

**Jacob Gerner:** We do not have a lot of information on the Gerner family. We know that Adam Gerner married Louisa Buro, daughter of Johann, and had two children in Kamenka. Adam's brother Johann Georg married Johann Doerr and had a large family in Kamenka. The two brothers were born in Spechbach, Wurttemberg and came to Kamenka as children around 1824-1825. The father was Jacob Gerner, their mother is currently unknown. Jacob Gerner later married Charlotte Weil after his first wife passed away. Charlotte Weil is likely related to the Weil family we've spoken about previously.

Johann Gottfried Mueller: We know very little about Johann Gottfried Mueller. It does not appear that he is related to the other Mueller families we have spoken about. He married Agnes Mittrach who we believe is the sister of Carolina Mittrach, the mother of our great great grandmother Philippina Rosina Mueller. Johann Gottfried was born in 1821 to Johann Gottfried Mueller and Maria (last name unknown). It is possible that he came from Prussia which could explain why we cannot find any other information about this family.

**Karolina Mittrach:** The wife of Jakob Mueller (1830-1900) was named Carolina Mittrach. She was born on June 5th, 1836 in either Kamenka or Krasnadolien, Podolia. The communities of

Kamenka and Krasnadolien had a connection with Naslawtscha as Naslawtscha was closer to those settlements than other Bessarabian villages that were located many kilometers south.

Mittrach is a very unusual name which is not found in Bessarabia or among the Podolian Wurttembergers. We believe the name Mittrach is Prussian in origin. We believe that Carolina Mittrach's parents emigrated to Podolia from Oppach or Bautzen, Germany, which are both near the border with Czechia and Poland.

We believe her father to be Johann Traugott Mittrach, a schoolteacher in Petrowka who died in Klostitz, Bessarabia in 1851. If our assumption is correct, Carolina's father Johann Traugott was born in Oppach or Bautzen, Saxony, Germany in approximately 1800 to George Mittrach, and (closest match we found so far) married Johanna Maria Leinen in 1824. They likely had at least 6 children, Johanna Maria, Johann Adolph Julius, Johanna Juliana, Johann Rudolph Carl, Agnes, and Carolina (our ancestor).

This theory is based on the best of our research, but it cannot be proven yet as we cannot find the birth record for Carolina, and the records we need in Germany are unavailable online.

# Section 3: The Family of Bernhard Schmidt and Katharina Lutz

#### Let's get back to Bernhard Schmidt.

How does the family of Antoinette Schmidt (the mother of Philipp Henry Burron) relate to the family of Bernhard Schmidt?

We have spent a large amount of time researching Bernhard and his family, and how he is related to Mandy and all of the descendants of the Burron family. Mandy is a DNA match to his descendants and we have spent the last 7 months trying to figure out how. Here is what we know.

Bernhard Schmidt was born in Mossingen, Wurttemberg, in 1792 to Dionysius Schmidt and Agnes Maria Katharina Haap. Before looking into Bernhard's descendants, let's look at his ancestors. His father Dionysius was born in 1751 and his mother Agnes was born in 1755 in Mossingen, Wurttemberg. We've traced back the family further back - and going 5 generations back from Dionysius, every direct ancestor was named Martin Schmidt! The furthest back we have is Martin Schmidt, the great great great grandfather of Dionysius Schmidt, born in approximately 1590 in Mossingen.

So back to Dionysius! Dionysis and Agnes had 7 children, 4 of which survived - Hans Martin Schmidt. Hans Georg Schmidt, Hans Bernhard Schmidt and Anna Agnes Katharina Schmidt. We have proof of what happened to the three sons, Anna's fate is not clear.

The whole family emigrated to Brigidau, Galicia in 1804. Dionysius and Agnes died there, and their children emigrated to Russia afterwards.

Hans Martin Schmidt: Martin married Katharina Friederike Senger and they had at least 8 children together. They emigrated to Bergdorf, Bessarabia sometime between 1819 - 1828 and their last child Heinrich was born there in 1828.

Hans Georg Schmidt: Georg married Barbara Senger, the sister of Katharina Senger, his brother's wife. Another case of two siblings marrying two siblings. Georg and Barbara emigrated to Bergdorf as well, between 1819 - 1826. The difference being - Georg and Barbara did not go directly from Brigidau to Bergdorf, they moved to Heinrichsdorf, Galicia around 1813, and disappeared from the record there in 1819. This is notable as it happened to all of the families in Galicia that emigrated to Kamenka, including his brother Bernhard. More on that later. The family reappears in the record in 1826 in Bergdorf.

Hans Bernhard Schmidt: Bernhard married Katharina Lutz, also from Brigidau - Katharina was born there. But here is the catch - they were not married there. They were married in Suszno, Galicia in 1812, over 200km away from Brigidau. How did this happen? The Lutz family did not move to Suszno. The custom was for the male to travel to the home of the female, marry there, and then live and raise their family wherever was best suited. It would have been highly unlikely that Bernhard and Katharina ran away from Brigidau to Suszno to get married - but I suppose it is possible.

In any case, they were married in Suszno in 1812. But the strangest thing - they disappear from the record. They reappear in 1818 with the birth of their son Jacob. Another strange occurrence - it is possible for a couple to not have a child for the first 6 years of their marriage, but it was not commonplace during this period. Bernhard and Katharina had at least three other children together, born in Kamenka - Bernhard Jr, Heinrich, and Anna Maria.

For unknown reasons, Bernhard, Katharina and their young child Jacob emigrated to Kamenka in 1824 instead of moving to Brigidau, like his brothers and their family. A very strange decision. So what of their children?

Anna Maria was born in Kamenka in 1834. We have no record of marriage or death for her, so her fate is unknown.

Heinrich married Barbara Zeiler in Naslawtscha in 1853. They had at least 6 children together - including Philippina Schmidt, who married Friederich Weil. Friedrich was the uncle of Johann Weil, born in 1866, who is possibly the John Weil from Cavalier, North Dakota who Reinhold and August Roller went to visit after coming to Winnipeg. We have found DNA matches to Mandy from Heinrich and Barbara's descendants. Chris has a DNA relation to them as well - but not nearly as strong. In short we believe that Mandy has more than one common ancestor with Heinrich's descendants, meaning that she is likely related to Heinrich through his father Bernhard.

So what about Bernhard Schmidt Jr? Bernhard Schmidt Jr was born in 1825, likely in Kamenka. We know his year of birth from his marriage record. We know that Bernhard Jr married Margaretha Weil, the Aunt of Friedrich Weil, who is previously mentioned. Bernhard Jr and Margaretha had no recorded children.

But we do have another Bernhard Schmidt! Bernhard Schmidt (lets call him Bernhard the 3rd) was born in August of 1845 in Kamenka or Krasnadolien (according to the Koblenz Exodus records). Unfortunately we do not have a birth record for Bernhard the 3rd, it is missing. So who could his parents be?

Based on his age, Bernhard 3rd could not be the son of Heinrich, Bernhard Jr's brother, he was born in 1829. He could not be the son of Johann Carl Schmidt (A suspected sibling of Bernhard Jr), who had a daughter Elisabeth born in January 1845. He could not be the son of Martin Schmidt, who had a son Friedrich born in March 1845. He is not likely the son of the other Heinrich Schmidt (born about 1815) who married Elisabeth Boretzky. This Heinrich has no real connection to the Schmidt's descended from Dionysius, based on godparent records. Neither does the before mentioned Martin. Also Heinrich and Elisabeth were living in Tultchyn in 1847 and Bernhard 3rd was from Krasnadolien - where the confirmed and suspected siblings of Bernhard Jr were living.

Given that Bernhard is a rare name at this time, and based on the above information, it seems very likely that Bernhard the 3rd is the son of Bernhard Jr, or Bernhard's Jr's older brother Jakob.

Anyways, back to the children of Bernhard Sr and Katharina Lutz. We found the birth record of Jakob, their eldest known child, born in 1818 in Suszno. The birth was recorded in the Greek Catholic Church in Suszno, not the Lutheran church in nearby Josefow for some unknown reason. It is likely that Bernhard and Katharina had other children in Suszno between 1812 - 1817 but their births are not recorded. Missing records are very common. The birth record of Jakob was an important find - he might be the same Jakob Schmidt that married Elisabeth Schmidt, the parents of Antonetta Schmidt. We know that Mandy is related to Jakob and/or Elisabeth Schmidt, and to Bernhard Schmidt. Bernhard had a son named Jakob.. Coincidence? This was talked about in more detail in the previous post. If both Jakob's are the same person, it would confirm all of our theories and it fits with the DNA and familial connection data.

There are other Schmidt's in Kamenka that we have not mentioned yet, and some of them appear to be related to Bernhard's family.

Johann Carl Schmidt: Johann Carl Schmidt was born in 1813, based on his age in his marriage record. He married Catharina Hemminger, who we have mentioned previously. Carl was also the witness to the marriage of Heinrich Schmidt (Bernhard's son) and Barbara Zeiler in 1852, meaning that Carl could be a brother of Heinrich, and son of Bernhard. Carl and Catharina had 5 known children in Kamenka. Now we can look at who the godparents were for

their children. There were no Schmidt family godparents for their first three children, in fact Peter Bredy was a godfather to Carl's first three children, and Carl named his first son, Peter, after Peter Bredy. Jacob Schmidt was a godfather to their 4th child in 1848 - most likely this is the Jacob Schmidt that married Elisabetha Schmidt, and who might be the Jacob Schmidt born in 1818 to Bernhard Schmidt and Katharina Lutz. If this was the other Jacob Schmidt alive at this time, the husband of Rosina Bredy, he would have been 50. That was getting a little old to be a godparent at that time, given that the average lifespan in 1852 was 29 years old.

With their 5th child we have struck gold - the godparents were Heinrich Schmidt, Philipp Bredy and Margaretha Schmidt (married name - this would be Margaretha Weil, who married Bernhard Schmidt). So we have the two men who we believe are brothers of Carl being godfathers to his son Philipp in 1852.

Carl Schmidt was also the godfather to a son of Barbara Zeiler and Henrich Schmidt, who we believe to be the brother of Carl.

Carl's son Peter married Freiderike Kolb, and many of their children have Schmidt godparents who are certain and likely children and grandchildren of Bernhard Schmidt.

It is our theory that Carl Schmidt is the eldest son of Bernhard Schmidt and Katharina Lutz, and the brother of Bernhard Jr, Heinrich, Wilhelm and Jakob.

**Susanna Schmidt:** Susanna Schmidt married Wilhelm Jaworsky sometime before 1847. Susanna and Wilhelm had 5 children together between 1847 - 1860, but Susanna died in 1861 at the age of 37. Looking at the godparents for their children, we do not see any connection to the Schmidt's of either line, the godparents were mostly members of the Roller, Steigmann, Jaworsky and Stadelmeyer families.

We do not have a marriage record but we know she was born in 1824 due to her death record. The death record also states she was born in Tultchyn - Tultchyn was mentioned in the Stumpp book as being a stop on the itinerary of a group from Wuerttemberg traveling to Russia in 1804. More on Tultchyn later.

Susanna could be a daughter of Bernhard Schmidt and Katharina Lutz, but we can't prove or disprove it.

**Wilhelm Schmidt:** Wilhelm Schmidt married Katharina Hauser and had 6 known children. Based on his death record in 1880, Wilhelm was born in 1827 in Kamenka. We do not have a marriage record or a birth record. So which Schmidt family was Wilhelm a part of, the Dionysius Schmidt line or the Nickel Schmidt line?

If we look at the birth record for Wilhelm and Katharina's children, there are no godparents that belong to the Nickel Schmidt line. We do have Jacob Schmidt and Elisabeth Schmidt,

presumably the Jacob and Elisabeth connected to the Dionysius line. Jacob is possibly the son of Bernhard. We also have Friederike Schmidt twice, these records were given in her married name. Friederike Schmidt was Friederike Kolb, and married Peter Schmidt, the son of Carl Schmidt and Catharina Hemminger. Peter Schmidt was also a godfather once. Heinrich Schmidt was godparent once, he is likely the Heinrich who was the son of Bernhard. Wilhelm and Katharina had various Bredy family members as godparents to their children, we can't find a familial connection so the families must have been close friends.

We suspect Carl Schmidt to be related to Bernhard, and it is likely Wilhelm is related as well due to his connection with Carl's son, and that he was a godfather to a son of Heinrich Schmidt, Carl's suspected brother.

It is our theory that Wilhelm Schmidt is the son of Bernhard Schmidt and Katharina Lutz.

Heinrich Schmidt (the other one who married Elisabeth Boretzka): Heinrich Schmidt and Elisabeth Boretzka had three recorded children. We do not have a marriage record, birth record or death record for Heinrich or Elisabeth. In short, we know very little about them. Their daughter Eva married Wilhelm Ernst Nieder, but they have no record of children, and neither do Eva's two brothers Martin and Adam. The godparents for their children do not have any Schmidt connections, and they are mostly people who directly came from Wurttemberg, not through Galicia. Their third child Adam was born in Tultchyn in 1847, so there is another link from Tultchyn to Kamenka.

We have no theory of who this Heinrich Schmidt is. The data is too sparse to say anything for certain.

**Martin Schmidt:** We know Martin Schmidt's father was Gottfried Schmidt, who came from Brackenheim, Wurttemberg. Martin was married twice, he had 5 children with Carolina Rebehn and 1 child with Juliana Krieger. Martin Schmidt and his family did not live in Kamenka, they lived in nearby Dunjawice. The children's godparents have no connections to the Kamenka Schmidt's, they mostly seem like Prussian names.

Based on this information it is our theory that Martin Schmidt is not related to either branch of the Kamenka Schmidt's.

# Section 4: The Galicians Germans who Emigrated to Kamenka and Their Journey

We have mentioned many times that the families arrived in Kamenka between 1823-1825, and we mentioned where they lived before leaving. But there is one thing that we noticed which is very strange.

The families that lived in Galicia before emigrating to Kamenka originally lived in many different locations in the Province. Those families initially arrived from Wurttemberg between 1783-1785.

Galicia was a very large province - over 185,000 square kilometres. Of the 13 families that we know came to Kamenka from Galicia, at least 12 of them lived in a small region of the province starting around 1816 - the towns were in a region smaller than 100 square kilometres! They lived in the towns of Heinrichsdorf, Windmuhle, Suszno, Josfeow, Stanin and Krzywe. The 13th family, Peter Bredy, well we just don't know where he was in Galicia. Anyways, of the 12 families, 3 had initially emigrated to the Josefow region between 1783-1785, 6 moved there from other parts of Galicia around 1816, and the last 3 we do not know where they lived before 1816.

So what do we make of this? That almost all of the early emigrants to Kamenka from Galicia lived in an area around 100 square kilometres in a province which is 185,000 square kilometres? It's not a coincidence, it's not like Count Wittgenstein just recruited people from that small region for no reason. He was looking for skilled workers - primarily vintners as the area around the Kamenka estate was rich in vineyards. What we can deduce from this is there must have been a reason for these skilled workers to move to the Josefow region - a promise that they could leave their life of farming and live in a place where they could practice their skilled labor. Maybe recruiters traveled through Galicia looking for specific types of skilled labor?

One thing we did notice - of all the 12 families, none of them have any records past 1819. The church records in Josefow and Suszno are not missing after 1819. So all of the 12 completely disappear from the church records. But we are taught that Count Wittgenstein did not bring the German settlers to Kamenka until 1823. So where were the families between 1819-1823?

The short answer is - we just don't know. We have uncovered a pattern here that is not mentioned in any literature we have found, and we don't know what to make of it exactly. The families must have moved somewhere else, likely together, waiting for permission to enter Kamenka. Was the housing not ready? Were the vineyards not in shape to produce grapes? We just don't know. All we know for sure is 12 families disappeared between 1819-1823.

It is likely they either moved to nearby Volhynia (A neighbouring province to Podolia in the Russian Empire) or moved to a separate region of Podolia. We do have one lead - the death record of Susanna Schmidt, who married Wilhelm Jaworsky, states that she was born in Tulchyn in 1824. She could be unrelated to the family of Bernhard Schmidt, we just don't know. But one thing we do know - Wilhelm Jaworsky was the son of Johann Jaworsky, who was living in Suszno with Bernhard Schmidt in 1819. It's possible that Susanna was the daughter of Bernhard and Katherine.

So we know that at least 1 of the 12 families was living in Tultchyn before moving to Kamenka. We don't know when in 1824 Bernhard Schmidt and his family arrived in Kamenka. It's possible that Susanna was born in Tultchyn just before her family arrived in Kamenka.

So Tultchyn could have been the in-between place, we just don't know for sure. We do know that the church records for Tultchyn before 1848 are missing, so we can't look for the families there.

We have thrown a lot of place names out there in this section, so please refer to the map attached to this post for reference and you can see where every community mentioned is located.

This has been a long journey, and thanks for reading until the end!

