



1



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5

Start with what you know



- Begin by reviewing all available data on an ancestor
- Analyze records to see whether they agree (or not) on origins
- Locate any gaps in your research

6

What you need

- Approximately when they arrived in the U.S.
- A town or county in the place of origin (i.e. Ireland, Germany, Russia)
- Several data points to compare
 - Birthdate
 - Parents' names
 - Siblings' names and birth order

7

Research the family

- Don't just focus on your direct ancestor, include siblings
- Particularly useful for female lines
- Exhaust American sources first
- Cluster/FAN research



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Tip

Confirm with records in
the Old Country

9

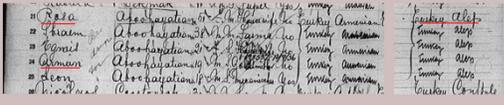
Where to look

- Start with the low-hanging fruit: immigration and naturalization records
- Examine other key sources: census, vital, and church records
- Turn to alternate or underused sources: land, newspaper, fraternal organizations, cemetery, etc.
- Cluster or FAN research

10

“Low-hanging fruit”

- Place of origin appears in an immigration or naturalization record
 - 20th century records
- Parents names appear in a vital or church record



NAME	DATE	PLACE OF BIRTH	NAME OF FATHER	NAME OF MOTHER
Whitney	1894	St. Louis, Mo.	John	Elizabeth
May 18	1894	St. Louis, Mo.	John	Elizabeth

11

Key sources

- “Key sources” are essential for establishing identity and linking generations and usually contain information about birthplaces and parents
- Census, vital, church

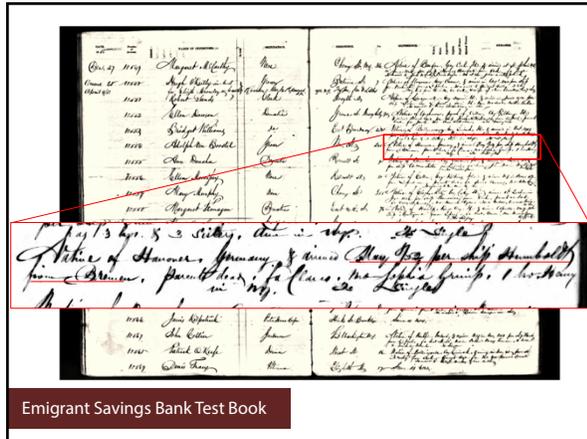


12

Alternate/underused sources

- Sources that do not explicitly ask for info about origins/parents
- Unique or hard-to-find collections
- Land records, newspapers, bank records, fraternal organizations, cemetery records, and social clubs

13



14



15

Postcard of Alsenz, Germany, 28 July 196[?]

16

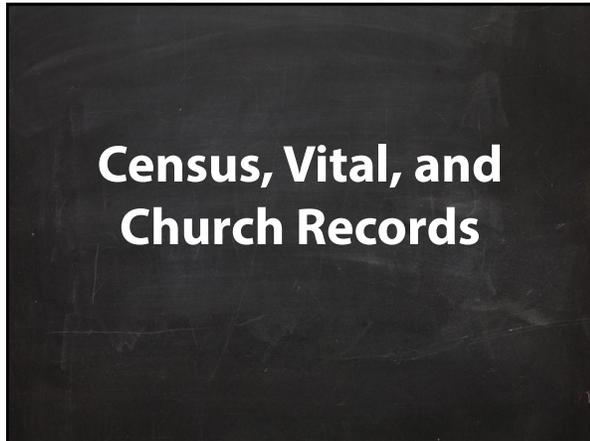
Tip
 Consider context and world history

17

Boundary changes

- Towns don't move, but boundaries do
- Maps of Europe redrawn after WWI and WWII
- Use gazetteers to research place names
- Jurisdictions affect how records are created, maintained, and stored

18



19

Where to look

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20

Clues in Census Records

- 1850 on: birthplace
- 1880-1930: birthplace of parents
- 1900-1930: year of immigration
- 1870, 1940, 1950: citizenship status

21

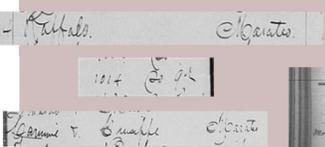
Clues in Vital and Church Records

- Vital records vary based on place and time but many ask for the birthplace and information about the parents
- Church records may contain more detail than civil records

22

Clues in Vital and Church Records

Philadelphia Birth

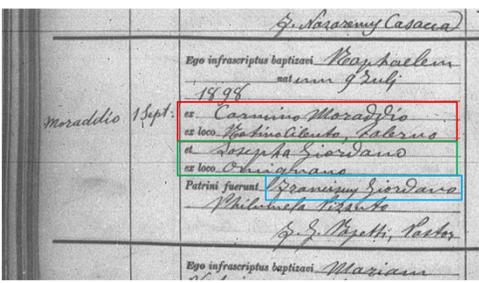


Parish Baptism



23

Carmino Moraddio of Rutino, Cilento, Salerno



Josephina Giordano of Omignano

Franciscus Giordano

Raphael Moraddio (Marateo) Baptism

24



28



29

You never know what you'll find

- Look where it should be...and where it shouldn't be
- You always find it in the last place you look

30

Where to look

- Start with the low-hanging fruit: immigration and naturalization records
- Examine other key sources: census, vital, and church records
- Turn to alternate or underused sources: land, newspaper, fraternal organizations, cemetery, etc.
- Cluster or FAN research

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Where to look

- Land records
 - Give the current and sometimes former place of residence of the grantor/grantee
- Newspapers
 - Obituaries, social organizations, anniversary notices
- Fraternal organizations or women's clubs
 - Many based on ethnic origin or religion
 - Typically had an application process
- Cemeteries
 - May be based on a social group or religion

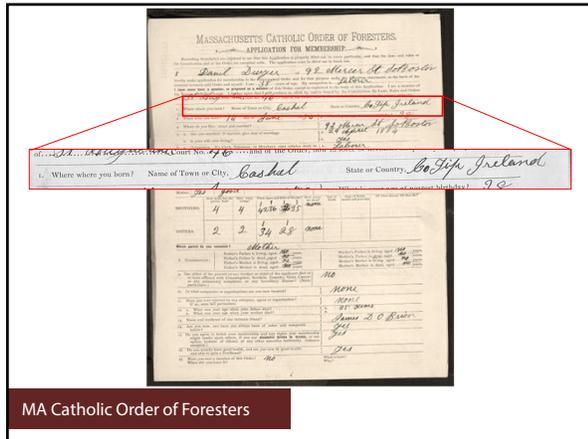
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Fraternal Organizations

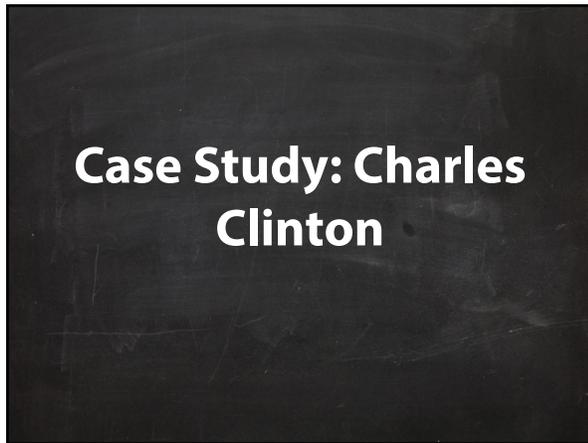


- Odd Fellows
- Foresters
- Knights of Columbus
- Elks
- Shriners
- Rotary Club

33



34



35

Charles Clinton

- Died 1773 and buried at Woodlawn Cemetery, New Windsor, NY
- Headstone is clearly not contemporary

36

Charles Clinton

- His journal describes leaving from Co. Longford, Ireland and traveling aboard the *George and Ann* in 1729

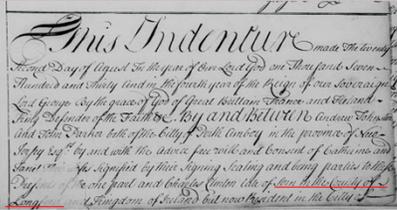
I took my Journey from the county Longford on friday the 9th day of May. Came to Dublin y^r 12th do. Entered on ship Board the ship call'd the George and Ann y^r 18th, sett sail the 20th, came to anchor at Glanarm on the 24th, where Matt. M'Clawghry and his wife and 2 of his family went on shoar and quit their voyage. Sett sail from Glanarm on y^r 25th, and came to anchor at Green Castle in the Longh of derry the 26th, where we stay'd till y^r 29th, then sett sail in company with the John of Dublin bound for New Castle in the same country. . . . June y^r 24, we had a fair breeze for our westerly course. . . . A Return of the pr[']sons that Died on board y^r George and Ann.

37

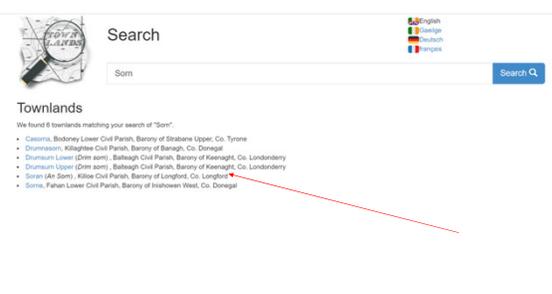
Land Records

- Ulster County, New York land records provide a townland in Co. Longford

"late of Sorn in the County of Longford"



38



Townlands.ie

39

Case Study: Clara Klabin

40

Where to look

- Start with the low-hanging fruit: immigration and naturalization records
- Examine other key sources: census, vital, and church records
- Turn to alternate or underused sources: land, newspaper, fraternal organizations, cemetery, etc.
- Cluster or FAN research

41

Clara Klabin

- Born ca. 1886
- Married to Julius Klabin
- Julius born in “Drinsk, Russia”
- Born in Lithuania or Russia per census records
- Immigrated 1905 per census records but no passenger manifest or naturalization found
- Died 1946 in Brooklyn

42

Next steps

- Are there any records of the Rafalovker Benevolent Association?
- Do records from the Jewish community of Rafalivka, Ukraine survive?
- Do any of Clara's associates also come from Rafalivka?

49

Where to look

- Start with the low-hanging fruit: immigration and naturalization records
- Examine other key sources: census, vital, and church records
- Turn to alternate or underused sources: land, newspaper, fraternal organizations, cemetery, etc.
- [Cluster or FAN research](#)

50

Cluster Research

51

Where to look

- Start with the low-hanging fruit: immigration and naturalization records
- Examine other key sources: census, vital, and church records
- Turn to alternate or underused sources: land, newspaper, fraternal organizations, cemetery, etc.
- Cluster or FAN research

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What is Cluster Research?

A research technique used to learn more about an ancestor by examining records left by the ancestor's *cluster* (also called FAN club)

- Family/Friends
- Associates
- Neighbors

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Family

- Family members with the same surname
- Consider others:
 - Maiden name of spouse
 - In-laws
 - Cousins (1st and others)
 - Grandparents
 - Great-Grandparents
 - Step-Parents/Siblings

54

Friends

- Witnesses to events
 - Baptismal sponsors
 - Marriage witnesses
 - Witnesses to land and probate records

55

Associates

- Associated Persons
 - Politics
 - Occupation
 - Education
 - Religion
 - Clubs
- Associated Places
 - Place of Birth
 - Death Details



56

Neighbors

- Household neighbors
- Individuals buried in the same or surrounding cemetery plots
- Pew assignments



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Cluster Research for Immigrant Origins

- Assume: Amongst an immigrant ancestor's *friends, associates, and neighbors* are individuals with a shared origin
- Hypothesize: If a preponderance of cluster members are from X, then my ancestor is likely from X as well
- Confirm: Do the records from X support my conclusion?

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Why Cluster Research?

- Ancestor immigrated prior to detailed passenger and naturalization records
- Sources identify only the country of origin, not the county, town, village, etc.
- Distinguish between individuals and places of the same name

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Why Cluster Research?

- Record loss in origin country
- Place name on record corrupted or indecipherable
- Female immigrant ancestors: men more often found in immigration sources

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Finding your cluster

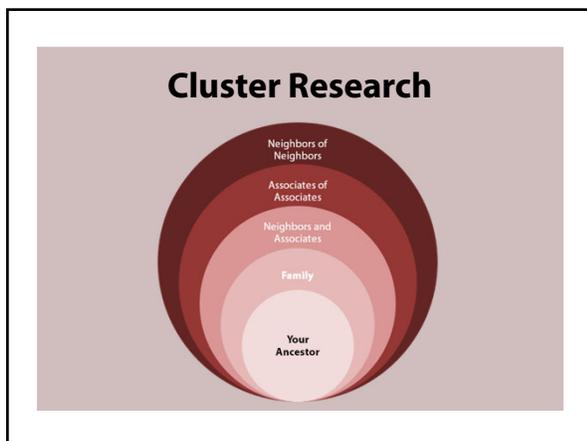
- Who appears on records with your ancestor?
 - Witnesses to events
 - Grantors/grantees
- Who appears on records near your ancestor?
 - Abutters on land records
 - Same page of the census
- Who has the same surname in the same town? (rural)

61

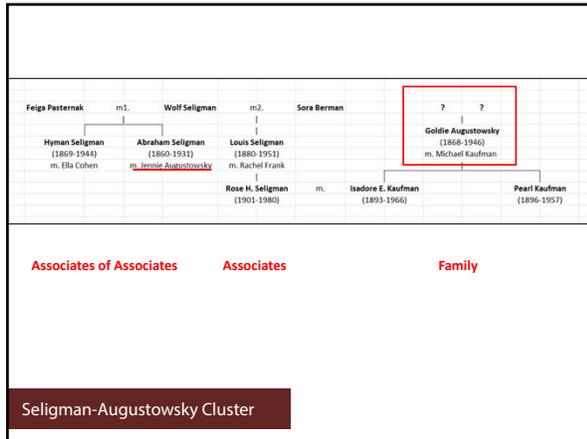
Finding your cluster

- What social groups did your ancestor belong to?
 - Fraternal organizations
 - Churches
 - Jewish aid societies
 - Burial societies

62



63



64



65

Sponsors of Moran baptisms

Name	Date of Baptism	Sponsors
William James Moran	1 Feb 1868	James McDermott, Katy McDermott
Patrick Moran	30 Nov 1871	Hugh and Bridget Moran
Mabel Moran	14 April 1873	Michael[?] Walsh, Margaret Moran
Sarah Ellen Moran	Dec 1874	Patrick Stanton, Mary Stanton
Joseph Moran	19 Jan 1877	John Beirne, Sarah McDermott
Francis Moran	16 Feb 1878	Peter Brock, Sarah Cunningham
Mary Moran	1 Oct 1881	Joseph Hall, Kate Kennedy
George Bernard Moran	4 Nov 1883	Michael Kennedy, Susan Scarry/Scurry
John Augustine Moran	2 May 1886	James L. Kahill, Isabella Simmons
Adeline Moran	14 May 1888	James Scarry, Agnes Simmons

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Finding immigrant origins

- Review and analyze all extant records
- Exhaust American sources
- Determine the network and do cluster research
- Analyze new records and draw conclusions

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Matthias Wind

- Born ca. 1813-1814 in Germany
- Immigrated ca. 1836
- Lived in Elizabeth, New Jersey
- Married Anna Catherine Gaherny/Gordon[?]
- Had 7 or 8 children
- Died 16 July 1899 in Elizabeth
- Matthias was Catholic (burial)

71

Household	Name	Age	Sex	Color	Place of Birth
502	Jos. Carr	20	M	W	Germany
	Mary Carr	20	F	W	"
	Francis Carr	12	M	W	"
	Mary Carr	6	F	W	"
	Catherine Carr	4	F	W	"
	Jos. Carr	2	M	W	"
	John Carr	12	M	W	Germany
503	John Carr	20	M	W	Germany
	Mary Carr	20	F	W	"
	Anna Carr	18	F	W	"
	Matthias Wind	20	M	W	Germany
	Catherine Wind	18	F	W	"
	Jos. Wind	12	M	W	"
	Elizabeth Wind	6	F	W	"
	William Wind	4	M	W	"
	Anna Wind	2	F	W	"
504	Anna Carr	20	F	W	Germany
	John Carr	20	M	W	"
	Mary Carr	18	F	W	"
	John Carr	16	M	W	"
	Mary Carr	14	F	W	"
	John Carr	12	M	W	"
	Mary Carr	10	F	W	"
	John Carr	8	M	W	"
	Mary Carr	6	F	W	"
	John Carr	4	M	W	"
	Mary Carr	2	F	W	"

21 17 24

1850 Census, Elizabeth, NJ

72

Associates: John and Mary Houk/Hauk

- John and Mary (Anna Maria) Hauk immigrated aboard the same ship as Matthias Wind, both were born about 1812
- John and Mary Hauk lived a few houses down from Matthias Wind in Elizabeth
- John and Mary Hauk had a boarder [relationship unknown] with the surname Wind
- John Hauk died and Mary married William Klein; her place of birth was given in the marriage record as Bornheim
- → likely close relationship between the Hauk and Wind families

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Associate: Adam Wind

- Adam Wind was on board the ship *Europe* with Matthias Wind, the Hauk family, and a couple named Jacob and Catherine Wind
- Adam Wind intended to settle in Philadelphia
- Adam Wind was born about 1788
- Adam's wife was named Margarethe, his children were Apollonia and Johannes

80

pr. den 27. Januar 1836.

Adam Wind, Ackeremann, zu Bornheim, ist gesonnen, mit seiner Familie nach Nordamerika auszuwandern; welches man zur allgemeinen Kenntniß bringt, damit diejenigen, welche Forderungen an denselben haben, solche innerhalb vier Wochen bei dem competenten Gerichte geltend und davon anher die Anzeige machen können.

Landau, den 20. Januar 1836.
Das Königl. Landcommissariat.
P e t e r s e n.

27 Jan 1836

Adam Wind, peasant in Bornheim, is of the mind to emigrate with his family to North America; this is made general knowledge so that anyone who has claims against him can assert such claims at the court in the next four weeks.

Emigration notice, Amts- und Intelligenzblatt des Königlich Bayerischen Rheinkreis, 31 Jan 1836

81

pr. den 27. Januar 1836.

Adam Wind, Ackeremann, zu Bornheim, ist gesonnen, mit seiner Familie nach Nordamerika auszuwandern; welches man zur allgemeinen Kenntniß bringt, damit diejenigen, welche Forderungen an denselben haben, solche innerhalb vier Wochen bei dem competenten Gerichte geltend und davon anher die Anzeige machen können.

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P e t e r s e n.

27 Jan 1836

Adam Wind, peasant in Bornheim, is of the mind to emigrate with his family to North America; this is made general knowledge so that anyone who has claims against him can assert such claims at the court in the next four weeks.

Adam Wind came from Bornheim in Bavaria!

Emigration notice, Amts- und Intelligenzblatt des Königlich Bayerischen Rheinkreises, 31 Jan 1836

82

The Bornheim Lead

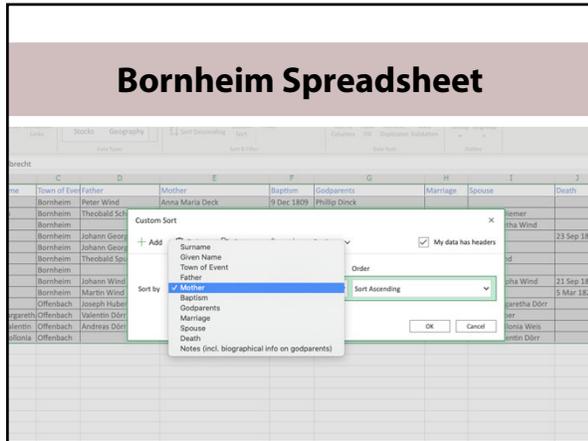
- There were several Wind households in Elizabeth, NJ in 1850
- The Elizabeth, NJ Wind families attended Catholic churches
- There were several Wind families that sailed aboard the *Europe* in 1836
- One of the Wind families, headed by Adam Wind, was from Bornheim in Bavaria
- There was a Catholic church in Bornheim

83

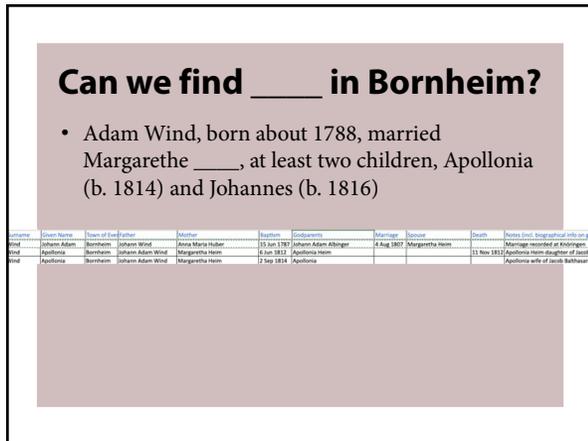
Can we find _____ in Bornheim?

- Frances Wind, born about 1782, possibly married name Wind, possibly related to the Eller/Ellen family
- Adam Wind, born about 1788
- Margarethe (____) Wind, born about 1789
- Apollonia Wind, born about 1814, daughter of Adam and Margarethe
- Johannes Wind, born about 1816, son of Adam and Margarethe
- Johannes Hauk, born about 1814
- Anna Maria (____) Hauk, born about 1813, wife of Johannes Hauk
- Johannes Hauk, born about 1835, son of Johannes and Anna Maria Hauk
- Matthias Wind, born circa 1810-1814
- Jacob Wind, born about 1812
- Catherine (____) Wind, born about 1812, wife of Jacob Wind
- Jacob Wind, born about 1833, lived with the Hauk family in 1850

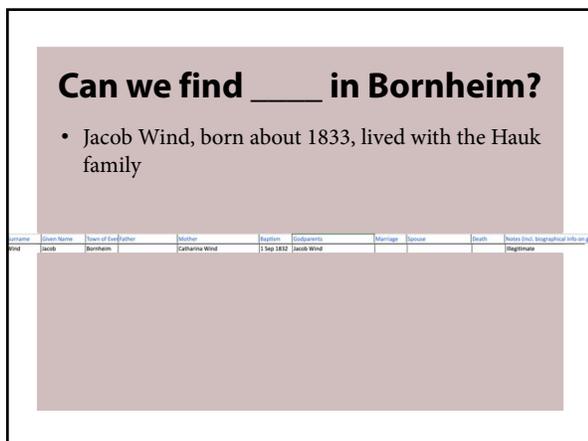
84



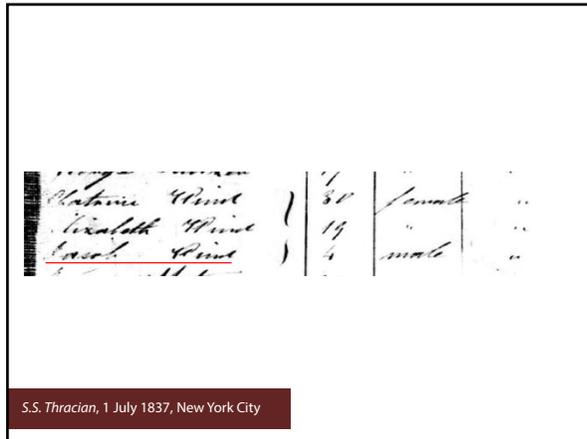
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89



90



S.S. Thracian, 1 July 1837, New York City

91

Children of Jacob Wind and Franziska Diemer

Last Name	Given Name	Location	Father	Mother	Baptism Date	Godparent(s)
Wind	Anna Maria	Bornheim	Jacob Wind	Franziska Diemer	26 Nov 1811	Anna Maria Diemer
Wind	Catharina	Bornheim	Jacob Wind	Franziska Diemer	29 Dec 1804	Gertrude Diemer
Wind	Eva Elisabetha	Bornheim	Jacob Wind	Franziska Diemer	29 Jul 1817	Eva Elisabetha ____
Wind	Johann Jacob	Bornheim	Jacob Wind	Franziska Diemer	27 Sep 1807	Johann Jacob Strehl
Wind	Margaretha	Bornheim	Jacob Wind	Franziska Diemer	12 Aug 1814	Margaretha Somerauer
Wind	Maria Barbara	Bornheim	Jacob Wind	Franziska Diemer	12 Dec 1802	Maria Barbara Wind
Wind	Matthias	Bornheim	Jacob Wind	Franziska Diemer	23 Nov 1808	Matthias Wellenreuter

Anna Maria Wind married (1) Johannes Hauk and (2) William Klein. She moved from Bornheim to Elizabeth, NJ.

92

Children of Jacob Wind and Franziska Diemer

Last Name	Given Name	Location	Father	Mother	Baptism Date	Godparent(s)
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Wind	Catharina	Bornheim	Jacob Wind	Franziska Diemer	29 Dec 1804	Gertrude Diemer
Wind	Eva Elisabetha	Bornheim	Jacob Wind	Franziska Diemer	29 Jul 1817	Eva Elisabetha ____
Wind	Johann Jacob	Bornheim	Jacob Wind	Franziska Diemer	27 Sep 1807	Johann Jacob Strehl
Wind	Margaretha	Bornheim	Jacob Wind	Franziska Diemer	12 Aug 1814	Margaretha Somerauer
Wind	Maria Barbara	Bornheim	Jacob Wind	Franziska Diemer	12 Dec 1802	Maria Barbara Wind
Wind	Matthias	Bornheim	Jacob Wind	Franziska Diemer	23 Nov 1808	Matthias Wellenreuter

Catharina Wind gave birth to an illegitimate son, Jacob Wind, in 1832. They immigrated to the U.S. in 1837. What happened to Catharina is unknown. Jacob went to lived with his aunt and uncle, the Hauks. His uncle John Hauk taught him to be a tailor.

93

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Wind	Anna Maria	Bornheim	Jacob Wind	Francisca Diemer	26 Nov 1811	Anna Maria Diemer
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Wind	Eva Elisabetha	Bornheim	Jacob Wind	Francisca Diemer	29 Jul 1817	Eva Elisabetha ____
Wind	Johann Jacob	Bornheim	Jacob Wind	Francisca Diemer	27 Sep 1807	Johann Jacob Strehl
Wind	Margaretha	Bornheim	Jacob Wind	Francisca Diemer	12 Aug 1814	Margaretha Somerauer
Wind	Maria Barbara	Bornheim	Jacob Wind	Francisca Diemer	12 Dec 1802	Maria Barbara Wind
Wind	Matthias	Bornheim	Jacob Wind	Francisca Diemer	23 Nov 1808	Matthias Wellenreuter

Eva Elisabetha Wind immigrated to the U.S. in 1837 with her sister Catherine and nephew Jacob. What happened to her after her arrival is unknown.

94

Children of Jacob Wind and Franziska Diemer

Last Name	Given Name	Location	Father	Mother	Baptism Date	Godparent(s)
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Wind	Catharina	Bornheim	Jacob Wind	Francisca Diemer	29 Dec 1804	Gertrude Diemer
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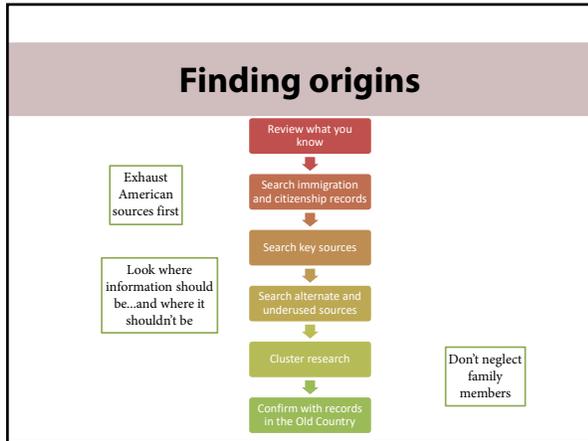
Matthias Wind, our original research subject.

95

Conclusion: Matthias Wind's birthplace and parents are confirmed

- Matthias Wind of Bornheim was born a bit earlier than expected but we have seen that when it comes to Wind families in Elizabeth, NJ, "all roads lead to Bornheim."

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QUESTIONS?

Hire Research Services
research@nehgs.org

Chat with a Genealogist
AmericanAncestors.org/chat

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Consultations

Book a one-on-one consultation with a genealogist and receive help with your family history research!

AmericanAncestors.org/Expert-Help/Consultations

SCAN ME

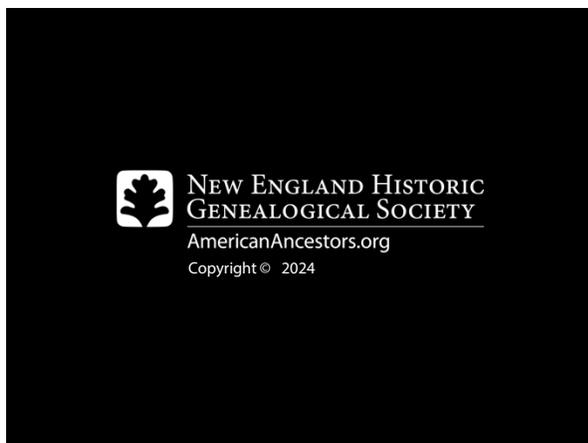
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100



101



102
