

JACOB SCHEMBS of Peoria, Illinois Laubenheimer or Hahnheimer?

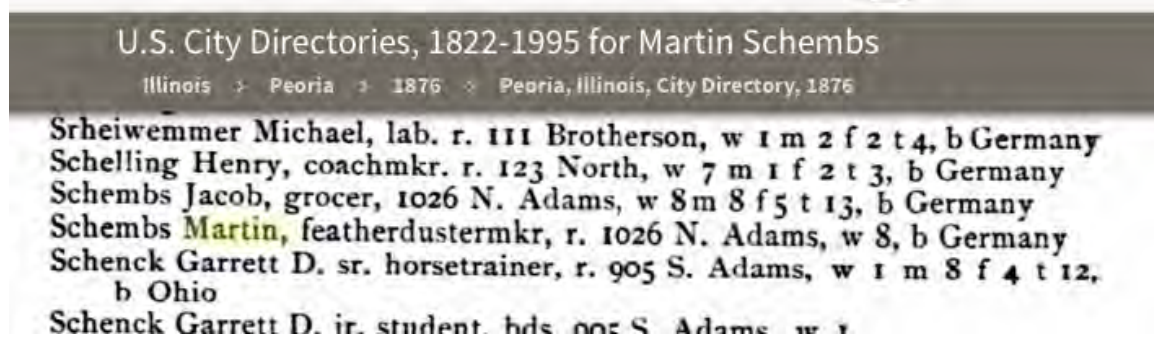
When Reinhold Schembs (Laubenheim, Germany) and I (Jim Schembs, AZ USA) began collaborating on our family histories in 1995 one of the first tasks was to tie eight Schembs immigrants in the United States into Reinhold's family tree. Reinhold had previously traced his ancestry back to Zacharias Schömb's (*1645 ?, +1707 Udenheim). In about 1990 I had begun looking into my ancestry, discovered a total of eight "Schembs" emigrants who had come to Amerika, but didn't know from where in Deutschland they had come. Of particular interest to me was my great-grandfather Jacob Schembs (*about 1830 ?, +1914 Peoria) who emigrated in 1850 and settled in Peoria IL.

In Germany in the 18th and 19th Centuries there were three "common" spellings of the (uncommon) family name – Schömb's, Schoembs and Schembs. Generally the Schembs were from the villages of Laubenheim (Mainz) and Herrnsheim (Worms). In other towns the spelling was usually Schömb's or Schoembs.

With thousands of cousins Reinhold and I had discovered, there was only one "Jacob Schembs" born in Germany in the year 1830, plus or minus ten years. We concluded that Jacob Schembs of Peoria had been born 15 October 1830 in Laubenheim, the son of Anton and Elisabetha Spang Schembs.

One should understand that genealogy records are more often than not lacking in accuracy. Jacob Schembs's birth year from various U.S. documents ranged from his gravestone (1828), death certificate (1826, but supposedly filled out by his daughter Minnie who did not know the maiden name of her mother) and five census records (1830, 1831, 1832, 1832 and 1834).

There was, however, one record which to me did not make sense. It was the 1876 Peoria City Directory (the pre-Alexander Graham Bell equivalent to our white pages).



Living at the Jacob Schembs home in Peoria at the time was a Martin Schembs, occupation "featherdustermaker". Featherduster makers made the plumes of

feathers that adorned fancy carriages, often in parades. It was a profession with few members. In fact we only knew of one featherdustermaker in the world. It was a Martin Schömbs (*1832 Hahnheim, Germany). Martin emigrated in 1859 and settled in Brooklyn, NY. The various spellings of Martin's surname from the U.S. public documents over the years were Schengs, Schamps, Schemps, Schaembs, James and Schembs. Martin seemed to settle upon Schaembs in his later years.

From a Brooklyn church record, it was known that Martin had come from the village of Hahnheim, Germany. This made him the son of Mathias and Anna Katharina Schömbs. Martin had an older brother Jacob Schömbs born in 1827 in Hahnheim. We found no German records indicating that his brother Jacob had lived his life in Germany or had emigrated. We found no Amerikan records indicating from where in Germany Jacob in Peoria had been born.

Coincidentally Jacob Schembs (*1830 Laubenheim) had a younger brother Martin (*1832 Laubenheim). But we know from German records that Martin (*1832 Laubenheim) married, had children and lived his life in Germany.

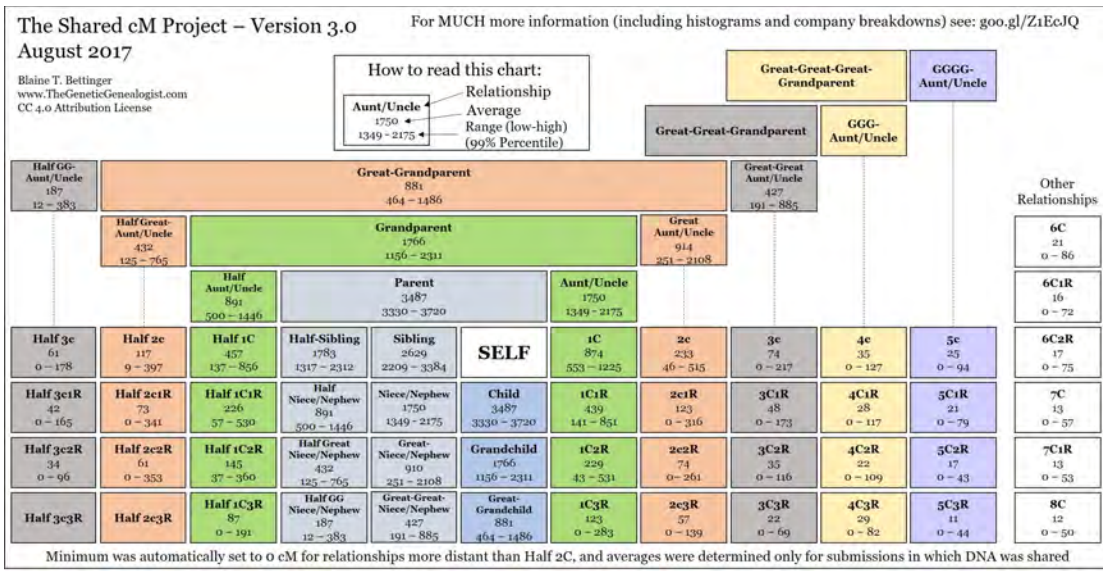
If the Jacob living in Peoria was from Laubenheim and Martin from Brooklyn was the visitor, they were fourth cousins.

If the Jacob living in Peoria was from Hahnheim (i.e. *1827 Hahnheim), then it was his brother Martin from Brooklyn who was staying with them in 1876. This seemed much more likely. But how to solve the Rätsel (mystery)?

Early in 2017 I met with a good friend (Sandy Ward) of a good friend. Sandy is expert in DNA. She explained to me how DNA might be able to get the answer. I had my DNA analyzed. I needed cousins from Laubenheim and Hahnheim to do the same so we could compare results (with Sandy's guidance). Jackie Catalano (Warren NJ) and a known descendant from Martin/Hahnheim volunteered. So did Becky Aftowicz (Washington DC) and a known Laubenheimer. At the end of September 2017 we have the results.

The DNA results confirm with a high degree of confidence that Jacob Schembs of Peoria was from Hahnheim and the son of Mathias and Anna Katharina Schömbs. Following are the details and explanation.

The table below shows how much DNA is shared between parents and children, and from one child to another. The DNA is measured in "cM" units.



You may be able to save the table separately and zoom in to read it.

The shared DNA between a parent and child will range from 3330-3720 cM units, with an average of 3487. A person and their first cousin (shown as 1C in the table) will range between 553-1225, with an average of 874 cMs. The shared DNA falls off quickly.

A person and their third cousin (3C) have a range of 0-217 cMs, with an average of 74. **This means that third cousins can have 0 shared DNA (cMs).** Third cousins once-removed (3C1R) have a range of 0-173 and an average of 48 cMs.

Seventh cousins once-removed (7C1R) have a range of 0-53 and an average of 13 cMs.

If Jacob Schembs of Peoria had been from Laubenheim, I (as a descendant of Jacob) would be a third cousin once-removed of Becky and a seventh cousin once-removed of Jackie.

Conversely, if Jacob had been from Hahnheim I would be a third cousin once-removed of Jackie and seventh cousin once-removed of Becky.

Here were the results of the DNA testing:

Jim Schembs to Becky Aftowicz (the known Laubenheimer):

GEDmatch.Com Autosomal Comparison - V2.1.1(c)

Comparing Kit A534534 (jim schembs) and A211187 (*Alias)

Minimum threshold size to be included in total = 500 SNPs

Mismatch-bunching Limit = 250 SNPs

Minimum segment cM to be included in total = 2.0 cM

Largest segment = 0.0 cM

Total of segments > 2 cM = 0.0 cM

(2228) No shared DNA segments found

441026 SNPs used for this comparison.

Comparison took 0.02105 seconds.

Ver: May 24 2017 20:18:13

There is no shared DNA. Per Sandy "This is very common with relatives separated by many generations, as DNA inheritance is random and the DNA fragments of any one ancestor have an ever increasing chance of "falling out" with each generation. Traces of specific ancestors are frequently entirely lost after 6 generations.

Jim Schembs to Jackie Catalano (the known Hahnheimer):

(see next page)

GEDmatch.Com Autosomal Comparison - V2.1.1(c)

Comparing Kit A534534 (jim schembs) and A198489 (*JCat)

Minimum threshold size to be included in total = 500 SNPs

Mismatch-bunching Limit = 250 SNPs

Minimum segment cM to be included in total = 7.0 cM

Chr	Start Location	End Location	Centimorgans (cM)	SNPs
2	228,517,869	237,475,142	17.0	1,843
7	153,695,158	156,112,745	8.6	677
11	58,150,730	76,873,130	18.1	2,413

Largest segment = 18.1 cM

Total of segments > 7 cM = 43.7 cM

3 matching segments

Estimated number of generations to MRCA = 4.2

440958 SNPs used for this comparison.

Comparison took 0.05099 seconds.

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Jim and Jackie share 43.7 cM. Again, the range for 3rd cousins once-removed is 0-173 with an average of 48 cM.

Jackie to Becky (the Hahnheimer to the Laubenheimer):

GEDmatch.Com Autosomal Comparison - V2.1.1(c)

Comparing Kit A198489 (*JCat) and A211187 (*Alias)

Minimum threshold size to be included in total = 500 SNPs

Mismatch-bunching Limit = 250 SNPs

Minimum segment cM to be included in total = 2.0 cM

Largest segment = 0.0 cM

Total of segments > 2 cM = 0.0 cM

(2228) No shared DNA segments found

440942 SNPs used for this comparison.

Comparison took 0.04622 seconds.

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Jackie and Becky are known eighth cousins. They share no DNA segments.

Again, from Sandy: “Given the amount of shared DNA between Jim and Jackie, and the lack of shared DNA with Becky, I believe you have confirmation that Jim is a descendant of Jackie's Hahnheim line.”

This means those of us who are Peoria Schembs (descendants of Jacob Schembs) are really from Hahnheim. We are not from Laubenheim. Hahnheim is next to Udenheim and about 10 kilometers (6 miles) south of Laubenheim.