
**Descendants of
Hans Mertz**

By Catherine Reuther

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Hans Mertz - Descendants

First Generation

1. Hans Mertz¹ was born about 1590 in Diegelsberg, Uhingen, Near Goepingen, Baden-Württemberg and died in Gruibingen, Goepingen District, Baden-Württemberg.

General Notes: Hans Mertz was a peasant born about 1590 in the village of Diegelsberg. Diegelsberg is today a part of Uhingen and affiliated to the parish Uhingen near Goepingen in the Kingdom of Württemberg, Germany.

In 1594 Diegelsberg was a village of just 13 houses.

Hans probably married before 1617 in either Diefelsberg or Gruibingen, where his first known child was born. His wife's name is not known.

The church records of Uhingen (and Diegelsberg) start in 1634 as a result of the losses during the Thirty Years War. The marriage records of Gruibingen were also lost during the war, as were the book of burials. The available marriage book for Gruibingen starts in 1650.

Noted events in his life were:

- Occupation: Peasant/.

Hans married someone.

His children were:

- + 2 F i. **Anna Merz** was born on 27 Dec 1617.
- + 3 M ii. **Hans Merz** was born on 22 Mar 1619 and died before 1622 in Gruibingen.
- + 4 M iii. **Hans Merz**¹ was born on 14 Sep 1622 in Gruibingen, Goepingen District, Baden-Württemberg and died on 10 Jun 1681 in Gruibingen at age 58.
- + 5 M iv. **Peter Merz** was born on 8 Sep 1626 and died on 20 Jun 1700 in Gruibingen at age 73.
- + 6 M v. **Jerg Merz** was born on 15 Jan 1631.
- + 7 M vi. **Michael Merz** was born on 23 Sep 1634.

Hans Mertz - Descendants

Second Generation (Children)

2. **Anna Merz** (*Hans¹*) was born on 27 Dec 1617.

3. **Hans Merz** (*Hans¹*) was born on 22 Mar 1619 and died before 1622 in Gruibingen.

4. **Hans Merz¹** (*Hans¹*) was born on 14 Sep 1622 in Gruibingen, Goepingen District, Baden-Württemberg and died on 10 Jun 1681 in Gruibingen at age 58.

General Notes: Hans was a peasant and a "Richter", or member of the local court. All villages had a local court for lower punishments on the local level. Mostly six married men were elected to help the mayor in those criminal cases.

Hans married **Barbara¹** before 1644 in Gruibingen. Barbara was born about 1626¹ and died on 8 Oct 1684 in Gruibingen¹ about age 58.

Children from this marriage were:

- + 8 F i. **Apollonia Merz** was born on 9 Oct 1644 and died on 13 Oct 1644 in Gruibingen.
- + 9 F ii. **Christina Merz** was born on 28 Sep 1647 and died before 1653 in Gruibingen.
- + 10 M iii. **Hans Jacob Merz¹** was born on 4 Dec 1650 in Gruibingen, Goepingen District, Baden-Württemberg and died on 11 Mar 1701 in Gruibingen at age 50.
- + 11 M iv. **Hans Merz** was born on 6 Aug 1651 and died on 30 Aug 1695 in Gruibingen at age 44.
- + 12 F v. **Christina Merz** was born on 12 Apr 1653 in Gruibingen.
- + 13 M vi. **Christoph Merz** was born on 11 Dec 1654 and died before 1656 in Gruibingen.
- + 14 M vii. **Christoph Merz** was born on 10 Mar 1656 and died before 1660 in Gruibingen.
- + 15 F viii. **Apollonia Merz** was born on 20 Apr 1657 and died on 9 Mar 1722 in Gruibingen at age 64.
- + 16 M ix. **Christoph Merz** was born on 25 Feb 1660 and died on 2 May 1724 in Gruibingen at age 64.
- + 17 F x. **Anna Merz** was born on 14 Jul 1663 and died on 16 Jan 1729 in Gruibingen at age 65.

5. **Peter Merz** (*Hans¹*) was born on 8 Sep 1626 and died on 20 Jun 1700 in Gruibingen at age 73.
Peter married **Margaretha** before 1646 in Gruibingen.

6. **Jerg Merz** (*Hans¹*) was born on 15 Jan 1631.

Jerg married **Maria** before 1654 in Gruibingen.

7. **Michael Merz** (*Hans¹*) was born on 23 Sep 1634.

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Third Generation (Grandchildren)

8. Apollonia Merz (*Hans², Hans¹*) was born on 9 Oct 1644 and died on 13 Oct 1644 in Gruibingen.

9. Christina Merz (*Hans², Hans¹*) was born on 28 Sep 1647 and died before 1653 in Gruibingen.

10. Hans Jacob Merz¹ (*Hans², Hans¹*) was born on 4 Dec 1650 in Gruibingen, Goepingen District, Baden-Württemberg and died on 11 Mar 1701 in Gruibingen at age 50.

Noted events in his life were:

- Occupation: Peasant & Brick Maker/.

Hans married **Anna Kauderer¹**, daughter of **Jerg Kauderer** and **Maria Bauerlin**, in 1676 in Gruibingen. Anna was born on 3 Mar 1652 in Gruibingen, Goepingen District, Baden-Württemberg and died on 11 Dec 1703 in Gruibingen at age 51.

Children from this marriage were:

- + 18 M i. **Hans Jerg Merz¹** was born on 26 Mar 1679 in Gruibingen, Goepingen District, Baden-Württemberg and died on 18 Feb 1749 in Gruibingen at age 69.
- + 19 M ii. **Hans Jacob Merz** was born on 2 Apr 1684 in Gruibingen and died before 1692 in Gruibingen.
- + 20 M iii. **Jacob Merz** was born on 6 Mar 1692.
- + 21 F iv. **Anna Merz** was born on 24 Jul 1694.

11. Hans Merz (*Hans², Hans¹*) was born on 6 Aug 1651 and died on 30 Aug 1695 in Gruibingen at age 44.

12. Christina Merz (*Hans², Hans¹*) was born on 12 Apr 1653 in Gruibingen.

Christina married **Georg Moll** in Gruibingen.

Noted events in his life were:

- Occupation: Weaver & Member Of The Local Court/.

13. Christoph Merz (*Hans², Hans¹*) was born on 11 Dec 1654 and died before 1656 in Gruibingen.

14. Christoph Merz (*Hans², Hans¹*) was born on 10 Mar 1656 and died before 1660 in Gruibingen.

15. Apollonia Merz (*Hans², Hans¹*) was born on 20 Apr 1657 and died on 9 Mar 1722 in Gruibingen at age 64.

Apollonia married **Sebastian Brandsteff** in Gruibingen.

16. Christoph Merz (*Hans², Hans¹*) was born on 25 Feb 1660 and died on 2 May 1724 in Gruibingen at age 64.

Christoph married **Anna Niederreutter** on 13 Jun 1682 in Gruibingen.

17. Anna Merz (*Hans², Hans¹*) was born on 14 Jul 1663 and died on 16 Jan 1729 in Gruibingen at age 65.

Anna married **Ulrich Moll** in Gruibingen.

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Fourth Generation (Great-Grandchildren)

18. Hans Jerg Merz¹ (*Hans Jacob³, Hans², Hans¹*) was born on 26 Mar 1679 in Gruibingen, Goeppingen District, Baden-Württemberg and died on 18 Feb 1749 in Gruibingen at age 69.

Noted events in his life were:

- Occupation: Peasant, Brick Maker & Pipe Maker/.

Hans married **Anna Barbara Leyrer¹**, daughter of **Hans Leyrer** and **Unknown**, on 15 Nov 1697 in Gruibingen. Anna was born about 1675 in Gruibingen, Goeppingen District, Baden-Württemberg and died in Gruibingen.

Children from this marriage were:

- + 22 F i. **Anna Magdalena Merz¹** was born on 4 Aug 1699.
- + 23 M ii. **Hans Jacob Merz¹** was born on 26 Dec 1700 and died on 3 Dec 1751 at age 50.
- + 24 F iii. **Catharina Merz¹** was born on 4 Dec 1702.
- + 25 F iv. **Ursula Merz¹** was born on 10 Feb 1705.
- + 26 M v. **Michael Merz¹** was born on 17 Nov 1706 in Gruibingen, Goeppingen District, Baden-Württemberg and died on 1 Sep 1753 in Gruibingen at age 46.
- + 27 F vi. **Anna Merz¹** was born on 13 May 1709.
- + 28 M vii. **Hans Christoph Merz¹** was born on 29 Aug 1714.

19. Hans Jacob Merz (*Hans Jacob³, Hans², Hans¹*) was born on 2 Apr 1684 in Gruibingen and died before 1692 in Gruibingen.

20. Jacob Merz (*Hans Jacob³, Hans², Hans¹*) was born on 6 Mar 1692.

21. Anna Merz (*Hans Jacob³, Hans², Hans¹*) was born on 24 Jul 1694.

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Fifth Generation (Great Great-Grandchildren)

22. Anna Magdalena Merz¹ (*Hans Jerg⁴, Hans Jacob³, Hans², Hans¹*) was born on 4 Aug 1699.

23. Hans Jacob Merz¹ (*Hans Jerg⁴, Hans Jacob³, Hans², Hans¹*) was born on 26 Dec 1700 and died on 3 Dec 1751 at age 50.

24. Catharina Merz¹ (*Hans Jerg⁴, Hans Jacob³, Hans², Hans¹*) was born on 4 Dec 1702.

25. Ursula Merz¹ (*Hans Jerg⁴, Hans Jacob³, Hans², Hans¹*) was born on 10 Feb 1705.

26. Michael Merz¹ (*Hans Jerg⁴, Hans Jacob³, Hans², Hans¹*) was born on 17 Nov 1706 in Gruibingen, Goepingen District, Baden-Württemberg and died on 1 Sep 1753 in Gruibingen at age 46.

General Notes: Michael was a marksman and a beadle. A beadle is a minor parish official who serves as an usher and preserves order at services.

Noted events in his life were:

- Occupation: Marksman/.

Michael married **Anna Barbara Moll¹**, daughter of **Hans Moll** and **Elisabetha Straub**, on 26 Nov 1733 in Gruibingen, Goepingen District, Baden-Württemberg. Anna was born on 10 Jan 1710 in Gruibingen, Goepingen District, Baden-Württemberg.

Children from this marriage were:

- + 29 M i. **Johann Georg Merz¹** was born on 25 Mar 1735 in Gruibingen, Goepingen District, Baden-Württemberg and died on 17 Apr 1794 in Gruibingen at age 59.
- + 30 M ii. **Johannes Merz** was born on 10 Apr 1737 in Gruibingen and died on 20 Dec 1738 in Gruibingen at age 1.
- + 31 F iii. **Elisabetha Merz** was born on 13 Jun 1739 in Gruibingen.
- + 32 F iv. **Anna Maria Merz** was born on 16 Mar 1742 in Gruibingen.
- + 33 F v. **Christina Merz** was born on 16 Mar 1742 in Gruibingen.
- + 34 F vi. **Anna Maria Merz** was born on 12 Nov 1744 in Gruibingen.

27. Anna Merz¹ (*Hans Jerg⁴, Hans Jacob³, Hans², Hans¹*) was born on 13 May 1709.

28. Hans Christoph Merz¹ (*Hans Jerg⁴, Hans Jacob³, Hans², Hans¹*) was born on 29 Aug 1714.

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Sixth Generation (3rd Great-Grandchildren)

29. Johann Georg Merz¹ (*Michael*⁵, *Hans Jerg*⁴, *Hans Jacob*³, *Hans*², *Hans*¹) was born on 25 Mar 1735 in Gruibingen, Goepingen District, Baden-Württemberg and died on 17 Apr 1794 in Gruibingen at age 59.

Noted events in his life were:

- Occupation: Peasant, Weaver & Pipe Maker/.

Johann married **Margaretha Bög**,¹ daughter of **Hans Jerg Bög** and **Barbara**, on 2 Feb 1768 in Gruibingen. Margaretha was born on 22 Jun 1727 in Gruibingen, Goepingen District, Baden-Württemberg and died on 20 Apr 1802 in Gruibingen at age 74.

General Notes: Margaretha's first husband was Matthias Straub. They had at least one child, Barbara Straub, born in 1749 in Gruibingen.

The child from this marriage was:

+ 35 M i. **Michael Merz**¹ was born on 27 Jul 1768 in Gruibingen, Goepingen District, Baden-Württemberg¹ and died on 10 Dec 1819 in Gruibingen¹ at age 51.

30. Johannes Merz (*Michael*⁵, *Hans Jerg*⁴, *Hans Jacob*³, *Hans*², *Hans*¹) was born on 10 Apr 1737 in Gruibingen and died on 20 Dec 1738 in Gruibingen at age 1.

31. Elisabetha Merz (*Michael*⁵, *Hans Jerg*⁴, *Hans Jacob*³, *Hans*², *Hans*¹) was born on 13 Jun 1739 in Gruibingen.

32. Anna Maria Merz (*Michael*⁵, *Hans Jerg*⁴, *Hans Jacob*³, *Hans*², *Hans*¹) was born on 16 Mar 1742 in Gruibingen.

33. Christina Merz (*Michael*⁵, *Hans Jerg*⁴, *Hans Jacob*³, *Hans*², *Hans*¹) was born on 16 Mar 1742 in Gruibingen.

34. Anna Maria Merz (*Michael*⁵, *Hans Jerg*⁴, *Hans Jacob*³, *Hans*², *Hans*¹) was born on 12 Nov 1744 in Gruibingen.

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Seventh Generation (4th Great-Grandchildren)

35. Michael Merz¹ (*Johann Georg⁶, Michael⁵, Hans Jerg⁴, Hans Jacob³, Hans², Hans¹*) was born on 27 Jul 1768 in Gruibingen, Goepingen District, Baden-Württemberg¹ and died on 10 Dec 1819 in Gruibingen¹ at age 51.

General Notes: Martin was a weaver in Gruibingen. He was known as Schwarz (Black in German), perhaps to distinguish him from other citizens of Gruibingen with the same first and last name.

Noted events in his life were:

- Occupation: Weaver/.

Michael married **Catharina Bransteff¹**, daughter of **Johann Andreas Bransteff** and **Maria Straub**, on 21 Jun 1791 in Gruibingen.¹ Catharina was born on 20 Mar 1768 in Gruibingen, Goepingen District, Baden-Württemberg¹ and died on 4 Mar 1832 in Gruibingen¹ at age 63.

Children from this marriage were:

- + 36 F i. **Anna Margaretha Merz¹** was born on 14 Jan 1792 in Gruibingen and died on 6 Jun 1811 in Gruibingen at age 19.
- + 37 M ii. **Johann Georg Merz¹** was born on 31 Dec 1792 in Gruibingen.
- + 38 F iii. **Anna Maria Merz¹** was born on 1 Aug 1794 in Gruibingen and died on 11 Sep 1794 in Gruibingen.
- + 39 M iv. **Andreas Merz¹** was born on 24 Sep 1795 in Gruibingen.
- + 40 M v. **Veit Merz¹** was born on 31 Jan 1797 in Gruibingen and died on 1 Apr 1798 in Gruibingen at age 1.
- + 41 M vi. **Jacob Merz¹** was born on 5 Jul 1798 in Gruibingen.
- + 42 M vii. **Michael Merz¹** was born on 5 Oct 1799 in Gruibingen and died on 8 Nov 1799 in Gruibingen.
- + 43 F viii. **Anna Maria Merz¹** was born on 17 Dec 1800 in Gruibingen.
- + 44 M ix. **Johann Michael Merz¹** was born on 12 Feb 1802 in Gruibingen and died on 23 May 1802 in Gruibingen.
- + 45 F x. **Johanna Merz¹** was born on 11 Aug 1803 in Gruibingen and died on 28 Dec 1805 in Gruibingen at age 2.
- + 46 M xi. **Johann Michael Merz¹** was born on 16 Oct 1804 in Gruibingen and died on 18 May 1807 in Gruibingen at age 2.
- + 47 F xii. **Anna Barbara Merz¹** was born on 24 Aug 1806 in Gruibingen and died on 10 Sep 1806 in Gruibingen.
- + 48 F xiii. **Anna Catharina Merz¹** was born on 16 Jul 1808 in Gruibingen.
- + 49 F xiv. **Anna Barbara Merz¹** was born on 17 Apr 1810 in Gruibingen.
- + 50 F xv. **Johanna Merz¹** was born on 1 Oct 1812 in Gruibingen, Goepingen District, Baden-Württemberg¹ and died on 15 Jul 1881 in Gruibingen¹ at age 68.

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Eighth Generation (5th Great-Grandchildren)

36. Anna Margaretha Merz¹ (*Michael⁷, Johann Georg⁶, Michael⁵, Hans Jerg⁴, Hans Jacob³, Hans², Hans¹*) was born on 14 Jan 1792 in Gruibingen and died on 6 Jun 1811 in Gruibingen at age 19.

37. Johann Georg Merz¹ (*Michael⁷, Johann Georg⁶, Michael⁵, Hans Jerg⁴, Hans Jacob³, Hans², Hans¹*) was born on 31 Dec 1792 in Gruibingen.

General Notes: Johann married in Gruibingen in 1820.

Johann married **Margaretha Gölz¹** on 9 Feb 1820 in Gruibingen, Goepplingen District, Baden-Württemberg. Margaretha was born on 24 May 1790 in Gruibingen, Goepplingen District, Baden-Württemberg.

38. Anna Maria Merz¹ (*Michael⁷, Johann Georg⁶, Michael⁵, Hans Jerg⁴, Hans Jacob³, Hans², Hans¹*) was born on 1 Aug 1794 in Gruibingen and died on 11 Sep 1794 in Gruibingen.

39. Andreas Merz¹ (*Michael⁷, Johann Georg⁶, Michael⁵, Hans Jerg⁴, Hans Jacob³, Hans², Hans¹*) was born on 24 Sep 1795 in Gruibingen.

General Notes: Andreas married in 1825.

Andreas married **Anna Catharina Straub¹** on 11 Jan 1825 in Gruibingen, Goepplingen District, Baden-Württemberg. Anna was born on 20 May 1799 in Gruibingen, Goepplingen District, Baden-Württemberg.

40. Veit Merz¹ (*Michael⁷, Johann Georg⁶, Michael⁵, Hans Jerg⁴, Hans Jacob³, Hans², Hans¹*) was born on 31 Jan 1797 in Gruibingen and died on 1 Apr 1798 in Gruibingen at age 1.

41. Jacob Merz¹ (*Michael⁷, Johann Georg⁶, Michael⁵, Hans Jerg⁴, Hans Jacob³, Hans², Hans¹*) was born on 5 Jul 1798 in Gruibingen.

42. Michael Merz¹ (*Michael⁷, Johann Georg⁶, Michael⁵, Hans Jerg⁴, Hans Jacob³, Hans², Hans¹*) was born on 5 Oct 1799 in Gruibingen and died on 8 Nov 1799 in Gruibingen.

43. Anna Maria Merz¹ (*Michael⁷, Johann Georg⁶, Michael⁵, Hans Jerg⁴, Hans Jacob³, Hans², Hans¹*) was born on 17 Dec 1800 in Gruibingen.

General Notes: Anna married in Gruibingen 26 June 1838.

44. Johann Michael Merz¹ (*Michael⁷, Johann Georg⁶, Michael⁵, Hans Jerg⁴, Hans Jacob³, Hans², Hans¹*) was born on 12 Feb 1802 in Gruibingen and died on 23 May 1802 in Gruibingen.

45. Johanna Merz¹ (*Michael⁷, Johann Georg⁶, Michael⁵, Hans Jerg⁴, Hans Jacob³, Hans², Hans¹*) was born on 11 Aug 1803 in Gruibingen and died on 28 Dec 1805 in Gruibingen at age 2.

46. Johann Michael Merz¹ (*Michael⁷, Johann Georg⁶, Michael⁵, Hans Jerg⁴, Hans Jacob³, Hans², Hans¹*) was born on 16 Oct 1804 in Gruibingen and died on 18 May 1807 in Gruibingen at age 2.

47. Anna Barbara Merz¹ (*Michael⁷, Johann Georg⁶, Michael⁵, Hans Jerg⁴, Hans Jacob³, Hans², Hans¹*) was born on 24 Aug 1806 in Gruibingen and died on 10 Sep 1806 in Gruibingen.

48. Anna Catharina Merz¹ (*Michael⁷, Johann Georg⁶, Michael⁵, Hans Jerg⁴, Hans Jacob³, Hans², Hans¹*) was born on 16 Jul 1808 in Gruibingen.

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General Notes: Anna married in 1844.

Anna married **Johann Georg Moll**¹ on 23 Jan 1844 in Gruibingen, Goepingen District, Baden-Württemberg.

49. Anna Barbara Merz¹ (*Michael*⁷, *Johann Georg*⁶, *Michael*⁵, *Hans Jerg*⁴, *Hans Jacob*³, *Hans*², *Hans*¹) was born on 17 Apr 1810 in Gruibingen.

General Notes: Anna married in 1844.

Anna married **Michael Neuffer**¹ on 30 Jul 1844 in Gruibingen, Goepingen District, Baden-Württemberg. Michael was born on 11 May 1815 in Gruibingen, Goepingen District, Baden-Württemberg.

50. Johanna Merz¹ (*Michael*⁷, *Johann Georg*⁶, *Michael*⁵, *Hans Jerg*⁴, *Hans Jacob*³, *Hans*², *Hans*¹) was born on 1 Oct 1812 in Gruibingen, Goepingen District, Baden-Württemberg¹ and died on 15 Jul 1881 in Gruibingen¹ at age 68.

Noted events in her life were:

- Occupation: Rag Picker/.¹

Johanna had children

Her children were:

- + 51 F i. **Anna Barbara Merz**¹ was born on 5 Dec 1833 in Gruibingen, Goepingen District, Baden-Württemberg, Germany¹ and died on 25 Mar 1895 in Bridgeport, Fairfield County, Connecticut at age 61.
- + 52 F ii. **Catharina Merz** was born on 31 Dec 1839 in Gruibingen, Goepingen District, Baden-Württemberg, Germany and died on 18 Sep 1843 in Gruibingen at age 3.
- + 53 M iii. **Jakob Friedrich Merz** was born on 16 Feb 1842 in Gruibingen, Goepingen District, Baden-Württemberg, Germany and died on 4 Jul 1842 in Gruibingen.

Johanna married **Johannes Börschl**¹, son of **Johann Michael Börschl** and **Christina Elisabeth Bätz**, on 18 Oct 1842 in Gruibingen, Goepingen District, Baden-Wuerttemberg, Germany. Johannes was born on 27 Nov 1799 in Jebenhausen, Goepingen District, Baden-Württemberg, Germany and died on 6 Sep 1880 in Gruibingen, Goepingen District, Baden-Württemberg¹ at age 80.

General Notes: Johannes' father Johann Michael Börschl was from Eybach, a Catholic village near Geislingen, and his mother Christina Elisabeth Bätz from Weilheim unter Teck. Teck is a beautiful castle ruined in 1525 during the Peasants' War but later rebuilt. Both are in the former Kingdom of Wüttemberg.

Noted events in his life were:

- Occupation: Shepherd/.¹

Children from this marriage were:

- + 54 F i. **Margaretha Börschl**¹ was born on 26 Aug 1843 in Gruibingen, Goepingen District, Baden-Württemberg, Germany¹ and died about 1907 about age 64.
- + 55 F ii. **Wilhelmina Elisabetha Börschl**¹ was born on 25 Sep 1844 in Gruibingen, Goepingen District, Baden-Württemberg, Germany,² died on 16 Oct 1921 in Bridgeport, Fairfield Co, Connecticut³ at age 77, and was buried on 19 Oct 1921 in Lakeview Cemetery, Bridgeport, Connecticut.⁴
- + 56 M iii. **Johannes Börschl**¹ was born on 16 Jul 1846 in Gruibingen, Goepingen District, Baden-Württemberg, Germany¹ and died on 18 Jan 1901 in

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- Gruibingen⁵ at age 54.
- + 57 F iv. **Maria Catharina Börschl** was born on 20 Apr 1851 in Gruibingen, Goepingen District, Baden-Württemberg, Germany and died on 9 Nov 1851 in Gruibingen.
 - + 58 M v. **Georg Ludwig Börschl** was born on 6 May 1852 in Gruibingen, Goepingen District, Baden-Württemberg, Germany and died on 16 May 1852 in Gruibingen.
 - + 59 F vi. **Maria Carolina Börschl** was born on 12 Jun 1855 in Gruibingen, Goepingen District, Baden-Württemberg, Germany and died on 19 Sep 1855 in Gruibingen.

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Ninth Generation (6th Great-Grandchildren)

51. Anna Barbara Merz¹ (*Johanna Merz⁸, Michael⁷, Johann Georg⁶, Michael⁵, Hans Jerg⁴, Hans Jacob³, Hans², Hans¹*) was born on 5 Dec 1833 in Gruibingen, Goeppingen District, Baden-Württemberg, Germany¹ and died on 25 Mar 1895 in Bridgeport, Fairfield County, Connecticut at age 61. Other names for Anna were Babette and Babette Merz.

General Notes: Babette Merz was born Anna Barbara Merz in Gruibingen in the Kingdom of Württemberg on 5 December 1833. Babette is a nickname for Barbara, her calling name, or the name she went by. Babette was born out of wedlock. Although she carried her mother's name, her father Johann Georg Lutz was listed on her baptismal record. Johann was born 26 Nov 1811 in Zell near Aichelberg, and he did not admit he was her father at the time. He may have admitted it later, as Babette was in later times called Lutzin.

Babette was a florist. By 1868 she was a teacher of knitting.

Babette had four children out of wedlock - Catharina Barbara Habann with Karl Habann, Mathilda Dorothea Merz with Johannes Markus Spangler, Julius Merz and Karl Julius Merz. The father of the last two is unknown. Mathilda and Julius died young. Babette then married Johannes Straub in 1869. She was pregnant with their first born when they married. She had three children with him, only the oldest, Anna, survived childhood.

In 1883, Babette immigrated to America with her husband Johannes Straub, and children Babette Habann, Karl (Charles) Merz, and Anna Straub.

Babette's two half-sisters, who survived childhood, also immigrated to Bridgeport. Elisabetha Börschl (Elizabeth Boerschel) immigrated in September 1892, and lived with her niece Babette Habann Speiser until her death in 1921. Margaretha Börschl (Margaret Boerschel) and her son Adolf immigrated about 1890 to Bridgeport.

Noted events in her life were:

- Immigration: 4 Sep 1883, New York.⁶

Anna had a relationship with **Karl Habann**. This couple did not marry.

Marriage Notes: At this time, it does not appear that Karl and Babette were married.

General Notes: Karl was a waiter from Eichstätt in Bavaria, Germany.

Their child was:

- 60 F i. **Catharina Barbara "Babette" Habann¹** was born on 16 May 1858 in Gruibingen, Goeppingen District, Baden-Wuerttemberg, Germany,⁷ died on 28 Jun 1947 in Bridgeport, Connecticut⁸ at age 89, and was buried on 2 Jul 1947 in Park Cemetary, Bridgeport, Connecticut.⁹ Another name for Catharina was Babette Katrina Merz.

General Notes: Babette Katrina Speiser nee Habann. Born Grubingen, Wurttenburg, Germany, May 16, 1858. Parents Karl Habann - Babette Buerschel [should be Babette Merz].

At age 15 yrs to Stuttgart 1 yr. then to Goppingen to learn sewing 9 mos. to Dr Monk 3 mos. then Switzerland for 3 yrs as personal maid to Baroness von Fischer geb von Blessen - 3 mos. in winter in Bern & rest of time in Eichberg near Thun. After 3 yrs returned to Dr Monk as his assistant & Mrs Monk for 5 yrs. At age 25 she came to America with her mother sister & step father. Took 2 weeks to cross arriving Sept 4, 1883 in N.Y. Came to Bridgeport & after 4 yrs at age 29 married Henry David Speiser, widower with four children Henry 13, Hugo 11, Herman 9 & Emma 4 yrs old [Emma

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was actually 6]. Gave birth to seven children Helene, Elsbeth, Reinhold, Irma, Erich, Lydia Anna & Lydia Johanna. Lydia Anna died at age 11 mos. All born 425 Jane St. Tante Eliz. Buerschel mama's aunt born Sept 25 1844 came to America Sept 1890 and lived with mama until her death Oct 16, 1921 [4].

My mother's Dad was the son of a Baroness [4]. Karl was actually a waiter from Bavaria. There is no information available on his parents at this time.

Babette was born in Gruibingen, Goppingen oberamt (or district), in the Kingdom of Wuerttemberg, on 16 May 1858, to Karl Habann and Anna Barbara Merz. They do not appear to have been married. Her birth name was Catharina Barbara Habann [2]. Her calling name, or the name she went by was Barbara. Babette is a nickname for Barbara. Babette also went by the name Babette Katrina Merz, as recorded in the Speiser family bible when she married Henry Speiser.

Today the town of Gruibingen is in the district (or Kreis in German) of Goppingen in the state of Baden-Wuerttemberg. It has a population of 2300.

When she first came to America, Babette worked as a servant. [5]

In the 1930 Census, Babette is living at 425 Jane Street in Bridgeport, Connecticut. She is 72 years old and widowed. Babette was born in Germany, and lists her year of immigration as 1875. She is a naturalized citizen. Living with her are her daughter Elsbeth, 38, and a nephew Eric Speiser, 15, born in Connecticut, with his parents born in Germany.

In 1944, Babette H Speiser, widow of Henry D, is living at 28 Alberta Street in Fairfield with her daughter Elsbeth. [1]

Babette made Christmas cookies every year. Many of the recipes were from Germany, and may have been from her own mother. Her wooden molds for Springerle were passed to Lydia, then to Lydia's son Cal, then to Cal's daughter Cathy. Babette even made it into the Bridgeport newspaper when they took a picture of her making Springerle for an article on holiday traditions from the "old county". Babette made other recipes such as herring salad and potato salad that continue to travel through the generations.

On Mon June 23, 1947 my mother fell while pulling a few weeds from the flower garden she loved and fractured her hip. Was taken to Bpt Hospital and had it set by Dr. Griswald. Passed away on Sat. June 28 at 4 min to 10 P.M. with all her children around her who had been with her since 10 AM when she was in a coma. Irma had spent the night with her and Helene relieved Irm @ 9 AM. Mama didn't recognize Helene. the last words she said to me at 10 P.M. Fri when I left were "Gehst ... schon Heim? Bi hut sich Gott, Gute Nacht." She was buried at Park Cemetery July 2nd Wed. Looked beautiful in her casket in a lavender dress amidst a wealth of floral pieces, Beautiful service at the church. Six of her seven Grand children carried her to her last resting place. Henry Broch, Eric & Bob & Warren speiser, Stuart and Charles Forbes.

Reinhardt Grah sand Sicher im Jesu Armen Harre Meine Seele. At the grave pastor Reisch read from the German Hymnal #577. "Geht nun hin in grabt mein Grab". [3]

Hans Mertz - Descendants

[1] Bridgeport City Directory 1944 (Ancestry.com)

[2] From the research of Martin Koepple in Germany, using the archives of Gruibingen, 2004

[3] Lydia Speiser Reuther's notebook

[4] Lydia Speiser Reuther

[5] Lydia Speiser to Catherine Reuther, Sept 1988

Noted events in her life were:

- Confirmation: 21 Apr 1872, Gruibingen, Goppingen District, Baden-Wuerttemberg, Germany.¹
- Immigration: 4 Sep 1883, New York City.⁶

Catharina married **Heinrich David Speiser**,⁸ son of **Johannes Speiser** and **Elisabetha Esenwein**, on 19 Nov 1887 in Bridgeport, Fairfield Co, Connecticut.⁸ Heinrich was born on 21 May 1850 in Jesingen (Kirchheim Unter Teck), Esslingen District, Baden-Wuerttemberg, Germany,⁸ died on 18 Oct 1921 in Bridgeport, Connecticut⁸ at age 71, and was buried on 21 Oct 1921 in Park Cemetary, Bridgeport, Connecticut.¹⁰ The cause of his death was pneumonia. Other names for Heinrich were Henry Speiser and Henry David Speiser.

General Notes: My Dad

Henry David Speiser born May 20, 1850 of Elizabeth Eiswein [Esenwein] & John Speiser in Jessingen, Wurttemberg Ger
Educated in Kirchheim High School - at age 14 to Mehringen to learn trade (Barrell making & beer brewing). Came to America at age 18 [about 1868 or 9] to escape military training and stayed until age 21. Then returned to Germany until 28 yrs of age. Settled in Bpt. and worked as foreman for Klaus Brewery. Later started own bottling business of soft drinks At age 36 married Babette Habann Merz [6].

Henry was born in Jesingen, Kirchheim oberamt (or district), in the Kingdom of Wuerttemberg. Today the town of Jesingen has become part of the city of Kirchheim unter Teck, in the district (or Kreis in German) of Esslingen in the state of Baden-Wuerttemberg.

Heinrich David Speiser, living in the district of Kirchheim, applied at Wuerttemberg, Germany, in July 1869 to emigrate to North America. He was born 20 May 1850 in Jesingen. According to information about the Wuerttemberg Emigration Index, some immigrants left without permission, and sent word back to the Wuerttemberg state and town officials renouncing their citizenship. In the case of Heinrich, the application to emigrate in 1869 is probably accurate.

When Henry returned to Germany from America at age 21, he married Sophie after his future father-in-law promised to give him his brewery. Henry took his wife and 3 children, Henry, Hugo, and Herman, to America when his father-in-law did not keep his promise. [7]

A search of the 1880 Census, dated 7 June 1880, turned up a Henry Spicer, age 30 (born in 1850), born in Wurttemberg, living in Bridgeport, Connecticut, with the John Sthiuflel family, also from Wurttemberg. His marital status is married, but no wife is present in the household. Henry is working in a brewery. Three other young men from Germany are also living with the Sthiuflel's, two working in a brewery. Sophie and their children

Hans Mertz - Descendants

arrived one month later on July 30 in New York.

After coming to America, Henry, Sophie, and family lived downstairs in a house also occupied by Babette Merz [should be Habann], her mother and step-father, and her sister. Young Herman used to visit Babette Straub [Babette Habann's mother] when she was alone and sick. [7]

In 1887, Henry's first wife Sophie died and he married Babette Habann.

In 1890 Henry Speiser is living in Bridgeport at 171 Jane Street. He is a bottler. In 1891 Henry is also operating a saloon at 394 East Main. Henry must have bought the saloon from his wife's brother-in-law Christopher Becker, as Christopher had a saloon at this address in 1890. [1]

In 1895 Henry Speiser is operating a saloon at 433 E Main in Bridgeport. His home is at 171 Jane Street. [4]

In 1899 Henry Speiser is operating a saloon at 1127 E Main. Son Herman is working for him as a bartender. [8]

About 1900-1901, Henry turned the saloon or tavern he owned at 1127 East Main over to his son Herman.

In the 1900 Census, Henry Speiser (Spiezer on the census) is living at 425 Jane Street in Bridgeport. He is 50 years old, immigrated from Germany in 1869, and is a beer agent. Henry and his wife Babette, 42, have been married 15 years. She has had 7 children, 6 are living. All their combined children except Henry's sons Henry and Hugo from his first marriage are living with them. Also living with them is Elizabeth Boerschel, aunt, and John Kadlie, boarder.

In 1902 Henry Speiser is operating a saloon at 186 Railroad av. In 1904-1905, Henry Speiser is operating an ale, lager and porter business from 425 Jane Street, also his home. In addition, he operates a saloon at 186 Railroad Ave. [2]

On 20 May 1903 Henry Speiser and family boarded the steamer Potsdam in New York for Rotterdam, Germany, for a trip to celebrate his mother's 90th birthday. With Henry were his wife Mrs Henry Speiser, children Emma, Helene, Elsbeth, Irma, Lydia, Reinhold and Ehrich, and his wife's aunt Mrs Elizabeth Boerschel. On the souvenir passenger list Mrs Wilhelm Berlage's name was checked (she was accompanying her husband). They may have been friends or relatives. [9]

Henry applied to become a citizen of the United States October 23, 1884. He became a citizen on May 8, 1907. (Henry's naturalization certificate)

According to a newspaper dated May 18, 1907, as well as stationary Henry used, he was an agent for the Hupfel Brewing company of New York.

In the 1910 Census, Henry Speiser (Herman on the census) is living at 425 Jane Street in Bridgeport, Connecticut. He is 59 years old, and born in Germany. Henry is a brewing agent for a brewery. Living with him are his wife Babbett (Babette), age 51, also born in Germany, daughter Hellen (Helene), 20, Elizabeth (Elsbeth), 18, Reinhold, 17, Erma (Irma), 16, Erich, 15,

Hans Mertz - Descendants

Lydia, 12, daughter Emma Broch, 29, grandson Henry P Broch, 3, and aunt Elizabeth Boerschel, 64. Henry immigrated in 1869 and is a naturalized citizen. Babette immigrated in 1884.

In 1913-14, Henry Speiser is operating an ale, lager and porter business from 425 Jane Street, also his home. In addition, he operates a saloon at 384 Railroad Ave. [3]

In the 1920 Census, Henry Speiser is living at 425 Jane Street in Bridgeport, Connecticut. He is 69 years old and was born in Germany. Henry is a brewing agent for a brewery. Living with him are his wife Babette, 61, children Helene, 30, Elsbeth, 28, Reinhold, 26, Lydia, 22, grandson Erick, 4 11/12, and Elizabeth Brasschel (Boerschel). Elizabeth is Babette's aunt, but is listed as a servant?. Henry immigrated in 1869, and became a citizen in 1872. Babette immigrated in 1883, and is a naturalized citizen. Grandson Erich was apparently counted twice on the census, as he also appears with his parents Erich and Julia Speiser.

My Dad passed away 10 PM Oct 18, 1921 at age 71 of pneumonia and was buried Oct 21 at Park Cemetery. [6]

Henry's estate was appraised at \$3,595.66. His estate included bank deposits of \$3,166.66 and real estate valued at \$429. [5]

[1] Bridgeport, Connecticut, city directory, 1890-91 (Ancestry.com)

[2] Bridgeport City Directories 1902, 1904, 1905 (Ancestry.com)

[3] Bridgeport City Directories 1913-14 (Ancestry.com)

[4] Bridgeport City Directory 1895 (Ancestry.com)

[5] Bridgeport telegram, Bridgeport CT, 28 Jan 1922 (Ancestry.com)

[6] Lydia Speiser's notebook

[7] Lydia Speiser to Catherine Reuther, Sept 1988

[8] Bridgeport City Directory 1899 (Ancestry.com)

[9] souvenir passenger list for the steamer Potsdam, leave NY 20 May 1903 for Rotterdam, Germany (Lydia Speiser Reuther collection)

Noted events in his life were:

- Alt. Birth: 25 May 1850, Jesingen (Kirchheim Unter Teck), Esslingen District, Baden-Wuerttemberg, Germany.¹¹
- Immigration: 1869, From Germany.¹²
- Immigration: Betw Late 1878 And Early 1879, 1878-1879.¹³
- Naturalization: 8 May 1907, Bridgeport, Connecticut.

Anna had a relationship with **Johannes Markus Spangler**,¹ son of **Marcus Spangler** and **Catharina Mutschler**. This couple did not marry. Johannes was born on 12 Oct 1835 in Gruibingen, Goepingen District, Baden-Württemberg.¹

Their child was:

- 61 F i. **Mathilda Dorothea Merz**¹ was born on 9 Jul 1861 in Zainingen, Baden-Württemberg, Germany¹ and died on 21 Nov 1874 in Gruibingen, Goepingen District, Baden-Württemberg¹ at age 13.

Anna next had a relationship with **Unknown**. This couple did not marry.

Hans Mertz - Descendants

Their children were:

- 62 M i. **Julius Merz**¹ was born on 29 Jul 1863 in Gruibingen, Goepingen District, Baden-Württemberg, Germany¹ and died on 13 Nov 1863.¹
- 63 M ii. **Charles Merz** was born on 20 Jun 1865 in Jebenhausen, Goepingen District, Baden-Württemberg, Germany¹ and died on 1 Sep 1934 in Bridgeport, Fairfield County, Connecticut¹⁴ at age 69. Another name for Charles was Karl Julius Merz.¹

General Notes: Charles was born Karl Julius Merz in Jebenhausen in the Kingdom of Württemberg on 20 June 1865. His calling name, or the name he went by, at his birth was Julius. By the time he got to America, he was Charles Merz. Charles' mother was not married when he was born and his father is unknown.

I have a note, probably from a conversation with niece Lydia Speiser, that Charles and his sister Babette Habann were full, not half, siblings. Lydia was probably incorrect and may have made that assumption because Babette often used Merz as her maiden name. [CAR]

Charles is probably the Charles Mertz found in the 1890 & 1891 Bridgeport city directories working for Wheeler & Wilson Mfg. Co. [1]

In the 1900 Census, Charles Merz (looks like Mere) is living at 703 Ogden Street in Bridgeport, Fairfield Co, Connecticut. He is 34 years old, born in Germany, and immigrated in 1883. Charles is a cabinet maker. Living with him are his wife Mary, 29, and children Charles, 6, and Annie, 2. Mary was born in Germany and immigrated in 1888. Charles and Mary have been married 8 years. Mary has had two children, both are living.

In 1904, Charles Merz is listed in the Bridgeport City directory as Charles Merc. His is living at 54 Freeman Street, and is working for Wheeler & Wilson Mfg Co. [1]

In the 1910 Census, Charles Merz is living at 54 Freeman Street in Bridgeport. He is 45, and a cabinet maker of sewing machines. Living with him are his wife Mary, 39, and children Charles, 16, Annie, 11, and Lillian, 2. Son Charles is an apprentice; what type is not clear. The Merz are living near Charles' cousin Adolphe Boerschel and his family. Also nearby, on the next census page, are Charles' half-sister Anna Straub Becker & her family, along with her father John Straub.

In 1913, Charles Merz (Merc on the city directory) is working for Singer Manufacturing. [1]

In the 1920 Census, Charles Merz is living at 54 Freeman Street. He is 55, and a cabinet maker. Living with Charles are his wife Mary, 49, and daughters Anna, 21, and Lillian, 12. Anna is working, but her occupation was not clear on the census. The Boerschel's are still living close by, and the Becker's are a few census pages away.

In 1923 Charles and Marie are living at 54 Freeman Street. Charles works for Columbia Graphophone Mfg co. [1]

In the 1930 Census, Charles Merz is living at 54 Freeman Street. He is 64 and a cabinet maker at a machine factory. Living with him are his wife Anna

Hans Mertz - Descendants

(should be Mary), 59, and daughters Anna W, 31, and Lillian, 22.

Niece Lydia Speiser Reuther wrote that her uncle was a very clever cabinet maker. [2]

In the 1934 Bridgeport City Directory, Charles is listed as having died Sept 1 1934 at age 69.

[1] Bridgeport City Directories (Ancestry.com)

[2] Letter from Lydia S Reuther to son Calvin Reuther 31 Dec 1964

Noted events in his life were:

- Alt. Birth: Jun 1865, Germany.¹²
- Alt. Death: Between 1930 and 1934, Bridgeport, Fairfield Co, Connecticut.

Charles married **Maria Strolin**¹⁵ about 1892.¹² Maria was born on 28 Nov 1870 in Germany¹⁶ and died on 27 Dec 1956 in Hamden, New Haven County, Connecticut¹⁷ at age 86. Other names for Maria were Maria A¹⁷ and Mary.¹⁸

General Notes: Mary's name is Mary on the 1900, 1910 & 1920 Censuses, but Anna in 1930 and in the 1944 Bridgeport city directory. Since her age is consistent with the earlier censuses, I assume she is the same person.

In 1934 & 1935 A Marie Merz, widow of Charles, is living at 54 Freeman Street in Bridgeport with her daughters Anna M and Lillian L. [6]

In 1944 Anna M Merz is living at 54 Freeman Street in Bridgeport. She is widowed from Charles J. Anna is living with her daughter Anna M. [1]

After her daughter died in 1948, Marie A Merz continued to live at her home on Freeman Street. [2]

In 1952 Marie M Merz, widow of Charles J, is listed as having removed to Hamden. [3] Daughter Lillian Merz Marshall lived in Hamden, and Marie probably went to live with her.

In November 1955, Mrs. Mary Merz of Hamden and Mr. & Mrs. Rush Marshall of Hamden attended a surprise 80th birthday party for Christian Strolin. [5] Christian was probably Marie's brother.

Maria A Merz, widow of Charles, died 27 December 1956 at age 86 at Hamden, New Haven, Connecticut. [4]

[1] Bridgeport City Directory 1944 (Ancestry.com)

[2] Bridgeport City Directory 1949 (Ancestry.com)

[3] Bridgeport City Directory 1952 (Ancestry.com)

[4] Connecticut Death Index, 1949-2001 (Ancestry.com)

[5] Bridgeport Sunday Post, Nov 6 1955, p A-12 (Ancestry.com)

[6] Bridgeport City Directory 1935 (Ancestry.com)

Anna next married **Eduard Johannes Straub**,¹ son of **Johann Georg Straub** and **Anna Stöhle**, on 15 Nov 1869 in Gruibingen, Goppingen District, Baden-Wuerttemberg, Germany.¹ Eduard was born on 25 Feb 1842 in Gruibingen, Goeppingen District, Baden-Württemberg, Germany,¹ died on 5 Feb 1927 in Bridgeport, Fairfield County, Connecticut¹⁹ at age 84, and was buried in Lakeview Cemetery, Bridgeport, CT.²⁰ Other names for Eduard were John, Johannes Straub,⁸ and John Edward Straub.²⁰

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General Notes: Eduard Johannes Straub was born 25 February 1842 in Gruibingen, Goppingen oberamt (or district), in the Kingdom of Wuerttemberg. He was a weaver from an old family in Gruibingen. [2]

Today the town of Gruibingen is in the district (or Kreis in German) of Goppingen in the state of Baden-Wuerttemberg. It has a population of 2300.

In 1890, John Straub is living in Bridgeport, Connecticut, at 392 East Main. He works for Wheeler & Wilson Mfg. Co. John and his wife Babette must be living with their daughter and son-in-law Christopher and Anna Becker who live at the same address. The following year they are living at 163 Shelton, again the same address as Christopher and Anna. [1]

In the 1900 Census, John Straub is living in the house of his daughter Anna and her husband Christ Becker (looked like Belker on the census). He is 58 years old and a retired widower. John was born in Germany and immigrated in 1883. He may be a naturalized citizen.

In the 1910 Census, John Straub is living in the house of his daughter Anna and her husband Chris (Gustavus on the census) Becker in Bridgeport, Connecticut. He is 68 years old, widowed, and was born in Germany. His year of immigration was unclear, but he did appear to be naturalized. John speaks German, not English.

In the 1920 Census, John Straub is living in the house of his daughter Anna and her husband Chris Becker. John is 77 years old (born about 1843), widowed, and born in Germany.

Services were held for John Edward Straub on February 8, 1927. He died Saturday [Feb 5] at the home of his daughter. Burial was in Lakeview Cemetery. [3]

[1] Bridgeport City Directories, 1890-91, Ancestry.com

[2] From the research of Martin Koepple in Germany, using the archives of Gruibingen, 2004

[3] The Bridgeport Telegram, February 7, 1927, page 18.

Noted events in his life were:

- Alt. Birth: 25 Feb 1841, Germany.²¹

Children from this marriage were:

- 64 F i. **Anna Wilhelmine Straub**¹ was born on 9 Mar 1870 in Gruibingen, Goeppingen District, Baden-Württemberg, Germany,¹ died on 19 Sep 1945 in Bridgeport, Connecticut²² at age 75, and was buried on 22 Sep 1945 in Lakeview Cemetery, Bridgeport, Connecticut.²³ Another name for Anna was Anna Habann.

General Notes: Anna was a member of the First Evangelical and Reformed Church and the Ladies Aid Society. [1]

Mamie (Mary), Tillie (Matilda), and Johnnie Becker were in a photo in Speiser collection, identified by Lydia Speiser Reuther. They are children of Anna and Christopher.

The obituary for Anna lists five daughters - Mrs. Joseph Ryley of Westport, Mrs. William Schutt of Bridgeport, Mrs. Fred Paquette of Bridgeport, Mrs. Otto Salzer of Stratford, and Mrs. Thomas Linnenbrink of Fairfield, and two sons, Charles of Stratford, and Peter of Bridgeport. Anna had only four

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daughters. Mrs. Thomas Linnenbrink (Florence B in the city directory 1944) is actually her granddaughter, the daughter of Peter, and was raised by Anna and Chris.

[1] Kimberly Reinhard

Noted events in her life were:

- Alt. Birth: 1870, Germany.²²
- Alt. Birth: Mar 1870, Germany.¹²
- Immigration: 4 Sep 1883, New York.⁶

Anna married **John Peter Christopher Becker**,²⁴ son of **John Becker** and **Johanna Rebecca Hallke**, about 1889.²⁵ John was born on 29 Jun 1867 in Bremerhaufen, Germany,²⁴ died on 11 Oct 1957 in Norwalk, Fairfield Co, Connecticut¹⁷ at age 90, and was buried on 14 Oct 1957 in Lakeview Cemetery, Bridgeport, CT.²⁴ The cause of his death was Coronary Thrombosis. Other names for John were Christopher and Christopher Becker.

Noted events in their marriage were:

- Alt. Marriage: 29 Aug 1889, Bridgeport, Fairfield Co, Connecticut.²⁴

General Notes: Chris was reportedly born in Bremerhaufen, Germany. This is most likely Bremerhaven in the German state of Bremen. The city of Bremerhaven is located on the Geest River at its junction with the estuary of the Weser River some 37 miles north of Bremen in northwest Germany. It serves as the North Sea port for that city. There was a medieval settlement at Lehe on the site. The modern city was founded as a port for Bremen in 1827, and the municipality was formed by the amalgamation of three towns in 1845. Throughout the 19th century, Bremerhaven grew and prospered as both a fishing port and a passenger port.

In 1890, Christopher Becker is operating a saloon at 394 East Main in Bridgeport, Connecticut. He lives next door at 392 East Main. His wife Anna's parents Babette and John Straub are living with them. In 1891, Christopher is living at 163 Shelton, and no longer has the saloon. He must have sold it to his wife's brother-in-law Henry Speiser, as Henry is operating a saloon at this address in 1891. Babette and John Straub continue to live with Christopher and Anna. [3]

In the 1900 Census, Christ Becker (looked like Belker on the census) is living in Bridgeport, Fairfield County, Connecticut. He is 32 years old, and was born in Germany. He immigrated in 1882 and is a naturalized citizen. Chris is working as a day laborer. Living with him is his wife Anna, 30. She was also born in Germany and immigrated in 1883. They have been married 10 years, and Anna has born 7 children, 4 are living. Their children are Tellie (Matilda or Tillie), 8, Marmie (Mary or Marie), 4, Carl, 3, and Adolph, 1. All the children were born in Connecticut. Also living with them is John Straub, identified as Chris's father on the census, but actually Anna's father.

In 1904, Christopher Becker is working for Connecticut Railway & Lighting Company in Bridgeport. He is living at 551 Housatonic ave. [4]

In the 1910 Census, Christopher Becker (Gustavus on the census) was living in Bridgeport at 44 Florence Avenue. He is 42 years old, and was born in Germany. His year of immigration was unclear, but he is a naturalized citizen.

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Christopher may be working for an electric railroad, perhaps in a repair capacity. Living with him is his wife Anna, 40, also born in Germany. They have been married 20 years, and Anna has born 9 children, 6 are living. Their six children are Matilda, 18, Mary, 14, Carl (Charles), 13, Adolphe (Peter), 11, Anna, 7, and Elsie, 4. Matilda and Mary are working - Matilda in some kind of factory, and Mary is sewing in a lace factory. Also living with them is Anna's widowed father John Straub, 68. Living nearby, on the previous census page, are Anna's half-brother Charles Merz and his family, and Adolphe Boerschel and his family, relatives of Anna's and Charles' mother.

In the 1920 Census, Christopher Becker (or Becher) was living in Bridgeport. He is 53 years old and born in Germany. He immigrated in 1870 and was naturalized in 1908 or 1918. Living with him was his wife Anna, age 48/49, also born in Germany. Anna immigrated in 1880. Living with them were their children Mary, 24, Peter, 20?, Anna, 17, and Elsie, 14. All the children were born in Connecticut. Also in the house was Christopher's father-in-law John Straub, age 77, born in Germany. Christopher and Anna may have been naturalized citizens. Anna's relatives the Merz's and Boerschel's are living a few census pages away.

In the 1930 Census, Christ. Becker is living in Bridgeport on Hewitt Street. He is 62 years old and was born in Germany. He lists his year of immigration as 1882 and is a naturalized citizen. Christopher is a machine operator at a sewing machine factory. Living with him are his wife Anna, age 60, also born in Germany, daughter Elsie, 24, born in Connecticut, and granddaughter Florence, 9. Florence was born in Connecticut as was her father. Her mother was born in New York. Florence is Peter's daughter from his first marriage. Anna lists her year of immigration as 1883 and is a naturalized citizen. Elsie is working in a factory, the type of factory and work was unclear.

In 1944, Christopher J Becker and his wife Anna W are living at 194 Hewitt Street in Bridgeport. [2]

Chris J Becker died October 11, 1957, in Norwalk, Fairfield Co, Connecticut. He was 90 years old, and widowed from Anna. Chris's last residence was in Westport. [1]

[1] Connecticut Death Index, 1949-2001 (Ancestry.com)

[2] Bridgeport City Directory 1944 (Ancestry.com)

[3] Bridgeport City Directories, 1890-91, Ancestry.com

[4] Bridgeport City Directory 1904 (Ancestry.com)

Noted events in his life were:

- Alt. Birth: Jun 1867, Germany.¹²
- Alt. Birth: Abt 1868, Germany.²⁶
- Alt. Death: After 1930.
- Immigration: 14 Apr 1882.²⁴
- Occupation: Inspector For Singer Manufacturing Company In Bridgeport, CT/²⁴

- 65 M ii. **Johannes Reinhold Straub**¹ was born on 3 May 1871 in Gruibingen, Goepingen District, Baden-Württemberg¹ and died on 9 Jun 1872 in Gruibingen, Goepingen District, Baden-Württemberg¹ at age 1.

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- 66 F iii. **Johanna Bertha Straub**¹ was born on 27 Sep 1872 in Gruibingen, Goepingen District, Baden-Württemberg¹ and died on 26 Dec 1872 in Gruibingen, Goepingen District, Baden-Württemberg.¹

52. Catharina Merz (*Johanna Merz*⁸, *Michael*⁷, *Johann Georg*⁶, *Michael*⁵, *Hans Jerg*⁴, *Hans Jacob*³, *Hans*², *Hans*¹) was born on 31 Dec 1839 in Gruibingen, Goepingen District, Baden-Württemberg, Germany and died on 18 Sep 1843 in Gruibingen at age 3.

53. Jakob Friedrich Merz (*Johanna Merz*⁸, *Michael*⁷, *Johann Georg*⁶, *Michael*⁵, *Hans Jerg*⁴, *Hans Jacob*³, *Hans*², *Hans*¹) was born on 16 Feb 1842 in Gruibingen, Goepingen District, Baden-Württemberg, Germany and died on 4 Jul 1842 in Gruibingen.

54. Margaretha Börschl¹ (*Johanna Merz*⁸, *Michael*⁷, *Johann Georg*⁶, *Michael*⁵, *Hans Jerg*⁴, *Hans Jacob*³, *Hans*², *Hans*¹) was born on 26 Aug 1843 in Gruibingen, Goepingen District, Baden-Württemberg, Germany¹ and died about 1907 about age 64. Other names for Margaretha were Margaret Boerschel and Margaret Boerschel.²⁷

General Notes: In 1895 Margaret Börschel, widow of John, is living at 293 Shelton in Bridgeport, in the home of her son Adolf Börschel. [2] Although she is listed as a widow, Margaret never married.

In 1900, Magaret Borshel is living in Bridgeport, Connecticut, with her son Adolphe and his wife Mary. Margaret is 56, widowed, born in Germany, and immigrated in 1890.

In 1904, Mrs Margaret Borschel, widow of John, is living at 759 Shelton, Bridgeport, in the home of her son Adolf. [1]

In 1907 Mrs Margaret Borschel, widow of John, is living at 60 Freeman Street in Bridgeport, in the home of her son Adolf. She is not listed in the 1908 City directory. [3]

[1] Bridgeport City Directory 1904 (Ancestry.com)

[2] Bridgeport City Directory 1895 (Ancestry.com)

[3] Bridgeport City Directory 1907 & 1908 (Ancestry.com)

Margaretha had a child

Her child was:

- 67 M i. **Adolf Johannes Börschl**¹ was born on 19 Apr 1866 in Gruibingen, Goepingen District, Baden-Württemberg,¹ died on 22 Apr 1921 in Bridgeport, Fairfield County, Connecticut⁴ at age 55, and was buried on 26 Apr 1921 in Lakeview Cemetery, Bridgeport, Connecticut.⁴ Other names for Adolf were Adolf Boerschel and Adolf Boerschel.

General Notes: In 1895 Adolf Börschel, a house painter, is living at 293 Shelton in Bridgeport. His mother Margaret Börschel is living with him. [2]

In a newspaper obituary in June 1897 for Lydia Anna Speiser, flower arrangements were recieved from Mr. & Mrs. Boeshel (probably Adolf & Mary) and Mrs. Elizabeth Boeschel.

In the 1900 Census, Adolphe Borshel is living at 759 Shelton Street in Bridgeport, Fairfield County, Connecticut. He is 34 years old, born in Germany, and a painter. Living with him are his wife Mary, 29, also born in Germany, and his mother Margaret, 56. Adolph immigrated in 1890, as did his wife and mother. Adolph and Mary have been married 7 years.

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In 1904, Adolf Borschel is working as a painter and living at 759 Shelton in Bridgeport. His mother Margaret is living with him. [1]

In 1907 Adolf Boerschel is living at 60 Freeman Street in Bridgeport. He is a painter employed by H D Murphy. His mother Margaret is living with him. [4]

In 1910, Adolphe Boerschel is living on Freeman Street in Bridgeport. He is 43 years old and a painter. Living with him are his wife Mary, 39, and their adopted daughter Frada, 8. She was born in New York and her parents were born in Germany. Not too far away are his cousins the Merz and Beckers.

In 1920, Adolf Boerschel is living at 60 Freeman Street in Bridgeport. He is 53 years old, and a painter. Adolf was born in Germany, immigrated in 1893, and is a citizen. With him are his wife Mary, 49, and daughter Frieda, 17. Not too far away are his cousins the Merz and Beckers.

Adolph John Boerschel, a painter of 60 Freeman street, died suddenly after the evening meal on 22 April 1921. He had worked that day. Adolph was survived by his widow. He was buried on 26 April in the family plot at Lakeview cemetery. Adolph was a member of the German Reformed church, Schwaben Sick Benefit society and Painters' union. Delegations from the Schwaben Sick Benefit society and Painters' union attended the funeral. Pallbearers were Adam Schemph, Martin Rau, Mike Broadbeck, John Broadbeck, Jacob Barch, and Frank Foehrenbach. [3]

[1] Bridgeport City Directory 1904 (Ancestry.com)

[2] Bridgeport City Directory 1895 (Ancestry.com)

[3] Bridgeport Telegram, 23 & 27 April 1921 (Ancestry.com)

[4] Bridgeport City Directory 1907 (Ancestry.com)

Noted events in his life were:

- Alt. Birth: Apr 1866, Germany.¹²
- Immigration: 1890.¹²
- Immigration: 1893.²⁸

Adolf married **Mary**¹² about 1893.¹² Mary was born in Jun 1870 in Germany.¹²

General Notes: In 1921 Mary Boerschel, widow of Adolph, is living at 60 Freeman street. [1]

Mary is not listed in the 1923 Bridgeport City directory. She either moved to another town between 1921 and 1923, or passed away.

[1] Bridgeport City Directory 1921 (Ancestry.com)

Noted events in her life were:

- Immigration: 1890.¹²
- Immigration: 1893.²⁸

55. Wilhelmina Elisabetha Börschl¹ (*Johanna Merz*⁸, *Michael*⁷, *Johann Georg*⁶, *Michael*⁵, *Hans Jerg*⁴, *Hans Jacob*³, *Hans*², *Hans*¹) was born on 25 Sep 1844 in Gruibingen, Goepfingen District, Baden-Württemberg, Germany,² died on 16 Oct 1921 in Bridgeport, Fairfield Co, Connecticut³ at age 77, and was buried on 19 Oct 1921 in Lakeview

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Cemetery, Bridgeport, Connecticut.⁴ Other names for Wilhelmina were Elizabeth Boerschel and Elizabeth Boerschel.

General Notes: Tante Elizabeth Boerschel came to America in September 1892, and lived with her niece Babette Habann Speiser until her death.

Tante Eliz. Buerschel mama's aunt born Sept 25 1844 came to America Sept 1890 and lived with mama (Babette Habann Speiser) until her death Oct 16, 1921. [Lydia]

IN 1895, Miss Elizabeth Boerschel is living at 171 Jane Street, Bridgeport (in the home of her neice Babette Speiser). She is also listed as Miss Elizabeth Börschel. {2}

In a newspaper obituary in June 1897 for Lydia Anna Speiser, flower arrangements were received from Mr. & Mrs. Boeshel and Mrs. Elizabeth Boeschel.

In the 1900 Census, Elizabeth Boerschel is living at 425 Jane Street in Bridgeport with Henry and Babette Speiser (Speizer on the census). She is 66 years old, single, and immigrated from Germany in 1892.

Elsbeth Boershel is found on the ship manifest July 28, 1903, with Henry Speiser and family returning from a trip to Germany. She is listed as an American citizen. [4]

In 1904, Elizabeth Borschel is living at 425 Jane Street in Bridgeport, the home of her niece Babette Speiser. [1]

In the 1910 Census, Elizabeth Boerschel is living at 425 Jane Street in Bridgeport with Henry and Babette Speiser. She is 64 years old, single, and born in Germany. Her year of immigration is erroneously listed as 1884.

In the 1920 Census Elizabeth Brasschel is living in Bridgeport with Henry and Babette Speiser. She is listed on the census as a servant, although this was not entirely clear. Elizabeth is 76 years old, single, and was born in Germany. She may be a naturalized citizen, but those boxes on the census were not clear.

Elizabeth Boerschel died October 16 1921 at the home of her niece Mrs. Henry Speiser of Jane Street. She was survived by her nieces Mrs. Henry Speiser and Mrs. Christ Becker and nephew Charles Merz. [3]

[1] Bridgeport City Directory 1904 (Ancestry.com)

[2] Bridgeport City Directory 1895 (Ancestry.com)

[3] Bridgeport Telegram, Oct 17 1921 (Ancestry.com)

[4] www.ellsislandrecords.com

Noted events in her life were:

- Immigration: Sep 1890.⁶

56. Johannes Börschl¹ (*Johanna Merz*⁸, *Michael*⁷, *Johann Georg*⁶, *Michael*⁵, *Hans Jerg*⁴, *Hans Jacob*³, *Hans*², *Hans*¹) was born on 16 Jul 1846 in Gruibingen, Goepingen District, Baden-Württemberg, Germany¹ and died on 18 Jan 1901 in Gruibingen⁵ at age 54.

General Notes: Lydia Speiser Reuther identified a picture in a Merz/Boerschel photo album as "My Great Uncle who was a Sheppard and his wife." She also noted that he immigrated to America.

I believe the picture is of Babette Merz Straub's half-brother Johannes Börschl and his wife Christine Zanker. Johannes' father, also Johannes Börschl, was a shepherd, so the

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younger Johannes may also have been a shepherd.

According the church records in Gruibingen, Johannes and Christine did not have any children. They died in Gruibingen, so it seems unlikely they immigrated to the US.

Johannes married **Christine Elisabeth Zanker**,¹ daughter of **Johann Michael Zanker** and **Christine Müller**, on 24 Feb 1881 in Gruibingen, Goepingen District, Baden-Wuerttemberg, Germany.¹ Christine was born on 1 May 1844 in Gruibingen⁵ and died on 5 May 1917 in Gruibingen⁵ at age 73.

57. Maria Catharina Börschl (*Johanna Merz*⁸, *Michael*⁷, *Johann Georg*⁶, *Michael*⁵, *Hans Jerg*⁴, *Hans Jacob*³, *Hans*², *Hans*¹) was born on 20 Apr 1851 in Gruibingen, Goepingen District, Baden-Württemberg, Germany and died on 9 Nov 1851 in Gruibingen.

58. Georg Ludwig Börschl (*Johanna Merz*⁸, *Michael*⁷, *Johann Georg*⁶, *Michael*⁵, *Hans Jerg*⁴, *Hans Jacob*³, *Hans*², *Hans*¹) was born on 6 May 1852 in Gruibingen, Goepingen District, Baden-Württemberg, Germany and died on 16 May 1852 in Gruibingen.

59. Maria Carolina Börschl (*Johanna Merz*⁸, *Michael*⁷, *Johann Georg*⁶, *Michael*⁵, *Hans Jerg*⁴, *Hans Jacob*³, *Hans*², *Hans*¹) was born on 12 Jun 1855 in Gruibingen, Goepingen District, Baden-Württemberg, Germany and died on 19 Sep 1855 in Gruibingen.

Source Citations

1. Martin Koepple, doing research in Germany with Gruibingen archives.
2. Lydia Speiser Reuther's notebook. Martin Koepple, doing research in Germany with Gruibingen archives.
3. Speiser Family Bible (in German). Lydia Speiser Reuther's notebook.
4. Bridgeport Telegram (Ancestry.com).
5. Kathy Bonnell, RootsWeb transcription of church records.
6. Lydia Speiser Reuther's notebook.
7. Speiser Family Bible (in German). Martin Koepple, doing research in Germany with Gruibingen archives.
8. Speiser Family Bible (in German).
9. Lydia Speiser Reuther.
10. Lydia Speiser Reuther's notebook. Bridgeport Telegram (Ancestry.com).
11. Martin Koepple, doing research in Germany with Oetlingen, Jesingen, Möhringen & Bebenhausen archives.
12. 1900 Census.
13. Herman & Bertha Speiser's 50th wedding anniversary - newspaper (Name: Bridgeport Sunday Post Dec 9, 1956;).
14. Bridgeport City Directories (Ancestry.com).
15. Bridgeport Post (Ancestry.com), p. 31.
16. 1900 Census. Lydia Speiser Reuther diary.
17. Connecticut Death Index, 1949-2001 (Ancestry.com).
18. Photo identified by Lydia Speiser Reuther.
19. Speiser Family Bible (in German). Bridgeport Telegram, Feb 7 1927.
20. Bridgeport Telegram, Feb 7 1927.
21. 1920 Census. Speiser Family Bible (in German).
22. Obituary, Mrs. Christopher Becker.
23. Obituary, Mrs. Christopher Becker. Kimberly Reinhard.
24. Kimberly Reinhard.
25. 1930 Census.
26. 1920 Census. 1930 Census. 1910 Census.
27. picture identified by Lydia Speiser Reuther.
28. 1920 Census.

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