

# REEB ROOTS

Vol 2, No. 4

A Quarterly Publication for the Reeb Families Association

Spring, 2001

## V O T E V O T E

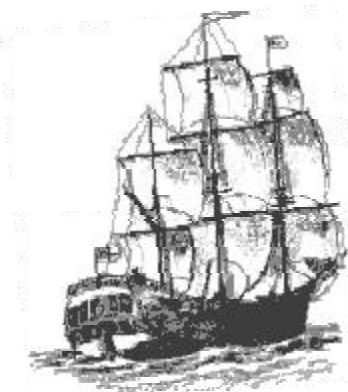
Spring has arrived and the RFA members are about to vote in our first election. I wish to thank those who took the time to send nominations and I also thank Emma Messinger for taking time from her personal schedule to tabulate those.

There were several new nominations--all of whom declined. On the ballot will appear the names of the current officers who are willing to serve a full term. The ballot is on the final page of this issue.

### **Please take the time to vote!**

Your vote is important, even in this election. Our bylaws require a certain percentage of our members to cast a ballot in order for the election to be valid. (If you do not have a copy of the bylaws, you may download one from the family website at [www.myfamily.com](http://www.myfamily.com) or contact Shannon.) Holding an "unopposed" election may appear redundant, however laws that govern incorporation require certain criteria to be met before a group can apply--a proper election being one of the most important. Incorporating is our future goal.

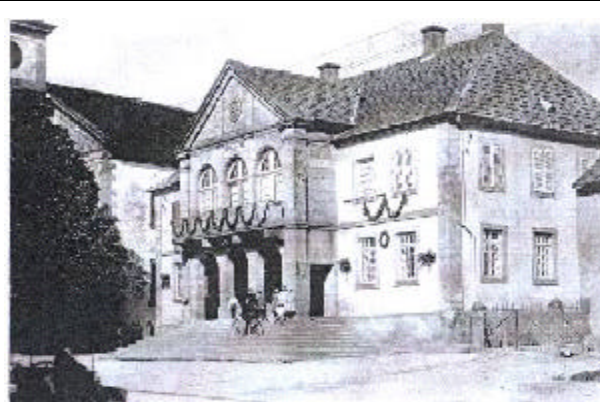
Once again, Emma has offered to be our "official" in charge of ballots.



**Arrivals for Ships  
from Havre  
France to  
New York City  
starting on page 5**

A genealogist must have the patience of Job  
The curiosity of a cat  
The stubbornness of a mule,  
The eyesight of an eagle,  
Be blessed with the luck of the Irish  
And the stamina of a camel to go long hours without  
food or drink.

---The Herald, Vol. 18, no. 3 & 4, 1995  
Kalkins Family Website, March, 2001



George Reeb, grandfather of Gail Ferris, was born 1885 in Keskastel, Germany. This is the Lutheran Church and school he attended. The steeple is on the far left. George came to America in 1903. (According to John V. Reeb, this school is now the Mayor's Office or City Hall.)

photo compliments of Gail Ferris

## Renewal Time

Association membership renewals are due by June 1, 2001. The renewal year is from June 1 to May 31 of the following year. This year's fee will remain the same as last--\$15.00. Any new member that joins between now and May 31, 2001 will have their dues applied to the coming year and will not receive the back issues of Reeb Roots.

Please remit payment to:

(Payable to) Reeb Families Association  
Shannon Conder  
8220 Summerfield Ct. SW  
Albuquerque NM 87121

### In This Issue

- Passenger lists 1828-1847
- Our Heritage - The Old Country  
Mayor Hans Reeb
- Searching the Past by Gail Ferris
- Tips for the Beginning Genealogist -  
The Search Goes On

# Letters to the Editor

A big "thank you" to each one of you for your entries in the Winter 2001 Reeb Roots Newsletter. It was very interesting and informative. The layout is absolutely wonderful, Shannon

Sincerely,  
Gail Ferris in NE

*Thank you Gail, for your contribution to this issue. It is a group effort and a labor of love for all involved. I want to encourage everyone to share - that is what being a family is about! ---Ed.*

## On the Web



### Check These Out!

#### Cemetery Research

**Headstone Hunter:** [www.headstonehunter.com](http://www.headstonehunter.com)

Links photo requests with volunteer photographers.

**Virtual Cemetery:** [genealogy.com/vcem\\_welcome.html](http://genealogy.com/vcem_welcome.html)

A collection of online tombstone photographs and a searchable archive of headstone transcriptions.

**Cemetery Records Online:** [interment.net/](http://interment.net/)

Over two million records from nearly 4,000 cemeteries.

**Cemetery Junction:** [www.daddezio.com/cemetery/](http://www.daddezio.com/cemetery/)

A listing of over 45,000 cemeteries including over 18,000 family cemeteries.

**The Tombstone Transcription Project:**

[www.rootsweb.com/~cemetery/](http://www.rootsweb.com/~cemetery/) A transcription guild featuring tombstone inscriptions.

**Find a Grave:** [www.findagrave.com/index.html](http://www.findagrave.com/index.html) Searchable index of over two million burial records.

Also see:

**Cyndi's List Cemeteris:** [www.CyndisList.com/cemetery.htm](http://www.CyndisList.com/cemetery.htm)

**Cemetery Links:** [www.totentanz.de/cemetery.htm](http://www.totentanz.de/cemetery.htm)

**NorthernLights Cemetery Listings:**

<http://www.northernlight.com> search for "cemetery listings" - this shows an extensive list

National Genalogical Society  
2001 Conference  
Portland, Oregon  
May 16-19, 2001

Genealogy - Computer Labs  
Computer Demos - Exhibit Hall - Social Events

NGS 2000 Conferene Brochure  
4527 17th St. North  
Arlington, VA 22207-2399  
Toll Free (800) 473-0060  
E-mail: [conference@ngsgenealogy.org](mailto:conference@ngsgenealogy.org)  
Web site: [www.ngsgenealogy.org](http://www.ngsgenealogy.org)

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**Translations: Spanish:** Pablo Reeb; **German:** Werner Reeb

## Dues and Memberships

Dues are \$15.00 U.S. funds a year per household - starting June 1 to May 31. Members who submit dues throughout the year will pay full price and receive all that year's back issues of Reeb Roots. Dues paid in April or May will be credit to the next association year and no back issues will be sent.

Members are entitled to full benefits of the association including but not limited to quarterly newsletters, a pass word for the Reeb Families Web Site and participation in all activities.

Make checks payable to: Reeb Families Association and send to treasurer.

## Queries

Genealogical queries are welcome. All queries to be sent to Editor and will be published as space permits.

## Other Material

You may send news items, family stories, coming events, family group sheets, descendency charts, photos or anything else you feel might be of interest to our members.

They will be published as space permits and at the discretion of the editor. Please send a SASE if you wish items to be returned.

## Policy

Submitted material (including letters to the editor) and correspondence is considered open to editing and publishing, unless otherwise noted.

# Our Heritage - The Old Country

By MICHAEL REEB

## Mayor Hans Reeb

Hans Reeb, sometimes called Johann, was born in 1777 in Zutzendorf. He was a descendant of Jacob, the older one of the two different Jacob and Barbara Reeb families found in the earliest churchbook records. Jacob the younger, who's wife was also called Barbara, was not closely related to the former, but without doubt both were several generations back in the Keskael area. These two Reeb families became established in Zutzendorf at different times, and from different places. We only know for sure that one Jacob Reeb lived there during the Thirty Year War and probably earlier, while the other family came at the war's end. The two Reeb families intermarried in 1788 when Magdalena, a descendant of Jacob the older, married Hana George Reeb, of the line of Jacob the younger. My roots tie to this union.



Hans Reeb is an important historical figure of Zutzendorf for several reasons. He held the appointed mayor's position there for 15 years, longer than any of his predecessors, including the pre-revolutionary "stabhalters." Also, the house he and his father built in 1798 now sits in St. Marie's Park in Nancy, France, where it was moved to during that city's International Exposition in 1909. The park presents it as an example of Alsatian architecture. The original picture was taken before it was removed and the other in 1999 in Nancy. He is also remembered in the council minutes concerning business affairs he presided over. Hans married Margaretha Stoltz in 1796 at not quite 20 years of age. Marriage at this young an age was very rare in Alsace as financial responsibility was a requirement, which he had to meet. The usual age was 24 or older. He and Margaretha Stoltz had eight children of which three were known to have reached adulthood. The first son, George, went on to become a Lutheran Pastor after studying theology at the University of Strasbourg. He was the only person in Zutzendorf's history to become a pastor. He was a vicar at Zutz and other places for a few years before becoming Pastor at Wimmenau, and later Hohwiller. Michael, their next son, was the great grandfather of Montana's Margaret Reeb. Hans Jr. died young at the age of 26.

Margarethe Stoltz Reeb died in March of 1815, not long after giving birth to Hans Diabold (Theabold), who also died. A few months after burying his wife and son, 38-year-old Hans Reeb was appointed Mayor of Zutzendorf by the district Prefect. His appointment came at a turbulent time and soon after King Louis XVIII was restored to the crown in a revised constitutional monarchy. Hans would have had to support this regime and be free of revolutionary tendencies. Most previous mayors were fired after the "hundred days" as was Zutz's. His first order of business was to deal with the demands for food and fodder required by the occupying Austrian and Russian troops. Zutzendorf met their demands and by 1819, they had a debt of 2957 francs caused by war charges. This debt was balanced out by 1825.

Hans and the council's relationship with the Prefect and his assistant was good. They were tolerant with Zutzendorf's shortage of finances and refused to demand increased payments. Zutz's council were considered good and "strict" managers. In 1823, the Prefect asked for a special council meeting. No one knew what to expect but it turned out there was only one item of business. The Prefect wanted the council to subscribe to his staff journal, "Political and Literary Journal," which was designed to disperse the ideology of the regime. They bought a subscription and went home relieved that this was the only reason the meeting was ordered.

In 1821, five years into his term, Hans remarried to 22-year-old Anna Barbara Heitz of Obermodern. They had two sons, Andreas and Diabold. Diabold moved as a young man to Gottesheim where he married and raised a son, Hans, who eventually went to Kentucky, USA, in 1883. Anna Barbara Heitz died in 1845 at the age of 46.

The village forest, consisting of 160 acres, received more council attention beginning in 1827 when the national forestry code was adopted. The law called for eliminating grass seeding on roads and clearings, along with restricted grazing. These practices prevented full forest production. Additionally, Zutzendorf's forest was old growth, 300-400 year old oaks that had shut down growth and needed harvest. These issues became a problem because for hundreds of years this forest was used for grazing, primarily pigs that fed on the cleared areas and acorn falls. The council complained that pork grazing was the "principle industry and a source of well being." Hans and the council did little to comply with the forester's wishes and the issue was not resolved to everybody's satisfaction until the 1860s.

In 1824, the council set up a Bureau of Benefits (welfare) consisting of five members, including the pastor and councilmen. By 1830, Mayor Hans Reeb declared, "With pride there were no more poor people in Zutzendorf." The citizens kept up the most unfortunates, while the others were put to work for "other benefits." In 1831, only 12 people were categorized as indigents, all of whom were relieved of personal taxes. Among the 12 were two-day laborers, one widow, and an insane person. The mayor and council, besides being the welfare agency, managed the roads, water, fire protection, and police duties. However, everyone in the community pitched in and got the job done.

# Tips for the Beginning Genealogist

BY JOYCE HARRISON

## THE SEARCH GOES ON

In addition to the research resources discussed in previous articles, other records that might be helpful in the search for ancestors are discussed below.

If your ancestor was an immigrant there are a number of books devoted to listing the passengers on the many ships that brought them from Europe to America beginning in the 1600s. One book of particular interest to the Reeb family is *Eighteenth Century Emigrants from the Northern Alsace to America*, by Annette Kunselman Burgert, 1992, that gives information about a number of our Alsace ancestors who immigrated to America during the middle and later 1700s.

*The Complete Book of Emigrants – 1607-1660* by Peter Wilson Coldham, lists the names of ships, the names of their captains, destinations, places and dates of departure from Europe and names of the passengers on each ship. In most cases the ages of the passengers are included.

*List of Emigrants to America, 1600-1700*, by James Camden Hotten, published 1968, gives similar information. And, there are other authors who have abstracted ships' records and published them in book form such as *New World Immigrants*, edited by Michael Tepper, 1979 and *Passenger Arrivals at the Port of Philadelphia, 1800-1819*, etc.

If you locate the state and county in which your immigrant ancestor lived, the naturalization records from that county may give you information about where and when he was born, who his parents were, when he was married, when and where he arrived in America, etc. Even though naturalization regulations may vary from state to state, usually an immigrant had to live in America a certain period of time (about ten years) before he could apply for citizenship.

If you have reason to believe that one of your ancestors fought in the American Revolution you may find him listed in *Index to Rolls of Honor in the Lineage Books*, published by the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution. If he is listed, the index will refer you to the correct Lineage Book where you will find information from the records of other descendants who have applied for membership in the DAR based on the service of this ancestor.

Another Revolutionary War reference is *Historical Register of the Continental Army During the War of Revolution, April 1775 to December 1783*, by Francis B. Heitman.

If the soldier survived the war and later applied for a pension you can look for him in *Genealogical Abstracts of Revolutionary War Pension Files*, Volumes I, II, & III.

Those of us whose ancestors were in Virginia during the 1600s, 1700s and early 1800s are very fortunate in that there are many resources available for research. There is a two-volume index of names, *Virginia Historical Index*, that refers you to such publications as *Calendar of Virginia State Papers*; *Hening's Statutes*; *Lower Norfolk County Antiquary*; *Virginia Historical Register*; *Tylers Quarterly*; and the two which I have found most helpful, *Virginia Magazine of History*; and *William and Mary Quarterly, series I and II*.

Many authors have published books of Virginia parish/county court records of the type discussed in previous articles, as well as church and cemetery records and family histories.

While researching in your favorite library, don't forget to check for family surnames in the card catalogue. There are numerous family histories that have been published/printed by individuals and a good library will have cross-references of the several families covered in such books.

In writing these articles, I have had to refer to the notes I have made over my several years of research and it has been invaluable that I recorded the titles, authors, pages, etc. of my sources. I encourage you to do the same for future reference and for documentation. Happy hunting!

By Joyce Rape Harrison  
February 2001



*If you have any specific questions or a topic you would like Joyce to cover, send a letter or email to: Joyce Harrison (see officer listing for address)*

# Passenger Lists 1828 - 1847

## Arrivals for Ships from Havre France to Port of New York City

EXTRACTED BY JOHN V. REEB

Ship-lists cover a long period of time but I have been focusing on 1820 to 1850. We know there are many other lists out there but other than the two volumes giving 1820 to 1832, the only other book that I am aware of would be the very large set, Germans to America, covering 1850 through the early 1900s. These lists are not consistent. The form sometimes listed certain information such as where they were born. Others listed where allegiance was owed but not where the passengers were born. Henry Reeb was listed as being born in Germany with allegiance to France. He was born in 1780 and at that time the Keskastel area was the official property of Nassau-Weilburg. In 1793, Keskastel became part of France. Sometimes the surname would be given first, at other times it would be listed last. Some lists contained a complete name for each person in the family. Some of the names below are shown exactly as printed in the passenger list, but our records don't reflect them the same way. For example, one of the two families who settled in Paulding County Ohio had a son named Georg Reeb. Keskastel and Paulding County records both reflect him as George, but the ship-list shows him clearly as "Diebold." What is confusing about this is that the other family in Paulding County did have a son named Diebold, who became known there as David Reeb. The additional information in brackets was included by me to provide you with additional information from our family records.

Source: National Archives Microfilm Publication Microcopy 237, *Passenger Lists of Vessels Arriving at New York 1820-1897*.

### 9 December 1826: The Cadmus

	AGE
Nicholas Reeb,	44, (Johann Nicolaus Reeb, b. 15 Mar 1783, Keskastel)
Catherine Reeb,	39, (Catharina Magdalena Reeb, b. 17 Aug. 1787, Keskastel, wid. of Adam Wittmann)
Catherine Reeb,	15, (Catharina Wittmann, b. 30 Sep 1810, Keskastel)
Sophia Reeb,	2, (b. 20 Jun 1822, Keskastel)

*This family settled in Butler Co. PA*

Eve Kline**	23, farmer France to US
Elenor Kline	3 1/2,
Henry Kline	8/12,

*"After having bee at Sea a number of days was ascertaining the quantity of baggage to report found the under mentioned persons had secreted themselves away notwithstanding our search with the Gendearmes at the leaving the port."*

Nicholas Kline	28, farmer to US
Nicholas Kline	2 1/2

\*\* It is interesting to note that Nicholas Kline and young son were stowaways. It is not certain if this family is related to the Reeb's but they did originate in Keskastel.

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### June 11, 1827: Falcon from Amsterdam to NYC

Anton Herr	34, (Anton Georg Land, b. 21 Jan. 1792, Neusaarwerden)
Dorothea Lang	29, (Dorothea Lang, d/o Dorothea Reeb & Peter Lang, b. 26 Nov. 1796, Schopperten)
Henry Herr	02, (Heinrich Herr, b. 16 Feb. 1825, Schopperten)
C.	(evidently this stands for child, Magdalena Herr b. 19 Feb 1827, Schopperten)
D.L.W. Tebing	48, (may be Dorothea (Reeb) Lang, widow of Peter Lang, b. 4 Dec 1777, Keskastel)
Peter Lang	28, (Johann Peter Lang Jr., b. 23 Sep 1798, Schopperten)
H.N. Lang	16, (Johann Nicolaus Lang, b. 27 Sep, 1810, Schopperten)
Margaretha Lang	13, (Eva Margaretha Lang, b. 29 Dec 1815, Schopperten)

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**Falcon, cont.**

AGE

continued from page 5

C. 08, (Christina Lang, b. 10 Dec. 1815, Schopperten)  
Jacob 15, (Johann Jacob Lang, b. 10 Jan. 1813, Schopperten)

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**30 Aug 1828: Globe**

Rebb, Adam, 37, shoemaker, (Johann Adam Reeb, b. 11 June 1791, Keskastel)  
Margaret, 36, (Margaretha Duchart, b. 13 Sept. 1802, Keskastel)  
Andrew, 6, (Andreas Reeb, b. 25 Dec 1822, Keskastel)

*This family settled in New York City*

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**19 June 1837: Silvie De Grasse**

Reb, Nicholas 30, France

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**17 Sep 1844: Emerald**

Reeb, Georges 29, France

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**17 Sep 1844: Oneida**

Reb, Jean 5\_, France (Johann Jost Reeb, b. 14 Jun 1788, Keskastel)  
Magdalena, 47, (Maria Magdalena Fischer, b. 23 Apr 1800, Keskastel)  
Jean 12, (Johann Jost Reeb, b. 13 May 1832, Keskastel)  
Magdalena 9, (Charlotta Magdalena Reeb, b. 26 Apr 1836, Keskastel)  
Deopold 7, (Theobald Reeb, b. 31 Mar 1838, Keskastel)  
Margaretha, 1/2, (Eva Margaretha Reeb, b. 11 Jan 1844, Keskastel)

*This family settled in Paulding Co. OH*

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**6 Nov 1846: Argo**

Reeb, Henry 66, (George Heinrich Reeb, b.18 Jun 1780, Keskastel) b. Germany, allegiance to France, farmer, destination OHIO  
Madelene, 64, (Maria Mgdalen Fischer, b. 1 Jan 1778, Keskastel; m. 1st Johann Jacob Maurer, 2nd to Georg Heinrich Reeb)  
Maurer, Michael 40, (Michael Maurer, b. 23 Sep 1807, Keskastel)  
  
Feller, Henry 24, (Johann Heinrich Voeller, b. 27 Jun 1823, Keskastel; settled in Columbus, Ohio)  
Caroline 19, (Carolina Magdalena Beiber, b. 26 Oct. 1827, Keskastel)  
Henry 1/8 year, (Henry Voeller, b. 26 Jul 1846, Keskastel)  
Erleback, Eve 45, (Anna Eva Erlenbach, 26 Jan 1802, Keskastel, m. Peter Beiber/mother of Caroline Bieber)  
Eve, 16, (Anna Eva Bieber, b. 15 Apr. 1830, Keskastel)

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**27 Apr 1846: Dutchess d' Orleans**

Reb, Christian 30, Prussia (Baptized/born in Wurzweiler near Rockenhausen, Germany. Son of Christian Reeb and Catharina Adam. His baptism 22 April 1816 recorded in Catholic Church at Rockenhausen.)  
Elizabeth 23, (Catharina Elisabeth, daughter of Jacob Ostermeyer and Christina Hofnel, b. 6 May 1824, baptized 9 May 1824.)  
Jakob 3, (Jacob Reeb, son of Christian Reeb/Catharina Elizabeth Ostermeyer Reeb, b. 29 Nov. 1843, in Wurzweiler, baptized 3 Dec. 1843.)  
Elisabeth 1/4 year, (Carolina Reeb [may be Carolina Elisabeth] born 25 Sep 1845 in Wurzweiler, baptized 1 Oct. 1845.)

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**22 Oct 1847: Argo**

Reb, Adam 42, (Adam Reeb, b. 20 Apr 1806, Keskastel; settled in Columbus, Ohio)  
Marguerite 28, (Maria Margaretha Fischer, b. 4 Jun 1818, Keskastel)

continued on page 7

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**Argo, 1847 cont.**

Adam	18, (Adam Reeb, b. 17 Feb. 1829, Keskastel)
Jacob	14, (Jacob Reeb, b. 8 Apr 1833, Keskastel)
Henry	9, (Henry Reeb, b. 3 May 1838, Keskastel)
Charles	4 1/2, (Charles Reebe, b. 7 Apr 1843, Keskastel)
Schille, Frederick	41, (b. 9 Jun 1806, Keskastel; settled in Columbus, Ohio)
Marguerite	36, (Eva Margaretha Reeb, b. 19 Jun 1812, Keskastel)
Jacob	15, (Jacob Schille, b. 27 Jan 1832, Keskastel)
Frederick	13, (Friedrich Schille, b. 24 Apr 1833, Keskastel)
Peter	9, (Peter Schille, b. 30 Sep 1837, Keskastel)
Catharine	1 1/2, (b. 26 Jun 1845, Keskastel)
Reb, Henry	55, (Heinrich Reeb, b. 15 Dec. 1791; settled in Paulding Co. OH)
Catharine	48, (Catharina Magdalena Rothhan, b. 8 Mar 1797, Keskastel)
Carl	17, (Carl "Charles" Reeb, b. 9 Jul 1829, Keskastel)
Diebold	16, (Georg Reeb, b. 20 Aug 1831, Keskastel)
Nicholas	14, (Nicolaus Reeb, b. 12 Apr 1834, Keskastel)
Catharine	12, (Catharina Reeb, b. 5 Aug 1836, Keskastel)
Sophia	8, (Sophia Reeb, b. 27 Oct. 1838, Keskastel)
Michael	6, (Michael Reeb, b. 17 sep 1841, Keskastel)
Grunewald, Leopold	52, (Leopold Grunewald, b. 11 sep 1793, Keskastel; settled in Butler Co., PA)
Madeline	38, (Eva Magdalena Lang, b. 4 Aug 1808, Schopperteon; dau. of dorothea Reeb and Peter Lang.)
Catharine	16, (Catharine Grunewald, b. 22 Jul 1830, Keskastel)
Henry	12, (Henry Grunewald b. 11 Jun 1833, Keskastel)
Madeline	8, (Madeline Grunewald, b. 18 May 1839, Keskastel)
Christine	2, (Christina Grunewald, b. 19 Jan 1842, Keskastel)
Louis	1, (1846; only records found are in the Butler Co. Census)

*Country given was Bavaria for all these people but we know for certain it was Keskastel, France.*

**31 Dec 1847: Louis Philippe**

Reb, Diebold	60, France, destination-Michigan (Johann Theobald Reeb, b. 17 July 1787, Zutzendorf)
Margaret	55, (Elisabetha Margaretha Hanns, b. 1 Apr 1792, Zutzendorf)
George	24, (George Reeb, b. 19 May 1831, Zutzendorf. Ship record switched George and sister, Margaret's ages.)
Margaret	16, (Margaretha Reeb, b. 16 Jan 1823)
Johann	15, (Jean or Johannes, b. 21 Nov. 1832, Zutzendorf.)

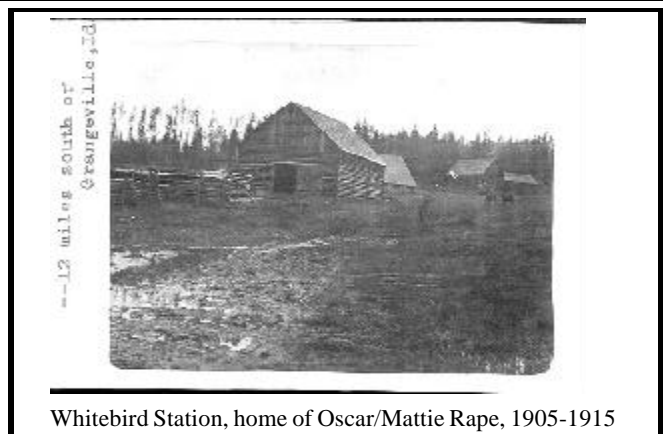
*These are part of the Zutzendorf Reeb's that settled in Ontario Canada.*

\*\*\*\* All information in parenthesis was provided by John V. Reeb and does not appear on the ship records.

**From the Editor**

In the last newsletter my focus was on the Rape token found by token hunter John Mutch of Boise, Idaho. The token belonged to my grandfather, Oscar Rape. Oscar ran a freight stop on the summit of Whitebird Hill in Idaho County Idaho abt. 1910 - 1915.

Finding and identifying the token was a wonderful bit of luck but locating a photo of the "Halfway House" is nothing short of a miracle. Once again, John Mutch's connections paid-off. This time his postcard collecting friend found this photo. The postcard is identified as the "Whitebird Station - 12 miles south of Grangeville, Idaho." Another wonderful piece of history has been added to my genalogy - one that I never expected.



Whitebird Station, home of Oscar/Mattie Rape, 1905-1915

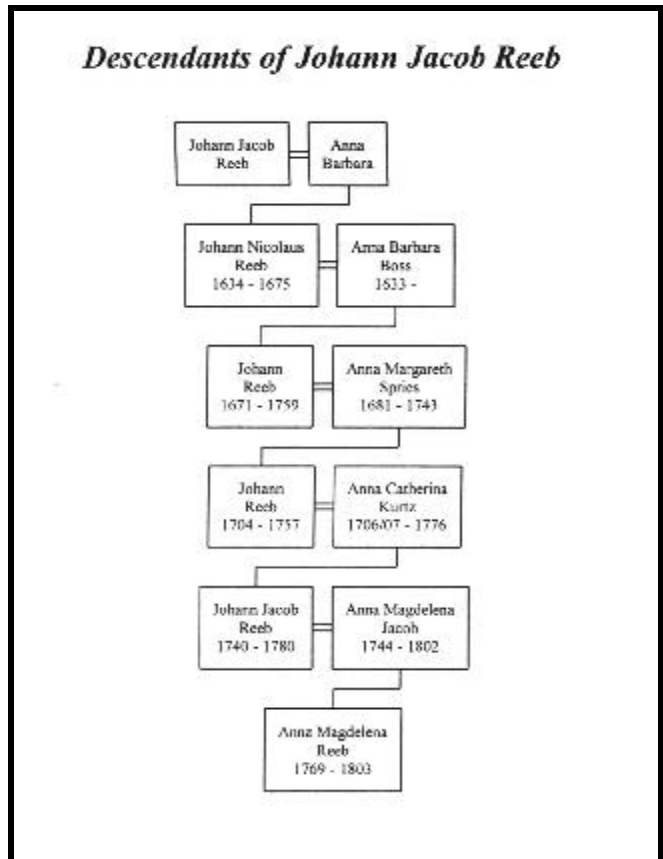
continued from page 3

In 1828, King Charles X of France planned a visit to Alsace. Alsatians and Zutzendorf were to be gracious hosts. The mayor and council provided 160 francs for the occasion. They bought white silk armbands to be worn on the left arm of 16 young horsemen, along with silk ribbons for the horses. These riders escorted the King on his travels through Saverne. They also had a large "fire of joy" back home where they passed out bread and butter to the 200 children of the village.

Midway through 1830, Hans Reeb's term as mayor came to an abrupt end when King Charles X of France abdicated. The King detested the constitutional monarchy and shut down the press and government. This caused massive riots in Paris and his downfall. Louis Philip was appointed King by the French Legislation with the proviso that more freedoms would be granted, namely in the form of voting rights. The biggest affect was on community politics where the mayor and council were to be elected by its inhabitants. The new government's first act was to release all the appointees, which included Hans Reeb. From this time forward, until the Germans took over in 1872, no mayor served over 3-4 years. Hans Reeb died on the 1st of April 1857, at the age of 80.

In the bigger picture, King Charles' trip to Alsace was a joyous event to himself and he afterwards perceived that the people would follow his will. From Wissembourg to Mulhouse, Alsatians heaped the praise and hospitality on him. When he returned to Paris he began laying plans to do away with the elected portion of government and revert to a complete monarchy. Most historians agree that Charles' Alsatian trip swelled his ego and misled him to believe he could enact any policy he desired.

*This is the last in this series of articles written by Michael Reeb on our family's European heritage. A new series of articles will be starting in the next edition. Comments or questions may be sent to Mike Reeb at mcjar@micron.net or directed to the editor of the newsletter.*



**References**

- I. Societe d' Histoire et d' Arche' ologie de Saverne et Environs. 1. Zutzendorf, supplement 103, 1789 by B. Vogler-Alan Matt. 2. Aspects de Obermodern et de Zutzendorf no: 171, 11-1995; Le Commune de Zutzendorf de 1800 a' 18918 by bernard Vogler. 3. Pays d' Alsace, #187, 1999; Les Anne' es Reblutionnaires a' Saverne 1789-1799 by Henri Heitz.
- II Zetzendorf Luthern Churchbook as researched by Michael Reeb.
- III. L' Alsace Terre D' Historie, 1994 by Lucien Sittler.
- IV. La Bar-Rhin 1834 by M. Guadet.

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# Family Notes

**New Arrival:**

Rosanne Brueggemann wishes to announce the arrival of her new great-nephew, Andrew Taylor Smith, born Friday, February 2, 2001 at 10:27 p.m. in Joplin MO. Andrew weighed 8 pounds 4 ounces and was 22 inches long. Parents are John and Debra Schow Smith. Proud grandmother is Bonnie Smith, sister to Rosanne. This is the 5th great-grandchild of Hattie Brueggemann.

Births, weddings, anniversaries, reunions? Share with the family. Let us know and we will be happy to post your announcement in Reeb Roots.

# German Genealogical Vocabulary

- |   |                               |
|---|-------------------------------|
| Baptism - Taufe   | baptized - getauft, get.      |
| Birth - Geburt  | born - geboren, geb.          |
| child - Kind  | siblings - Geschwister        |
| death - Tod   | son, daughter - Sohn, Tochter |
| died - gestorben, verstorben, gest.   |                               |
| Fosterbrother, -father, etc. - Pflege+ bruder, -vater, etc.                       |                               |
| Stepbrother, -sister, -father, -mother Stief + bruder, -schwester, -vater, mutter |                               |
| Education - Erziehung, (Schul-)Ausbildung   |                               |
| Occupation - Beruf  | siblings - Geschwister        |
| grandfather - Grossvater  | parents - Eltern              |
| marriage - Heirat, Hochzeit, Trauung, Vermaehlung                                 |                               |
| husband - Mann, Ehemann, Gatte, Ehegatte  |                               |
| wife - Frau, Ehefrau, Gattin, Ehegattin   |                               |



# Looking forward into the new century...considering the abundance we all have

## SEARCHING THE PAST...

BY GAIL FERRIS

I have pursued genealogy since my early 20's but searching the past has taken on new meaning with the Internet. In this article, I would like to explain how the Internet has assisted me in the discovery of new information on my grandfather, plus meeting friends and family along the journey.

My mom's father, George Reeb, came to America in 1903. George was born in Keskastel, Germany on May 6, 1885. Since 1918, that part of Germany has been in northeastern France - the Black Forest area.

There were many tragedies in the life of my Grandpa. It truly amazes me what our ancestors experienced. As a little girl, I remember Grandpa, a large kind man, chewing Key tobacco while sitting in one of the wooden rocking chairs that I now have in my family room. He never owned land, but always farmed. My Grandparents were poor but very proud. Grandma would take in sewing, laundry or mending, and sell fruit to make extra money when they were raising the family.

Most of my memories of Grandpa are of him sitting in the rocking chair following his stroke in 1953, when I was five years old. It was hard talking to Grandpa, but he would always smile at we three redheaded girls—his granddaughters. Dad would back our pickup down to Prairie Creek at our farm, so Grandpa could fish out of it sitting in a chair. Mom says he spoke German fluently, enjoyed reading westerns, and playing dominos, checkers, and pitch. Grandpa also liked ham. He died April 1960.

Before my Grandma died in 1975, I visited with her about family. Plus, I have gathered information from my mom, her brother, her cousins, and Fred Laessle, now deceased, from Polk, NE. His grandmother was a full sister to George's mother.

I learned:

- Grandpa came to America from Germany and became a citizen, probably came to avoid compulsory draft in Germany
- He worked on dairy farm in Wisconsin before coming to Polk County, NE
- Had a mother named Katherine and a sister, Catherine, but never saw them again
- His sister's husband (Henri Rohn) was killed during the first battle of WWI
- A WWI army vehicle accidentally killed his sister's daughter, Berthe, at the age of six.

After Grandpa left Wisconsin for Polk County, NE, he worked as a hired hand. George met Edna Ann Reitz around Polk when she was teaching school at Frog Pond. Edna was born on June 7, 1888 in Polk County. They were married on October 3, 1908.

Children born were: Clara Ellamina, 1910; Frederick Orville, 1912; George Alvin, 1918 and my mom b. 1926. Grandma did have several miscarriages. Clara and Orville both died when they were 19-years-old. Mom always told me they died of the flu.

Because of accounts I was hearing from my research, in 1991 I obtained the death certificates for Clara & Orville from Nebraska Vital Statistics located in our state capitol in Lincoln, NE. They both died of tuberculosis in 1929 & 1930, when my mom was 3 and 4 years old respectively. One of Grandma's sisters also died of TB in 1917. Mom never knew! I was the one to tell her. Grandma once told me about Orville's death. She cried and I cried with her, but she did not mention tuberculosis. Grandma still felt the stigma attached to TB!

In February 1997, before I went online, John V. Reeb of San Francisco called me wanting to know about my George Reeb and all of the other Reeb's in Polk County. He obtained my name from chatting via email with a distant cousin of mine in Lincoln, NE. George's mother had three half siblings that immigrated to Polk County, NE. (George Reeb who married Charlotte Reeb, George F. Reeb who married first Viola Ellinger, and 2nd Mary Docekal Kroeger; and Sophie Reeb. He explained to me that he and Dr. Paul Reeb, now President of the RFA, visited Keskastel in the spring of 1986 and met with a distant cousin of mine, Roger Reeb. Roger descended from a full sibling, Henri Reeb, of my Grandpa's mother.

From my research, I already knew about the full and half siblings of Grandpa's mother. Additionally, I knew of the three George Reeb men in Polk County; I was told two took middle initials after arriving in America because of the confusion. 1. George, my grandfather, took the middle initial K. for his mother, Katherine; and George F. took the middle initial F. for his father, Johann Friedrich Reeb born February 13, 1821 in Keskastel.

I lovingly refer to John V. Reeb as the Reeb guru. He has written a 1994 book, *Reeb Roots in Europe and America*, and totally amazes me with his understanding of the Reeb family. This kind man had the lineage of my Grandpa's mother entered in a genealogy program from his meeting with Roger Reeb in Keskastel and sent me copies. I can now trace the maternal lineage of



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Searching the Past continued from page 9

Grandpa back to 1602 due to John's extensive research of the church records in that area of present day France. Incidentally, John has told me that Henri Rohn's (husband of George's sister) name is the first name on a WWI plaque honoring the deceased in Grandpa's Lutheran church in Keskastel.

When we cleaned out Grandma's house in 1975, mom gave me the only copy of Grandpa's Naturalization paper dated February 24, 1921. I understand WWI necessitated it. In Feb. 1999, I went to the Polk Co. Courthouse and copied the Naturalization Records of my G'pa. From this record, I learned he immigrated to the United States leaving Havre, Germany, (now France) on June 13, 1903, on the ship, *La Gasgow*, and arrived at Ellis Island in New York eight days later - on June 21, 1903. Imagine being 18 years old, leaving your homeland, and never seeing your family again!

As an adult, how I would love to talk to Grandpa, because this is what I have learned since becoming an Internet user in November 1998.

John V. Reeb gave me the name of a man who lives in Paris in February 1999. He and I corresponded via e-mail. His father-in-law then obtained the birth certificates of Grandpa, Grandpa's sister, Grandpa's mother, and Grandpa's Grandfather from the Mayor's Office in Keskastel. He scanned the document, so I could download them in my home and make copies. I mailed the copies to a woman I found in Grand Island, NE who agreed to translate the German. The Mormon Family History Center in Grand Island gave me the name of this German war bride, Edith Robbins. Around April 1999, Mike Reeb, Historian of Reeb Association, additionally viewed, obtained, and interpreted records of my Reeb family in Keskastel for which I am very grateful.

From these records I have learned:

- Grandpa's birth date is really May 6 - he always listed the seventh on documents & we always celebrated on the 7th
- His mother was a servant girl
- Grandpa was illegitimate; there is no father listed on the birth certificate nor is there a father on the birth certificate of his sister, Katherine.
- I have learned that my great grandmother, Katherine, was born October 30, 1863. That is the same date my great, great grandmother, Catherine, died!

John told me about a sister of Roger Reeb, whom he met in Keskastel. She was born in Keskastel and lives in St. Charles, MO. Our great grandparents were siblings. We correspond via e-mail. She returns periodically to Keskastel and has taken photographs of tombstones in the cemetery for me. Her Godmother has been a source of information—sending me family group sheets of my Reeb family. I am told that Grandpa's mother had red hair. She will ask her Godmother the next time they visit, since she knew Grandpa's mother.

This February 8, 2001, John has connected me with another distant cousin that lives in Wisconsin. We share the same great, great grandparents in Keskastel. Her Grandfather was born in Keskastel a year before mine and came to Wisconsin about the same time as mine. Our grandpa's obviously grew up together, plus went to church & school together and possibly, they came to America together. John is looking for my Grandpa's ship manifest to see if a Fredrick Reeb is listed as one of the passengers. Remember...my Grandpa first worked on a dairy farm in Wisconsin! Searching the past is one big puzzle.

What's next? I am beginning to plan at least a week's visit to Keskastel to walk and live where my Grandpa did. I know I will fall in love with Keskastel. There are distant cousins there to meet. Additionally, I need to look directly at the Lutheran Church birth records to see if they list a father for my Grandpa. My Grandpa always said his dad was a Fredreck Reeb. John has told me that even though the birth was illegitimate, the church may list the father of the child. Then I would be able to research my grandpa's paternal line! In addition, John just probably has that lineage in his extensive research.

My Internet searching has allowed me to join various mailing lists where people, like me, ask questions and share information. For my Grandpa's research, I belong to Reeb Roots, Keskastel-L, Reeb-L, plus our newly formed Reeb Association where we share photos, research and lineage.

Yes, searching the past has taken on new meaning with the Internet. If you want any assistance in researching your past, please send me an email. I will be happy to help you connect to the areas where your family lived and loved.



George, Edna, Clara (20 mo.), & Orville (2 1/2 mo.)Reeb, circa: July 1912

To contact Gail write to:  
Gail Ferris  
1223 W. Road  
Central NE 68826  
or email: [sgferris@cconline.net](mailto:sgferris@cconline.net)

# Election of Officers

## Reeb Families Association Official Ballot

This is your official ballot. Ballots must be submitted to Emma Messinger no later than May 1, 2001. Ballots may be sent via postal mail to: Emma Messinger, 224 Carnation St., Lake Jackson, TX 77566 or emailed to EAMessinger@bigfoot.com.

### President - 2 year term

" Dr. Paul Reeb

### Vice-President - 1 year term first election, 2 years in future elections

" Werner Reeb

### Secretary - 1 year term first election, 2 years in future elections

" Rosanne Brueggemann

### Tres./Membership - 2 year term

" Shannon Conder

### Director Position #1 - 2 year term

" Tim Funderburk

### Director Position #2 - 1 year term first election, 2 year term in future elections

" Joyce Harrison

### Director Position #3 - 2 year term

" Nancy Reeb

### Director Position #4 - 1 year term first election, 2 year term in future elections

" Ron Reph

### Director Position #5 - 2 year term

" John V. Reeb

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ (Optional)

Others nominated

Pres. - Shannon Conder, declined; V-Pres. Ron Reph, no response; Secretary - Nancy Reeb, declined, Emma Messinger, declined; Tres./Membership - Joyce Harrison, declined; Board Position #2 - Joyce Cockerill, declined; Board Position # 3 - Nancy Natvig, declined; Board Position #4 - Brenda Raye, no response; Board Position #5, Janet Burks, declined.