# ANALYZING AND RESOLVING PEDIGREE PROBLEMS
by
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The following represents various types of research problems that may be encountered during the genealogical research process at various times and in various areas of Germany. The problem is stated in the opening paragraph, then illustrated in a pedigree, followed by the solution .

PROBLEM 1.

John Beck came to America in the 1870's. The Hamburg passenger list gave the name of a large city in northern Rheinland as the last place of residence, but his birth is not listed in either the parish or civil registry records. Identify what is occurring historically in this area at this time and identify at least one record you would use to determine where John Beck was born.
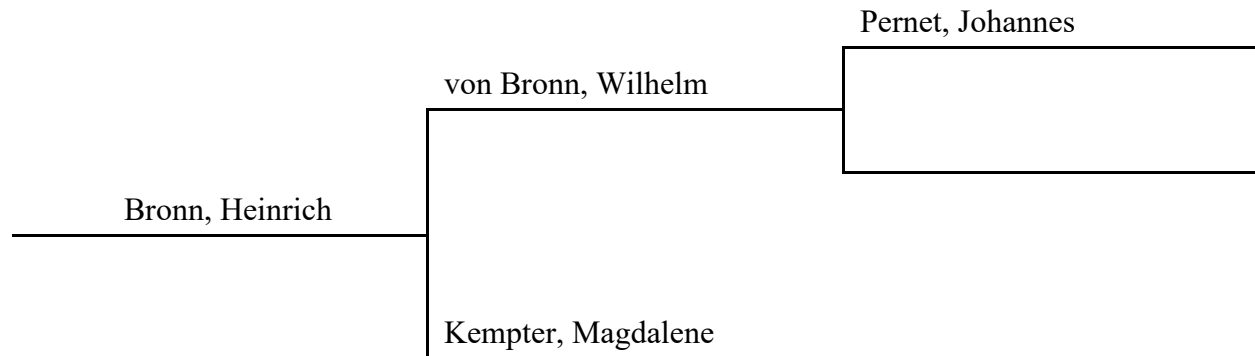
Beck, Heinrich

Beck, Johann

Ehler, Magdalena
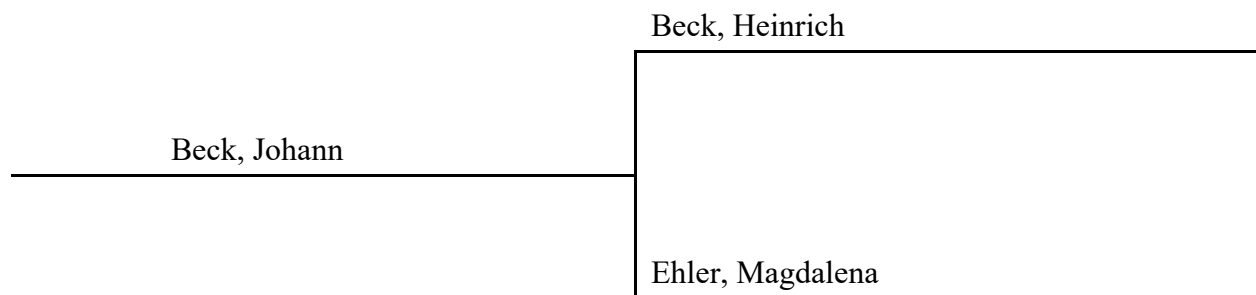
SOLUTION

The Industrial Revolution began in Germany during the mid 1800's. It resulted in a large population movement from the rural to the urban industrial areas of Germany. When tracing an immigrant back to an industrial area, such as found in northern Rheinland, one of several records can be used to determine a place of birth.

A. Police AMelderegisters@ identify where an individual was born. They keep track of who moves into a city and from where and who moves out of a city and where they move.

B. ABürgerbücher@ identify those who take out citizenship in a city. They usually identify the place of birth of new citizens.

C. ASeelenregister@ are membership records kept by a minister. These records identify the members of a parish they also give the place of birth of the member.

D. Christening record of a child who was born after arriving in the industrial area. It may identify witnesses who were from the place where the family originated.

E. Confirmation record of a child who was confirmed after arriving in the industrial area. This record would usually identify the family=s place of origin where the child was christened.

PROBLEM 2

In tracing the linage of a family, the earliest ancestor is identified as Bronn or von Bronn.

```
                                              Pernet, Johannes
                                            ┌──────────────────
                        von Bronn, Wilhelm  │
                      ┌─────────────────────┤
                      │                      │
                      │                      └──────────────────
  Bronn, Heinrich     │
──────────────────────┤
                      │
                      │
                      │  Kempter, Magdalene
                      └─────────────────────
```

SOLUTION

The Avon@ is an indication of title or locality. If no birth entry can be found in the current parish, search the Meyers gazetteer to see if the name is a locality name.

    If it is a locality name:
1. Determine where the parish records were kept.
2. Search 5 years on each side of the ancestor=s birth year for every child with the ancestor=s given name. If the father=s given name is also known it would further limit the entries to be verified.

Follow the verification process to determine the correct ancestor and the surname.

PROBLEM 3

Your client states their immigrant ancestor, Phillip Weiss, talked about Garrensee. They assumed he was from there but Garrensee does not appear in the Meyers gazetteer. Which of the following reference tools would you use to locate the place the ancestor was from.

    A.   Shell Auto Atlas
    B. The gazetteer: Official Standard Names Approved by the U. S. Board on Geographic Names
    C. Deutsches Rechtswörterbuch

Phillip Weiss

born: 1844

where: Garrensee

(Garrensee not in gazetteer)

SOLUTION

Many immigrants from Germany would not tell their families where they were from in Germany but they sometimes talked about topographical features in the area of Germany where they were from.

If the place they mentioned is not found in the Meyers gazetteer it could be a topographical area.

The gazetteer, U.S. Board on Geographic Names, is the best reference tool to use in identifying these areas because it gives the latitude and longitude of the topographical feature.

GARREN-SEE   LAKE   53 42 N   10 51 E

PROBLEM 4

David Wald=s father, Johann Wald, immigrated from Germany in 1882 at the age of 23. U.S. naturalization records give the name of the parish in Elsass-Lothringen that he was born in but he is not found in the records.

		Jaque Dubois
		born: 1859
	David Wald	where: Elsass-Lothringen

SOLUTION

The records in German areas that either border other countries such as France, Netherlands, Denmark, etc. or were under a foreign country=s rule, may be influenced by the language of that country.

When tracing the ancestral line back to one of these areas and you are not able to find the ancestor=s birth entry, determine the foreign language form of the ancestor=s name to see if he or she is recorded by that form of the name.

Follow the correct verification process to determine the correct direct line ancestor.

PROBLEM 5

In researching your Truebenbach line you find the following variations of the name in the parish records.

```
                                               Georg Triebenbach
                                               |
                         Wilhelm Dreubenbach
                         |                     |
    Franz Trübenbach                           Barbara Moritz
    |
                         Carolina Toller
```
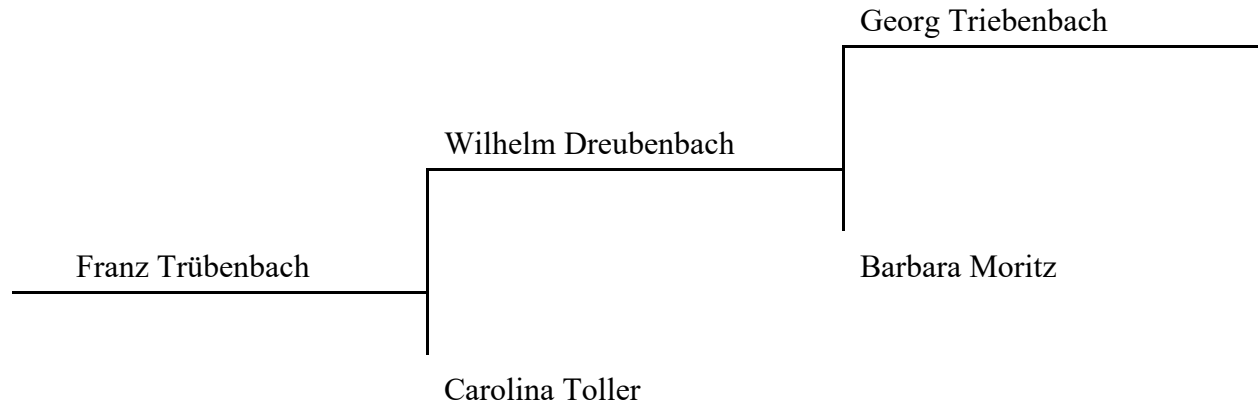
SOLUTION

Variations of the family name occurred because the recorder usually asked how they pronounced their name not how they spelled it. This resulted in the surname being spelled phonetically.

Researchers should be aware of the interchange of certain letters.
Ab@ and Ap@ are interchangeable
Ac@, Ag@ and Ak@ are interchangeable
Ad@ and At@ are interchangeable
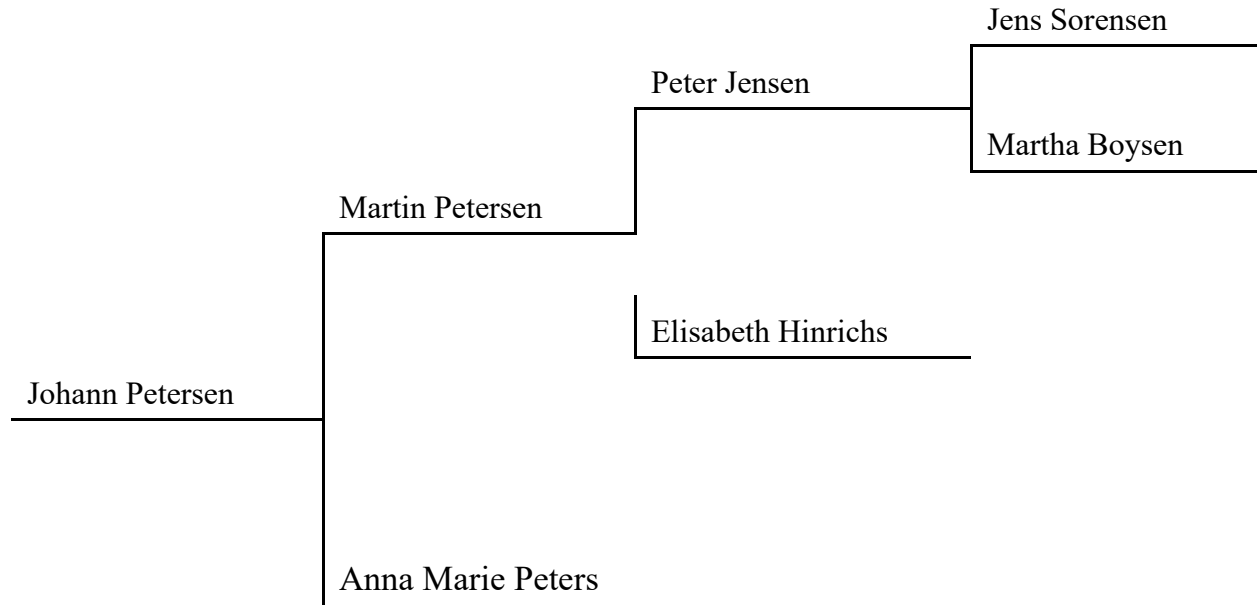Af@ and Av@ are interchangeable
Ai@ and Ay@ are interchangeable
Aai@ and Aei@ are interchangeable

Always follow correct research procedures and verify every direct line ancestor.

PROBLEM 6

You trace a family line back to the northwest area of Germany. Most of the surname end in Asen@ or As@. Even though you can find the family name in the parish record you are unable verify the direct line ancestor by that surname.

```
                                                        Jens Sorensen
                                       Peter Jensen
                                                        Martha Boysen
                   Martin Petersen

                                       Elisabeth Hinrichs

Johann Petersen

                   Anna Marie Peters
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SOLUTION

The Asen@ ,As@, and Aing@ endings on names are forms of patronymics. Prior to permanent surnames being used in this area, the child took the given name of the father and used it as a surname. If the father=s given name was Jens then the child became know as Jensen.

Because the family name could change with each generation it is extremely important to verify all direct line ancestors and follow correct research procedures.

PROBLEM 7

You trace a family line and find out that the ancestral name has a Latin ending such as Aus@ (Pistorius), Aor@ (Calceator), or Aex@ (Curritex), but the birth entry of an earlier ancestor cannot be found.

```
                                              Andraes Bäcker
                                    ┌──────────────────────────────
                       Phillip Pistorius
              ┌───────────────────┤
              │                    └──────────────────────────────
  Georg Pistorius                             Sophia Schmidt
              │
              │                   Dorothea Schneider
              └───────────────────────────────
```
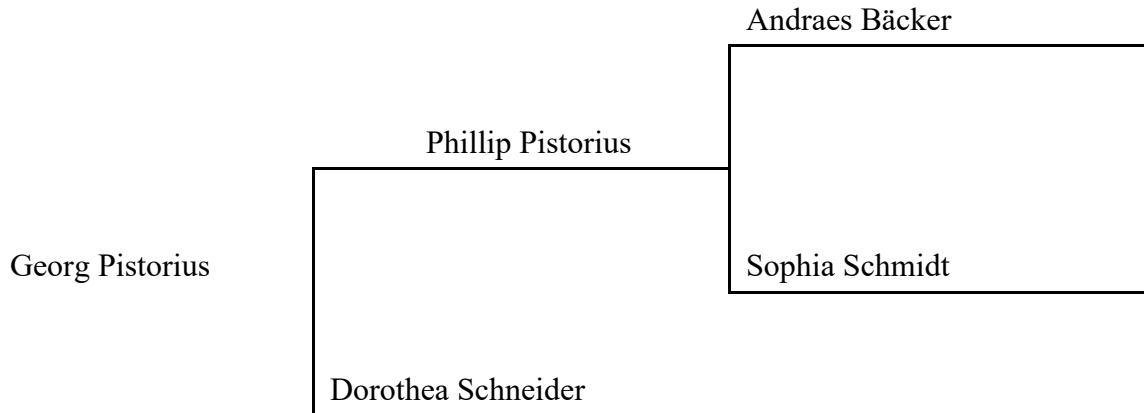
SOLUTION

The Aus@, Aor@, Aex@, etc. endings of surnames is an indication that the name is Latin.

Look up the Latin name in a dictionary:

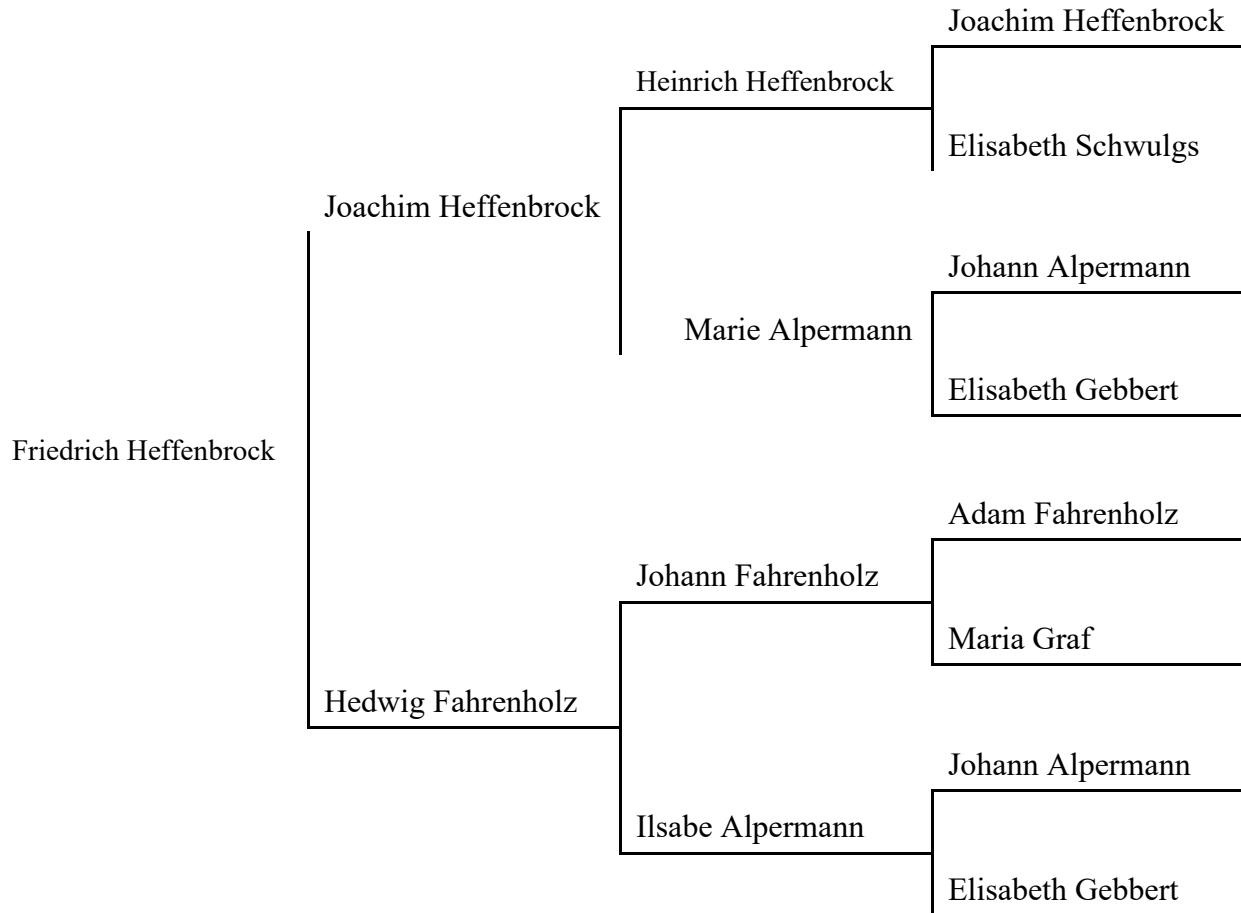X   Use *Latein für den Sippenforscher*, to determine the German form of the Latin name.

X   Use either a Latin-English or German-English dictionary to determine the English form of the name.

In the parish record, search 5 years on each side of the ancestor=s birth year for every child with the ancestor=s given name and German form of the Latin name.

Follow the verification process to determine the correct direct line ancestor.

PROBLEM 8

You trace a family line back four generations and find that two different lines go back to the same ancestral couple.

```
                                                              Joachim Heffenbrock
                                       Heinrich Heffenbrock
                                                              Elisabeth Schwulgs

                 Joachim Heffenbrock
                                                              Johann Alpermann
                                       Marie Alpermann
                                                              Elisabeth Gebbert
Friedrich Heffenbrock
                                                              Adam Fahrenholz
                                       Johann Fahrenholz
                                                              Maria Graf

                 Hedwig Fahrenholz
                                                              Johann Alpermann
                                       Ilsabe Alpermann
                                                              Elisabeth Gebbert
```
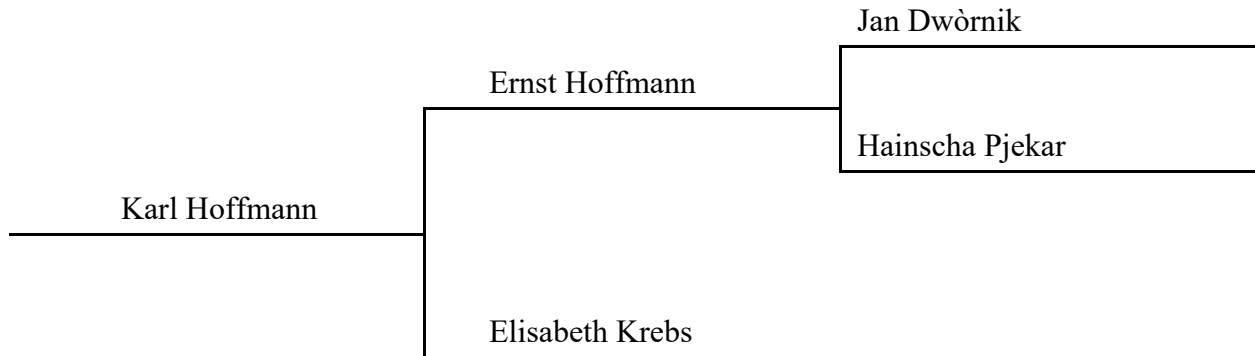
SOLUTION

Because of German feudalism, intermarriage of first cousins or other relatives was allowed. This often caused ancestral lines to be traced back to some of the same ancestral couples.

When basic research procedures are followed, direct line ancestors can be verified and all family members identified.

PROBLEM 9

You trace a family line back to a Slavic area of Germany but the name Hoffmann cannot be found in the local parish records.

```
                                                    Jan Dwòrnik
                              Ernst Hoffmann    ┌─────────────────
                           ┌──────────────────┤
                           │                   │ Hainscha Pjekar
                           │                   └─────────────────
          Karl Hoffmann    │
      ─────────────────────┤
                           │
                           │   Elisabeth Krebs
                           └──────────────────
```
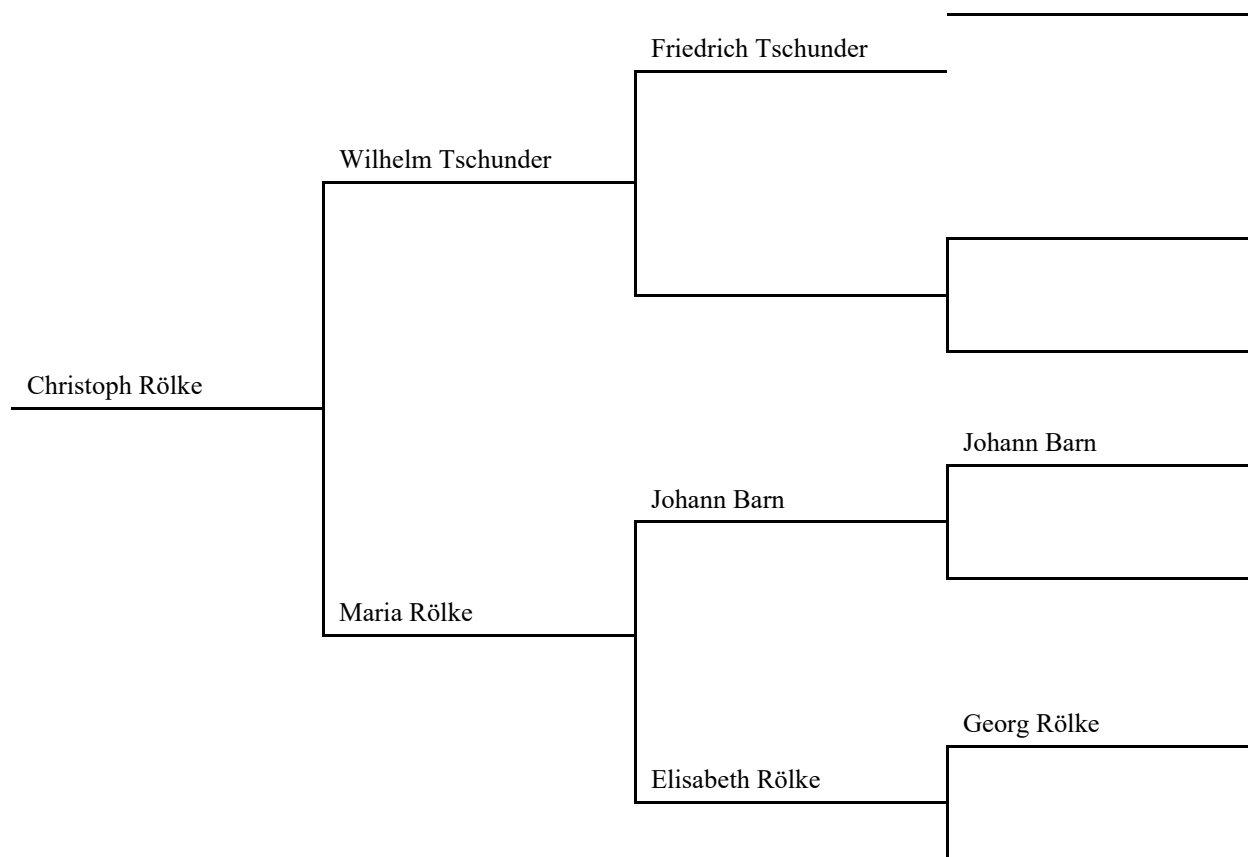
SOLUTION

Slavic (Wendish, Sorbisch, Kaschubish, etc.) cultures still exist with their churches, in some areas of modern and former Germany. You must know the culture of your area of research.

If your lines are traced back to a Slavic area, you must first determine the Slavic form of given and surnames before you can look for them in the records.

Once the Slavic name forms are known, you must follow correct research and verification process.

PROBLEM 10

Court records show that the son-in-law purchased the farm from his father-in-law. The church records show that the wife=s family name was passed on to their children.

Friedrich Tschunder

Wilhelm Tschunder

Christoph Rölke

Johann Barn

Johann Barn

Maria Rölke

Georg Rölke

Elisabeth Rölke

SOLUTION

In various areas of the German empire, the name associated with the land was more important than the name of the family that resided on it. Frequently when a young man married a woman whose family had land, whether he purchased it or she inherited it, he often changed his name to the name associated with the property.

Records to Use:

   XCheck christening records
   XCheck marriage records
   XCheck confirmation records
   XCheck court records

These records may identify the surname of the father. His name may be given as a double name along with his wife=s, in the following ways:

   XRölke geboren (born as) Tschunder
   XRölke vulgo (public) Tschunder
   XTschunder oder (or) Rölke
   XTschunder genannt (called) Rölke