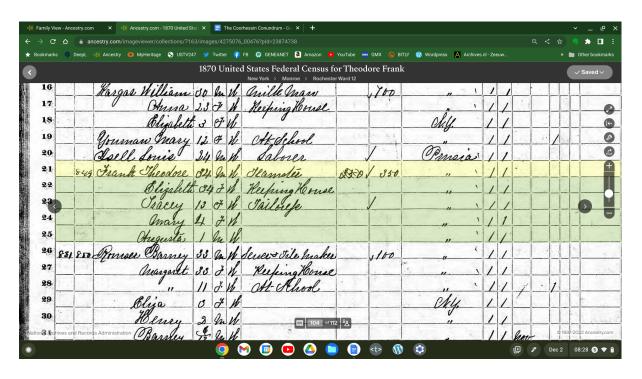


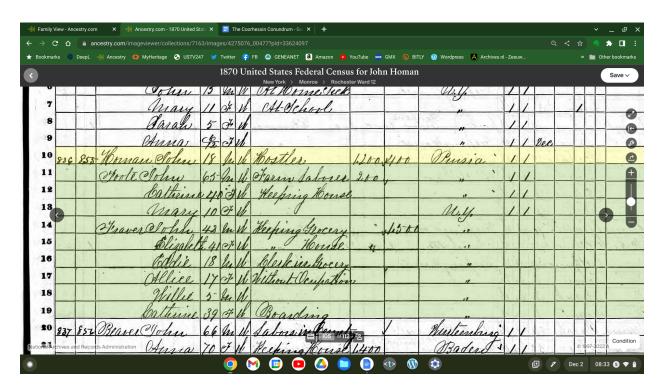
1870 Census: Where's Wigbert? He was 15; already out of the house working? Living with someone else? Also origin is indicated as Prussia by ditto mark. That's different from Coorhassen as we will see below. The 1870 census also states his father Theodor was 34 yrs old, born 1836. And it states Theodor is a seamstress (tailor) which doesn't fit our family trades story. By contrast the 1875 census puts Theodor's date

of birth at 1831 which is what his headstone states. Note his wife's name is Elisabetha on the monument but Elizabeth on her headstone. [Also of note: the ward maps from the time period are quite interesting. 1870 1879 Ward numbers changed in 1890.]



On the next page of the 1870 census there is a John **Hohman**, 18, a hostler (a man employed to look after the horses

of people staying at an inn.) He is from Prussia and appears to be boarding with the Foote & Fraver families who are in the **grocery** business, Foote farming, Fraver selling. John likely took care of the horses. Is he one of our Homan?

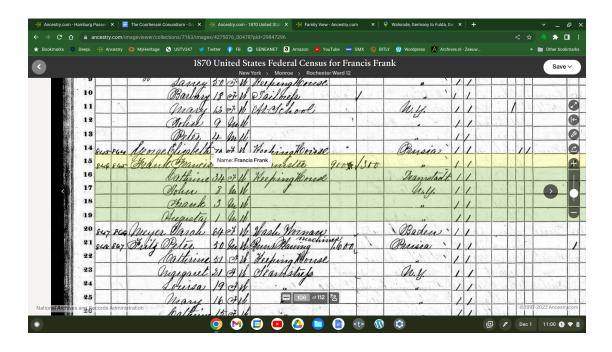


The next page in the 1870 census shows Francis **Frank**, from Prussia and his wife Catherine from Darmstadt - one Hesse-Nassau, the other Hesse-Darmstadt¹ - one Prussian (Nassau), the other German. Darnstadt (Hessia-Darnstadt) doesn't appear on pages before or after, it being specific vs general, Hesse or Prussia. This might well be the same kind of situation with Theodore and Elisabetha depending on their towns' ruler. Religion may well be a factor; finding a Catholic spouse in

continued to be known by its former name of Hesse-Darmstadt.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The Grand Duchy of Hesse and by Rhine (German: Großherzogtum Hessen und bei Rhein) was a grand duchy in western Germany that existed from 1806 to 1918. The Grand Duchy originally formed from the Landgraviate of Hesse-Darmstadt in 1806 as the Grand Duchy of Hesse (German: Großherzogtum Hessen). It assumed the name Hesse and bei Rhein in 1816 to distinguish itself from the Electorate of Hesse, which had formed from neighboring Hesse-Kassel. Colloquially, the grand duchy

Protestant Hessen was challenging while Prussia was Catholic there were more options in Prussia. More on this later below.



Note **Hessen is German**, Hessen-**Nassau was Prussian**. The name **Coorhessen** does not show up in the 1870 census. It's possible that Coorhessen was erroneously included in Prussia mainly because the borders were in a state of flux. It was a different situation in 1866 than 1870-71.<sup>2</sup> After the Congress of Vienna of 1814–15, most of the territory went to the **Electorate of Hesse**, which Prussia annexed in 1866.<sup>3</sup> It's hard to say how Theordore and Elisabetha perceived it, or how the census taker understood it. Were they part of Prussia or Germany?<sup>4</sup> Were they uprooted or left unscathed or uneffected in a major way?

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> In 1866, Hesse entered the Austro-Prussian War **on the Austrian side**, but received a relatively mild settlement from the Prussian victors. The Grand Duchy joined the German Empire in 1871.Maps change.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fulda

<sup>4</sup> https://bit.lv/3EX4ocv

THE biggest stumbling block is the word "Coorhessen" and exactly where it refers to, why they used it instead of their town, and why was the use of it so limited in records? Google search has proved largely unhelpful thus far.

**Coorhessen** is Kur-Hessen or Kurhessen. However the Province of Kurhessen didn't exist until WWII. It also has appeared as Coor-Hessen. There is considerable confusion.

Click here to include advanced tools for Wagester collaboration, genetic genealogy, surname projects, etc.

Mary Ann Wagester 1869 East Zorra, Ontario, Canada last edited 19 Aug 2016

Elizabeth Wagester 14 Sep 1830 Neiderhorne in Coor-Hessen - Germany - 12 Nov 1904 managed by Lorna McMahon last edited 27 Jul 2011

George Wagester abt 1825 Neiderhorne in Coor-Hessen - Germany

Elizabeth Wagester abt 1847 Neiderhorne in Coor-Hessen - Germany

Johann Georg Wagester 02 Jan 1805 Neiderhone Kreis Eschwege, Germany - 26 Apr 1881

Ernst Wagester 1830 Hesse, Germany

(OY! Neiderhorn(e) is a peak in Switzerland. I couldn't find Neiderhorne Kreis Eschwege, only Eschwege, a town in northeastern Hesse, the district seat of the Werra-Meißner-Kreis, in north Hesse, just east of Kassel. No Neiderhorne found there.)

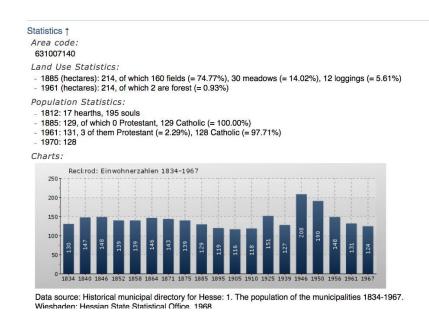
"The Province of Kurhessen or Electoral Hesse was a province of Prussia within Nazi Germany between 1944 and 1945." BUT, "The name Kurhessen comes from the former Electorate of Hesse-Kassel (or Hesse-Cassel; 1803–1866) which, following the Austro-Prussian War, Prussia annexed to form part of the Province of Hesse-Nassau. This is also where its anglicized name Electoral Hesse comes from." 5

The Electorate of Hesse (German: Kurfürstentum Hessen), also known as Hesse-Kassel or Kurhessen, was a landgraviate whose prince was given the right to elect the Emperor by Napoleon. The

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Province\_of\_Kurhessen\_

state was the only electorate within the German Confederation. It consisted of several detached territories to the north of Frankfurt, which survived until the state was annexed by Prussia in 1866 following the Austro-Prussian War. The Elector's formal titles included "Elector of Hesse, Prince of Fulda, etc<sup>6</sup>

In 1866, Hesse entered the Austro-Prussian War on the Austrian side, but received a relatively mild settlement from the Prussian victors. If they were German, they were surrounded by Prussians. Hessen and Hessen-Nassau (Grand Duchies) were in a difficult situation. Note also the proximity of the Palatinate and Alsace. It's a straight path through several family lines. There's a good chance that the Frank and Homan men were soldiers/rebels or combatants in some way. That would account for the lack of detail about wives and children. Add the Catholic persecution, few churches and priests, are likely another reason for no records. The map below shows just how complicated it is. Note the island of Hesse in the sea of Prussia. Which side were Ted & Liz on?



Were they both
Catholic before
coming to USA? If
they were Catholic
they either were a
persecuted minority
as Germans, or part
of the majority as
Prussians. To get a
sense of numbers
let's look at the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Electorate of Hesse

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grand Duchy of Hesse

population of the village of Reckrod, Fulda, Kurhessen. Not a lot of people, and totally Catholic.





Left, Frank & Homan from Kurhessen; Right, Kister and Rübsam from Fulda Kurhessen

The 1854 marriage in Menzingen makes me think he married her on the road. It could have been military related or trade related travel. They were young, him 23, her 19. Or, if we go the Alsace route, she was coming (escaping?) from there and they met and married. Perhaps she just said Coorhessen to the census taker to make it easy. Perhaps there was a downside to saying birthplace was Alsace. If we are to believe her though, and that Coorhessen is her birthplace, why they married in Menzingen is a total mystery. It means they would have been traveling. To where & why? Did they both originally come from somewhere else and land in Coorhessen after marrying, perhaps because there were relatives already living there? Wigbert was born in Coorhessin in 1855. If we can answer these questions we may find their families and ancestors. Can we trust that this is a correct attribution of marriage date and place?

AH-HA: "In 1868 the Salzungen office was incorporated into the Meiningen<sup>8</sup> district and, with this heritage, is also part of the historic Henneberger Land. As early as 1858, Bad Salzungen was connected to the railway network." It is the administrative center and that's where marriage records would have been kept etc. They got married within the district, our Rübsam family's hometown. They likely made a short wedding and honeymoon trip to Meiningen from whatever their hometown(s) is in Kurhessen. This seems much more plausible than traveling 200 miles south to get married. Hard to come up with a reason why they would go there.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> It's approximately 25 kilometers to the Hessian state border.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bad Salzungen

History: In 1813, the Russian army camped in and around **Meiningen** with 70,000 soldiers and 2,300 officers under Tsar Alexander during his campaign against Napoleon. Duke Bernhard II opened the first Meiningen court theater in 1831. In the 19th and 20th centuries the city developed into one of the most important financial centers in Germany due to the founding of several large banks. In 1858 Meiningen received its first connection to the German railway network with the opening of the Werra Railway. When the duchy was divided into districts in 1868, Meiningen became a district town in addition to its status as capital. They were married in 1854, and it may have been like going to Vegas to get married.

The **Kesters** et al are from the **East Hesse** region. **Osthessen** is a common, but not official, region name for the

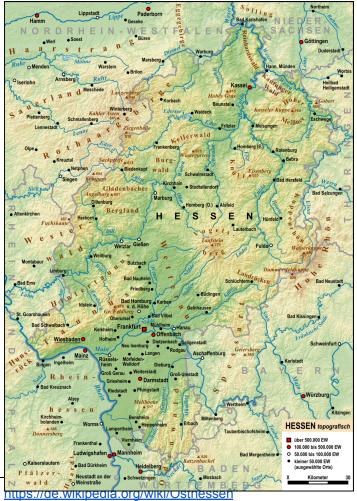
eastern part of the state of Hesse and a former planning region . It roughly corresponds to the Hessian catchment area of the upper center of Fulda and **essentially includes the district of Fulda**, the eastern part of the Vogelsberg district and the old districts of Hersfeld and Schluechtern. It shares a border with *Thuringia*. A clear demarcation of East Hesse from the region names North Hesse, Central Hesse and South Hesse does not exist. In early sources, a landscape roughly

identical to present day East Hesse was commonly called Buchonia. East Hesse is an *independent dialect area* in the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Meiningen

Fuldaer Land.<sup>11</sup> (Thuringer is still my favorite deli meat. Is it coincidental? lol)

Ost means East, while Kur means cure. And that makes sense because the spa town **Bad Salzungen**, Thuringia<sup>12</sup> is just 40 miles northeast of Fulda. The region has hot springs and spa towns<sup>13</sup> that were popular for travelers and the well to do. Members of the Rübsam family lived there. Eschwege is nearby.



[The best place for a home base for research is Frankfurt as it sits in the middle of multiple places of origin; Wurttemberg, Hessen, Bavaria, the Haardt and Wachenheim etc. All easy to get to by train within a couple hours.]

\*\*\*\*

Celtic culture (Leimbacher burial ground) settled in the Werratal and the adjacent Rhön. Around the birth of Christ, the Rhine-Weser-Germanic tribe of the Chatti settled in the area between Werra and Fulda and further west. During the eastward expansion of the Franks, between the 5th and 8th centuries, Salzungen in the Thuringian Westergau was included in a network of Frankish fortifications.

<sup>12</sup> Long before Bad Salzungen was first mentioned in a document, people who can be assigned to the

https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bad\_Salzungen

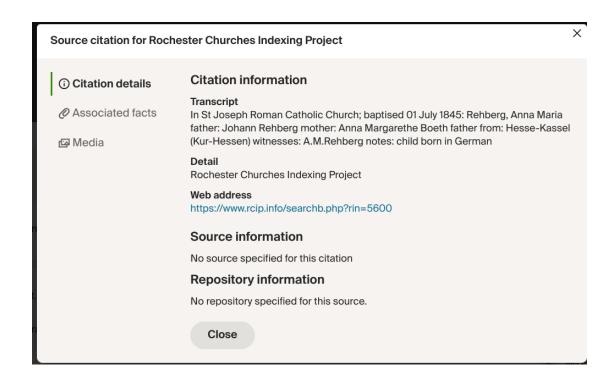
<sup>13</sup> https://reisemagazin.reiseschein.de/therme-hessen/ Most notably Kurhessen Therme

Let's look at people listed in the censuses from **Coorhessen**, and then see if they have an ancestry tree with village names. Perhaps there will be clues there.





Note Francis Rehberg, husband of **Anna Maria Frank**. Note below yet another spelling: Kur-Hessen. St. Joseph's Church where Eunice went for confession, the old family parish. St. Boniface is the oldest Catholic Church in Hessen, and one of only a handful compared to Protestant churches. There is also St. Michael's in Fulda<sup>14</sup>, and St. Boniface is buried at Fulda Monastery (Benedictine). Michaelskirche<sup>15</sup> is the place to find church records for our people if there are any. He's their guy so it makes sense that is their parish saint in Rochester.



Religion: <u>Churches of Evangelische Kirche von</u>
<u>Kurhessen-Waldeck</u> and <u>Electoral Hesse and the Catholic Church</u>
<u>1803 - 1866</u>

**Kassel** (capital city north of Fulda) has been considered **traditionally Protestant** since the Reformation, although Catholic community life continued to exist in enclaves in the surrounding countryside and today also plays a larger role in the city. Although a **minority** in the empire, **Catholics** were the

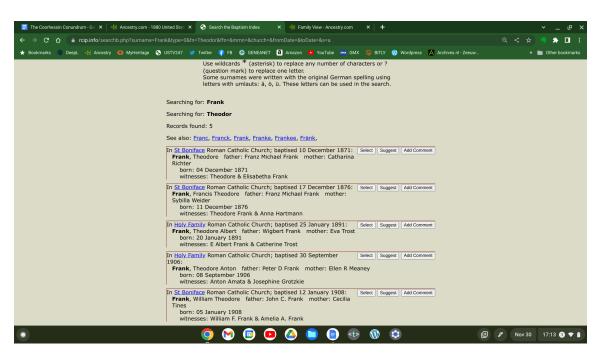
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> https://www.katholisch.de/artikel/14342-gotteshaeuser-mit-grosser-geschichte

<sup>15</sup> https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Michaelskirche (Fulda)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Religionen\_in\_Kassel

majority in the states of Bavaria, Baden, and Alsace-Lorraine as well as in the four Prussian Provinces of West Prussia, Posen, Rhineland, Westphalia and in the Prussian region of Upper Silesia. Since the Thirty Years' War the **population was generally segregated** along religious lines and rural areas or towns were overwhelmingly if not entirely of the same religion. Education was also separate and usually in the hands of the churches. **There was little mutual tolerance, interaction or intermarriage.** Protestants in general were deeply distrustful of the Catholic Church. Is there a chance there was a mixed-religion marriage similar to the paternal side, and with similar consequences?

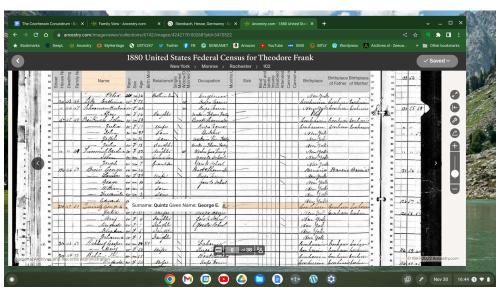
In Rochester church records we see multiple Theodore Franks and other Franks in the parish. The goal is to connect them, figure how they relate to us, if at all. We need to find the village they came from and perhaps some relative's profile will lead us there. A scouring of Catholic church records<sup>18</sup> from the Kurhessen parishes is needed in tandem.

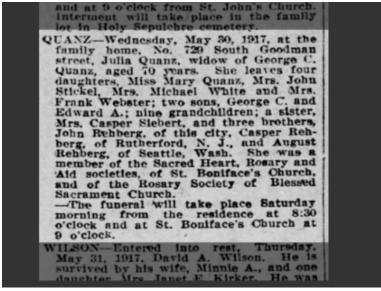


<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kulturkampf

<sup>18</sup> bit.lv/3Bflkdr

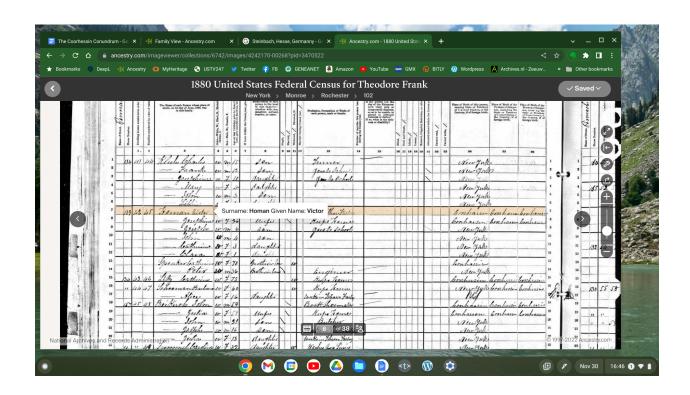
The Quintz family, of St. Boniface and Blessed Sacrament, related to the Rehberg's above. Extended family all living close by in the rural tradition. Also, it would seem the same is true not just with the original Rochester wards but also our own as we had several related families within streets of us that we (I) didn't know of, i.e. the DeLange's on Seneca Parkway, Franks on Dewey, and Trosts. Michael's connection to Buffalo makes sense too seeing that's where they came from; what was that relationship, if any?

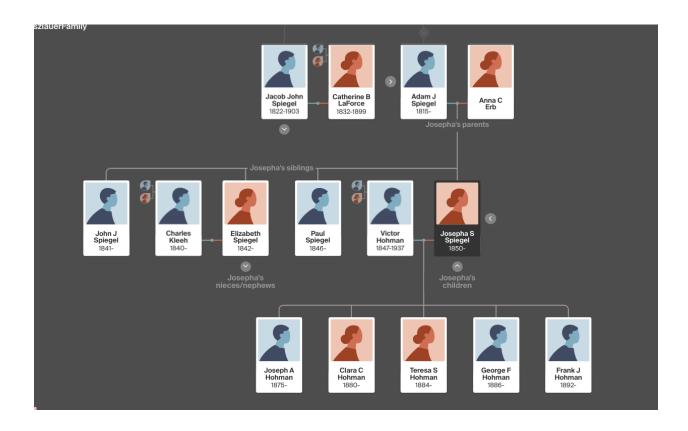




Also on the same page **Victor Homan**, 31 Josephine Homan, 26 from Coorhassen. Note his mother in law is **Anna C Erb** - Lizzie **Coleman** married Johann Wilem Erb from **Bronnzell**, **Fulda**, **Hesse**, Germany. That would make another connection from the Kester/Coleman limb of the tree. Perhaps they all did "know" each other. Very interesting.

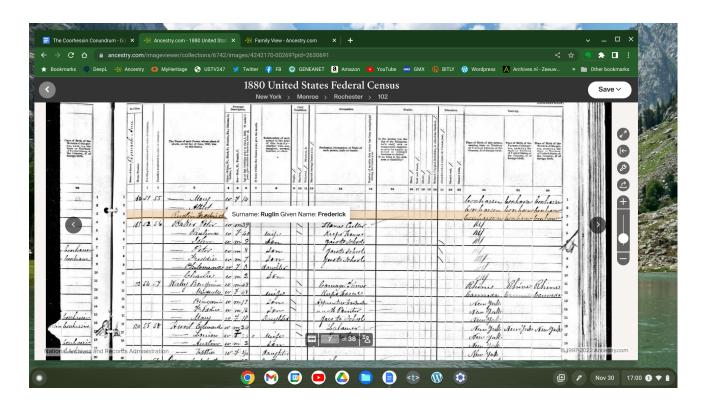
This also may be another indication the Homan tree is wrong - putting into question Heinrich as her father and on up the tree in Fulde etc.



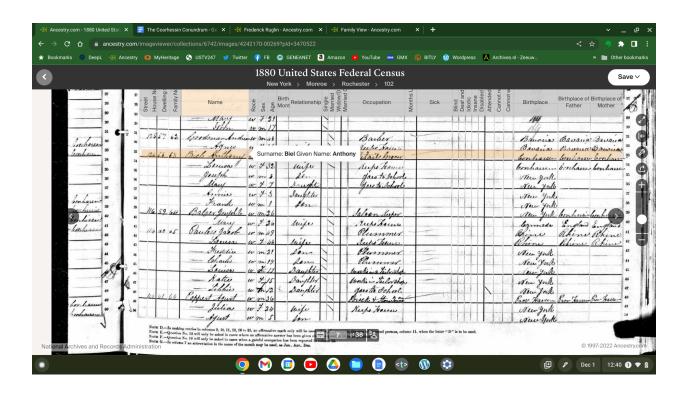




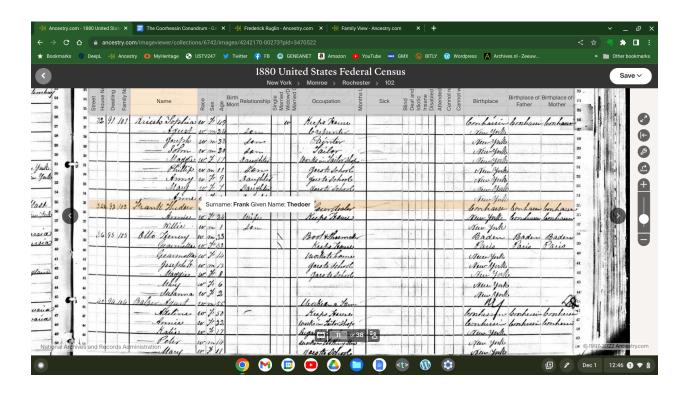
Frederick Ruglin (1828) lives with Theodor and Eizabetha. He is not found on ancestry.com Is he a boarder?



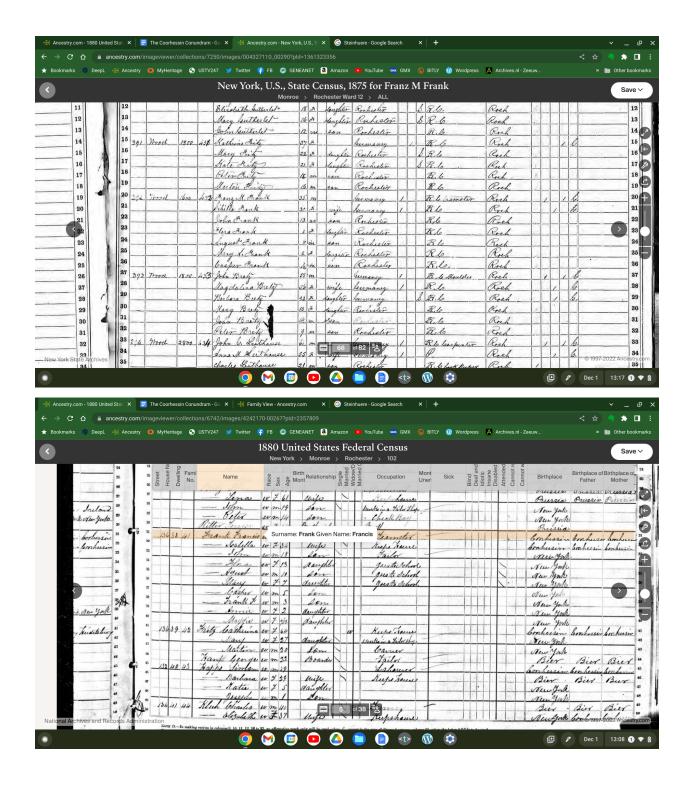
There is also an Anthony **Biel** listed, a retail **grocer** from **Coorhessen**. Elisa Gertruda Biel of Eiterfeld, Fulda was married to Casper Kester's brother Adam Joseph.



On page 11 another **Thedoer** (Theodore) **Frank** age 34, from Coorhessen, a flour dealer (Rochester, the Flour City)

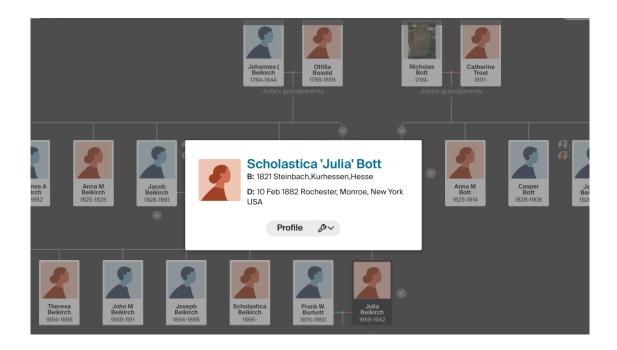


And another Frank: page 5 of the 1880 census. **Francis Frank**, a 40 year old teamster from **Coorhessen**, living with wife and nine children. They show up in the 1875 census, with their birthplace recorded as only Germany. Leads me to think the name wasn't changed. Prof. Gates of Finding Your Roots often points out that names being changed at Ellis island wasn't really a thing. The manifests from the home country were what was used to make the lists at Ellis Island. The information was provided by the passenger at the port of departure and corroborated at entry, through a language barrier that didn't exist at departure port. There could be many reasons why information is changed at that time by the passenger, especially if escaping for whatever reason.



One more: John Beikirch, 59 Julia Beikirch, 58 - **Steinbach**, **Kurhessen**, Hesse for her mother, and a Trost is her grandmother; <u>Catherine Trost</u> Bietzen, Merzig-Wadern, Saarland.

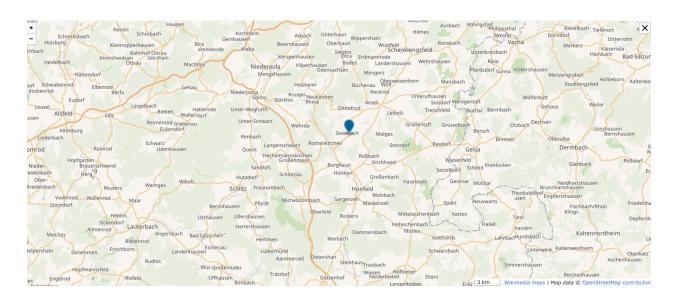
The Saarland reference is different from our Trost's origins. Steinbach is a district of the market town of **Burghaun**, the hometown of the Kister/Kester family. The Rochester neighborhood seems to have been very close knit and related.



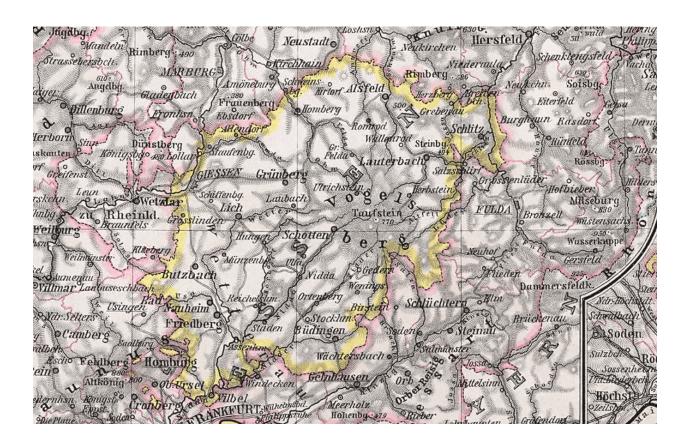
To that point: "The German Catholic people of this section of Rochester saw a need to have a parish closer to where they lived. Until 1859 they worshiped at **St. Joseph**'s downtown. In 1859, a group of men petitioned and they were granted a new parish. The Redemptorist Fathers established this parish as part of St. Joseph...In 1860, work began on the new church. It was a three story brick building which was to house a rectory, church and school. On June 8, 1861, the church was dedicated and placed under the patronage of **St. Boniface, a saint from the same part of Germany**, as many of the new parish's parishioners. Kurhessen.



The Kisters/Kester are from **Burghaun** and **Reckrod**, **Fulda** (along with the Henckels), and Maria Barbara Rübsam (married to Kister of Reckrod) is from **Borsch** (which we had as Thuringen in error, now corrected). Also notice **Schlitz** nearby! <u>Map source</u>



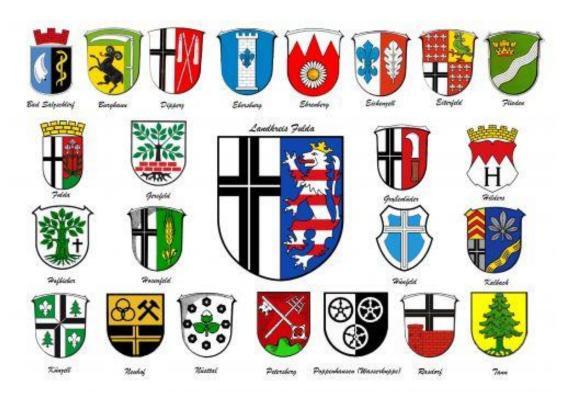
Here's an insightful map (1905) - it shows the **border between Kurhessen and Hessen-Nassau (Prussia)**. The ancestors are literally on the border, which likely was not a good place to be.



From MAPS of KURHESSEN: Our ancestors come from Kurhessen, not Prussia next door. The one line from Fulda to be specific. Did the Franks come from there as well or somewhere else in Kurhessen? Was there animosity between these two border populations? If so, did that carry over to Rochester as we see the neighborhood had both living near each other? Or did they find camaraderie in a shared religion and region or origin. See more Maps of the historical territory of the Electorate of Hesse, Kurhessen for short, dissolved in 1866.<sup>19</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> German: Landkarten des 1866 aufgelösten historischen Territoriums Kurfürstentum Hessen, kurz Kurhessen.

The Wappen chart shows all the towns included in Landkreis Fulda (Kurhessen, Hesse). The Franks and the Homans are from one of these places. If we are to find any more info we will have to know what village/town they each came from.



I think, one of my conjectures is, if I accept the Homan tree as it has been made and they are from Fulde, that Heinrich Diederich Homann and Theodore Frank were military or military related, either overt or covert. My thought is Elisabetha was born on the road and the marriage was not recorded if there was one. That may have happened in Alsace. She likely was not christened/baptized. The mother may have died early on before they were married or settled down. No way to know without at least one good record that is accurate.

And as to <u>Theodore Frank</u>? Was caught up in the Austro-Prussian conflict somehow? Or, the outcome of the war made it impossible for them to stay any longer and they fled.

Birthplace Kurhessen, Hesse-Cassel, Electorate of Hesse kurhessen, hesse-cassel, electorate, of, Hesse, Germanv kurhessen, hesse-cassel, electorate, of, Hessel, Mackinac, Michigan, USA kurhessen, hesse-cassel, electorate, of, Hesselbach, Kronach, Bavaria, Germany kurhessen, hesse-cassel, electorate, of, Hesselberg, Erlangen-Höchstadt, Bavaria, Germany kurhessen, hesse-cassel, electorate, of, Hesselberg, St Croix, Virgin Islands (US), USA kurhessen, hesse-cassel, electorate, of, Hesselbronn, Hohenlohekreis, Baden-Württemberg, Germany kurhessen, hesse-cassel, electorate, of, Hesseldorf, Main-Kinzig-Kreis, Hesse, Germany kurhessen, hesse-cassel, electorate, of, Hessellohe, Neuburg-Schrobenhausen, Bavaria, Germany kurhessen, hesse-cassel, electorate, of, Hesseln, Gütersloh, North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany kurhessen, hesse-cassel, electorate, of, Hesseln, Trier-Saarburg, Rhineland-Palatinate, Germany kurhessen, hesse-cassel, electorate, of, Hesselnfeld, Cloppenburg, Lower Saxony, Germany kurhessen, hesse-cassel, electorate, of, Hesselte, Emsland, Lower Saxony, Germany

Catholic prosecution may also have been a factor. And from the censuses, and aware that people did travel back and forth, we know they could well have already had family in the USA, even if only remotely related. They chose Rochester for a reason. The Trosts were already in Rochester. They just as well could have gone to Wisconsin or Ohio. (I have always wondered why E & L went to Ohio for their wedding/honeymoon. Was there a connection to Ohio or was there some sort of

tourist attraction that made it appealing. Why Ohio?). In both cases, we will know nothing more until we can identify a town or village. That's all I got at the moment.



Marktstraße, Fulda<sup>20</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> https://en.wikivoyage.org/wiki/Fulda