The ancestral heritage of Werner and Anna Dohmann is presented in this chapter. Werner’s parents were Gottfried Dohmann and Jenny Reiffert. Anna’s parents were Ferdinand Dorbritz and Marie Zahn. This chapter contains a subsection for each of these four main family lines.

**Ancestral Homesites**

Werner’s Dohmann and Reiffert heritage is from the Kreis Höxter (right map) area of Germany at the eastern border of the Nordrhein-Westfalen region. Kreis Höxter is located near the center of Germany, just to the east of Paderborn.
Borgholz, the birthplace of Werner’s father, Gottfried Dohmann, is located about half-way between Borgentreich and Beverungen. Sandebeck, where Werner was born is located just a few miles north of Bad Driburg where Werner’s mother was born and where his parents were married.

Anna’s Dorbritz and Zahn heritage is from the Sachsen-Anhalt region of Germany very near Wittenberg, the birthplace of the Reformation.

**DOHMANN FAMILY HERITAGE**

The earliest known Dohmann was the Richter (judge), Herman Domans in the city of Höxter. Documents sealed by Herman Domans in 1391, 1392, and 1396 still exist in the Stadtarchiv Höxter.[9]

The next known Dohmann was a Thies1 (or Thyges or Thyas) Doumann who is the first known tenure holder and is mentioned in Lehnsbriefe (Tenure Letters) of 1485 and 1495. This Thies Doumann was a Meier[25] and had at least 3 sons: Bertold, Herbold, and Wilhelm who are mentioned in various documents from 1535, 1550, and 1551.[9]

From these Lehnsbriefe, we can see that the Dohmann family was a “First Vassal” family for the Abbey of Corvey near Höxter from at least 1485 until the Holy Roman Empire was abolished by Napoleon in the early 1800’s.[9] As First Vassals, the Dohmann family was responsible for farming several large tracts of land in the area near Höxter and for performing other acts of civil responsibility.[26]

There is a gap between Herman Domans and Thies Doumann then another gap to the next known Domann who was also named Thies and who is mentioned in a Tenure Letter of 1645.[9] Fortunately, we can trace the Werner Dohmann heritage from Thies Doman of 1645 to the present time.

The following charts show the ancestry of Werner’s father, Gottfried Dohmann, back to the time of Thies Doman who was born about 1574 and include all 8 generations of all known ancestral lines.

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1. Thies is an abbreviated form of Matthias
The above charts are arranged to fit the maximum amount of information possible on these pages and still retain a fair degree of readability. The first chart is a 4-Generation Ancestry Chart for Gottfried Dohmann. The next four charts are 6-Generation Ancestry Charts for each of Gottfried’s grandparents. The numbers 1-4 are used to identify his 4 grandparents in the first chart and these numbers help identify the starting point for each of the next 4 charts.

The following detailed descriptions of Gottfried Dohmann’s ancestry focus on his Dohmann lineage. His Rehermann ancestry is also of interest and is discussed somewhat at the end of this section. The heir in direct line of descent to Werner Dohmann is underlined in each generation for clarity.
First Generation

Thies Doman (c1574 - c1672) is referenced as the “oldest” member of the Dohmann clan in a Tenure Letter of 1645. The name of his wife is not known, but he is known to have had at least 4 sons (Henrich Jr., Hans, Cordt (or Conrad), and another Henrich).[9]

Second Generation

Henrich Jr. (c1610 - c1700) was called Jr. in deference to his older cousin, Henrich Sr. The name of his wife is not known but he is mentioned in Tenure Letters of 1645, 1672, 1682, 1688, and 1698 and in the 1700 census of Amelunxen. From these documents we can see that he had at least 7 children (Agnes, Hans Henrich, Jobst[1], Anna Margarita, Gertrud, Lüleff[2], and Ernst).[9]

Third Generation

Jobst (c1657 - 5 Nov 1727) moved from his parent’s home in Amelunxen to nearby Ottbergen when he married the widow Elizabeth Traphagen on 15 Apr 1692. Elisabeth was previously married to a man named Möller and had 5 children from that marriage. Jobst and Elisabeth had one known child, Laurentius, before she died on 9 Jan 1716. After Elisabeth’s death, Jobst remarried to Anna Margaretha Hoffmeister. It does not appear that they had any children.[31] Jobst Doman was a Meier and in 1718, he donated 100 Thaler[3] to the Parish of Ottbergen which was used to build a small chapel beside the road just outside the town of Ottbergen.[10] This chapel which features a rather unique roof design, still stands today.

Fourth Generation

Laurentius Doman (Oct 1693 - 23 Mar 1730) married Anna Margret Albers, daughter of Joseph Albers and Katherine Gölucken on 3 May 1716 in Anna Margret’s home town of Bosseborn but they continued to live in Laurentius’ home town of Ottbergen. They had 3 known children, Henrich, Elisabeth Margaretha, and Joannes Henricus.[31] Like his father, Laurentius was also a Meier.[9]

1. Jobst is an alternate spelling for Jodocus.
2. Lüleff is an alternate spelling for Ladolff
3. 100 Thaler in 1718 is approximately equivalent to $10,000 in 1999
Fifth Generation

Heinrich Dohman (Aug 1718 - 21 Apr 1791) was married twice, first to Catharine Margaretha Thielen of Frohnhausen and later to Maria Catharina Schrick of Wehrden.

Heinrich had a total of 20 children, 9 from his first marriage and 11 from his second marriage. He was 66 years old when his youngest child was born in 1784. The 7th child from his first marriage was Johannes Heinrich Dohman. The “h” in the Dohmann name begins to show up in the church records of Otterberg in the mid-1700’s. This Henrich Dohmann was also a Vogt[27] in Amelunxen.[9]

Sixth Generation

Johannes Heinrich Dohman (Jan 1753 - 6 Dec 1826) married Anna Maria Elisabeth Rehermann of Borgholz, daughter of Johan Christopher Rehermann and Maria Elisabeth Wasmuth on 8 Feb 1784 in her home town of Borgholz. They made their home in Borgholz after their marriage, thus making Johannes Heinrich the Stammvater[1] of the Dohmann clan in Borgholz. Johannes Heinrich was an Ökonom.[23]

The Rehermann and Wasmuth families were quite prominent with Anna Maria Elisabeth’s father having served as Bürgermeister[2] of Borgholz. Johannes Heinrich and Anna Maria Elisabeth had 6 children (Franciscus Laurentius, Joannes Ludovicus, Johannes Henricus Laurentius, Joannes Henricus Conradus, Anna Margareta Elisabetha, and Joannes Godfriedus). Franciscus Laurentius (Franz), Joannes Ludovicus (Johan), and Joannes Godfriedus (Godfried) continued to live in Borgholz after they married. Joannes Henricus Laurentius (Lorenz) moved to Borgentreich after he married and became the Stammvater of the Dohmann clan in Borgentreich. The last son, Joannes Henricus Conradus died at the age of 6.[22][23]

Seventh Generation

Franciscus Laurentius (Franz) Dohmann (12 Jan 1786 - 21 Aug 1827) married Anna Maria Gertrud Corves, daughter of Andreas Corves and Anna Maria Catharina Hencke in Borgholz on 24 Jan 1808. Franz and

1. Stammvater = progenitor or earliest clan member to settle in a particular area
2. Bürgermeister = mayor
Gertrud had 7 children (Johannes Dionysius, Maria Anna, Anna Maria Elisabeth, Johannes Gottfried, Johannes Franciscus (Francis or Franz), Maria Elisabeth, and Clementine. Since these children were the father, uncles, and aunts of Werner Dohmann, they are each discussed in the next generation.

Franz Dohmann died at the young age of 41 from Typhoid Fever leaving his widow with 6 young children ages 2-19. Gottfried was just 12 years old at the time and his younger brother Franz was only 9, so the burden of the family support probably fell upon his older brother, Dionysius, who was 19 at the time. By all accounts, it seems that Dionysius was quite a resourceful and intelligent person so he was probably fairly successful at providing for his mother and younger brothers and sisters.

Eighth Generation

Johannes Dionysius (8 Oct 1808 - 26 Dec 1898) married Maria Theresia Sophia Berlage from Borgentreich and had 7 children (3 sons and 4 daughters). One son died young and the other two became priests. Dionysius Dohmann was a prominent and highly respected citizen of Borgholz where he served as both Bürgermeister and Postmaster. He also served as Rentmeister of Amelunxen. It is interesting to note that he was either the godfather at a baptism or the witness at a wedding for various family members 11 times between 1832 and 1873.

Maria Anna Dohmann (16 Aug 1811 - 15 May 1891) first married Heinrich Deutermann and had 7 children. After Heinrich’s death in 1851, she remarried to Bernard Wartmann. There were no known children from this second marriage.

Anna Maria Elisabeth Dohmann (28 Jan 1814 - 1 Nov 1814) died when she was just 9 months old.

Johan Gottfried (12 Oct 1815 - 18 Nov 1906) was Werner Dohmann’s father and lived to age 91. He is discussed further in the Werner Dohmann Biography Chapter of this book.
Johannes Franciscus (Franz) Dohmann (16 Aug 1818 - 1897) emigrated to New York where he married Bernardine Ackermann and had 7 children. Franz was a Master Baker and owned his own Bakery in New York.¹

Maria Elisabeth Dohmann (16 Feb 1821 - 23 Jul 1902) married Godfried Kornhoff of Borgholz and had 4 children. Godfried Kornhoff and Maria Elisabeth Dohmann were 2C1R (2nd Cousins Once Removed) relatives since they had a common Kornhoff ancestor.²³

Clementine Dohmann (9 Dec 1825 - 21 May 1855) married Johan Peter Bode of Erkeln where they lived after their marriage.²⁷ They had 4 children including Theodore Wilhelm (Bill) Bode who emigrated to the US and settled in Illinois. Bill married Caroline Josephine Dohmann, his 2nd Cousin, who was born in Connecticut where her parents had immigrated to from Borgholz.³³

Other Ancestral Lines

The other ancestral lines of Gottfried Dohmann’s heritage as shown on the preceding 8-generation chart include the following surnames:


Most of these family lines can be traced back to at least the mid-1600’s which is when most churches in Germany began keeping parish records. In addition to Borgholz, the towns where these earliest ancestors lived include the following, all of which are located in Kreis Höxter:

Beverungen, Borgentreich, Bosseborn, Bruchhausen, Bühne, Dringenberg, Frohnhauen, Höxter, Natingen, Natzungen, Ottergen, and Rösebeck.

One of Gottfried Dohmann’s grandmothers was Maria Elisabeth Rehermann. Her father was the Bürgermeister Johan Christoph Rehermann and her mother was Maria Elisabeth Wasmuth. Johan Christoph and Maria Elisabeth were 2C1R (Second Cousin Once Removed) relatives through a

¹ Information supplied by George Dohmann of NYC in 1972, a great-grandson of Francis Dohmann
common Waldeyer link (Johan Waldeyer and Helene Heidtmann) which can be seen on the Rehermann chart (#2). The Rehermann, Waldeyer, and Wasmuth families were quite prominent in Westfalen and provide a link to the aristocratic families of Westfalen.

**Links to Aristocracy**

The ancestry of Gottfried Dohmann can also be linked to the Westfalen aristocracy through one of his great-great-great grandmothers, Anna Maria Catharina Nolte, who was a descendant of a number of aristocratic families. On 1 Aug 1690, she married Theodor Waldeyer of Dringenberg who was also from a very prominent family.

The Waldeyer family established a scholarship fund to help support family members who chose to pursue an advanced college degree. As descendants of this Waldeyer clan, the Dohmanns of Borgholz were eligible to apply for these scholarships. Johann Eduard Dohmann, a son of Johann Dionysius Dohmann, received a scholarship from this fund and studied in Brilon, Tübingen, and Paderborn where he entered the Priesthood in 1865.[9]

The following chart shows 7 generations of Anna Maria Catharina Nolte’s ancestry back to about 1450; however many of her lines can be traced back to at least 1100.[13] Her aristocratic ancestors include the following surnames:[31]

REIFFERT FAMILY HERITAGE

The ancestry of Jenny Reiffert has been traced back to the mid-1600s. All known ancestors of Jenny Reiffert are shown in the 6-generation ancestral chart below.[32]

First Generation

The earliest known Reiffert is Johan Reiffert who was born about 1650 and lived in the little town of Bruchhausen, Germany. The name of his wife is unknown but he had at least one known son, Johan Fritz Reiffert who was born about 1687.[24]

Second Generation

Johan Fritz Reiffert first married Anna Margaretha Schuhmacher in 1722 and had 4 children. After she died in 1729, Johan Fritz remarried but the name of his second wife is not recorded in the church records. Johan Fritz had 3 additional children from his second marriage and all 7 children were baptized in the Evangelical Church in Bruchhausen.[24]
Third Generation

One of the children from Johan Fritz’s second marriage was Frederick (Fritz) Reiffert (30 Mar 1731 – 20 Jun 1789). Fritz first married Maria Catharina Schuntheller in the Evangelical Church in Bruchhausen in 1756 and they had 5 children, all baptized in the Evangelical Church. Maria Catharina died in 1770 and Fritz remarried to Catharina Maria Stracken. This marriage is not recorded in either the Evangelical or the Catholic Church records of Bruchhausen so Catharina Maria probably lived in a different town where they most likely were married. It does seem likely that Catharina Maria was Catholic though because in 1771, Fritz switched his religion from Evangelical to Catholic. Fritz and Catharina Maria had 6 children, all of whom were baptized in the Catholic Church in Bruchhausen.[24][25]

Fourth Generation

One of the children of Fritz Reiffert and Catharina Maria Stracken was Johannes Franciscus Reiffert (10 Nov 1772 – 11 Feb 1848) who married Maria Theresia Conze (c1764 – 3 Nov 1831). Maria Theresia Conze was the daughter of Christopher Conze and Eva Maria Lotze of Borgentreich. Johannes Franciscus and Maria Theresia had 5 children – the first 3 were born in Bruchhausen in 1795, 1797, and 1800; the fourth was born in Borgentreich in 1803; and the last was born in Driburg in 1809. (However, since there is a 6-year gap between the 4th and 5th children, perhaps another was born in yet another town.) Johannes Franciscus was a Färber¹ and perhaps relocated several times to find better employment.[22][25][26]

Fifth Generation

The oldest child of Johannes Franciscus Reiffert and Maria Theresia Conze was Ferdinand Reiffert (23 Jun 1795 - ?) who married Anna Maria Gertrud “Agnes” Fattmann. Agnes was the oldest of 12 children of Joannes Fattmann and Maria Gertrud Pieper of Salzkotten, Germany.[33] The youngest child of this family was Heinrich Anton Fattmann (17 Apr 1816 - ?) who married Anna Maria Hindahl in Driburg in 1841[26] and emigrated to Texas about the same time as his niece, Jenny Reiffert Dohmann.

Even though Heinrich Anton (Henry) Fattmann was an uncle of Jenny Reiffert, he was only 3 years older than Jenny.

¹. Färber = Textile Dyer
Sixth Generation

Two of the children of Ferdinand Reiffert and Agnes Fattmann were Anna Maria “Theresia” Reiffert (3 Aug 1818 – c1851) and Anna Maria Francisca (Jenny) Reiffert (15 Apr 1819 – 19 Feb 1885).\[26\] Theresia married Anton Ficke in Driburg in 1847 and Jenny married Gottfried Dohmann in Driburg in 1839.\[26\] Anton Ficke and Theresia Reiffert emigrated to Texas about the same time as Jenny and her children. One child, Mariam Jacobum was born to Anton and Theresia in Texas on 9 May 1851. Theresia apparently died shortly after this child was born because Anton Ficke remarried to Carolina Verna on 26 Oct 1852.\[28\]

Other Ancestral Lines

The other ancestral lines of Jenny Reiffert’s heritage as shown on the preceding 6-generation chart include the following surnames:

Baumhöggen, Blinden, Buch, Conze, Fattmann, Gemeken, Göckeln, Kirsch, Köster, Lotze, Müker, Olmert, Pieper, Stracken.

Most of these family lines can be traced back to at least the mid-1600’s which is when most churches in Germany began keeping parish records. In addition to Driburg, the towns where these earliest ancestors are known to have lived include the following:

Beverungen, Borgentreich, Bruchhausen, and Salzkotten.
The ancestry of Ferdinand Dorbritz has been traced back to the mid-1600’s but primarily just in the paternal Dorbritz line. The Dorbritz clan lived in the Sachsen-Anhalt region of Germany, very close to Wittenberg where the Reformation started. As a result, the Dorbritz family heritage is primarily Lutheran whereas the Dohmann and Reiffert heritage is primarily Catholic.

The chart below shows a 5-generation ancestry chart for Ferdinand Dorbritz.

**First Generation**

The earliest known Dorbritz was Valentin Dorbritz who was born about 1660 and was a waiter in Senst. He married Catharine Leta Schulz of Sixdorf and had only one known child, a son named Daniel.

**Second Generation**

Daniel Dorbritz (18 Jul 1683 - 24 Feb 1768) became a schoolmaster and later a minister. He served as pastor in Dornburg from 1719 to 1742, then was pastor in Wörpen from 1742 until his death in 1768. Daniel married Gertraud Christiane Kanitz and they had 7 known children.

**Third Generation**

The children of Daniel Dorbritz and Gertraud Kanitz were:

- Daniel Friedrich Dorbritz (21 May 1721 - 14 May 1798) who was a pastor in Wörpen and married Catherine Dorothea Henrietta Foelsche. They had 15 children who are discussed in the Fourth Generation below.

- Anna Gertraud Christiane Dorbritz married Christian Lebenecht Webel who was a minister in Toserne, near Weissenfels.
August Gottlieb Dorbritz was an Economy Inspector on the Polish border.

George Solomon Dorbritz was a Shipping Controller on the Danish island of Fohr.

Christian Gottlieb Dorbritz was an army surgeon at Hadersleben in Holsteinischen.

Carl Wilhelm Dorbritz was a Council Advisor in Zerbst and was later a minister in Lindau.

Johan Ludwig Dorbritz was an agent for Brokerage Lietzau in Zerbst then later became a property owner in Hohenlepte.

Fourth Generation

The 15 children of Daniel Friedrich Dorbritz and Catherine Dorothea Henrietta Foelsche were:

Gertraud Christiane Elizabeth Dorbritz was born on 14 Apr 1755 and married Johan Geerschner.

Anna Dorothea Friedericha Dorbritz was born on 25 Oct 1756 and married Gottlieb Richter.

Johan Carl Friedrich Dorbritz was born on 6 Mar 1758 and was a Postmaster in Zerbst.

Johanne Henriette Catherine Dorbritz was born on 7 Nov 1759 and married Johan Ernst Agner who was the pastor of Apolnsdorf at Wittenburg.

Christian Wilhelm Dorbritz was born on 24 Sep 1761 and was the Assistant Pastor of the church at Wörpen and later the Pastor at Klus Muhlingen. He married Christiane Louise Caroline Chemnitz, the daughter of Superintendent Chemnitz in Zerbst. They had 8 children who are discussed in the Fifth Generation below.

Daniel Ferdinand Dorbritz was born on 22 Jul 1763 and died on 9 Feb 1766.

Ernst Fortunatus Dorbritz was born on 24 Feb 1765 and was a Farmer and Lumber Dealer.

Carl Philip Dorbritz was born on 9 Dec 1766 and died on 11 Dec 1766.
Danieline Johanne Sophie Dorbritz was born on 17 Jul 1768 and married Christian Ernst Franke. They both worked as Licensed Legal Authorities in Wittenberg.

Johann Ludwig Dorbritz (twin) was born on 26 Mar 1770 and died on 12 Jun 1770.

An unidentified twin baby was stillborn on 27 Mar 1770.

Emerentia Margaretha Wilhelmine Dorbritz was born on 14 Feb 1772 and married George Dachs who was a Salt Inspector at Grhurzly in Posen.

Charlotte Henrietta Friedericha Dorbritz was born on 10 Jul 1774 and married Johan George Glockner.

Simon Carl Ludwig Dorbritz was a Call Clerk in Coswig and married a woman named Keck whose first name is not known.

Johan Carl Gotthelf Dorbritz was born on 16 Jul 1778.

**Fifth Generation**

The 8 children of Christian Wilhelm Dorbritz and Christiane Louise Caroline Chemnitz were:

Adelheid Louise Dorbritz was born on 9 Aug 1800 and married Friedrich Volbeding who was a Merchant in Aken.

Franz Wilhelm Dorbritz was born on 5 Jul 1802 and was a Pastor in Siptenfelde and at Wörpen.

Louise Amalie Dorbritz was born on 17 Apr 1804 and did not marry.

Albertine Louise Dorbritz was born on 6 Sep 1805 and married Wilhelm Fickner who was a Merchant in Salze.

Auguste Louise Dorbritz was born on 19 Aug 1807 and married Johann Adolph Laue who was a Pastor in Badegast.

Amande Louise Dorbritz was born on 22 Mar 1809.

**Ferdinand Wilhelm Dorbritz** was born on 23 Sep 1810 and is discussed in more detail below.

Friedrich Wilhelm Dorbritz was born on 6 Nov 1814 and died on 31 May 1851.
Ferdinand Wilhelm Dorbritz was born on 23 Sep 1810 in Wörpen, Germany. He worked as a Merchant in Aken before emigrating to Texas in 1847. He settled in the New Ulm area of Austin County where he was a farmer and merchant. He was also a charter member of St. John Lutheran Church in New Ulm when it was founded in 1867.

As a single German immigrant who arrived in Texas before September of 1847, Ferdinand Dorbritz was eligible to receive a Half Section (320 acres) of land from the State of Texas under agreements with the German Emigration Company. Ferdinand received his land grant of 320 acres in Menard County in 1850. He also purchased land grants from other immigrants for as little as $25 for 640 acres. By 1868, Ferdinand Dorbritz owned 919 acres in McCulloch County, 320 acres in Mason County, 640 acres in Menard County, and 110 acres in Austin County.

It is interesting to note that the Austin County deed records contain a Release of Mortgage filed by Ferdinand Dorbritz in 1851, guardian of Marie, Wilhelmina, and Emilie Zahn, minor heirs of George Zahn. The mortgage was made by Ferdinand Fortsch and Andrew Fortsch to Ferdinand Engelking, former guardian of Maria, Wilhelmine, and Emilie.

In 1851, at the age of 41, Ferdinand married Marie Caroline Christiane Zahn who was born on 19 Aug 1835 and was 16 years old at the time. It appears that Ferdinand must have assumed the guardianship of Marie’s younger sisters about the time that they were married.

Ferdinand and Marie had 9 children:

Anna Marie Dorbritz who was born on 16 Feb 1852 and married Werner F. Dohmann.

Wilhelm Robert Dorbritz (12 Apr 1853 - 18 Mar 1877).

Agnes Dorbritz (5 Mar 1855 - 26 Oct 1855).

Heinrich Anton (Henry) Dorbritz who was born on 2 Aug 1856 and died on 5 Apr 1894. Henry married Louisa Sophia Albrecht, the daughter of

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1. In August of 1853, Ferdinand Dorbritz purchased two half-sections of land in McCulloch County from Bernard Kleihege for $25
Friedrich Albrecht and Louisa Harsdorff in 1879. They had 3 children and lived near Ander, Texas.

Louisa Alwine Dorbritz was born on 28 Aug 1858 and died on 19 May 1955. She married Wilhelm (Bill) Albrecht, the son of Christoph Albrecht and Johanna Wiegmann. They had 13 children and lived near Ander, Texas. Bill Albrecht was a First Cousin of Louisa Sophia Albrecht who married Henry Dorbritz.

Antonia Emilie Dorbritz was born on 12 Aug 1860 and married a man named Deininger whose first name is not known. They lived in San Antonio, Texas.

Carl August Dorbritz was born on 20 Mar 1863 and died on 28 Feb 1931. He married Bertha Rudloff and they had 5 known children.

Paul Wilhelm Dorbritz was born on 9 Nov 1865 and married Rosalie Lingnau and had 4 known children. He was a School Teacher in Frelsburg, Texas and a Merchant in Clifton, Texas.

Christina Pauline Emily Dorbritz was born on 7 Oct 1869 and married Louis Albrecht, the son of Ludwig Albrecht and Elisa Sievers. Louis was a First Cousin of both Bill Albrecht who married Louisa Dorbritz and Louisa Albrecht who married Henry Dorbritz.

About 1870 when Ferdinand Dorbritz was 60 and Marie was 35, they divorced and Marie moved to Goliad County. Marie took three of their children with her to Goliad County (Henry, Louisa, and Christine Pauline Emily). The remaining 5 surviving children stayed in New Ulm with their father. [42]

Ferdinand Dorbritz died on 3 Aug 1889 at the age of 78 and is buried in the New Ulm Cemetery.

Marie and the 3 children who accompanied her to Goliad County lived for a while with her sister, Wilhelmine, who was married to Friedrich Müller (name later changed to Miller). Marie later remarried to Heinrich Boesche on 21 Apr 1872. Heinrich and Marie had 4 additional children (twins Henrietta Antonette and Auguste Caroline, Mary, and Wilhelmina).

Marie died on 27 Mar 1906 at the age of 70 and Heinrich Boesche died on 11 Jul 1908 at the age of 81. They are both buried at St. Peter’s Lutheran Cemetery in Ander, Texas.
ZAHN FAMILY HERITAGE

Unfortunately, little is known about Marie Zahn’s ancestry. Along with her parents, two sisters, and apparently a cousin, Marie left Germany in 1849 on board the ship Hamburg bound for Galveston, TX.

Sometime en route to Texas, both of Marie’s parents died at sea. The ship manifest for the Hamburg indicates that it arrived at Galveston on 15 Dec 1849 and the Zahn family is listed as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Occupation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gottlieb Zahn</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>Carpenter, Died</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maria</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>Died</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maria</td>
<td>14</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wilhelmine</td>
<td>12</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emilie</td>
<td>5/6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carl</td>
<td>23</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Carl was most likely a nephew of Gottlieb based upon his age and the fact that he is listed last even though he was older than the other children. Gottlieb’s wife Maria was apparently the mother of Emilie but it appears that she may have been a step-mother to Maria and Wilhelmine.\(^{36}\)

A notation in the records of St. John Lutheran Church in New Ulm indicates that Marie was from Ober Farnstadt bei Querfurt in Prussia.\(^{37}\) However, at the time of this writing, no further information is available about the origin of the Zahn family.

The Zahn orphans (Marie, Wilhelmine, and Emilie) somehow made their way from Galveston to the New Ulm area of Austin County. The 1850 Census for Austin County shows that Maria and Emilie were living in the home of Ferdinand Engelking.\(^{42}\) However, by 1851, their guardianship was assumed by Ferdinand Dorbritz.\(^{16}\). We also know that all 3 girls married in Austin County and later moved to Goliad County. No further information is available about Carl.

While it is not possible to provide further ancestral information on the Zahn family, the descendancy for Gottlieb and Maria Zahn as shown in the following 3-generation chart is interesting because of the various interrelationships with descendants of Werner F. Dohmann.
First Generation

Gottlieb Zahn (c1801 - 1849) is the earliest known Zahn ancestor. He was married to Maria (last name unknown). Both Gottlieb and Maria died at sea on board the ship Hamburg en route from Bremen, Germany to Galveston, Texas leaving 3 orphan children: Marie, Wilhelmine, and Emilie.\(^{38}\)

Second Generation

Maria Caroline Christiane Zahn was born in Germany on 19 Aug 1835 and arrived in Galveston, Texas in 1849 as a 14-year old orphan. She was living with the Ferdinand Engelking family in New Ulm, Texas in 1850. In 1851, at age 16, she married Ferdinand Wilhelm Dorbritz who was 41 at the time. Marie’s adult life is discussed in the Dorbritz section of this chapter.

Documents from Austin County in 1851 indicate that Ferdinand Dorbritz assumed the guardianship of Maria, Wilhelmine, and Emilie Zahn from their former guardian, Ferdinand Engelking.\(^{16}\) It is not known if Ferdinand formally adopted these children which would have made Wilhelmine and Emilie the legal daughters of Marie in addition to being their natural sister.

Wilhelmine A. Zahn (19 Jan 1837 - 23 Apr 1926) married Friedrich (Fritz) Müller in Austin County on 6 Jun 1856 when she was 19. The spelling of the Müller name was subsequently changed to Miller. Fritz was born in Germany on 4 Apr 1835 and was 21 when he married Wilhelmine. They had 7 children: William who married Clara Franz, Paul who married Sophie Schiwitz, Pauline who married Frank Seiler, Maria Wilhelmine, Elisabeth Hulda (Betty) who married John Kuykendahl, Johanna, and Louis who married Mathilda Albrecht. Pauline Miller and Frank Seiler are discussed in the Third Generation information below.

Emilie Zahn (2 Mar 1848 - 24 Jan 1913) married Louis Franke in the Schonau community of Austin County on 22 Oct 1865.\(^{15}\) There is a slight discrepancy about Emilie’s exact date of birth. The Hamburg ship manifest indicates that she was about 10 months old in Dec 1849 but later census records indicate that she was born in March 1848. Louis and Emilie did not have any children of their own but they did adopt 3 children: Eliza Becker who married Henry Borgfield, Herman Hagy, and Otto Hagy.\(^{38}\) Otto and his wife, Alma, are discussed in the Third Generation information below. Emilie was a sponsor for two of the children of Werner F. Dohmann.
(Ferdinand and Ottilie) in 1882 while Louis was a sponsor for another of Werner’s children (Otto) on the same day.

All 3 of the Zahn girls and their families moved to Goliad County between 1870 and 1890. Wilhelmine and Fritz Miller moved to Goliad County about 1870. Emilie and Louis Franke moved to Goliad County sometime between 1880 and 1890. Marie and Ferdinand Dorbritz divorced about 1870 and she moved to Goliad County with 3 of their children where she lived with Wilhelmine and Fritz Miller for a time before marrying Heinrich Boesche.

All 3 of the Zahn girls and their husbands (second husband in Marie’s case) are buried in St. Peter’s Lutheran Cemetery, Ander, TX.

Third Generation - Descendants of Wilhelmine Zahn and Fritz Miller

Pauline Miller (7 Apr 1863 - 9 Sep 1907) married Frank Seiler (2 May 1864 - 19 Jul 1937). Frank was born in Cibolo, Texas, one of 15 children born to German immigrants Jakob Christian Seiler and Helene (Lena) Kreitz. Sometime between 1880 and 1890, Frank and two of his brothers (August and Paul) moved to the Ander area of Goliad County. Another brother, Fred, moved to the Cheapside community in DeWitt County.


Pauline died on 9 Sep 1907 at the age of 44 and Frank remarried to Sophia Doerhman who was herself a widow with 5 children from her previous marriage to Adolph Willms. Frank and Sophia had one additional child, Sophie Louise who married Oscar Bruns. At the time Sophie Louise Seiler was born in 1913, Frank and Sophia had 15 living children or step-children between 1 and 23 years of age.

Florine Seiler, a daughter of Alonzo Seiler and Frieda Haun, married Edgar Dohmann (a grandson of Werner Dohmann) on 26 Oct 1941. Florine and Edgar were 3rd Cousins through their common Zahn ancestry. They are discussed in the Ferdinand Dohmann Chapter of this book.
Newton Seiler, a son of Alonzo Seiler and Frieda Haun, married LaRose Ideus (a granddaughter of Werner Dohmann) on 15 Sep 1946. Newton and LaRose were 3rd Cousins through their common Zahn ancestry. They are discussed in the Norma Dohmann Chapter of this book.

Dorothy Ruschhaupt, a granddaughter of Frank Seiler Jr. and Martha Jank, married Gerald Foerster (a great-grandson of Werner Dohmann) on 15 Jan 1966. Dorothy and Gerald were 4th Cousins through their common Zahn ancestry. They are discussed in the Ferdinand Dohmann Chapter of this book.

**Third Generation - Descendants of Emilie Zahn and Louis Franke**

Although Emilie and Louis did not have any children of their own, they did adopt 3 children. The census records of 1880 and 1900 also indicate that they had a boarder living with them at each of those times. Perhaps Emilie’s experience of being orphaned at a very young age motivated her to open her heart and home to others who were in need of a home.

One of the adopted children of Emilie and Louis was Otto who married Alma. Otto and Alma had 3 children: Preston, Walter, and Edward. Edward married Wernita Ideus (a descendant of Werner Dohmann). They were (legally) 2C1R (Second Cousins Once Removed) through their common Zahn ancestry. They are discussed in the Norma Dohmann Chapter of this book.
Schloß Corvey near Höxter - home of the Prince Bishop of Stift Corvey during the Holy Roman Empire.

Herman Domans document of 1391, written and sealed when he was a Richter (judge) in Höxter for the Prince Bishop of Corvey. Herman’s seal is the one on the left of these photos.
Borgholz where Gottfried Dohmann was born. The church of St. Marien where Gottfried was baptized is in the center top of the photo. The Dohmann house, which was the largest in the town, is directly in the center of the photo, and was located directly across the street from the Rathaus.

Front view of the Dohmann house which can be seen from the side & rear in the photo above. This house was built in this form in 1899 on the older foundation and cellar. This house was torn down in 1899 and a large apartment building of the same size was built on the lot.
Ferdinand W. Dorbritz Tombstone in New Ulm

Heinrich Boesche & Marie Zahn Tombstone & Grave site in St. Peter’s Cemetery, Ander, TX

Dohmann plot in St. Peter’s Cemetery, Ander, TX.
Graves of Gottfried & Jenny Dohmann, Ottlie Dohmann, Anton & Emma Dohmann, and 2 small Bruns children.
Gottfried Dohmann sells his 640-acre Land Grant for $50 in 1854

This deed was executed by Gottfried Dohmann, a citizen of the State of Colorado, for the sale of a 640-acre Land Grant to Weesatche, a Chiricahua Apache chief. The deed was witnessed by two notaries, J. D. Dyer and A. G. Sandbeek.

March 26, 1854

We, Gottfried Dohmann, for the sum of $50, do sell, grant, and convey to Weesatche, a Chiricahua Apache chief, 640 acres of land located in the southwestern part of Colorado. The land was surveyed and recorded by the U.S. government.

Witnessed by:
J. D. Dyer
A. G. Sandbeek

San Diego
March 26, 1854
Children of Marie Zahn with their husbands and a friend, Mary Bruchmiller

C1896

Top Row l-r: Willie Bruns, Louis Albrecht, & Henry Dobskey
Second Row l-r: Mary Boesche Bruns, Emilia Dorbritz Albrecht, Wilhelmina Boesche Dobsky
Bottom Row l-r: Mary Bruchmiller (Dohmann) and Henrietta Boesche (Urban)