

I was born a Carr but should have been a Gunzelman. My 3rd great-grandfather was born on December 16, 1849 in the Alsace, Lorraine region of Germany. His name was Anthony Gunzelman. His parents were Bernhard Gunzelman and Regina Gies. There were six kids in his family and he was the second youngest. According to my grandpa, he grew up near the border between Germany and France. He learned to speak both French and German. The family grew grapes to make wine for a living. Since they lived near the border of France and Germany there were often conflicts. Eventually the family decided to move. In 1869, they moved to America. According to my grandfather they also moved because they didn't want the men to be drafted into the military.

After moving to America they initially settled in Evansville, Indiana on the Ohio River, across from Louisville, Kentucky. It was hard for the family when they moved to America. His brother (Hanz) died at the age of two which Anthony was very sad about. He had to learn English and it was very hard for him. His parents tried to continue to grow grapes but they were not able to because the soil where they lived was not good for it.

According to family histories passed down through his children, which I found and read on familysearch.org, when he was around twenty years old he had a dispute with his father. According to these histories he became so angry that he had ran away from his home. After he ran away his father was so angry that he disowned him. After Anthony left home, he was never heard from again by his family and was assumed dead. His mother grieved all her life for him.

Almost one hundred years later the mystery of what happened to Anthony Gunzelman was solved. On familysearch.org I read the history of my second cousin twice removed, Ivan J. Carr. In the 1980s he and his wife were trying to find the family history of my 3rd great grandfather, Joseph Carr. They looked for five years before finally making the connection that Joseph Carr was really Anthony Gunzelman.

Once Anthony left his home he changed his name to Joseph Carr. This is where the last name of Carr came from in my family. No one knows why he chose that name. According to my grandfather we know that he applied for a homestead sometime in the 1870s in Texas, where he tried to grow grapes but he was not successful. He also spent time in southern Arizona and worked on the Southern Transcontinental Railroad. While in southern Arizona he learned to speak Spanish. Eventually, according to the 1910 census records, he was living in Spanish Fork Utah.

According to his obituary he married a woman named Eleanora Beckstrom in 1897. They had nine children in Utah. One of the children (Irene Carr) stated in her personal history that her father was very kind and only got mad at her one time in her childhood and as a youth. By the time he died he was fluent in German, French, English and Spanish.

The prompt for this essay was to write about an ancestor who was “revolutionary.” To be revolutionary means to be unique or to be someone different than everyone else. I learned a lot of things about Anthony Gunzelman while researching his life. I learned from Anthony Gunzelman's life that it is okay to make big changes and start over. His family started over in a new country. He started over in a new state. If he had not made these big changes I might not have been born.

I also learned a sad lesson. I learned how sad it can be to let disagreements separate you from your family. I was sad when I learned that his mom mourned him for the rest of her life. She only had one son die but she thought two had died because Anthony never contacted her again. I wish he had made peace and forgiven his dad. So now I know that I should always forgive my family if I have a disagreement with any of them.

While I was researching for this essay I used several sources. The website [familysearch.org](https://www.familysearch.org) was very helpful. I found his obituary, census records, and other documents.

One of the best things were many personal histories that had been added by relatives. Another source I had was my mom and grandma telling me family lore about who he was and his story. My last source was my grandpa who gave me a lot of information about who Anthony/Joseph was including why he moved to America and what he did after he ran away. This was the story of how I became a Carr instead of a Gunzelman.