

The

HOTTUA

HOTTUA-HOTUA-HOTTOIS

family from

Oberpallen, Luxembourg

1693-2011

Claude Lanners

Update: 5 May 2012

This note is based on the author's research work and presents the family history, spread so far in files and papers, in the form of a single document.

In March 2012, **9,468 descendants of the founder Maternus Houton** have been identified, **about 7,500 in the United States.**

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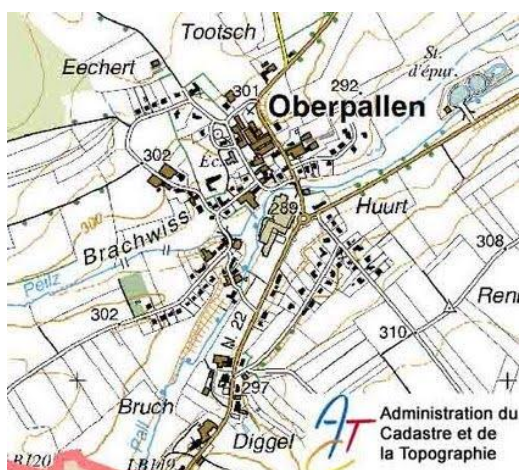
Family History

Origin

The HOTTUA entered (written) history on the Western edge of present day Grand Duchy of Luxembourg in 1709 when the (catholic) priest of the parish of [Oberpallen](#) Henri Collart wrote *ex post* into the register, according to the parents' statement, the baptisms which his predecessor Ludwig Mallert (1692-1709) had administered, but not noted.

The couple Maternus Houton and Catherine Coune of Dudling (now Diggel, part of Oberpallen, commune of Beckerich), declared through the mother 4 births/baptisms, among them Augustinus and Michel, the ancestors of all HOTTUA, HOTUA and HOTTOIS known today.

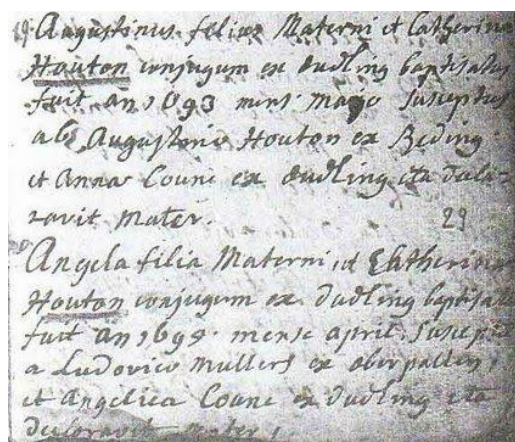
Dudling/Diggel was not inhabited in 1656 at the census of fireplaces (households), whereas 6 families had been living here before (Oster). This depopulation had been the consequence of the [Thirty Years' War](#) (1618-1648) which had taken an extremely high toll on the population. The first birth known in Diggel was Maria Claus in 1665, which is the time Maternus Houton was born, at a so far unknown place.



Source: Cadastre Luxembourg



Baptism record of Augustinus Houton



Source: National Archives, Luxembourg RP 135A Oberpallen

Translation of the record written in latin:

“Augustinus son of Maternus and Catherine Houton spouses from Dudling was baptized in May 1693 hold by (godparents) Augustinus Houton from Reding and Anna Coune from Dudling so declared the mother”.

Record followed by Angela April 1695, Catherine February 1699 and Michael May 1700. As the registering was done 16 to 9 years after the births, dates are to be considered as approximate.

According to the practice of the time, the children were given the name of their godparents. Both Augustin Houton and Anna Coune were most likely close relatives of the couple, be it the parents or brother and sister. Although the mother's name was not written down, we can admit that she was a Coune.

In a mail 25 March 2012 Bob Foster remarks that "By the way, does the statement that the records of Maternus's children were **declared by the mother** suggest that he died between 1706 and 1709?"

Indeed, she is with one exception the only mother who declared births: So, yes, we should admit that Maternus died before 1709.

The name HOTTUA

Etymology

According to an oral tradition in the family, the Hottua came from Belgium.

This assumption seems to be confirmed.

The "Dictionnaire des Noms de Famille en Belgique Romane", Jules Herbillion-Jean Germain 1996, does not mention Houton, but quotes two variants :

-HOTTOIS name of origin, like 1399 "au hottois" at Limal in the Walloon part of Brabant

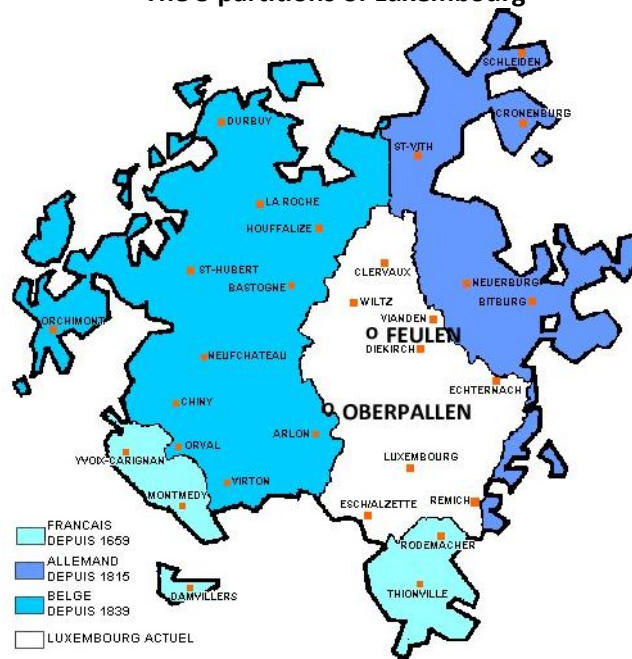
-HOTTON, HOTON e.g. 1732 Catherine Hotton.....name of origin: Hotton, in Walloon *Houton*, town in the Province of Luxembourg close to Marche-en-Famenne.

In a letter of January 3rd, 2005, Paul Mathieu from Guerlange/Arlon, expert in family names and coauthor of a weekly column explaining family names in the Luxembourg newspaper "Quotidien" writes: ".....or Hotton near Marche, which in Walloon is called *Houton*....This last assumption looks as the most likely one to me."

Paul Mathieu gives also the explanation for the first name Materne: "This is a first name used in the past in Belgium (particularly in the principality of Liège but as well in the Ardennes) made popular through Saint Materne (latin maternus = of the mother), bishop of Köln who is considered as the evangelist of the region of Namur. He died about 325."

Hotton is today a municipality with 5000 inhabitants located 6 miles East of Marche-en-Famenne in the Ourthe valley, at about 56 miles from Oberpallen. We should mention here that around 1700 Oberpallen was not situated on the border of the than Duchy of Luxembourg, which encompassed the major part of today's Province of Luxembourg allocated to Belgium in 1839.

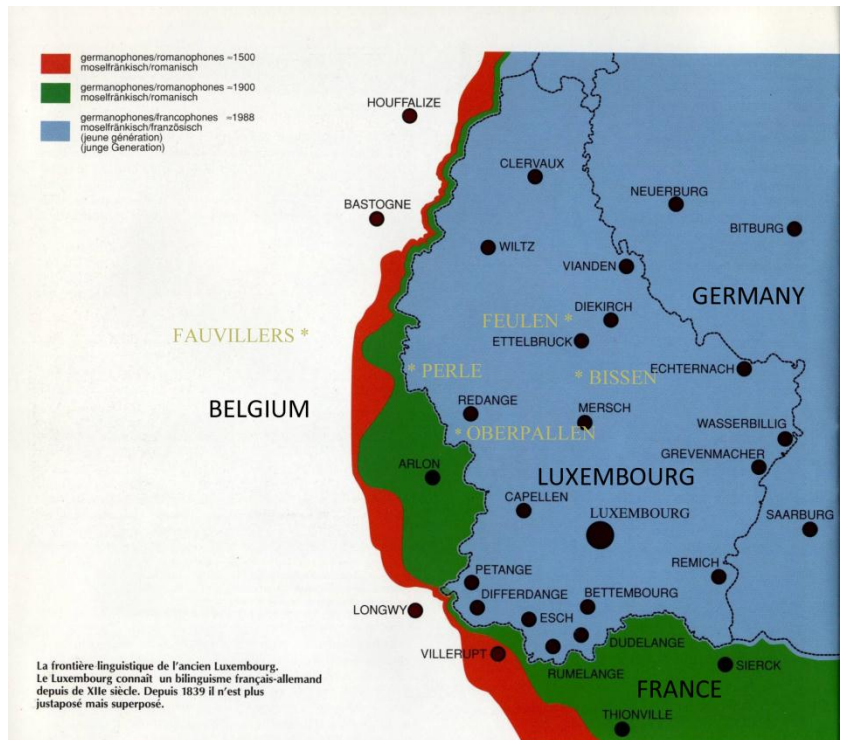
The 3 partitions of Luxembourg



Source : roots.lu Homepage Emile Erpelding

Language Borders

The linguistic border passed further West beyond Arlon along a line Aubange (Iebeng in Luxembourgish)-Habay (Habech)-Martelange (Marteleng). Oberpallen was clearly in the Germanic/Luxembourgish speaking area of the Duchy of Luxembourg. The proximity of a French speaking district is however underlined by the fact that 3 of 4 priests who served from 1660 to 1769 had French names: Idoule, Malaise, Collart.



Frontière linguistique Source: Gilbert Trausch, La signification historique de la date de 1839, Essai d'interprétation, 1989

Written Forms

From its origin to its present day form the name HOTTUA surprises by its multiple writings varying with the drafter of parish or civil records.

Spellings met in documents

Year	Spelling	Phonetic	Document
1693	HOUTON	[hu:ton] (garçon in French)	Oberpallen-Registration in 1709 of the baptisms of the children of Maternus and of Catherine among them Augustinus born 1693
1711	HOUTOY	[hu:twʌ]	Oberpallen-Baptism of Catherine daughter of Augustin and of Catherine
1720	HOUTTOY	[hu:ttwʌ]	Oberpallen-Baptism of Michel son of Augustin and of Catherine
1744	HOUTOIS	[hu:twʌ]	Oberpallen-Baptism of Michel son of Michel born 1720
1748	HAUTOYS	[hɔ:twʌ]	Oberpallen-Marriage of Marie Catherine and of Pierre Barnyg Note: 1709-1747 parish priest Henri Collart, 1747-1769 parish priest Jean Welter, "ou" changes into "au" with new writer
1751	HAUTOIS	[hɔ:twʌ]	Oberpallen-Baptism of Margarita daughter of Michel born 1720
1766	AUTOY AUTOIS	[ɔ:twʌ]	Michel, maréchal = horseshoemaker Anne-Catherine, Marguerite, Oberpallen-Census under empress Maria-Theresia
1769	HOTTOAU HOTTHOAU	[hɔtɔwʌ]	Feulen-Baptism of Michel son of Michel and of Catherine Petit (French for Klein); the vowel "o" is used in Feulen instead of « au » in Oberpallen: influence of the greater distance to the French language border?
1772	HEAUTOY	[hɔ:twʌ]	Feulen-Baptism of Anna Maria daughter of Michel and of Catherine Petit
1774	HOTTOY	[hɔtwʌ]	Feulen-Baptism of "Rodulphus" son of Michel and of Catherine Petit
1776	HOTUOIS	[hɔtwʌ]	Oberpallen-Stillborn son of Anne Catherine spouse of François Mousse
1776	HOUTUOIS	[hu:twʌ]	Oberpallen-Death of Anne Catherine spouse of François Mousse
1777	HOTTOI	[hɔtwʌ]	Feulen-Baptism of Susanne, daughter of Michel and of Marie-Catherine Petit
1779	HOTTOIS	[hɔtwʌ]	Feulen-Baptism of Pierre, son of Michel and of Marie-Catherine Petit
1780	HAUTBOIS	[hɔ:bwʌ]	Oberpallen-Marriage of François Moosse widower of Anne Catherine
1787	HAUTOY	[hɔ:twʌ]	Oberpallen-Baptism of Anna Margarita daughter of Nicolas SCHNOCK and of Margaretha HAUTOIS (marriage 1783)
1803	HOTTUA	[hɔtwʌ]	Feulen-Marriage of Pierre Hottua and of Catherine Gloesener
1804	HOTHOI	[hɔtwʌ]	Feulen-Birth of Madelaine daughter of Michel born 1769
1818	HOTOIS	[hɔtwʌ]	Perlé-Birth of Nicolas son of Nicolas born 1787
1819	HOTOI	[hɔtwʌ]	Feulen-Decennial tables, birth of Nicolas
1847	HOTUA	[hɔtwʌ]	Feulen-Death of Pierre born 1779
1856	HOTTOWA		Dubuque, IA-Birth of Elizabeth
1860	HUTWAY		Franklin, WI-Census, Henry born 1829
1863	HOTTNA		Providence, LA-Death of Henry born 1829 (reading error)
1875	OTTUA	[ɔtwʌ]	Neufchâteau, Belgium-Birth of Marguerite Klepper 1875
1890	HOTHUA	[hɔtwʌ]	Grosbous-Census, Nicolas born 1841

During the 150 years from the first appearance of the name HOUTON to the predominance of the version HOTTUA in Luxembourg after 1850, the name occurs in not less than **28 variations in official**

documents. This diversity has its origin in the fact that the writers of the documents noted down what they believed to hear, as the declarants, simple people, didn't normally practice writing before the end of the 18th century and spoke only Luxembourgish, whereas the documents are drafted in Latin, German or French. In the United States, the name was also a challenge for American ears and hands. For Michel Hottua born in 1744, 8 different versions of his name were found from his birth through his marriage and the birth of his children to his death in 1819.

The evolution from the "ou" of the first syllable via "au" to "o" and of the "on" of the second syllable via "oi/ois/oy" to "ua" witnesses the germanisation of this name which is of romance origin (Walloon), a consequence of the use of German in civil records after 1800. So the marriage deed of Pierre Hottua and Catherine Gloesener of 1803, in the middle of the French domination period, is written in German. This progressive transformation of the romance name had been described already by Jean-Claude Muller in the 1996 yearbook of the Luxembourg Association of Genealogy and Heraldry-ALGH: "*Dubletten bei Familiennamen-einige Fallbeispiele* 3. *Der romanische Ursprung des Familiennamens HOTTUA*" p.155. (Doublets in surnames, some examples 3. The romance origin of the surname HOTTUA).

It must be said however that the HOTUA version is still used today in Belgium by descendants of Bernard Hotua, who was born at Heispelt in Luxembourg in 1841 and who emigrated to the Neufchâteau area in Belgium with his parents Jacques Hottua and Christine Graas.

The HOTTOIS spelling is found again in Perlé about 1820 with the children of Nicolas HOTTUA from Oberfeulen. 7 out of 9 children will emigrate to the US and settle in upstate New York and in Cleveland, Ohio. Contact could be reestablished with this branch of the family and the name HOTTOIS is still present in America.

Similar names like Hautus, Othua or Hotton are met but they are apparently not related to our Hottua, nor are the numerous Hottois who live in Belgium and in France.

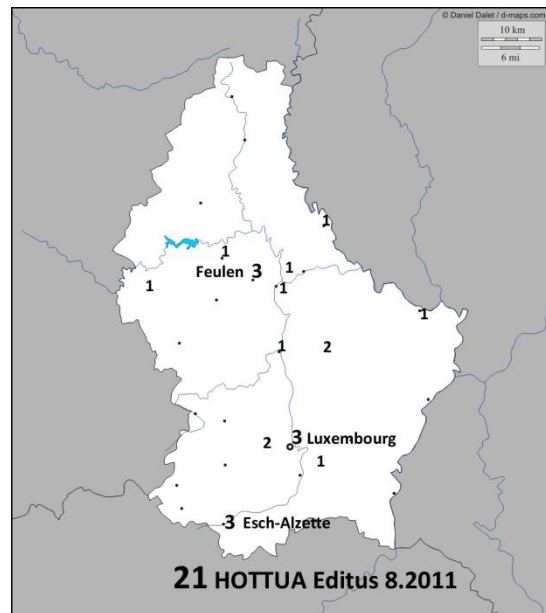
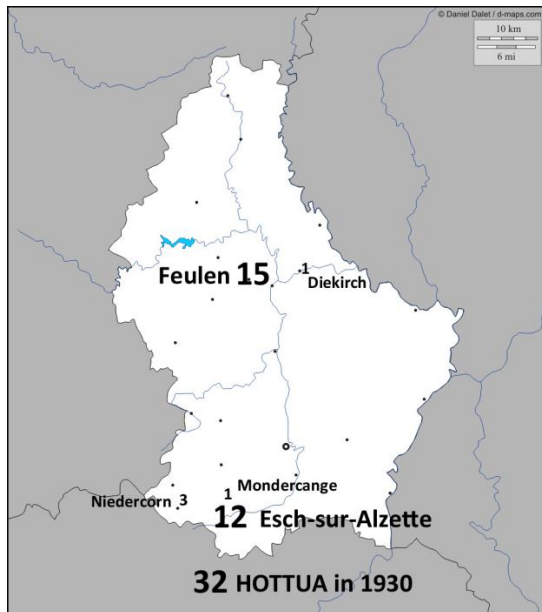
Frequency

The census of the population of Luxembourg of December 1st, 1880 listed 21 persons with the name Hottua, 1 Hottoi and 1 Hottois.

A hundred years later, 31 persons with the name Hottua lived in the country. Source : *Die Luxemburger und ihre Familienamen*, STATEC, 1984.

In 1930, the frequency of the name was of 32 Hottua, spread over the country as it can be seen on the map below left drafted on the basis of the data published in *Die Geographie der Luxemburger Familiennamen 1930*, [IGD-LEO](#) 1989. As a comparison, the geographic distribution of the 21 Hottua listed in the August 2011 [telephone directory](#) is shown on the map below right. Although the two

series of numbers are not directly comparable, they give however a realistic picture of the internal migration that took place over the last 80 years.



In late 2011, we can estimate that about 25 Hottua live in Luxembourg, 11 males and 14 females. The database of the site owners contains 221 HOTTUA, 83 HOTTUA and 130 HOTTOIS among a total of about 9,400 descendants of Maternus Houton.

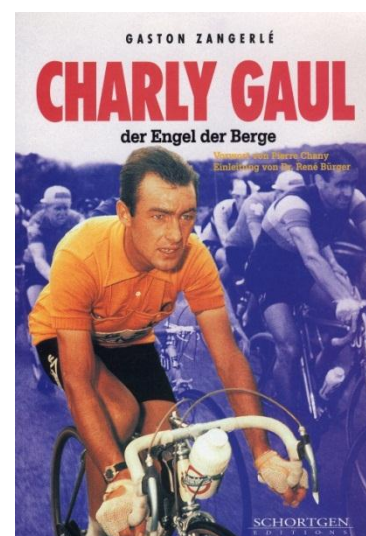
The name HOTTUA is met in France, where 7 people have been located until now in the Meurthe & Moselle Department and in the Bordeaux area, all family members.

No living HOTTUA has so far been detected in the United States, although at least 9 male Hottua have left Luxembourg for America, except HOTTOIS.

Several HOTTUA families live these days in Belgium and have been contacted.

All the Hottua/Hotua/Hottois met so far in archive documents or personally are descendants of Maternus Houton, although this information has been lost in many families over the generations.

Speaking about persons bearing the name Hottua, only male descendants who transmitted the name are taken into account. We should however not forget the numerous female descendants of Maternus Houton whom we find under different names. This aspect should be stressed in a period of higher sensitivity for gender equity. In the GAUL lines for instance, more than 5,000 members are known in the United States. An offspring of the European Gaul lines is [Charly Gaul](#), the Luxembourg cycling champion of the 1950s, winner of the Tour de France 1958 and double winner of the Giro d'Italia. He is no doubt the most illustrious of Maternus Houton's descendants.

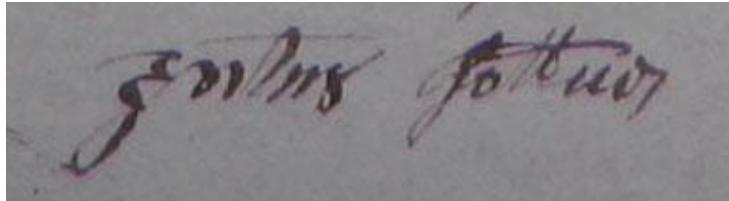


Cover of book on Charly Gaul (1932-2005), "The Angel of the mountains", reference to his exceptional climber skills.

Autographs

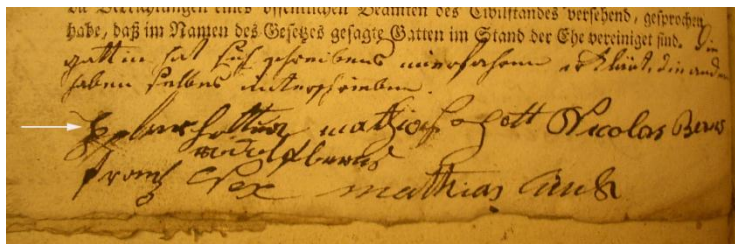
The first words handwritten by Hottua's are found at the beginning of the 19th century when people sign civil records.

The **earliest signature** met stems from Peter Hottua/Hothoi born 2 December 1779 at Oberfeulen when he signed 12 Frimaire Year XI of the French Republic (**3 December 1802**) his application to be allowed to designate a replacement to serve in his place in the French army for which he had been drafted.



Peter Hottua ANL Photo Claude Lanners 4.12.2008

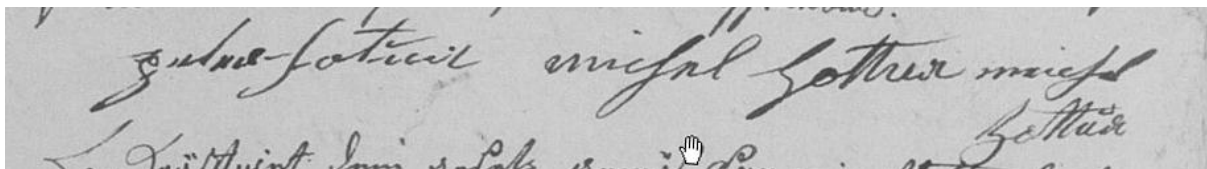
His request has been accepted rather quickly, as he marries 23 January 1803 in Feulen Catherine Gloesener. We meet his signature again under the marriage deed.



EC Feulen Photo Claude Lanners 10.12.2009

The spouse Catherine Gloesener declared not knowing to write. So she did not sign, not even with an X between first name and family name as people used to do.

On 6 Germinal Year 12 of the French Republic, Peter Hottua announced to the mayor of the commune of Feulen his first daughter Anne Catherine born the day before which was March 26, 1804 of the Gregorian calendar.



N Anne Catherine Hottua 26.3.1804 Oberfeulen Familysearch Feulen N 1797-1816 176/423 30 CL 26.8.2011

This is a document of high interest as it bears the signatures of not less than 3 Hottua:

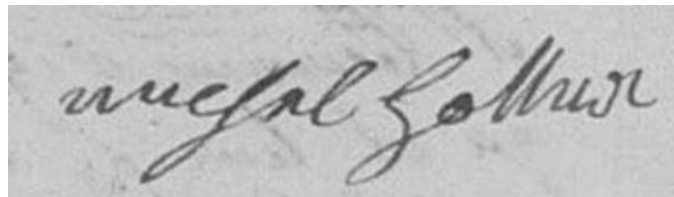
- -On the left side the declarant and father of the newly born Peter Hottua;
- -On the right the first witness Michel Hottua who according to the document is 36 years old (in fact 34 as he is born 22 November 1769); he lives in Niedermertzig and he is the brother of Peter;
- -In the center the second witness Michel Hottua who is the father of Peter and was born in 1744 at Oberpallen. This signature looks like the one we find under the birth deed of the grandson of Michel, Nicolas born in 1810. With this signature, Michel Hottua 1744 is the first

Hottua by age to have left a handwritten trace. Unless later researchers will find a notary deed he signed.

The civil record officer is Mathias Linck, first mayor (since 1800) of the commune of Feulen which had been constituted only recently with the administrative reorganization of the country under French rule. He is related to the authors through the [Bormann family](#) of Oberfeulen.

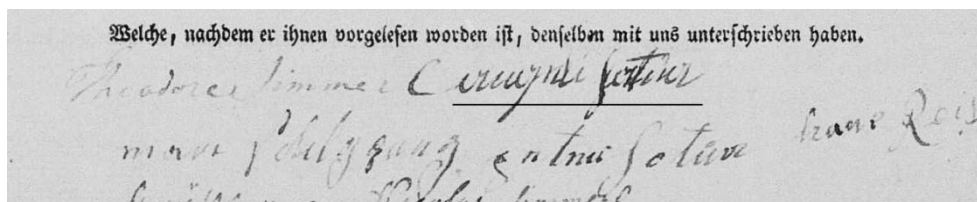
The characters in the documents are German with a certain Latin influence. In civil records, names are generally written in Latin characters.

In 1810 Michel Hottua, born 8 March 1744 at Oberpallen, declared the birth of his two grandsons Pierre and Nicolas born 10 May 1810 at Oberfeulen.



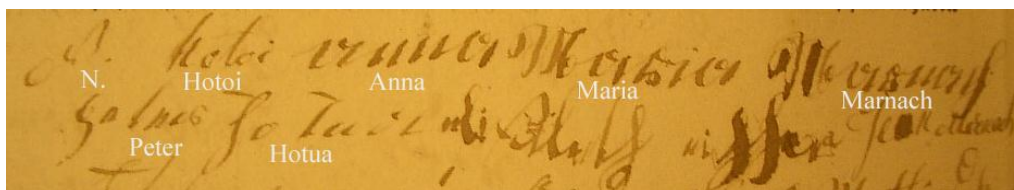
Source : Archives Nationales Luxembourg EC 242 Feulen

Marriage record 14 February 1827 between Theodore Simmerl 1797-1855 and Angela Hottua 1808-1897. Angela signs "Aengeli" (in Gothic characters), which means in Luxembourgish "little angel", no doubt her nickname. Angela will emigrate to America in 1866 and live in Granville, IA.



Familysearch Feulen M 1818-90 Image 100/1507 CL 31.1.2011

Marriage record 14 February 1838 Feulen of Nicolas Hottua 1810-1887 and Anne Marie Marnach 1814-1885.



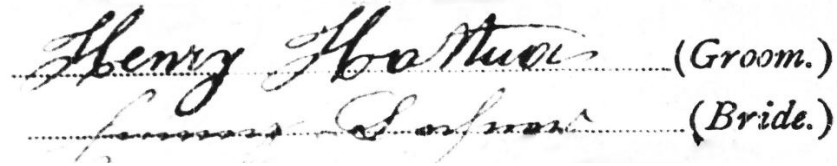
EC Feulen M Hottua Nicolas-Marnach Anne Marie 14.2.1838

Birth 1 August 1856 in Sberchamps, Belgium, of Marie Joséphine **Hotua**. Signature of the father Jacques Hotua 1808-1879, ancestor of the Belgium Hottua lines.



AEA Birth 1.8.1856 Sberchamps, B Marie Joséphine Hotua

Marriage 15 September 1889 Manhattan, NY of Henry Hottua born 26 May 1853 in Oberfeulen, butcher, and Emma Lechner who is of German origin, hence her signature in Gothic characters.



Henry Hottua (Groom.)
Emma Lechner (Bride.)

M 1889 Hottua Henry 1853-Lechner Emma Mail Bob Foster 10.3.2011

Profession: Blacksmith

The Hottua are a family of iron workers.

In the old home place of the authors, the "*Schmidden*" (blacksmith) house in Niederfeulen, this tradition will go on to the eighties of last century.

The first known iron worker is Michel Hottois born at Oberpallen in 1744.

In the census of 1766 by Austrian empress Maria Theresia he is mentioned as "Michel Autoy maréchal" (horseshoe smith) at Oberpallen".

Coincidence or not, the godmother of his wife Marie Catherine Petit/Klein was Marie Thérèse Collin, born at the iron works of Berg (*ex ferri fodina in Berg*). The name Collin is obviously of Walloon origin and we know that Walloons introduced the iron processing technology with alluvial iron ore and charcoal in Luxembourg. As the Houton are also of Walloon origin, they may have known how to produce iron when they arrived in Luxembourg, if this was not the very reason of their coming. The oral tradition in the family of the authors said that the Hottua stemmed from Walloon [charcoal makers](#).

Three at least of the four sons of Michel will be blacksmiths, among them Pierre Hothoi born 1779 at Oberfeulen who is horseshoe smith when he declares his grandsons' Nicolas and Pierre birth in 1810.

Nicolas who will marry Anne Marie Marnach is "*Hufschmidt*" (German for horse shoe smith) in the birth record of his daughter Suzanne Catherine in 1856, "*maréchal ferrant*" (French for horse shoe smith) in the 1867 census and even "*Schmied und Gutsbesitzer*" (blacksmith and real estate owner) in the 1871 census.

It is by the way this couple that built the house and the blacksmith shop in Niederfeulen around 1838, the year during which the new road from Ettelbruck to Bastogne was implemented.

The three sons of this couple again became blacksmiths, among them Jean born in 1854 who will marry Catherine Schlim and who will take over the family workshop. His brother Nicolas born 1843 will emigrate to the United States and will be well known in Chicago as "*Rosene Schmatt*" ("rude" blacksmith). Read his obituary in the chapter Emigrants USA p.59. In the 1880 census in Chicago he is called "*carriage manufacturer*". His brother Pierre also went to the United States and worked as a blacksmith.

In the next generation Nicolas Hottua born in 1883 will marry Justine Bormann and will continue the family trade as blacksmith and as horseshoe smith. His younger brother Jean Pierre will settle in the booming Luxembourg steel industry center of Esch-sur-Alzette and will work for the ARBED steel company.

Finally Léon Hottua will take over the workshop at his father's death in 1941 and he will have to rebuild the house and the workshop severely ruined in the Battle of the Bulge in Winter 1944-1945. He will convert his activity to changed needs of the customers and will specialize in locksmith and

metal construction for buildings. In the 1950s he will adapt his business to the requirements of the upcoming automobile and add a gas pump. After his death, the workshop has been transformed into a bank agency and the former vegetable garden has been converted into a service station. Could there be a better illustration of the economic changes this country has undergone in the last fifty years?

The blacksmith trade is widely represented in the other family branches as well.

5th Generation (from Maternus Houton)

- Michel Hottua born 1769 at Oberfeulen: blacksmith at Niedermertzig
- Jean Nicolas Hottua born 1787 at Oberfeulen: horseshoesmith at Perlé.

6th Generation

- Michel Hottua born 1799 at Niedermertzig: horseshoesmith at Obermertzig
- Jacques Hottua born 1808 at Niedermertzig: emigrated to Belgium, was horseshoesmith at Neufchâteau and worked on the construction of the railroad from Libramont to Arlon (Georges Lepère)
- Nicolas Hottua born 1806 at Oberfeulen: horseshoesmith at Grosbous
- Henry Hottua born 1829 at Oberfeulen: farrier, but died as soldier
- Gerardus (George) Hottua born 1823 at Oberfeulen: horseshoesmith in Dubuque, Iowa
- Jean Hottua born 1824 at Oberfeulen: horseshoesmith and town crier at Oberfeulen
- Nicolas Hottua/Hottois born 1818 at Perlé: horseshoesmith at Perlé and later at Sheldon, NY.

7th Generation

- Jacques Hottua born 1828 at Obermertzig: apprentice horseshoesmith in 1861 and blacksmith at Niederfeulen in 1865
- Nicholas Hottua born 1843 at Niederfeulen: blacksmith and carriage manufacturer in Chicago
- Peter Hottua born 1847 at Niederfeulen: blacksmith in Minnesota and in Nebraska
- Nicolas Hottua born 1848 at Grosbous: blacksmith and later carriage maker in California
- Henry Hottua born 1853 at Oberfeulen: smith at immigration 1874, later butcher in New York
- Martin Hottua born 1857 at Oberfeulen: blacksmith in Chicago.

8th Generation

- Peter Hottua born 1875 in Chicago: carriage maker

After the 8th generation, at the end of the 19th century, we find the Hottua in Luxembourg and in France still working on iron, but now in the steel industry in the South of Luxembourg and in Lorraine in neighbouring France.

Migrations

Inside Luxembourg

Whereas the first generations of Hottua lived at Oberpallen, Michel Hottua born 1744 married in 1767 at Oberpallen Marie Catherine Petit (also known as Klein which is the German translation of Petit) born in 1746 at the “Platinerie”, an iron working shop situated upstream from Oberpallen and part of the parish of Bonnert, today in Belgium. The couple settled in Oberfeulen and had 9 children from 1769 to 1789.

The Hottua will be present in Feulen until today, but they will also spread around in the country. Photos of the two Feulen and of the municipality can be found on the sites [Feulen](#) and [Luxalbum](#). The family of the authors lived since 1838 at Niederfeulen in the house “A Schmidden”(at blacksmiths’) which has been converted into a Shell service station.

The only existing photo of the blacksmith shop was shot during the first liberation of Feulen at the end of World War II on September 11, 1944 and shows in the foreground a US army truck passing. A few months later, in the course of the [Battle of The Bulge](#), during the night of December 20 to 21st 1944, the house and the shop were severely damaged when the American troops blew up two bridges on the Wark river next to the house to stop the progress of the German troops coming from Heiderscheid. Feulen was liberated by the 1st Battalion of the 319th Regiment of the US Army under Lt. Colonel Hiram Dudley Ives who his honoured by a street in Niederfeulen.



Photo: General Patton Memorial Museum, Ettelbruck, Romain Reinard

The emigrants

Research on the Hottua family has shown an impressive number of emigrants to France, to Belgium and to the United States of America.

France

List of emigrants to France :

	Name	Date, place of birth	Date emigr.	Destination	Number descend.
1	Hottua Mathias	27.10.1835, Trier, D	~1858	Paris	45
2	Hottua Angèle	28.04.1852, Niederfeulen	?	Cambrai, Nord	0
3	Hottua Marguerite	30.11.1903, Niederfeulen	1930	Paris	30
4	Beaufils Jean	02.12.1862, Grosbous	1885	Paris	0
5	Closerer Jean	21.02.1873, Oberfeulen	1909	Paris	0
6	Gaul Anne Marie	03.12.1896, Eschweiler	1927	Metz, Moselle	31
7	Ginter Anne Cath.	03.01.1925, Pétange	1946	Pornic, Loire Atl.	9
8	Kinziger Suzanne	26.08.1838, Niederfeulen	?	Paris	1
9	Kinziger Anne Marie	24.06.1844, Niederfeulen	?	Paris	0
10	Koch Paul	20.11.1835, Niederfeulen	?	Paris	0
11	Koch Pierre	25.01.1838, Niederfeulen	?	Paris	0
12	Steinmetzer V. Robert	1948, Luxembourg	?	Paris	5
	Total : 12				121

The **history** of the emigrants to France can be seen [here](#).

Belgium

List of emigrants to Belgium

	Name	Date, place of birth	Date emigr.	Destination	Numb. desc.
1	Hottua Jacques	16.12.1808, Niedermertzig	1847	Molainfaing, Longlier	700
2	Hottua Marie	16.05.1913, Niederfeulen	~1940	Liège	0
3	Gaul Jean Nic.	29.09.1795, Tontelange	1823	Villers-la-Loue, Virton	185
4	Gaul Jean Nic.	09.12.1826, Hobscheid	1853	Fouches, Arlon	36
5	Thiltges Elisabeth	01.09.1910, Niederfeulen	?	Bruxelles	0
	Total : 5				921

The **history** of the emigrants to Belgium can be seen [here](#).

History of the

HOTTUA-HOTTOIS

Family

United States branches

Update 16 December 2011

The HOTTUA-HOTUA-HOTTOIS family has spread during the 300 years since its appearance in written documents over Luxembourg, Belgium, France and the United States of America.

In this note the author Claude Lanners, also a Hottua family member via his mother Suzanne Hottua, presents the American branches. **7,654 descendants of 82 emigrants** have been identified so far.

Additional research and proofreading by Bob Foster.

The Hottua have their internet presence at hottua.lu

Note to readers:

In order to increase the transparency of the somewhat complex family structure, 2 tables may help:

1. The **List of US Emigrants** (page 3) presents the emigrants in 2 parts:
 - the male lines (Hottua/Hottois) in chronological order
 - the female lines in alphabetical order.
2. The **Emigrant Generation Chart** (page 5) shows the family in generations (first digit) with the emigrants **highlighted**.
To spot a name in the paper it is suggested to use the finder function: Ctrl+F
3. Members of the different lines can be located through the “descendants” hyperlinks that lead to the author’s database, [Geneanet](#), which is also equipped with a name search function.
2 remarks on Geneanet:
 - Dates of persons born less than 100 years ago and notes are hidden for privacy reasons. Family members may ask for the password.
 - Geneanet offers on the lower side of the page of a person a “Relationship calculator”, quite a useful tool to show instantaneously the link between two individuals.

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List of US Emigrants

No	P.	Name	Date, Place of Birth	Num. Emig.	Date of Emigr.	Destination	Descend. known
		Male lines					
1	38	Hottua Angela	16.2.1808, Oberfeulen	3	1866	Luxembourg, IA	268
2	62	Hottois Nicholas	01.07.1818, Perlé	2	?	Sheldon, NY	2
3	62	Hottois Peter	21.05.1820, Perlé	1	?	Sheldon, NY	11
4	62	Hottois Peter Joseph	20.04.1822, Perlé	2	1852	Sheldon, NY	183
5	53	Hottua George	03.03.1823, Oberfeulen	1	Abt 1845	Dubuque, IA	286
6	63	Hottois William	08.01.1824, Perlé	2	1851	Sheldon, NY	3
7	63	Hottois Clement	12.03.1826, Perlé	1	1855	New Orleans, LA	1
8	63	Hottois Mary Ann	27.10.1828, Perlé	1	?	Cleveland, OH	1
9	60	Hottua Henry	30.06.1829, Oberfeulen	1	1847	Iowa	1
10	63	Hottois John Peter	09.05.1832, Perlé	1	?	Cleveland, OH	78
11	45	Hottua Marie Elizabeth	04.01.1839, Niederfeulen	1	Abt 1860	Chicago, IL	84
12	49	Hottua Nicholas	05.01.1843, Niederfeulen	1	1866	Chicago, IL	11
13	50	Hottua Theresa	05.04.1844, Niederfeulen	1	1890	Chicago, IL	2
14	51	Hottua Margaret	30.01.1846, Niederfeulen	1	Bef 1867	Dunlap, IA	16
15	51	Hottua Peter	10.05.1847, Niederfeulen	1	1866	Dubuque, IA	1
16	38	Hottua Nicholas	21.07.1848, Grosbous	1	Bef 1876	San Francisco, CA	6
17	57	Hottua Mary	24.06.1850, Oberfeulen	1	Aft 1873	Chicago, IL	23
18	58	Hottua Henry	26.05.1853, Oberfeulen	1	1874	New York, NY	3
19	59	Hottua John	06.04.1855, Oberfeulen	1	?	Luxemburg, IA	1
20	59	Hottua Martin	24.04.1857, Oberfeulen	1	1873	Chicago, IL	16
21	60	Hottua Anna	29.08.1860, Oberfeulen	1	1880	Chicago, IL	13
22	35	Hottua Maria Anna	17.04.1867, Niederfeulen	1	1891	Chicago, IL	33
23	34	Hottua Jacques	17.12.1869, Niederfeulen	1	1892	Chicago, IL	Returned
24	52	Hottua Leonie	02.02.1888, Niederfeulen	1	1906	New York, NY	1
25	52	Hottua Therese	20.03.1890, Niederfeulen	1	1909	New York, NY	2
26	35	Hottua Catherine	23.08.1903, Niederfeulen	1	1920	Los Angeles, CA	1
27	68	Hottua Family	Floridian shipwreck	?	1849	Died on sea	0
		Subtotal male lines: 27					1.031
		Female lines					
28	38	Beaufils Michael E.	02.06.1868, Grosbous	1	1888	Milwaukee, WI	4
29	38	Beaufils Anton	07.04.1872, Grosbous	1	1893	Chicago, IL	26
30	24	Corpstein Michel	31.05.1793, Folschette	7	1842	St. Donatus, IA	96
31	24	Corpstein Michel	~1822, Folschette	1	1842	St. Donatus, IA	51
32	24	Corpstein Nicolas	18.08.1825, Medernach	1	~1848	Dubuque, IA	24
33	25	Corpstein André	21.09.1827, Folschette	4	1870	Kansas	35
34	24	Corpstein Jean Pierre	26.01.1828, Medernach	1	1842	St. Donatus, IA	27
35	25	Corpstein Frank	09.11.1829, Folschette	2	1863	Minnesota	318
36	24	Corpstein Joseph	04.06.1830, Folschette	1	1842	St. Donatus, IA	2
37	26	Corpstein Michel	15.03.1832, Folschette	1	1866	Blue Rapids, KS	5
38	25	Corpstein Elisabeth	05.01.1833, Folschette	1	1842	St. Donatus, IA	2
39	26	Corpstein Thomas	21.12.1836, Folschette	1	1857	Waterville City, KS	1
40	25	Corpstein Thomas	25.08.1856, Folschette	1	1870	Kansas	18
41	25	Corpstein Marguerite	25.03.1863, Folschette	1	1870	Kansas	1
42	25	Corpstein Felix Thomas	18.12.1867, Folschette	1	1870	Kansas	8
43	26	Dax Joseph	05.12.1860, Folschette	1	1884	Chicago, IL	23
44	65	Dellere Jean/John	29.08.1864, Platen	1	Bef 1906	?	1
45	66	Dellere Eugène	07.10.1864, Platen	1	1892	Chicago	1
46	66	Dellere Mathias Antoine	26.04.1869, Platen	1	?	New Almelo, KS	1
47	66	Dellere Jean /John	22.05.1869, Reimberg	1	1892	Milwaukee, WI	1
48	68	Dellere John Nicholas	04.04.1871, Platen	1	1891	New Almelo, KS	10
49	65	Dellere Jean/John	10.06.1883, Platen	1	1904	Spokane, WA	9
50	67	Dellere Margaret V.	16.01.1892, Grosbous	1	1899	New Almelo, KS	36
51	67	Dellere Cecelia F.	22.09.1893, Grosbous	1	1899	New Almelo, KS	1
52	30	Gaul Peter	28.01.1823, Pratz	1	1845	Luxemburg, IA	2.394
53	27	Gaul Paul	04.07.1847, Pratz	6	1891	Minnesota	1.229
54	29	Gaul Nicholas	05.06.1851, Pratz	1	1871	Luxemburg, IA	1.155
55	30	Gaul Theresia	16.11.1853, Pratz	1	1884	Mapleton, IA	14

				Hoschette	Corpstein Frank 1829 7.7 Corpstein Michel 1832 7.8 Corpstein Thomas 1836 7.9	Corpstein Marguerite 1863 8.2 Corpstein Felix Thomas 1867 8.3	
				Corpstein Suzanne 1803 – Huy François 6.3	Huy M. Catherine 1833 – Dax Pierre 7.10	Dax Joseph 1860 8.4	
	Hottua Marie Catherine 1713 - Barnich Pierre 3.2	Barnich Marguerite 1754 - Gaul Pierre 4.2	Gaul Paul 1791 - Sadeler Elisabeth 5.2	Gaul Jean Guillaume 1818 - Thinnes Anne Albertine 1823 6.4	Gaul Paul 1847 - Mayer Lucie 1859 7.11	Gaul Barbara 1870 8.5 Gaul Nicholas 1874 8.6 Gaul William 1877 8.7 Gaul Mary. 1880 8.8 Gaul Peter 1887 8.9	
					Gaul Pierre 1849 - Boes Marie 1843 7.12	Gaul Barbara 1874 8.10 Gaul John Baptist 1878 8.11 Gaul Margaret 1880 8.12 Gaul Elizabeth 1882 8.13 Gaul Dominick 1884 8.14	
					Gaul Nicholas 1851 7.13 Gaul Theresia 1853 7.14 Gaul Catherine 1858 7.15 Gaul Anna Marie 1861 7.16 Gaul Jacob 1864 7.17 Gaul Paul 1867 7.18		
				Gaul Peter 1823 6.5			
	Hottua Michel 1720 - Jungers Catherine 3.3	Hottua Michel 1744 - Petit Marie Catherine 4.3	Hottua Michel 1769 - Straus Marie Elisabeth 5.3	Hottua Madeleine 1797 - Betz Jean 6.6	Betz Madeleine 1825 - Moris Nicolas 7.19	Moris John 1859 8.15	
				Hottua Michel 1799 -Lambert Christina 6.7	Hottua Theodore 1833 - Trees Anna 7.20	Hottua Maria Anna 1867 8.16	
						Hottua Jacques. 1869 -Blum Marie 8.17	Hottua Catherine 1903 9.1
			Hottua Anne Marie	Pott Pierre 1802 - Hottua	Pott Mathias 1840 7.21 Pott George 1849		

			1772- Pott Mathias 5.4	Suzanne 6.8	7.22 Pott Nicholas. 1855 7.23		
			Hottua Peter 1779 - Gloesener Catherine 5.5	Hottua Anne Catherine 1804 - Beaufils Mathias 6.9	Beaufils Charles 1833 - Majerus Madeleine 7.24	Beaufils Michael 1868 8.18 Beaufils Anton 1872 8.19	
				Hottua Nicolas. 1806 - Petesch Marie Jeanne 6.10	Hottua Nicholas 1848 7.25		
				Hottua Angela 1808 - Simmerl Theodore 6.11	Simmerl Peter 1827 7.26 Simmerl Susanna 1831 7.27 Simmerl Marie Catherine 1848 7.28	Simmerl Barbara 1856 8.20	
				Hottua Nicolas 1810 - Marnach Anne Marie 6.12	Hottua Marie Elizabeth 1839 7.29 Hottua Nicholas 1843 7.30 Hottua Theresa. 1844 7.31 Hottua Margaret. 1846 7.32 Hottua Peter 1847 7.33		
					Hottua Jean 1854 - Schlim Catherine 7.34	Hottua Leonie 1888 8.21 Hottua Therese 1890 8.22	
				Hottua Suzanne 1813 - Pott Pierre 6.13	Pott Mathias 1840 7.21 Pott George 1849 7.22 Pott Nicholas 1855 7.23		
			Hottua Peter 1779 - Huberty Elisabeth 5.6	Hottua George 1823 - Mondace Maria 6.14			
				Hottua Jean 1824 - Heinen Marie Catherine 6.15	Hottua Mary 1850 7.35 Hottua Henry 1853 7.36 Hottua John 1855 7.37 Hottua Martin 1857 7.38 Hottua Anna 1860 7.39		
				Hottua Henry 1829 6.16			
			Hottua Nicolas 1787 - Hiltgen Anne Marguerite	Hottois Nicholas 1818 6.17 Hottois Peter 1820 6.18 Hottois Peter			

				Joseph 1822 6.19 Hottois William 1824 6.20 Hottois Clement 1826 6.21 Hottois Mary Ann 1828 6.22 Hottois John Peter 1832 6.23			
Hottua Michel 1700 - Ludig Catherine 2.2	Hottua Elisabeth 1723 - Delleré Joseph 3.4	Delleré Mathias 1755 - Gengler Maria 4.4	Delleré Jean 1786- Marie Jeanne Husting 5.8	Delleré Mathias 1812- Wolles Madeleine 6.24	Delleré Henri 1846- Angelsberg Elisabeth 7.40	Dellere Jean/John 1883 8.23	
				Delleré Nicolas 1817- Rettinger Anne 6.25	Dellere Jean/John 1864 7.41		
				Delleré Henri 1825- Suzanne Ehleringer 6.26	Dellere Eugene 1864 7.42 Dellere Mathias 1869 7.43		
		Delleré Joseph 1759- Even Anna Catharina 4.5	Delleré Michel 1792-Von Banck Anna Marie 5.9	Delleré Guillaume 1827- Goedert Suzanne 6.27	Dellere Jean/John 1869 7.44		
			Delleré Dominique 1791 - Birgen Elisabeth 5.10	Delleré Michel 1825 - Lambert Marguerite 6.28	Delleré Marguerite 1858 - Gilson François 7.45	Gilson Anne 1881 - Henrotte Jules .Joseph 8.24	Henrotte Emile 1915 9.2
						Gilson Fred A. 1889 8.25 Gilson John 1901 8.26	
					Delleré Jean Pierre 1864 – Fehlen Margaret 1870 7.46	Margaret V. Dellere 1892 8.27 Cecelia F. Dellere 1893 8.28	
					Delleré Marie Jeanne 1866 - Weimerskirch Pierre 7.47	Weimerskirch John Adolph 1895 (Al Weimer) 8.29 Weimerskirch François 1898 8.30	
					Delleré John Nicholas 1871 – Fehlen Margaret 1870 7.48		

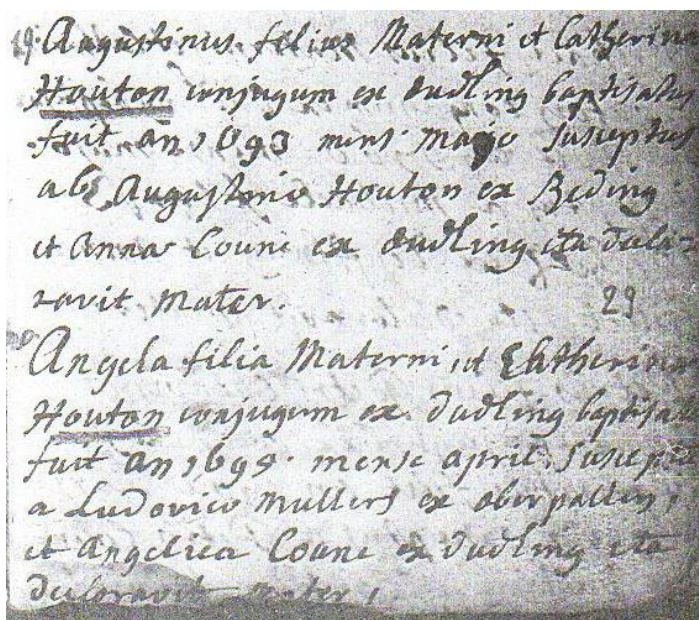
The prime Father

1. Maternus Houton

The first known Hottua is Maternus Houton who lived in [Dudling \(today Diggel\)](#), part of the village of [Oberpallen](#) on the Western border of today's Grand Duchy of Luxembourg. His name appears in 1709 when the (Catholic) priest of the parish Henri Collart entered *ex post* into the register, on the basis of the parents' statement, the baptisms which his predecessor Ludwig Mallaisse (1692-1709) had administered, but not registered.

The couple **Maternus Houton** and **Catherine Coune** of Dudling declared through the mother 4 births/baptisms:

1. Augustinus Houton baptized May 1693
2. Angela Houton baptized April 1695
3. Catherine Houton baptized February 1699
4. Michel Houton baptized May 1700.



“Augustinus son of Maternus and Catherine Houton spouses from Dudling was baptized in May 1693 held (sponsored) by (godparents) Augustinus Houton from Reding (Redange) and Anna Coune from Dudling so declared the mother”.

According to the practice of the time, the male child was given the name of his godfather. Both Augustin Houton and Anna Coune were most likely close relatives of the couple, be it the parents or brother and sister. Although the mother's name was not written down, we can admit that she was a Coune. A Kuhn family lived at the nearby Grubermühle in 1695, no doubt close relatives despite the different spelling.

ANL RP 135A Oberpallen Baptism Houton Augustinus et Angela

Details on the origin of the family and the name can be seen [here](#).

The Oberpallen church 2011

It is still the same Roman style structure in which the first Hottua generations were baptized and married, built from 1697 onward.

In the cemetery the remainders of the initial Hottua rest.

Photo Bob Foster 24.8.2011, who paid a visit to the author.



Augustin HOTTUA (1693) branches

2.1. Augustin Hottua is the ancestor of almost the whole Hottua family through 3 of his 5 children. There is no marriage record and only the first name of his wife, **Catherine**, has been noted in the baptism records of his children, Catherine Hottua (3.1) born 1711, Marie Catherine Hottua (3.2) born 1713 and Michel Hottua (3.3) born 1720. Augustin died 8 April 1759 in Oberpallen.

The Joannes KORBSTEIN/CORPSTEIN – Catherine HOTTUA lines

The name Korbstein

Korbstein is a German word, translated “basket-stone”, a combination without an obvious meaning. An inversion “stone basket” would make sense as a container to carry stones and could have led to a family name. But Korbstein doesn’t. Quite a few towns and castles have names ending on –stein, like Falkenstein, a castle close to Vianden on the Luxembourg-German border. A genealogist colleague of the author mentions similar names like Kopperstein and Koppenstein, but could not unearth anything really tangible in a series of onomastic reference books. In 1656, a Bernard Copstein lived in Mersch. The question of a Jewish origin has been raised, but there were no Jewish families outside Luxembourg City in those days.

In [Folschette](#) the variant Corpstein is mainly used, due certainly to a French speaking writer, which is not unusual with the proximity of the [language border](#) between the French speaking and the German speaking quarter of Europe. It is this spelling that will basically be carried on to America by the emigrants and which is used today by the US offspring.

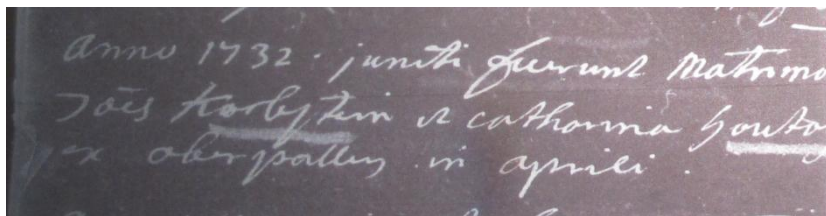
All the male Corpstein have either died or left Luxembourg before 1880, as the name is not listed anymore in the census of that year. (Die Luxemburger und ihre Familiennamen, 1984).

No Corpstein neither in the list of US emigrants from Luxembourg 1876-1900. (Änder Hatz: Emigrants et Rémigrants 1876-1900).

In [Germany 11 Korbstein entries](#) are found in 2011.

Probably a few hundred Corpstein are listed on [Facebook](#).

3.1. Catherine Hottua was born 21 August 1711 in Oberpallen to Augustin Hottua. She married **Joannes Korbstein** from Folschette April 1732 in Oberpallen. The origin of the Korpstein/Corpstein is not known. They are not mentioned in Folschette in the 1656 census (Oster).



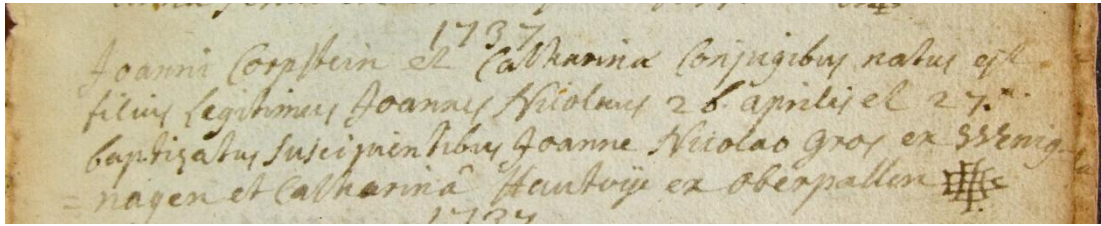
In the year 1732 have been married Jo(ann)is Korbstein and Catharina Houtoy from Oberpallen in April

(marriage probably noted later by priest who didn't remember the exact date)

ANL RP 135A Oberpallen p.181 M 4.1732 Oberpallen Joannes Korbstein-Catharina Houtoy Photo Georges Eicher 8 August 2011

After the birth of a first daughter in Oberpallen in 1733, the family seems to have moved to Folschette where Joannes did come from and where the spelling Corpstein appears. A total of 545 descendants are documented.

4.1. Jean/Joannes Nicolaus Corpstein was born 26 April 1737 in Folschette. He married **Marguerite Theisen**. The name "Jean Vic " Corpstein shown on the Corpstein family tree is a misreading as the copy of the birth record shows:



1737 To Joannes Corpstein and Catharina spouses a legitimate son Joannes Nicolaus has been born 26 April and baptized the 27 godparents Joannes Nicolas Gros from Wenig-Nagen(m) and Catharina Hautoye from Oberpallen. Diocesan Archives Luxembourg Matrikelbücher, Folscheid Kb 2, S. 13 Mail Daniel Karl Archives Diocésaines Luxembourg 6.9.2011

5.1. Joseph Corpstein born 31 May 1767 in Folschette married **Elisabeth Pletschette** 27 December 1792 in Folschette. Joseph was a horseshoe smith, a trade also found in the Hottua family. Whether this common profession is in relation with Joseph's grandparents getting acquainted with each other is not excluded, but must remain a somewhat romantic speculation.

6.1. Michel Corpstein was born 31 May 1793 in Folschette and married 17 July 1817 in Folschette **Marie Thill**, also from Folschette. The family moved from Folschette, where Michel was a teacher, to Medernach where he was a forest guard, and back to Folschette. According to Cathy Finnigan-Corpstein, the family emigrated to the US around 1842 to settle first in St. Donatus, IA. [96 descendants](#) are known.

7.1. Michael Corpstein is said to be born 25 October 1822 in "Germany", which may mean Luxembourg, in the Corpstein family tree. This birth date is not correct, as a sister Suzanne of whom a [formal birth record](#) exists was born 7 months later. No birth record was found in Folschette nor in Medernach, the places where the family is known to have lived. Michael married **Mary Kafer** and [51 descendants](#) are known among them [Dave](#) and [Mary Ann](#) Corpstein-Walker with whom the author corresponded.

7.2. Nicolas Corpstein was born 18 August 1825 in Medernach and married in 1848 in Dubuque **Suzanne Catherine Braun** from Kehlen, Luxembourg. 7 children were born in Dubuque and 2 more in 1866 and 1869 in Santa Clara County, CA. [24 descendants](#) are known.

7.3. Jean Pierre/John Peter Corpstein was [born 26 January 1828](#) in Medernach. He married **Mary Streif** who was also born in Luxembourg. The couple had a first child in Iowa about 1853 and 5 more in California from 1855 onward. *"John Peter went (I am not sure how yet-by wagon train or what) up to where the emigrants were coming to look for gold in the Sierra Nevadas. He was in the midst of the gold mining areas- but he was running a hotel. It was in this area that my grandfather Peter was born (1857) in Pine Grove, Ca. (a place that is no more). If you look at a place called Downieville, Ca. which is a really neat place-Pine Grove was near to it. It is really something to see the remnants of these early settlers towns. J/P then moved to Santa Clara, Ca"*(Cathy Finnigan). John Peter and Mary had 6 children and [27 descendants](#) are known, among them Cathy Corpstein (Finnigan) who lives in California and who visited Luxembourg in 2006.

7.4. Joseph Corpstein was born 4 June 1830 in Folschette. He married **Mary Ann Baker**. No offspring are known.

7.5. Elisabeth Corpstein was born 5 January 1833 in Folschette. She married in the US **John Wolfe**.

6.2. Joseph Corpstein was born 19 May 1797 in Folschette. He was a blacksmith and farrier and married in Folschette in 1826 **Catherine Hoschette**. The couple had 6 children of whom 4 lived to adulthood and emigrated to America.

7.6. André/Andrew Corpstein was born 21 September 1827 in Folschette. He was a farmer in his native village and married in 1855 in Folschette **Marguerite Schroeder**. Of 9 children 3 only survived and they arrived with their parents [26 September 1870 in New York](#) on board the "Abyssinia" from Liverpool. The family settled in Kansas and [35 descendants](#) are known.

The children who emigrated with their parents were:

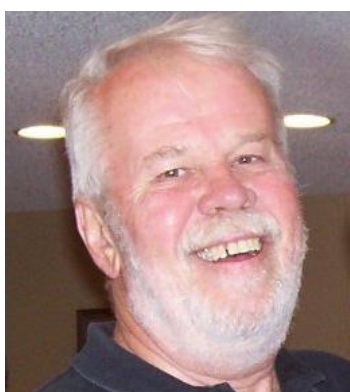
8.1. Thomas Corpstein born 25 August 1856 in Folschette. He married **Kate Greiner** and [18 descendants](#) have been found.

8.2. Marguerite Corpstein born 25 March 1863 in Folschette. No information is available on her life in the US.

8.3. Felix Thomas Corpstein born 18 December 1867 in Folschette married **Doris Frances Kemper**. They lived in Kansas and [8 descendants](#) are known.

7.7. François/Frank Corpstein was born [9 November 1829](#) in Folschette. He was also a farmer and [married 4 February 1863](#) in Folschette **Catherine Schroeder**, a sister of Marguerite. We can assume that the couple left Luxembourg soon after the wedding as a first daughter was born 14 November 1863 in Caledonia, MN. The complete family with 9 children is listed in the [1880 US Federal Census](#) in Caledonia:

1. **Anna Corpstein** born 14 November 1863 who married Nicolas Barthalet;



2. **Peter Corpstein** born 23.5.1865 who married Barbara Konzem, also with Luxembourg roots from Beaufort. Peter and Barbara have 204 known descendants, among them [Paul Corpstein](#) from Columbia, SC who contributed substantially to the reconstitution of this Hottua branch with a family tree. The Peter Corpstein line is the biggest and best researched line of the Corpstein. Two uncles of Paul did extensive research in Luxembourg in 1960 which resulted in the tree used here. They have obviously seen documents that are not available in the Luxembourg National Archives, probably in the Folschette parish house at the local priest. The parish register is now kept in the archives of the Arch-Dioecese of Luxembourg.

3. **Susan Corpstein** born 27 October 1866 married John Baptiste Tibesar from Weyler, Belgium;

4. **Helena Corpstein** born 11 January 1868 married Nichoas Roskop;

5. **Katie Corpstein** born 9 May 1869 married Nicholas Palen;

6. **Thomas Corpstein** born 1871 married Mary Schwebach, whose name reveals also Luxembourg roots;

7. **Michael F. Corpstein** born 13 February 1873 married Josephine Wagner;

8. **Mary Corpstein** born 2 February 1875 married Peter Joseph Palen;

9. **Zita or Susan Corpstein** was born in 1880 and died in 1881.

Catherine Schroeder died 1892 in Caledonia, whereas Frank passed 9 February 1909 in Tipton, KS, a place where 3 of his children were living. With [318 descendants](#) known by the author in August 2011, this is the most prolific family of all the Corpstein immigrants from Luxembourg.

7.8. Michel /Michael Corpstein was born 15 March 1832 in Folschette. He [arrived 16 May 1856 in New York](#) on the "Consul" from La Havre, origin: Netherlands. On the list are more Luxembourgish names, so that we can

assume it was a kind of a Luxembourg convoy that made the journey to Le Havre, presumably by cart as the railroad out of Luxembourg was opened only in 1859. The Netherlands origin quoted in the passenger list is due to the fact that the Dutch king was also Grand Duke of Luxembourg and the general perception was that Luxembourg was part of the Netherlands. Michael married a **Margaret** and they had 3 children in Caledonia, MN, and one more in Iowa. After Caledonia and Iowa the family seems to have settled in Kansas.

7.9. Thomas Corpstein was born 21 December 1836 in Folschette. He [arrives 21 April 1857 in New York](#) from Antwerp. As his home place we read Hoscheid. There is a town Hoscheid in Luxembourg, and the misspelling may find its origin in the German version of Folschette which is Folscheid. Thomas died in Waterville City, KS. A family is not recorded.

6.3. Suzanne Corpstein was born 15 May 1803 in Folschette. She married in 1832 in Folschette **François Huy**.

7.10. Marie Catherine Huy was born 7 November 1833 in Folschette. She married in 1860 in Folschette **Pierre Dax**.

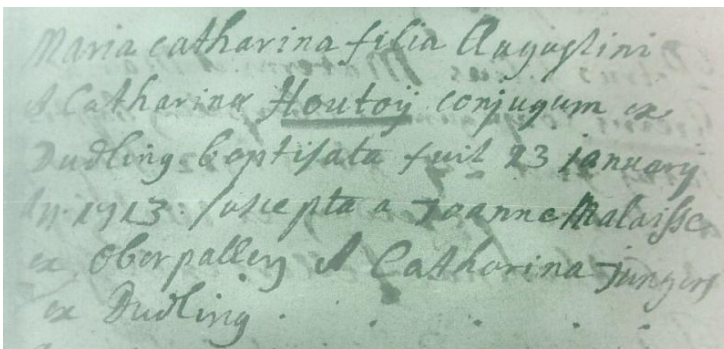
8.4. Joseph Dax was born [5 December 1860](#) in Folschette We don't know when he emigrated, but we find him living with his family in Chicago in the [1900 Census](#). He had married his wife Susan Hoffmann in 1889 and the couple had 9 children and [23 descendants](#) are known.

Sources:

- Corpstein family tree communicated by Paul Corpstein
- Cathy Finnigan-Corpstein
- Geneanet site Jim Brown
- Research by the author
- [ANLux](#)
- [Familysearch.org](#) Luxembourg Civil Registration 1793-1923

The Pierre BARNICH - Marie Catherine HOTTUA lines

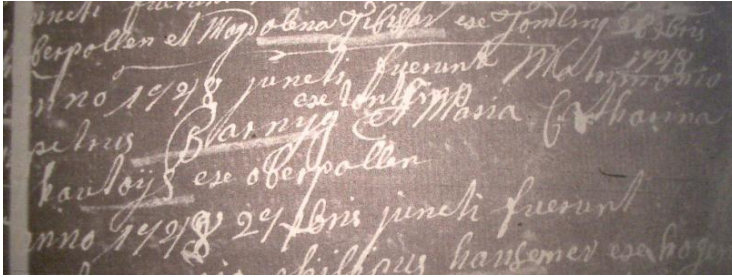
3.2. Marie Catherine Hottua born 23 January 1713 in Dudling married 26 December 1748 in Oberpallen **Pierre Barnich/Barnyg** from the neighbouring village Tontelange, today in Belgium.



Maria Catharina filia Augustini et Catharina Houtoy conjugum ex Dudling baptisata fuit 23 januari An 1713 suscepta a Joanne Malaisse ex Oberpallen et Catharina Jungers ex Dudling.

Maria Catharina daughter of Augustin and Catharina Houtoy spouses of Dudling has been baptized January 23 1713. Godparents Jean Malaisse from Oberpallen and Catherine Jungers from Dudling.

ANL RP 135A Oberpallen Photo Claude Lanners 29.3.2006



Anno 1748 juncti fuerunt matrimonio Petrus Barnyg ex Tontling et Maria Catharina Ha(o)utoys ex Oberpallen
 In the year 1748 have been united in marriage Petrus Barnyg from Tontling and Maria Catharina Hautoy from Oberpallen.
 Note: The record gives no date, but the record entered before says 26th December and the next 27th Dec.1748.

ANL RP 135A Oberpallen Photo Claude Lanners 8.6.2006

Pierre Barnich and Marie Catherine Hottua are the ancestors of the biggest part of the Hottua family with [5,560 descendants](#), among them several **US Gaul lines**.

4.2. Marguerite Barnich born 26 February 1754 married 1780 **Pierre Gaul** born about 1748.

5.2. Paul Gaul born 7 January 1791 [married 1817](#) in Bettborn **Elisabeth Sadeler** born 1794.

Generation 6	Generation 7	Generation 8
Gaul Jean Guillaume 1818- Thinnes Anne Albertine 1823 6.4.	Gaul Paul 1847- Mayer Lucie 7.11.	Gaul Barbara 1870 8.5. Gaul Nicholas 1874 8.6. Gaul William 1877 8.7. Gaul Mary 1880 8.8. Gaul Peter 1887 8.9.
	Gaul Pierre 1849- Boes Marie 1843 7.12.	Gaul Barbara 1874 8.10. Gaul John Baptist 1876 8.11. Gaul Margaret 1880 8.12. Gaul Elizabeth 1882 8.13. Gaul Dominick 1884 8.14.
	Gaul Nicholas 1851 7.13. Gaul Theresia 1853 7.14. Gaul Catherine 1858 7.15. Gaul Anna Marie 1861 7.16. Gaul Jacob 1864 7.17. Gaul Paul 1867 . 7.18.	
Gaul Peter 1823 6.5.		

6.4. Jean “Guillaume” Gaul was born 10 April 1818 in Pratz. He [married 1846](#) **Anne Albertine Thinnes** born 1823 in Boevange near Clervaux. They had 9 children who all went to America except one. Anne Albertine followed her children after her husband’s death in 1883.

7.11. Paul Gaul was [born 4 July 1847](#) in Pratz from Jean Guillaume Gaul and Albertine Thinnes. Although his parents were farmers and he was the oldest son, he became a blacksmith and farrier and [married 15 February 1870](#) in Grosbous **Anne Catherine Wiltgen** from Dellen. We learn in the marriage record that his father-in-law was also a blacksmith: it seems most likely that Paul was his assistant and got thus acquainted with his bride. The couple lived in Dellen and had 4 children: **Barbara** (8.5.), **Nicholas** (8.6.), **William** (8.7.) and **Mary** (8.8.). After the death of his spouse Anne Catherine in 1882, Paul married **Lucie Mayer** 19 May 1885 and a son **Peter** (8.9.) was born.

In 1891, Paul Gaul emigrates with a group of 3 men and 3 women. (#5521 in *Änder Hatz, Emigrants et Rémigrants 1876-1890*). In this group were Paul and his wife Lucie , the girls Barbe and Marie and 2 of the 3 sons. The family went apparently to Iowa, but moved later to Minnesota. Paul died 14 July 1928 in Wadena, MN.

The history of this line of the Gaul family has been very well researched by Barbara Gaul's descendants **Barbara Ann Berkes-Probst** and **Marie Schissel-Probst** and is published on the Net. The [Gaul](#) and [Probst](#) sites list [1184 descendants](#) of Paul Gaul and Anne Catherine Wiltgen. Paul Gaul and Lucie Mayer have [46 known descendants](#).

8.5. Barbara Gaul born 10 November 1870 married 1894 in Panama, IA **Henry Probst** born 1856 in Dellen, Luxembourg

8.6. Nicholas Gaul born 10 August 1874 married 1898 in Earling, IA **Kate Esser**

8.7. William Gaul born 21 June 1877 married 1905 in Iona, MN **Mary Francis Schoo**

8.8. Mary Gaul born 7 June 1880 married 1901 in Iona, MN **Peter Lingen**

8.9. Peter Gaul born 15 March 1887 in Dellen married 1911 in Hartford, SD **Katharine Schartz**.

7.12. Pierre Gaul was [born 8 March 1849](#) in Pratz and married in 1872 in Bettborn **Marie Boes** from Dommeldange, a suburb of Luxembourg City. Pierre died from an accident in Luxembourg City 6 September 1884. "*.. in a delirium, he got up from his sick bed, went to the window, fell out of the window and died. His brother Nicholas, on his farm near Earling, Iowa on September 6, 1884 told his family that his brother Peter, back in Luxemburg, had fallen out of a window. Weeks later word came to Nicholas confirming that on that day Peter had indeed fallen out of a window and died*". (Gaul-Friedmann Family p.45). The place of Pierre's death was called "Petit Marly", not in Dommeldange, but in Luxembourg City. Three weeks later the last of 6 children was born. The widow Marie Boes emigrated in 1886 with [3 children](#) (Hatz). Three children did not join the mother as they immigrated later into the US: Barbara and John Baptist in 1894, Margaret in 1898 (Bob Foster). Why did the three not leave with their mother? They were not yet old enough (14, 10 and 4 years) to live on their own, and where did they stay? Maybe with Jean Boes, a brother of Marie? Another question not resolved is the headcount: The mother and 6 children emigrated, but one son Jean died as infant.

A next question came up when Bob Foster discovered that Marie Boes married 19 October 1887 in Eich **Peter Post**. Why did she come back a year or less after she had left? But did she really leave, as the only evidence of her 1886 emigration is so far the declaration to leave mentioned by Hatz? If she didn't, despite her declaration, both the marriage and the presence of her children would find an explanation.

We know for sure she immigrated into the US 2 April 1907 together with her daughter Elisabeth and her son-in-law Nick Consdorf. Marie Boes is listed in the 1910 census in the household of her son-in-law Peter Gotto in Monona, IA. Her presence in the Gotto household from 1907 onward could be explained by her daughter Marguerite's possible illness and her death in 1908. Marie died in 1917 in Westphalia, MN.

[35 descendants](#) of Pierre Gaul and Marie Boes are known.

8.10. Barbara Gaul was born 19 November 1874 in Eich. She married in 1898 in Earling, IA **Anton Kloewer**.

8.11. John Baptist Gaul was born 26 March 1878 in Eich. He married in 1902 **Barbara Graf** and died 19 August 1954 in Aurora, IL.

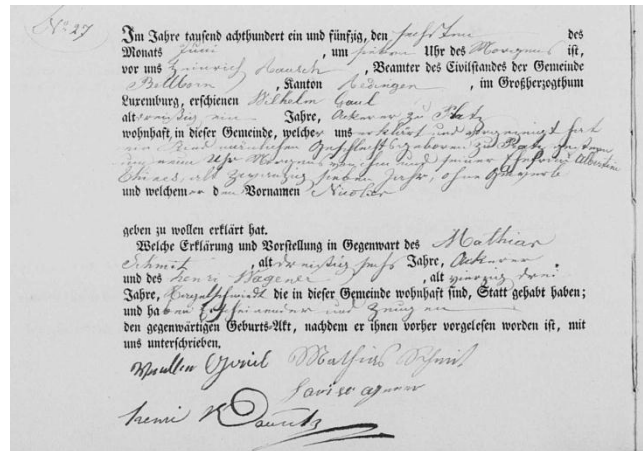
8.12. Margaret Gaul was born 6 May 1880 in Eich. She married in 1903 in Mapleton, IA **Pierre Paul Gotto**. She died 6.7.1908 in Mapleton, IA.

8.13. Elizabeth Gaul was born 22 July 1882 in Eich and married in 1902 in Luxembourg Nick Consdorf. She died in 1948 in Aurora, IL.

8.14. Dominick Gaul was born 1 October 1884 in Eich. He married in 1916 in Tacoma, WA **Pearl C. Jean**. He died in Tacoma, WA in 1926.

7.13. Nicholas Gaul was born 5 June 1851 in Pratz to Jean Guillaume Gaul and Anne Albertine Thinnès. He is a brother of Paul born 4 July 1847 and of Pierre Gaul born 9 March 1849. He emigrated in 1871 and started working on the farm of his uncle Peter Gaul (born 1823, 6.5.) in Luxemburg, IA.

Birth record of Nicholas Gaul. His father signs (first signature upper left) "Wellem", Luxembourgish for Wilhelm.



Familysearch.org Luxemburg Boevange M 1797-1890
Image 608/1501

The Hottua path to Nicholas Gaul is:

- 1 Marie Catherine Hottua, Hautoy b: 23 janv. 1712/13 in Oberpallen, L d: 05 mars 1780 in Attert, Tontelange, B
- .. +Pierre Barnich/Barnyg b: 26 août 1716 in Attert, Tontelange, B m: 26 déc. 1748 in Oberpallen, L d: 28 févr. 1792 in Tontelange, B
- 2 Marguerite Barnich b: 26 févr. 1754 in Attert, B d: 17 janv. 1825 in Tontelange, B
- +Pierre Gaul b: Abt. 1748 in Post, B m: 11 janv. 1780 in Tontelange, Attert, B d: 27 mars 1824 in Tontelange, B
- 3 Paul Gaul b: 07 janv. 1791 in Tontelange, B d: 19 mars 1870 in Holtz, L
- +Elisabeth Sadeler b: 01 déc. 1794 in Pratz, L m: 18 juin 1817 in Bettborn, L d: 08 févr. 1824 in Pratz, L
- 4 Jean Guillaume Gaul b: 10 avr. 1818 in Pratz, L d: 26 mars 1883 in Pratz, L
- +Anne Albertine Thinnès b: 27 oct. 1823 in Boevange, Clervaux, L m: 24 août 1846 in Boevange, Clervaux, L
- 5 Nicholas Gaul b: 05 juin 1851 in Pratz, Luxemburg d: 05 mars 1928 in Earling, Iowa

In 1876 he married in Luxemburg, IA **Susanna Friedmann** and the couple settled 300 miles West in Earling in Shelby County where 11 children were born. In 1883, his widowed mother had also come to Western Iowa with 2 brothers and 2 sisters. Susanna Friedmann passed away 24 April 1893 in Earling, IA, just after having given birth to her 11th child. Nicholas returned to Pratz in 1900 and travelled back to Iowa accompanied by **Mary Johanna Calmus** born 16 November 1867 in Pratz. They married 28 June 1900 in New York, to overcome the opposition of US immigration officers to let her enter as we are told. Nicholas Gaul died 5 March 1928 in Earling, IA. Nicholas and Susanna had by 1988 [1156 descendants](#) through 4 of her children who married: -

- **William Gaul** 1878-1958 and **Catherine Schechinger** 1887-1953: [333 descendants](#)
- **Peter Gaul** 1886-1982 and **Elizabeth Schechinger** 1890-1980: [487 descendants](#)
- **John Gaul** 1888-1965 and **Odelia Schnuettgen** 1894-1964: [152 descendants](#)
- **Paul Gaul** 1892-1993 and **Magdalena Heinzlmeier** 1895-1944: [172 descendants](#).

The history of the Gaul-Friedmann family has been researched by Dewie Gaul over many years and compiled by Peter Gaul in [The Nicholas and Susanna \(Friedmann\) Gaul Family](#) book published in 1988.

Dewie Gaul, born September 18, 1928, graduated from Loras College in Dubuque, Iowa in 1950. He served two years in the United States Navy from 1951 to 1953. His service included service on the U.S.S. Tarawa with the 6th fleet in the Mediterranean Sea. He received his Law degree from Georgetown Law School in 1955 and began the practice of Law in Sioux City, Iowa on February 28, 1955. On May 31, 1983, he was appointed a District Court Judge by Iowa Governor Terry Branstad. He was retained as Judge for a 6-year term in the 1984 election.



Peter Joseph Gaul, born August 19, 1930, moved to Davenport, Iowa in 1948. He served in the U.S. Army, including duty in Germany, from 1951 to 1953. Peter worked for the Aluminum Company Of America (Alcoa) as a Process Control Engineer. He retired from Alcoa in 1979 and moved to Satellite Beach, Florida. He and his wife Hilary now run a Computer Process Control consulting business.

Peter Gaul was during many years the editor of the [Gaul News](#), a newsletter that kept the contact between the numerous members of the family spread all over the United States. The newsletter is now edited by [Bill and Alex Anderson](#) as "[Current News](#)".

7.14. Theresia Gaul was [born 16 November 1853](#) in Pratz. She married **Peter Zeimen** 14 January 1879 in Grosbous. The couple had 3 children and emigrated in 1894 to the US where they lived initially in Earling, IA. They later moved to Mapleton, IA and Therese died here in 1913. The descendants of their 3 children Albertine born 1880, Paul born 1881 and Rosa born 1883 are still to be researched.

7.15. Catherine Gaul was [born 12 September 1858](#) in Pratz and emigrated to the US in 1883 with her widowed mother [Anna Albertine Thinnnes](#) and her younger siblings. She married in 1888 in Earling, IA **John V. Dergans** and the couple had 7 children. The history of this family is not known so far.

7.16. Anna Marie Gaul was [born 27 May 1861](#) in Pratz and emigrated also in 1883 with her widowed mother and 3 siblings to the US. She married in 1884 in Westphalia, IA **Jean Bissen**. They had 9 children. From their son Joseph John [28 descendants](#) are known to the author.

7.17. Jacob Gaul was [born 30 May 1864](#) in Pratz. He was also part of the family group that emigrated in 1883. He married **Mary Graff** in 1890 in Earling and they had 7 children.

7.18. Paul Gaul was the youngest son of the Gaul-Thinnnes family. Born 23 April 1867 in Pratz, he also emigrated in 1883. He did not marry and died in 1892 in Dubuque, IA.

6.5. Peter Gaul was born 28 January 1823 in Pratz, Bettborn, Luxembourg in the "Kietemes" house. His link towards the Hottua family is shown here:

1 Marie Catherine Hottua, Hautoy b: 23 January 1713 in Oberpallen, Luxembourg, d: 05 March 1780 in Attert, Tontelange, Belgium
 .. +Pierre Barnich/Barnyg b: 26 August 1716 in Attert, Tontelange, Belgium, m: 26 December 1748 in Oberpallen, Luxembourg, d: 28 February 1792 in Tontelange, Belgium
 2 Marguerite Barnich b: 26 February 1754 in Attert, Belgium, d: 17 January 1825 in Tontelange, Belgium
 +Pierre Gaul b: Abt. 1748 in Post, Belgium, m: 11 January 1780 in Tontelange, Attert, Belgium, d: 27 March 1824 in Tontelange, Belgium
 3 Paul Gaul b: 07 January 1791 in Tontelange, Belgium, d: 19 mars 1870 in Holtz, Luxembourg
 +Elisabeth Sadeler b: 01 December 1794 in Pratz, Luxembourg, m: 18 June 1817 in Bettborn, Luxembourg, d: 08 February 1824 in Pratz, Luxembourg
 4 Pierre "Peter" Gaul b: 28 January 1823 in Pratz, Luxembourg, d: 15 April 1894 in Luxembourg, IA

The youngest of a farmer family of 6, Peter left Luxembourg at the age of 22 and sailed from Antwerp 25 May 1845 on the "Syvanus Jenkins" to arrive in New York 4 July 1845 and went on to Chicago. In 1846 he joined a group of settlers going West and was one of the first pioneers of "Fléibuerg" ("refuge fort" in Luxembourgish), later renamed Luxemburg, IA. (René Fisch, d'Geschicht vum Préitzerdaul, 2, 1987, S.505). A few years later, he came back to Pratz:

*"Previous to his marriage, he had returned to Luxemburg and brought his twin brother and a colony from there. They settled in and around a land grant some 20 miles west of Dubuque and **named the town Luxemburg.** Peter Gaul had been given a patent to the "Old Homestead" signed by President James K. Polk in 1847. This land has been in the family ever since."* (Brochure "The Gaul Centennial 1852-1952" issued by the Gaul Family in Luxemburg, IA 1952. Copy Eileen Gaul to CL 10.06).

The twin brother was Nicolas Gaul who did not stay in the US and died in 1895 in Boulaide, Luxembourg.

Peter married in 1852 in New Vienna, IA **Mary Theresa Ahlers**, born 29 September 1833 in Billerbeck near Münster, Germany.

They became the parents of 13 children and [2.394 descendants](#) are known by the author. Peter died in 1894 and Mary Theresa in 1895, both in Luxemburg, IA.

One of their descendants is **Eileen Gaul** born 12 March 1936 in New Vienna, IA, spouse of **Richard Hermsen**. Eileen's interest in family history made the acquaintance of the present day Gaul and Hottua families possible. During a genealogy trip of a group of Luxembourgers to the Midwest in 2006 led by [René Daubenfeld](#), Eileen had in hand a paper with a series of family names. On that list a friend of the author, Jeanny Meyers-Kaysen, discovered the name Hottua. Eileen supplied the information on the Gaul-Ahlers line and established the contact with Dewie and Pete Gaul who are the historians of the Gaul-Friedmann lines.

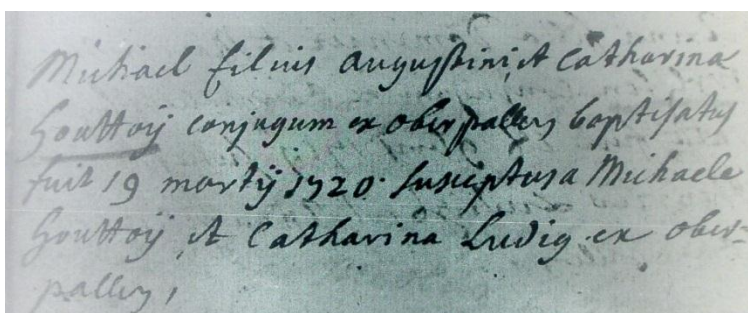
Jeanny Meyers-Kaysen and Eileen Hermsen-Gaul on visit at Claude Lanners' 15 September 2008.



Ties between family members in the US remained strong and in 1952 and 2002 the Gaul-Ahlers descendants commemorated the 100th and 150th wedding anniversaries of Peter and Maria Theresa in Luxemburg, IA. **Bob and Keith Gaul** operate a [Gaul Family site](#). Bob visited Luxemburg in September 2007 on the Experience Luxemburg Tour organized by the [Luxembourg American Cultural Society](#) and met Claude Lanners. In 2011, the Gaul were among the [honoured families](#) (Bob right) at the [Heritage Weekend](#) in August. In November 2011 Bob completed the Peter Gaul-Mary Theresa Ahlers descendant lines by more than 600 individuals.

The Michel HOTTUA – Marie Catherine KLEIN/PETIT lines

3.3. Michel Hottua was born 19 March 1720 in Oberpallen to Augustin Hottua and Catherine. He married around 1740 **Catherine Jungers** and the couple had 3 children: Catherine born 1741, Michel born 1744 and Margaretha born 1751.



Michael son of Augustinus and Catharina Houttoy husband and wife from Oberpallen was baptized 19 March 1720 godparents were Michael Houttoy and Catharina Ludig from Oberpallen.
ANL RP 136A Oberpallen

4.3. Michel Hottua was born 2 March 1744 in Oberpallen to Michel Hottua and Catherine Jungers.

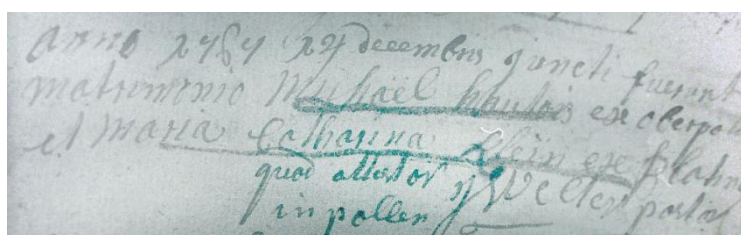
In 1766, Empress Maria Theresia of Austria ordered a census in the countries under Austrian rule to establish the basis for a taxation system that would include also the clergy and the nobility who were so far exempted from paying taxes. Was the reason of the census a sensitivity of the empress for social injustice or an early perception that “something was rotten in the State of ... Austria”, a decade before this injustice will trigger the French Revolution? The Duchy of Luxembourg was part of Austria from 1715 to 1795 and we find the Hottua in the census list of Oberpallen:

Nombre des Mâles	Noms des Hommes qui les tiennent de l'âge de 16 ans en sus	Leur État, Profession, Art, Métier ou autre moyen de subsistance.	Nombre des Femmes de l'âge de 14 ans en sus	Noms des Femmes de l'âge de 16 ans
	22		26	
	Michel Soutling	Laboureur	Catherine Soutling	
11	François Mersch	Laboureur & fendeur	Barbe Soutling	Nicolas Mersch
	Pierre Eschen	Mouleur de Saunerie	Barbe Eschen	Gilles Batz
	Michel Waltzingen	Jeun	Marguerite Eschen	
12	François Mersch	Domestique	Anne Cathér Autois	Dominique Mersch
	Michel Autois	Maréchal	Marguer. Autois	
	Paul Berton	Jeun	Jeanne Schwoebach	Paul Berton
13	Nicolas Scholes	Tisseran	M. Cathérine Berton	
		Maître d'habits		

ANL Rpop 1766 Oberpallen Photo Claude Lanners 3 May 2006

Michel Hottua is listed as “Autoy” in the household of François Mersch, maréchal (blacksmith-farrier) whose spouse is Anne Catherine Autois. Michel is also blacksmith (idem under maréchal). In the same household a Marguerite Autois is listed as woman older than 14 years and Dominique Mersch as boy less than 14 years. This list is consistent with genealogical information available, with the exception of the name Mersch. Michel’s sister Catherine married Franciscus Bous or Mousse in Oberpallen in 1764 and they had a first son Dominique Mousse or Moes 8 December 1765. Mersch is clearly a mis-hearing/spelling by the census taker. Michel was still single and the Marguer. Autois is his sister born 1751 who will marry in 1783 Nicolas Schnock. This is by the way the first written evidence of the blacksmith trade in the family, although it is likely that the iron making skill was the reason for Maternus Houton to come to Luxembourg and to a region where [charcoal](#) making in the extensive forests supplied the energy source for processing local [iron ore](#).

A look at the professions shows the whole span of the village’s economic structure where all the basic skills needed in the local community are represented: farmer, miller, servant, blacksmith, weaver and tailor. Michel married 14 December 1767 **Marie Catherine Klein** from the “[Platinerie](#)”, an iron processing shop near Oberpallen. See a memo on the [Grubermühle and the Platinerie](#), two locations closely related to the Hottua family history.



In the year 1767 the 14th December have been united in marriage Michael Hautois from Oberpallen and Maria Catharina Klein from the Platinerie. Certifying J. Welter pastor in Pallen ANL 135A Oberpallen

In some records Marie Catherine is called “Petit”, the French word for German “klein”, small. Marie Catherine’s brother Charles owned and operated successfully the Platinerie, a shop that flattened iron using a mechanical hammer powered by water. A chapel decorated by a monogram “KK” in the keystone on the entrance door, meaning Karl Klein, stands next to the Platinerie, today located in Belgium close to the Luxembourg border.



The Platinerie and the chapel with the KK monogram are the earliest material trace of the family.

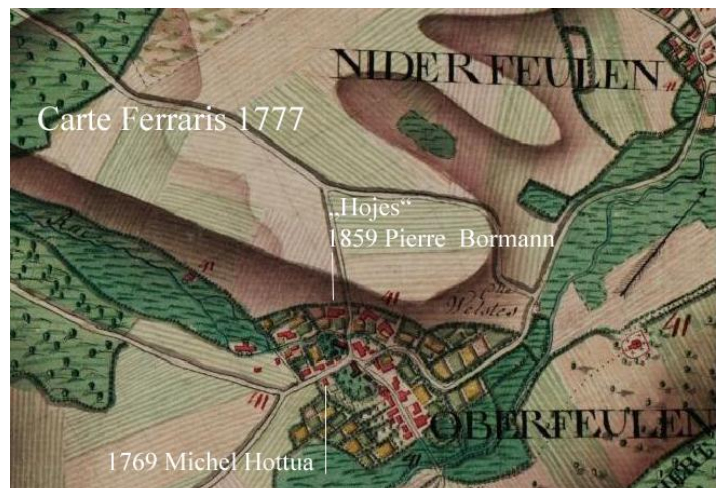
Charles/Karl Klein “*ex Platinerie*” will be the godfather of the first son of Michel Hottua and his sister Marie Catherine Klein. He dies in 1769, and the chapel has probably been built in his memory.

Photo Claude Lanners 26.4.2006



Michel Hottua and his wife Marie Catherine moved in 1769 to [Oberfeulen](#), a village 10 miles NE of Oberpallen. Why they chose Feulen, where there hadn't been any family links before, is not known. Maybe the godmother of the first child born in Oberfeulen, Michel born 1769, gives an explanation: Maria Joanna Petit, spouse of Claude Gilson, blacksmith. Was Michel the assistant of Claude Gilson? Or was Maria Joanna Petit related to the Klein/Petit? A link is possible, but cannot be confirmed in the available records.

Michel’s house named “a Schmieden” (at the blacksmith’s) stood in the lower “Aalgaass” (Old street, officially “Vieille Rue”) in Oberfeulen and has been integrated in the neighbouring farm, so that no trace is left. It can be identified on the map drawn by [count de Ferraris](#) in 1777:



ANL Carte de Ferraris, Sheet 221 Esch-sur-Sûre
Photo Claude Lanners

Michel Hottua and Marie Catherine Klein were the parents of 10 children, of whom 5 became the founders of families with US emigrants in the forthcoming generations:

- 5.3. Michel Hottua-Marie Elisabeth Straus
- 5.4. Anne Marie Hottua-Mathias Pott
- 5.5. Pierre Hottua-Catherine Gloesener
- 5.6. Pierre Hottua-Elisabeth Huberty
- 5.7. Nicolas Hottua-Marguerite Hiltgen

Hottua Michel 1769 -Straus Marie Elisabeth 5.3.	Hottua Madeleine 1797 - Betz Jean 6.6.	Betz Madeleine 1825-Moris Nicolas 7.19.	Moris John 1859 8.15.	
	Hottua Michel 1799 – Lambert Christina 6.7.	Hottua Theodore 1833 -Trees Anna 7.20.	Hottua Maria Anna 1867 8.16.	
			Hottua Jacques 1869 - Blum Marie 8.17.	Hottua Catherine 1903 9.1.
Hottua Anne Marie 1772 - Pott Mathias 5.4.	Pott Pierre 1802- Hottua Suzanne 6.8.	Pott Mathias. 1840 7.21. Pott George 1849 7.22. Pott Nicholas. 1855 7.23.		

5.3. Michel Hottua was born 22 November 1769 in Oberfeulen to Michel Hottua and Marie Catherine Klein (4.3.).

He was a blacksmith and married in 1796 **Marie Elisabeth Straus** from Niedermertzig where the couple lived.

6.6. Madeleine Hottua was born 19 November 1797 in Niedermertzig to Michel Hottua and Marie Elisabeth Straus (5.3.). She married in 1818 **Jean Betz** also a blacksmith, and the couple lived in Niedermertzig.

7.19. Madeleine Betz was born 8 February 1825 in Niedermertzig to Jean Betz and Madeleine Hottua (6.6.). She married **Nicolas Moris** in 1856.

8.15 John Moris was [born 21 December 1859](#) in Mertzig. He is a member of the Hottua family through his grandmother Madeleine Hottua (6.6.). John came to the US in 1885 and settled at Luxemburg, IA where he married in 1893 **Clara Gaul** born 25 March 1865, a daughter of Peter Gaul-Theresa Ahlers (6.5.). In 1915 the couple bought a farm near Bloomington, WI. They are “double” Hottua descendants through both their Moris and Gaul ancestors. John died 12 June 1938 and Clara 23 September 1959, both in Bloomington, WI.



[655 descendants](#) are known, among them Michael J. Mergen from Platteville, WI who researched the John Moris family.

Michael J. Mergen (photos)
May 2011



Wedding photo John Moris-Clara Gaul 28.11.1893

6.7. Michel Hottua was born 28 November 1799 in Niedermertzig to Michel Hottua and Marie Elisabeth Straus (5.3.). He was a blacksmith and farrier and married in 1825 **Christina Lambert** from Obermertzig where the couple will live.

7.20. Theodore Hottua was born 20 April 1833 in Obermertzig to Michel Hottua and Christina Lambert (6.7.). He was a day labourer and married in 1861 **Anna Trees** from Niederfeulen and the couple lived here.

8.16. Maria Anna Hottua was born 17 April 1867 in Niederfeulen to Theodore Hottua and Anna Trees (7.20.). She emigrated in 1891 (Hatz) and married in 1892 in Chicago **Nicholas Berlingen** who had been born 28 February 1868 in Loogh, Daun, Germany. The couple had a first born in Illinois and 4 more children in Missouri, probably in St. Louis where Nicholas died in 1931 and Maria Anna in 1935. Bob Foster discovered more offspring, with an astounding marriage history of son Walter Berlingen, and [33 descendants](#) are now known.

8.17. Jacques Hottua was born 17 December 1869 in Niederfeulen to Theodore Hottua and Anna Trees (7.20.). He left Antwerp in April 1892 destination Chicago, but returned to Luxembourg in 1895. Jacques married in 1896 **Marie Blum** from Wahl and the couple lived in Niederfeulen.

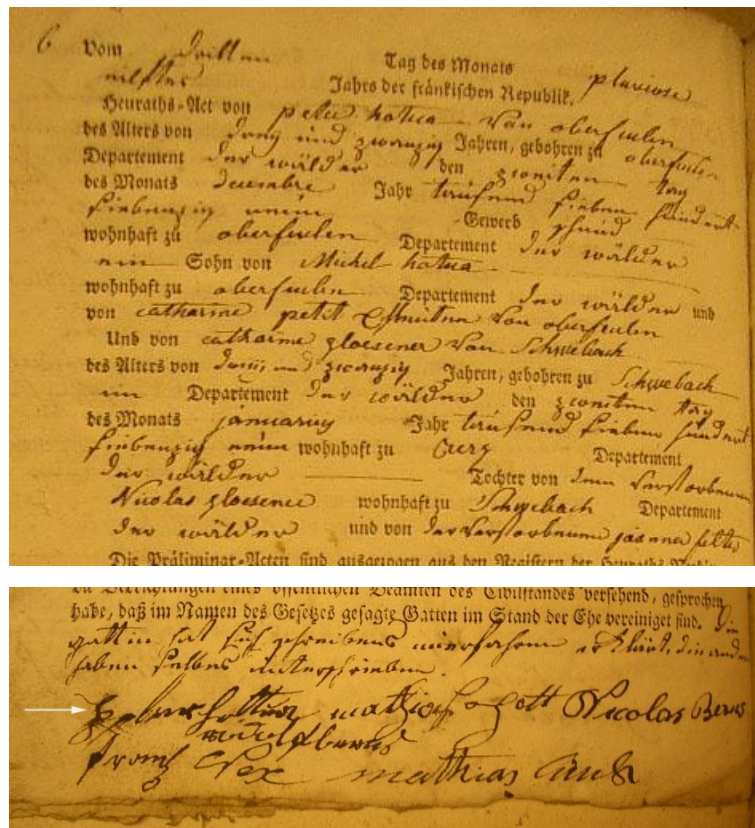
9.1. Catherine "Ketty" Hottua was born 23 August 1903 in Niederfeulen to Jacques Hottua and Marie Blum (8.17.). We don't know when she left Luxembourg for the first time, but she arrived in New York in October 1949 and 1953 from Le Havre. In 1953 she has a New York address, but lived later in California. Ketty (Luxembourgish nickname for Catherine) stayed single and was a regular attendee of the celebration of the Luxembourg National Day in Los Angeles. She died 7 January 1987 in Beverly Hills, CA.

7.21.-7.23. Mathias Pott born 6 June 1840, **George Pott** born 4 October 1849 and **Nicholas Pott** born 14 July 1855 in Oberfeulen were the sons of Pierre Pott and Suzanne Hottua. Mathias and George were saddlers/harness makers and lived in Dyersville, IA, George in Peoria, IL. None of them married.

The Peter HOTTUA - Catherine GLOESENER Lines

Hottua Peter 1779 – Gloesener Catherine 5.5.	Hottua Anne Catherine 1804 - Beaufils Mathias 6.9.	Beaufils Charles 1833 - Majerus Madeleine 7.24.	Beaufils Michael 1868 8.18. Beaufils Anton 1872 8.19.
	Hottua Nicolas 1806 - Petesch Marie Jeanne 6.10.	Hottua Nicholas. 1848 7.25.	
	Hottua Angela 1808 –Simmerl Theodore 6.11.	Simmerl Peter 1827 7.26. Simmerl Susanna 1831 7.27. Simmerl Marie Catherine 1848 7.28.	Simmerl Barbara 1856 8.20.
	Hottua Nicolas 1810- Marnach Anne Marie 6.12.	Hottua Marie Elizabeth 1839 7.29. Hottua Nicholas1843 7.30. Hottua Theresa 1844 7.31. Hottua Margaret 1846 7.32. Hottua Peter 1847 7.33.	
		Hottua Jean 1854- Schlim Catherine 7.34.	Hottua Leonie 1888 8.21. Hottua Therese 1890 8.22.

Peter's request seems to have been received positively and quickly, because less than 2 months later he marries on the 3rd Pluviôse Year XI, i.e. 23 January 1803 in Feulen **Catherine Gloesener** from Schwebach.

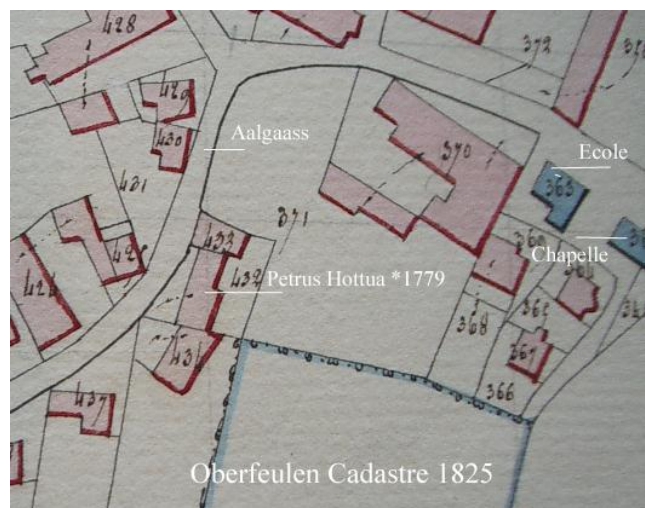


Civil records, Commune of Feulen Photo Claude Lanners 10.12.2009

Peter's signature is marked by an arrow, the other signatures are the witnesses and the mayor Mathias Linck. The bride declared "not to be experienced in writing".

The couple had 8 children. After Catherine Gloesener's death 17 March 1819, the day after having given birth to a (third) son Nicolas, Peter married [13 December 1821 Elisabeth Huberty](#) and they had 10 children. With 18 children, Peter was a kind of "founding father" of numerous Hottua families in Luxembourg, in Belgium, in France and in the United States. He died 2 November 1847 in Oberfeulen.

Peter was a blacksmith in the family tradition and his house and shop are figured on the first Luxembourg survey map of 1825.



ANL Cadastre 1825 Oberfeulen Plots 432, 433 Hottua Peter

Of the 8 children of Peter Hottua and Catherine Gloesener 5 survived:

- Anne Catherine Hottua married Mathias Beaufils (6.9.)
- Nicolas Hottua married Marie Jeanne Petesch (6.10)
- Angela Hottua married Theodore Simmerl (6.11)
- Nicolas Hottua married Anne Marie Marnach(6.12)
- Suzanne Hottua married Pierre Pott (6.13).

6.9. Anne Catherine Hottua was born 26 March 1804 in Oberfeulen. In 1826 she married in Grosbous **Mathias Beaufils**. The Beaufils stem from Habergy in Belgium and have been woodworkers over generations.

7.24. Charles Beaufils was born 14 December 1833 to Mathias Beaufils and Anne Catherine Hottua (6.9.). He married **Madeleine Majerus**.

8.18. Michel Beaufils was born 2 June 1868 in Grosbous to Charles Beaufils and Madeleine Majerus (7.24.). He emigrated in March 1888 and worked as a woodworker in Le Mars, IA. There are no descendants.

8.19. Anton Beaufils was born 7 April 1872 in Grosbous. He emigrated in 1893 and was a carpenter and general contractor in Chicago. Antoine was also involved in the social life of the Luxembourg community in Chicago as a charter member of Section 3 Chicago of the Luxembourg Brotherhood of America 9 May 1897. The Beaufils have a woodworkers family background and the grandfather of Michel and Antoine, Mathias Beaufils, had married Anne Catherine Hottua 1804-1873 (6.9.). Antoine married **Frances Mary Schwerdel** and [26 descendants](#) are known.

6.10. Nicolas Hottua was born 24 January 1806 in Oberfeulen to Peter Hottua and Catherine Gloesener. He was also a blacksmith and farrier and married in 1835 **Marie Jeanne Petesch** from Bissen. The couple lived in Grosbous.

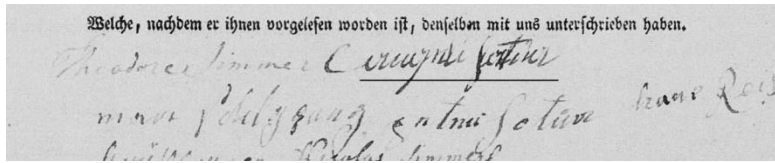
7.25. Nicholas Hottua was born 21 July 1848 in Grosbous to Nicolas Hottua and Marie Jeanne Petesch. He became a blacksmith, the traditional trade in the Hottua family, and emigrated about 1865. Nicolas married in San Francisco **Catherine McKenna** and the couple had 4 children of whom 3 survived: **Mary Ellen** born 1879, **William John** born 1880 and **Nicholas Andrew** born 1881. From a blacksmith shop by 1900, the business develops to a carriage manufacturer and later to a garage for auto service and repair located in 1922 at 730 Folsom Street in central San Francisco. The family's history is marked by the tragic death of Mary Ellen who committed suicide in 1899 as it is reported in a local newspaper. Nicolas died in 1913, his sons William in 1925 and Nicholas Andrew in 1954. Both sons didn't marry as it seems.

Hottua Mary Death 2 June 1899 [San Francisco Call 4.6.1899](#). Mail Bob Foster to CL 22.1.2011



6.11. Angela (Angelica) Hottua was born [16 February 1808](#) (14 upper left) in Oberfeulen to Peter Hottua and Catherine Gloesener. In 1827 she married **Theodor Simmerl** born 25 September 1797 in Oberfeulen.

Excerpt of the marriage record:



Angela signs "Aengeli", no doubt her nickname, "little angel".

Below her is her father's signature Peter Hotua

[Familysearch Feulen](#) M 1818-90 Image 100/1507 CL 31.1.2011

Theodor's family stems from Bavaria and lived for 2 generations in the Berg, Luxembourg iron mill which was operated by Bavarian workers. The couple had 12 children of whom 6 died as infants or in young age and 3 emigrated to the US:

- 7.26.. Peter Simmerl born 1827
- 7.27. Susanna Simmerl born 1831
- 7.28. Marie Catherine Simmerl born 1848.

Theodor Simmerl was a teacher in Oberfeulen from 1825 to at least 1830. In the 1848 census he was a "blanchisseur" = "white painter", i.e. the craftsman who painted the façade of houses with white chalk. He died in 1855. Son Peter emigrated to the US in Spring 1857 together with his sister Susanna who, unmarried, had given birth to a daughter Barbara 30 December 1856. In 1866 Peter Simmerl came back to Luxembourg and brought his mother, his younger sister Marie Catherine and his niece Barbara with him to Luxemburg, IA. Here is the obit of Angela Hottua published in the "Luxemburger Gazette" 27.7.1897:

"Granville, Sioux Co., Ia 19.July, 1897

Dear Mr. Gonner!

The honourable Mrs. Angela Simmerel, born Hottua died July 15th of old age infirmity. Often and well provided with the holy last rites, we may hope that she has reached the contemplation of God.

She was born in Oberfeulen, Gr. D. of Luxembourg in 1806. She entered matrimony with Mr. Simmerel, for long years teacher and sacristan in Oberfeulen. After a lengthy illness had taken her husband, she followed the request of her children and came with them to Luxemburg, Dubuque Co., Ia. Here she founded for herself a new home. Little by little her daughters married, and so she remained with her son Peter Simmerel, who remained unmarried and who took always loving care of her. After the decease of her son whom she always remembered she moved to Granville to her granddaughter, Mrs. Barbara Bunker, where she was cordially received and carefully looked after until the end of her life.

On Saturday, July 17th her mortal remains were handed over to the grave on the catholic cemetery near Granville, followed, despite the heat and the duty of the harvest, by a funeral procession of 50 attendants.

As she lived, she died, piously and good. R.I.P.

Respectfully N.L."

Source: ANLJXM 463

Granville, Sioux Co., Ia., }
19. Juli 1897. }

Geehrter Hr. Gonner!

Am 15. Juli verschied an Altersschwäche die achtbare Frau Angela Simmerel, geb. Hottua. Oft und wohlversehen mit den hl. Sterbesakramenten, dürfen wir hoffen, daß sie zur Anschauung Gottes gelangt ist.

Sie war geboren zu Oberfeulen, Großh. Luxemburg, im Jahre 1806. Den Ehestand trat sie ein mit Hrn. Simmerel, langjährigem Lehrer und Pfarrer in Oberfeulen. Nachdem eine langwierige Krankheit ihr ihren Gemahl dahingerafft hatte, folgte sie den Wünschen ihrer Kinder und kam mit ihnen nach Luxemburg, Dubuque Co., Ia. Hier gründete sie sich ein neues Heim. Nach und nach verheiratheten sich ihre Töchter, und so blieb sie bei ihrem Sohn, Peter Simmerel, der ehelos blieb und stets liebevoll für sie sorgte. Nach dem Dahinscheiden dieses ihr immer im Gedächtnisse gebliebenen Sohnes zog sie nach Granville zu ihrer Enkelin, Frau Barbara Bunker, allwo sie eine herzliche Aufnahme und stets sorgfältige Verpflegung bis zum Ende ihres Lebens fand.

Am Samstag, den 17. Juli, wurden, trotz Hitze und Beschäftigung in der Ernte, ihre sterblichen Ueberreste, gefolgt von einem Leichenzuge mit 50 Gefährten, auf dem lath. Gottesacker bei Granville dem Grabe übergeben.

Wie sie lebte, so starb sie, fromm und brav. R. I. P.

Achtungsvoll, N. L.

Grave of Angela Simmerl-Hottua 1808-1897 in Granville, IA
 Photo: Site Ancestry.com Nancy Schuler-Kettman



Angela Hottua and Theodor Simmerl have [268 known descendants](#), most of them in the US, among them:

- [Suzanne L. Bunkers](#), a distinguished scholar and professor of English at MSU in Mankato, MN who researched her family history and published it in: *"In Search of Susanna"*. Suzanne met Dan Hottua and Claude Lanners in Luxembourg.
- [Debra Mary LeBrun](#) from Dell Rapids, SD who married [John Rausch](#).

7.26. Peter Simmerl, son of Theodor and Angela Hottua, was born 22 April 1827. In 1852, he was sacristan at the Oberfeulen chapel and emigrated to the US in spring 1857 (arrival New York on the William B Travis 6 May, www.castlegarden.org), together with his sister Susanna who, unmarried, had given birth to a daughter Barbara 30 December 1856. In 1866 Peter Simmerl came back to Luxembourg and brought his mother, his younger sister Marie Catherine and his niece Barbara to Luxemburg, IA. We read in his mother's obit above that he stayed single and died 14 October 1885 in Luxemburg, IA. Peter remained a landowner in Feulen as we can see from this excerpt of the property register in 1869: Simmerl Pierre, house painter in *"Dubuques(Amérique)"*. A field and a garden inside the village represented clearly a value: why did he not sell when he left for good in 1866?

Bulletin des Propriétés

Simmerl Pierre propriétaire à Oberfeulen
 Indigénisme à Dubuques, Amérique (1869)

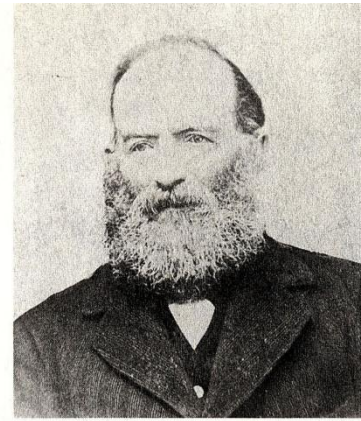
LIEU-DITS.	SECTION.	NATURE de CULTURE.	CONTENANCE		CLASSES.	REVENUS.	ANNÉE de la matricule.		ARTICLE de la matricule.
			Il.	A.			Cl.	FE.	
Landes	B	Landes	13	70		1.19			
Prof.		Jardin	03	70	2	2.03	1869		
			13	70		0.20			

Administration du Cadastre, Luxembourg, 2005

7.27. Susanna Simmerl, 3rd child of Theodor and Angela, was born 2 April 1831. In the 1852 and 1855 censuses she is listed as maid in the Jean Manderscheid household in Oberfeulen. On 30 December 1856 Susanna gave birth to her first child Barbara Simmerl. Just 4 months later she emigrated together with her brother Peter (7.26.), leaving behind her daughter Barbara with her widowed mother Angela and her 3 sisters Barbara, Anna and Catherine. She arrived in May 1857 in New York and seven months later, in December 1857, married Frank Jungblut/Youngblut, another Luxembourger from Aspelt, who had come to the United States in 1852. The couple began farming near Gilbertville, IA, just outside Waterloo, where they raised 9 children. Frank Youngblut died in 1892, and Susanna passed in 1906 in Gilbertville. [72 descendants](#) are listed in the author's database.



Susanna Simmerl Youngblut.



Frank Youngblut.

Susanna's great-great-granddaughter [Suzanne L. Bunkers](#) researched her life and wrote down the family history, framed with most interesting reflections on the status of non-wed mothers, in her book ["In Search of Susanna"](#).

Suzanne Bunkers dedicated to Susanna Simmerl another memorial in the form of a brick in the [Plaza of Heroines](#) at Iowa State University at Ames, shown in front of her daughter Rachel Bunkers' foot on the picture.

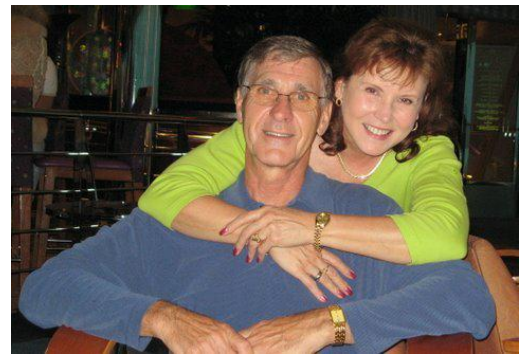
Photos: *In Search ...* p. 173 and 241



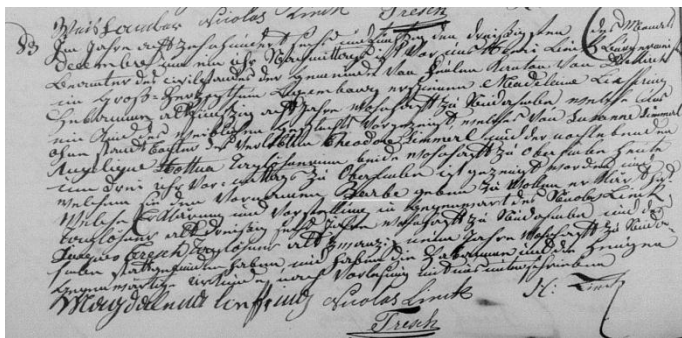
Rachel Bunkers, October 1995, at the Plaza of Heroines, outside the Carrie Chapman Catt Building, Iowa State University, Ames. Just in front of Rachel is the brick commemorating the life of Susanna Simmerl Youngblut. Next to it is the brick for Sarah Gillespie Huftalen.

7.28. Marie Catherine Simmerl was [born 6 October 1848](#) in Oberfeulen. She came to the US together with her mother in 1866 and married Paul Terns who had been born as [Paul Terrens 2 May 1842](#) in Grosbous and who also came to America in 1866. They lived in Gilbertville, IA and had 5 children. The history of this branch of the family has been researched by their great-granddaughter **Nancy Schuler-Kettman** from Waterloo, IA and [175 descendants](#) are known.

Kenneth and Nancy Schuler-Kettman
Photo: Facebook



8.20. Barbara Simmerl was born [30 December 1856](#) in Oberfeulen to Susanna Simmerl (7.27.).



Familysearch Feulen N 1833-90 Image 552/1448

In the year 1856 the 30th December at 1 pm appeared before me Henri Link mayor officer of civil records of the commune of Feulen canton Diekirch in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg Madeleine Lieftring midwife 58 years living in Niederfeulen who presented to me a child of female sex, born from Susanne Simmerl daughter of the late Theodore Simmerl and the still living Angelique Hottua daylabourer in Oberfeulen, today at 3 am in Oberfeulen and to whom she declared to give the first name Barbe.

Her mother left Luxembourg only 4 months after her birth for the United States and Barbara stayed with her grandmother Angela Hottua (6.11), widow of Theodor Simmerl. In Angela's household we see in the December 1864 census 3 women of 3 generations: Angélique 58, Cath(e)rine 16 and Barbe 7. The house name is "Kostesch", "at sacristan's", which refers to a job that has been done by Peter (7.26) and probably also by his father Theodor Simmerl.

Gemeinde-Commune Section-section		Bevölkerungs-Zettel für 1864 BULLETIN DE POPULATION POUR					
Hausnummer N°	NOM ET PRÉNOMS de tous les individus du même ménage.	Stand ou profession.	Alter jeder Person insbesondere. Age de chaque personne en particulier.		Civilstand des Person (légal, officiel ou verrimentet) ETAT-CIVIL de chaque personne (célibataire, marié ou veuf).	Anzahl der Familien, mit welchen der Haushalt be- trachtet wird. Nombre de familles dont le ménage est composé.	Anzahl der Personen insgesamt Total
			Jahre. Ans.	Mo- nate. Mois			
1	Angélique Angélique	gewerbl. (m)	58		verw.	1	
2	Simmerl Catharine	ausst. (m)	16		célibat.		
3	Simmerl Barbe	m	7	11	"		

ANL RP 1864 Census Oberfeulen Photo CL 6.10.2005

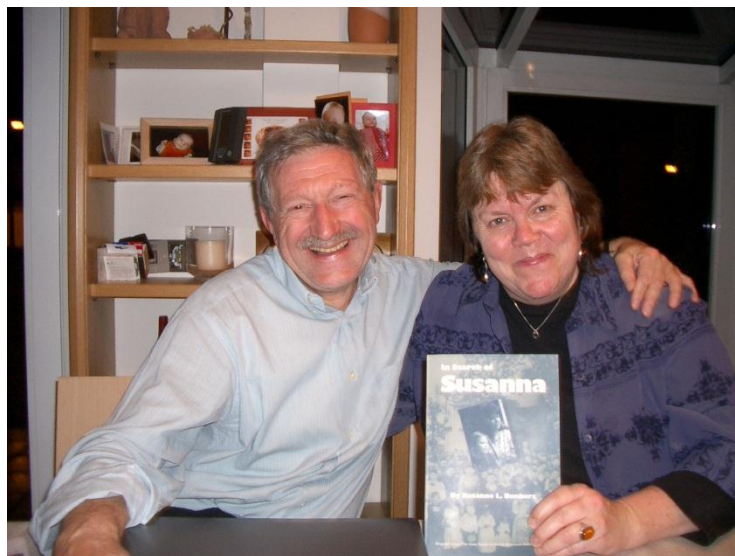
It is this group that Peter (7.26) will lead to America in 1866 and that will stay together in Luxemburg, IA. Barbara apparently never lived with her mother Susanna and in 1875 she married **Henry Bunkers** from Granville in Western Iowa. The couple had 12 children and in 1943 already 50 grandchildren were born. The author's database is not very complete as it lists only [50 descendants](#) by 2011.

The Bunkers-Simmerl family is portrayed here around 1910:



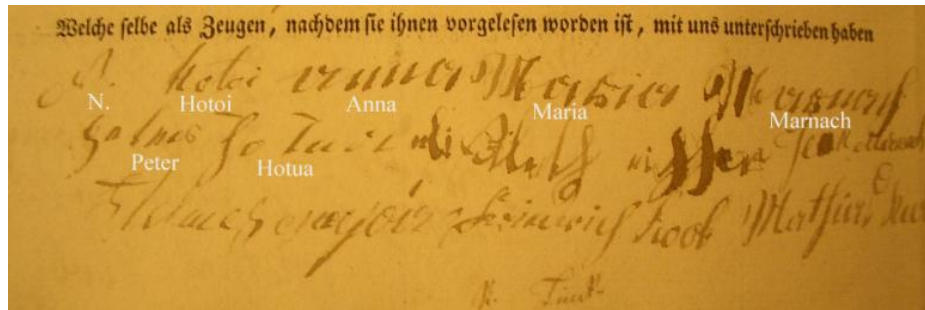
In Search of Susanna, p.81

Among Barbara's descendants is her great-granddaughter [Suzanne L. Bunkers](#) (1950) who has been introduced above and who deserves the credit of having woven her personal and family history in an impressive narration.



Suzanne Bunkers and Claude Lanners 1.12.2004 Luxembourg

6.12. Nicolas Hottua was [born 5 May 1810](#) in Oberfeulen to Peter Hottua and Catherine Gloesener (5.5.). He learned the blacksmith trade in the family shop and [married 14 February 1838](#) **Anne Marie Marnach** who was born in Oberfeulen 19 August 1814.



EC Commune Feulen Photo Claude Lanners 10.12.2009

Signatures under the marriage record of Nicolas Hottua and Anne Marie Marnach: Nicolas signs **Hotoi** in Latin characters, his father Peter **Hotua** in German and gothic characters; Anne Marie signs **Anna Maria** in German and gothic characters with a not very skilled hand.

The couple went to live to Niederfeulen. It is worthwhile to note that neither of the two sons of Peter's first marriage with Catherine Gloesener, the two Nicolas born 1806 and 1810 and both blacksmiths, took over the father's blacksmith shop. We can admit that the presence of the stepmother Elisabeth Huberty and 5 step siblings did not leave room, physically and psychologically, for a newly created family.

By 1838, a modern road was implemented between Ettelbruck and Heiderscheid to replace the old track dating back to Roman times. Nicolas seized the opportunity to build a house and blacksmith shop in Niederfeulen next to the Wark brook, between the old and the new road as we can see on the survey maps of 1825 and 1840:



ACT, Luxembourg, 2006

The house built by Nicolas remained in family property until recently and was the place of an iron working activity over more than 150 years until Léon Hottua retired in the 1990s. As time went by, the blacksmith became a locksmith and the horseshoe farrier a mechanic. In the 1960s a gasoline pump was added to serve the increasing number of cars and today the biggest part of the property is covered by a service station. The

locksmith shop was converted into a bank branch and is in 2011 a Chinese restaurant. A perfect illustration of the social-economic evolution during the last century.

The only historic photo of the “Schmidden” house existing shows an American army truck passing by in September 1944. Three months later, the house will be severely damaged during the Battle of the Bulge and transformed while rebuilt, changing the layout that had probably been the same since its construction in 1838. The vegetable garden is now part of the gas station. The South side of the house shows some interesting details: On the lower level of the house there are 3 doors: Right the cow stable, centre the pig stable and left a shed. Up to the early 20th century every household had a cow to be self-sufficient for milk and a couple of pigs for meat, plus hens for eggs. No self-service shops in those days! The 2 bow windows gave light to the original blacksmith shop. The ugly shed on the right that ruined the harmonious aspect of this traditional Luxembourg building was added probably after 1900 (bricks and steel sections) and removed after 1944. The 3 openings below the roof were aeration holes for the hay and straw barn under the roof.



Photo: General Patton Memorial Museum, Ettelbruck

Niederfeulen Hottua house



About
1960



2010

Nicolas Hottua died 16 May 1887 in Niederfeulen, whereas his wife Anne Marie Marnach had passed away 13 December 1885.

Nicolas and Anne Marie had 10 children who all lived to adulthood and of whom 5 emigrated to the United States:

- 7.29. Marie Elisabeth born 1839
- 7.30. Nicolas born 1843
- 7.31. Theresia born 1844
- 7.32. Marguerite born 1846
- 7.33. Peter born 1847

The second youngest son Jean continued the blacksmith activity (7.34.).

7.29. Marie Elizabeth Hottua was [born 4 January 1839](#) in Niederfeulen to Nicolas Hottua and Anne Marie Marnach. At the end of 1867, she still lives in her family, but at the end 1871 census she is no longer present.

In the 1900 Chicago census it is said she immigrated in 1868. About 1869, she marries in Chicago, IL **George Nicholas Schuster** who was [born 15 February 1825](#) in Niedermertzig. George Nicholas was a widower of Catherine Beck 1826-1865 from Oberfeulen with 7 children born 1852 to 1865. George Nicholas and Marie Elizabeth had 5 children. George Nicholas died 11 September 1882 and Marie Elizabeth 26 January 1902, both in Chicago and [84 descendants](#) are known.

George Nicholas (Jr.) Schuster was born 27 April 1877 in Chicago to George Nicholas and Marie Elizabeth Hottua. He ran a newspaper delivery business in Chicago and married 22 May 1906 in Independence, IA **Susanna "Suzie" Kayser** who was born 19 August 1882 in Independence, IA to parents also of Luxembourg origin. The family story goes that George came to Independence for a family event and saw/heard Susanna sing in the choir. The next sequence is known. George and Suzie had 7 children, 4 of them born in Chicago and 3 more in Dyersville, IA where the family moved to in 1917 and where George started Schuster Hardware on First Avenue:

- Mildred Schuster born 1907
- George N. Schuster born 1910
- Walter Schuster born 1914
- Louis A. Schuster born 1916
- Rosemary Schuster born 1919
- Margaret Schuster born 1922
- Harold Schuster born 1926

George Nicholas died 14 July 1968 in Luxemburg, IA and Suzie passed 29 September 1968 in Guttenberg, IA.

Mildred Schuster was born in 1907 in Chicago and moved with her family to Dyersville at age 9. At 17, she started a long teaching career in a local school. In 1938, Mildred earned a masters degree Magna Cum Laude at Northwestern University in Chicago. While teaching in Baltimore, she met her future husband Charles Victor Cate and they married in 1942 in Ft. Monroe, VA. Charles Cate made a career as officer in the army and Mildred followed him with their children to Panama, Japan and Germany, before settling in Arlington, VA when Lt. Col. Cate was assigned in 1962 to the Pentagon. Mildred returned to school taking economics courses at Georgetown University and resumed her teaching activity in a high school. After retirement she practised applied economics investing, successfully as it is told, in the stock market. Mildred passed away at the age of 96 years 30 April 2004 and has been buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

Mildred and Charles have 4 children and 12 grandchildren:

- **Charles I. Cate** of Vienna, VA,
- **Mary Susan Cate** (Charlie Carroll) of Finksburg, MD,
- **Joan E. Cate** (Jim Maquire) of Olean, NY,
- **Louis F. Cate** of Alexandria, VA.

George N. Schuster was born 10 September 1910 in Chicago. He entered the order of the [Society of Mary](#) (Marianists) in St. Louis, MO and attended Loyola University in Chicago to obtain his masters degree in 1935. He returned to St. Louis for the rest of his professional career. As a teacher of English and journalism, Brother Schuster began his lifelong work of establishing the Catholic Authors Press. The Press was a response to papal pleas for the Church and schools to build up good Catholic literature. He and his brother, Brother Louis Schuster (who was an artist) began spreading the word of "Living Catholic Authors", publishing booklets containing selections of recognized Catholic authors, poetry, biographies, history or fiction. Eventually Crown Editions, a series, was developed for students. The series includes works by G.K. Chesterton and Gertrude von Le Fort. An extensive collection of books was available for those seeking items that were scarce or out of print. Brother Schuster discontinued the enterprise of Catholic Authors in 1989 because of poor health and retired to the Marianist Residence at St. Mary's University. George died 26 July 2003 in San Antonio, TX.

Walter J. "Wally" Schuster was born 10 April 1914 in Chicago. He was a sheet metal worker and partner in Schuster Hardware in Dyersville, IA with his brother Harold for 46 years, a business founded by their father George Nicholas. Wally married **Mary Jane "Dolly" Evers** 19 August 1941 in Dyersville and they have 5 children:

- **Karolyn Schuster** is a freelance journalist. She works in New York and lives in Connecticut with her husband Bob Harwood. They have 2 daughters.
- **Norma Schuster** lives in Washington DC with her husband Frank Monahan. She has 2 children.
- **Linda Schuster** married Gary Weckwerth and lives in Milwaukee, WI.
- **David Schuster** lives in Dyersville with his family.
- **Dan Schuster** lives in West Lafayette, IN.

Walter Schuster died 13 September 1996 and his wife 27 January 2007, both in Dyersville.

Louis A. Schuster was born in Chicago 4 December 1916. He also joined the [Society of Mary](#) and accomplished a long scientific and academic career as we can read in this [tribute](#).

Louis Schuster visited Luxembourg a first time by 1955 and stayed with the Lanners-Hottua family in Bettembourg, at a time the author was not yet fluent in English. He was back in later years and stayed in touch with the René Hottua family in Esch-sur-Alzette.

"Louie" Schuster died 25 September 1989 in San Antonio, TX.

Brother Louis Schuster S.M.; 72 formerly of Dyersville and a member of the Marianist order at St. Marys University, San Antonio, Texas, died April 25 at Humana Hospital, San Antonio.

The funeral mass was April 28 at Holy Rosary Catholic Church with burial in the Marianist Cemetery on St. Marys campus. A memorial fund has been established in his name. Contributions can be sent to the Office of University Relations, St. Marys University, One Camino Santa Maria, San Antonio, Texas 78284-0400.

Born in Chicago, December 4, 1916, he entered the Society of Mary religious order in 1934. He had been a member of the English faculty and had served as department chairman and graduate adviser.

Survivors are three brothers, Harold and Walter Schuster of Dyersville and Brother George Schuster, S.M., St. Josephs community at St. Marys campus, and three sisters, Rosemary Schumacher of Huron, South Dakota, Mildred Cate of Arlington, Virginia and Margaret Hornsby of Washington, D.C.

He was a Renaissance scholar of Latin and literature, prize-winning watercolour artist, Piper Professor, honor graduate of Oxford University, a recognized Shakespearean and Sir Thomas More authority, prominent member in the world wide International Shakespeare Congress of Scholars, and author of three volumes of Sir Thomas Morus' work published by Yale University.

Schuster received a bachelor of arts degree from St. Mary's University in 1937, a master of arts degree from St. Louis University in 1945, bachelors and masters from the University of Oxford, England in 1954 and 1957 and a doctorate of philosophy from the University of Texas in Austin in 1961.

He was one of only three American professors selected by the National Council of Teachers of English to conduct the First International Seminar in the Humanities held during the summer of 1970 in several European countries. He was a member of the HemisFair Arts Council, the Texas Historic Theatre Foundation, the Henry Huntington Fellows, National Association of Chairmen and Who's Who in American Education.

Obit Dyersville Historical Society to CL by Eileen Hermes-Gaul, Luxemburg, IA 15.1.2007

Rosemary Susan Schuster was born 19 February 1919 in Dyersville to George Nicholas and Suzie Schuster. She married 10 June 1940 in Dyersville **Charles M. Schumacher** who was born 21 August 1914 in Orleans, NE. A son was born, but did not live. In 1960 the couple adopted Frank. Charles had graduated in 1939 in forestry and worked for the US Department of Agriculture, Natural Resource Conservation Service. His job led him to a number of assignments throughout the country, before settling down in Huron, SD in 1964.

Charles [died 25 October 2005](#) in Huron.



Rosemary, Frank and Charles Schumacher 1993

Frank Schumacher was born in 1960. After graduation from Northwestern University in Chicago he started an [impressive career in marketing](#).

Frank left his job with the Publicis Worldwide Agency in 2003 to look after his parents in Huron, SD.

He now lives with his mother in San Francisco and is in 2012 Senior Vice President and Managing Director of the San Francisco office of [PJA Advertising + Marketing](#), Cambridge, MA.

Frank Schumacher on Union Square, San Francisco, 2011



Margaret Schuster was born in 1922 in Dyersville. She married **Bill Hornsby** and lives in Washington DC. They have 2 daughters, Margie and Jeannie, and a son Bill Jr.

Harold Schuster was born 27 January 1926 in Dyersville. He was co-owner of the Schuster Hardware store in Dyersville with his brother Walter. In 1949 he married **Starla Maiers** whose mother Barbara Stronck also has roots in Luxembourg. While visiting Luxembourg in 2008, Sue Schuster discovered and visited the wine grower family [Stronck](#) in [Greiveldange](#).

Harold died 29 August 2010 in Dubuque, IA and Starla lives in Dyersville.

Harold and Starla have 8 children and [37 descendants](#) are known by the author:

1. Barbara Schuster married Jim Maiers and they live in Dubuque;
2. Aimee Schuster married William Oeter; she passed away in 1998;
3. Jeffrey Schuster lives in Queens, New York City;
4. Joan Schuster married Dave Elenz and they live in Dyersville;
5. Sue Schuster married Chris Okechukwu and they live in Paramus, NJ. Sue and family visited Luxembourg in 2008:



L to R: Claude and Mariette Lanners, Chris and Sue with Sharon, Alan and Laura, Michel and Edmée Lanners with Bob, Nick and Pit. Mich's home 28.8.2008

6. John Schuster is now married with Jennifer Lewis and they live in California.
7. Joe Schuster lives with his family in Novi, MN.
8. Ann Renee Schuster married Christopher Hollins and they live in New Jersey.



The Harold Schuster family at Sue's wedding 1993

Sources for the Schuster-Hottua family: Frank Schumacher, Obits Mildred Schuster, Harold Schuster by Eileen Hermsen-Gaul, Jeff and Sue Schuster.

7.30. Nicholas Hottua was [born 5 January 1843](#) in Niederfeulen to Nicolas Hottua and Anne Marie Marnach. In line with the long family tradition he learned the blacksmith trade and he emigrated to the US between 1864 when he was present in the census and 1867 when he is no longer listed. He married **Magdalena "Lena" Thorn** and at least 5 children were born in Chicago:

1. Mary Hottua born 23 May 1873 married John Louis Oesterreich. She died in 1955 in Los Angeles, CA.
2. Peter Hottua born 9 September 1875 lived probably in 1910 in Walworth Cy., WI. In the 1900 Chicago Directory he was listed as carriage maker at his father's address.
3. Annie Hottua born in December 1877 married in 1901 in Cook Cy, IL Christopher Ehrmeyer. Their grandson [Gerald C. "Jerry" Ehrmeyer](#) (1935-2005) pursued an academic and management career at the University of Wisconsin in Eau Claire.
4. Kate Hottua born in December 1881 in Chicago.

5. Theresa Hottua born in February 1885 married in 1905 in Chicago William A. Schiller. She died of tuberculosis 24.2.1913. A son Gregory W. Schiller was born in 1907 and died 1972 in Orlando, FL. (Mail Bob Foster 16.1.2011)

In the 1875-76 Chicago Directory and in the 1880 census Nicholas is listed as carriage manufacturer at 446 South Halsted Str. Also in 1880, he was involved in a traffic crash:

"Luxembourg news. A sad news is reported to us from Chicago. To see different friends, an acquaintance came to our agent P. Kalmus in Chicago. Together they went to Ns Hottua who should bring them with horse and cart to other friends. At 18th Street a heavy wagon ran into the cart in which Kalmus, Hottua and the friend sat. All three fell out. But the poor Kalmus had his breast crushed and died in the arms of his friends."

Luxemburger Gazette 26.10.1880 P.5 ANL JXM 455

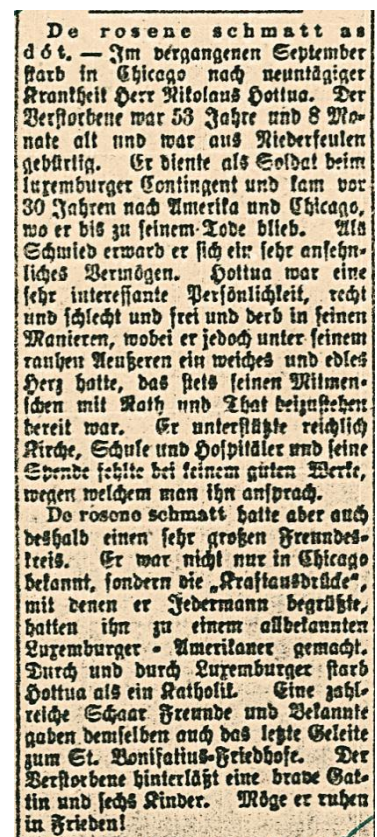
Nicholas Hottua was a founding member of one of the several mutual support associations of the Luxemburgers in the US, the "*Luxemburger Central-Unterstützungsbund*" incorporated 4 January 1876 in Chicago. He acted as a treasurer during the first years according to reports in the newspaper of the America Luxemburgers, the Luxemburger Gazette. Nicholas' half first cousin Martin Hottua b. 24 April 1857 in Oberfeulen (7.38) was "*Protokollierender Sekretär*" i.e. Secretary in charge of the minutes in 1877 and 1878.

Nicolas Hottua died 4 September 1896 and his obituary deserves reading:

"The "rude" blacksmith is dead

Last September Mr. Nikolaus Hottua died in Chicago, after an illness of nine days. The deceased was 53 years and 8 months old and was born in Niederfeulen. He served as a soldier in the Luxembourg Contingent and came 30 years ago to America and Chicago, where he stayed until his death. As a blacksmith he acquired a very considerable fortune. Hottua was a very interesting personality, rough and ready and frank and coarse in his manners, having however under his rough exterior a soft and generous heart that was always ready to help his fellow man with word and deed. He supported generously church, school and hospitals and he never failed to give for charitable purposes.

The "rosene Schmitt" had also for this reason a very wide circle of friends. He was not only known in Chicago, but the strong language with which he greeted everybody, had made him a well-known Luxembourg-American. A Luxembourger through and through, Hottua died as a Catholic. A large attendance of friends and acquaintances accompanied him on his last way to St. Boniface Cemetery. The deceased leaves a good wife and six children. May he rest in peace." LUXEMBURGER GAZETTE 13.10.1896 page 5 (ANL Film JXM 462)



De rosene schmitt as d 6 t. — Im vergangenen September starb in Chicago nach neuntägiger Krankheit Herr Nikolaus Hottua. Der Verstorbene war 53 Jahre und 8 Monate alt und war aus Niederfeulen gebürtig. Er diente als Soldat beim luxemburger Contingent und kam vor 30 Jahren nach Amerika und Chicago, wo er bis zu seinem Tode blieb. Als Schwied erwarb er sich eine sehr ansehnliche Vermögen. Hottua war eine sehr interessante Persönlichkeit, recht und schlecht und frei und dert in seinen Manieren, wobei er jedoch unter seinem rauhen Aeußeren ein weiches und edles Herz hatte, das stets seinen Mitmenschen mit Rath und That beizuhelfen bereit war. Er unterstützte reichlich Kirche, Schule und Hospitäler und seine Spende fehlte bei seinem guten Werke, wegen welchem man ihn ansprach. De rosone schmitt hatte aber auch deshalb einen sehr großen Freundeskreis. Er war nicht nur in Chicago bekannt, sondern die „Araustausdrücke“, mit denen er Jedermann begrüßte, hatten ihn zu einem allbekanntem Luxemburger - Amerikaner gemacht. Durch und durch Luxemburger starb Hottua als ein Katholik. Eine zahlreiche Schaar Freunde und Bekannte gaben demselben auch das letzte Geleit zum St. Bonifatius-Friedhofe. Der Verstorbene hinterläßt eine brave Gattin und sechs Kinder. Rüge er ruhen in Frieden!

The nickname "rosene Schmitt" made its way to Luxembourg and has been heard by the author many years ago from his mother. The identity of this colourful personage however was uncovered only when the obit of Nicolas Hottua was found. Nicolas Hottua and Lena Thorn have [15 known descendants](#).

7.31. Theresa Hottua was born 5 April 1844 in Niederfeulen. Censuses and a marriage license discovered by Bob Foster in 2011 shed light on her biography. She left Feulen for the United States in 1870 and apparently

married a **Henry Merk** in Memphis TE 29 April 1880. The marriage license is issued on the name of Teresa N Hottua, without any other detail. But as the name Teresa Hottua is pretty rare if not unique, it is assumed that this is Thérèse Hottua from Feulen who was present in America at the date of the marriage. End 1887 she is back home and listed in her father's household. Did her marriage fail or did her husband die? In the end 1890 Feulen census she is listed as widow, in Chicago since a year. This coming back and leaving again is confirmed in Aender Hatz, Emigrants et Rémigrants: A Thérèse Hottua from Niederfeulen re-immigrates in 1886 and emigrates in 1890. In 1900 she lives in Dyersville, IA, single, as housekeeper for her cousin Mathias Pott (7.21.). The 1910 US census finds her in Buchanan County, IA (42 miles West of Dyersville), 66, single, immigrated in 1870 and naturalized, owning a house free of mortgage.

7.32. Margaret Hottua was [born 30 January 1846](#) in Niederfeulen to Nicolas Hottua and Anne Marie Marnach. Her departure from Luxembourg was between 1864 and 1867 according to the censuses. In 1869 she married in Independence, IA **Nicholas Keitges** who was born in 1832 in Nothum, Luxembourg. The couple moved around quite a bit:

"Nicholas Keitges and his wife lived in various places. In 1869, after they married they went to Kansas to buy land, but the grasshoppers were so bad there they left again. From 1871 to 1875 he farmed in Nebraska, but the grasshoppers ate his crops four years in a row, and it was either move or starve, so they moved again. In 1875 he bought 140 acres of land in Harrison Co., Iowa and he farmed there for 8 years. His wife died while he lived there. In 1883 he sold out and went to Oregon to look for land, but he came back after two months and bought a farm near Oto. They had five children, but only three lived: Anna (Mrs. John Kayser), Susan Keitges Jenkins, and Peter who moved to Canada." [History of Danbury](#) Mail Bob Foster to CL 30 December 2010.

Margaret died 16 February 1877 in Dunlap, IA at the age of 31 years, of a "Kindbettleiden", i.e. complications of giving birth to a stillborn child, as we take from her obit in the Luxemburger Gazette.

Nicholas and Margaret have [16 descendants](#) known by the author.

7.33. Peter Hottua was born 10 May 1847 in Niederfeulen. He emigrated in 1866 and lived in Dubuque, IA, Elba, MN and finally in Preston, NE where he died 31 December 1888. Here an extract of his obit published in the Luxemburger Gazette 15 January 1889 p.5, col.2:

"The Indian was in those days still the master of the region and many scars on his body gave evidence of bloody fights with them. He worked untiringly at his trade as a blacksmith, and even if he didn't leave money and fortune, wife and children, there is one person who mourns his death, and that is his brother Nikolaus in Chicago. A.N."

7.34. Jean Hottua was [born 22 March 1854](#) in Niederfeulen. He was the 9th child and the youngest son of Nicolas Hottua and Anne Marie Marnach. As his 2 older brothers Nichlas (7.30.) and Peter (7.33.) had left the home country for America, he took over the family blacksmith business. Jean [married 9 January 1883](#) in Feulen **Catherine Schlim** born 29 March 1857 in Oberfeulen.

Jean and Catherine became the parents of 7 children, among them:

- Nicolas Hottua, grandfather of the author,
- Léonie Hottua (8.21.)
- Therese Hottua (8.22.).

Catherine Schlim died young at 37 years in 1894, only 2 years after the birth of the last child in 1892. Jean Hottua passed away 5 July 1916.

Nicolas Hottua was born 9 August 1883 in Niederfeulen and married 17 June 1909 **Justine Bormann** who was born 24 February 1883 in Oberfeulen. Justine's Bormann family has a considerable US geometry that is presented [here](#).

Their daughter **Suzanne Hottua** was born 4 April 1910 and married in 1938 **Eugene Lanners**, also from Niederfeulen. The author, **Claude Lanners**, born in 1939, is their son. The Lanners have their family site [here](#).

8.21. Leonie Hottua was born 2 February 1888 in Niederfeulen to Jean Hottua and Catherine Schlim. She left Feulen in 1906 for New York and migrated hence and forth over the next decades: 17 October 1913: enters NY, 1914-1918 in Iowa, 1919-1928 in Luxembourg, 21 May 1928: enters New York. Léonie stayed single, a status that of course increased her inter-continental mobility, and served in different households in New York. During her 9 years period in Luxembourg from 1919 to 1928 she was most likely the person that ran her brother Nicolas' household after the untimely death of Justine Bormann in 1920, less than a year after the birth of the last of 6 children.

Léonie obviously kept contacts with her aunt Marie Elisabeth Schuster-Hottua (7.29.) who lived in Chicago, as Marie Elisabeth's son Louis Schuster reports her death in New York in the 1960's.

8.22. Therese Hottua was born 20 March 1890 in Niederfeulen. She boards the "Vaderland" 20 March 1909 in Antwerp and arrives 30 March in New York, going to her cousin (on her mother's side) Jules Conter. Less than a year later, she is married to Charles Garcia, born in Spain in 1884, who is a hotel waiter. As Jules was a cook, the initiating of this first ibero-luxembourgish union in the family, (the second is the author's daughter Martine with Jose Manuel Ruiz 80 years later), seems clear. Despite Bob Foster's competent research, the trace of Therese and her husband is lost.

The Peter HOTTUA - Elisabeth HUBERTY lines

Hottua Peter 1779 - Huberty Elisabeth 5.6.	Hottua George 1823 - Mondace Maria 6.14.	
	Hottua Jean 1824 - Heinen Marie Catherine 6.15.	Hottua Mary 1850 7.35. Hottua Henry 1853 7.36. Hottua John 1855 7.37. Hottua Martin 1857 7.38. Hottua Anna 1860 7.39
	Hottua Henry 1829 6.16.	

5.6. After the death of his first wife Catherine Gloesener (5.5.) in 1819, **Peter Hottua** born 1779 in Oberfeulen [married 13 December 1821](#) in Feulen **Elisabeth Huberty**, who was born 11 January 1798 in Bastendorf.

They are the parents of 10 children, among them:

- George Hottua born 1823 (6.14.)
- Jean Hottua born 1824 (6.15.)
- Henri Hottua born 1829 (6.16.).

Peter died 2 November 1847. For his wife Elisabeth Huberty no death date/place has been found. Nor for 4 of the couple's children: Pierre born 1831, Marie born 1833, Jean born 1836 and Jean born 1844. In the 1852 census this group is still present at home, but no longer in 1855 or later. They had apparently left and no trace of them has been discovered, neither in Feulen nor in another place in Luxembourg, despite a systematic screening of the civil records for the name Hottua by the author in the National Archives in Luxembourg. We must therefore admit that they emigrated, maybe to the United States, but possibly to one of the neighbouring countries France, Belgium or Germany. A possible identity with the victims of the "[Floridian](#)"

[shipwreck](#) 1849 was considered, but Elisabeth is well and living when she co-signs in 1854 the sales deed of the family property. See Jean Hottua 6.15.

6.14. George Hottua was [born 3 March 1823](#) in Oberfeulen. He was registered as Gera(r)dus, the name of his grandfather on his mother's side and no doubt godfather, but was called George and became a blacksmith like his father. The Feulen censuses situate his emigration between 1844 and 1847. In 1852 he married in Dubuque, IA, **Maria Mondace**. The couple had 3 children and [286 descendants](#) are known.

George died 7 August 1861 in Dubuque, leaving his widow with 3 young children:

- Elizabeth Hottua age 4,
- Mary and Mathias Hottua (twins) age 3.

Maria Mondace died 22 November 1882 in Caledonia, MN.

- **Elizab~~eth~~ Hottua** was born 11 June 1856 in Dubuque to George and Mary Hottua (6.14). On 6 June 1877 she married in Hastings, MN **Peter Eltgroth** who was born 24 April 1851 in Tintange, Belgium, a village on the Luxembourg border that had been part of Luxembourg before 1839. Peter's father, Mathias Elgeroth, was a woodworker and he emigrated with his wife and 6 children (6 out of 13 had died in infancy). The family arrived in Caledonia, MN in 1862. Peter and Elizabeth were the parents of 5 children and [207 descendants](#) are listed in the author's database. Elizabeth Hottua died 23 October 1899 in Caledonia, MN and Peter Eltgroth 20 July 1935 in Hastings, MN.

Peter Eltgroth and Elizabeth Hottua family about 1892

Back: Mary Eltgroth b.1878, Nicholas M. E. b.1880, Elizabeth Hottua b.1856. Middle: Peter Eltgroth b.1851, Matthew E. b.1886, Front: George Eltgroth



b.1884, John Nich. E. b.1882 Photo: Della Mae Novak-Eltgroth 5 May 2011

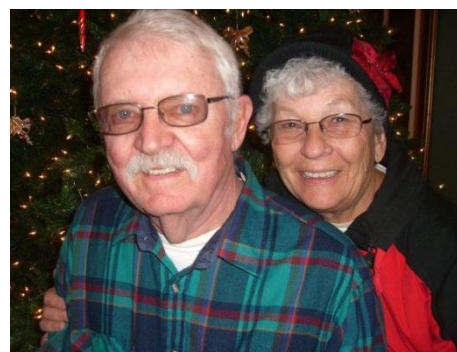
Elizabeth Eltgroth-Hottua 1856-1899 about 1895

Photo: Della Mae Novak-Eltgroth 5 June 2011



Among their descendants are:

- [Della Mae Eltgroth](#) born in 1940 and is a great-granddaughter of Elizabeth Hottua. She married **Fred Novak** and they live in Yuma, AZ, spending their summers back home in Fairmont, MN. Della has done extensive family research and shared her work with the author.



[Annelies K.Hagemeister](#), since 2008 Associate professor at Minnesota State University in Mankato with teaching areas in social work research, social welfare policy, and domestic violence.

- **Peter George “Pete” Eltgroth** born 1940 and married in 1967 to **Betsy McGuire**. Pete looks back on an outstanding scientific and professional career that stretches from CalTech in 1962 via a Ph.D. in physics from Harvard University to the position of director of the Centre for Applied Scientific Computing at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. In-between he worked for NASA and was an astronaut candidate in 1967. Pete and Betsy live in Livermore, CA and have 3 children.

Darla Willette-Eltgroth, Della Novak-Eltgroth,
Pete Eltgroth, LaDonna Schweiger-Eltgroth
10 September 2009 at Fairmont, MN airport when Pete and Betsy flew their plane from California for a visit with their Minnesota cousins.



- **Richard Eltgroth** born 1941 who married Louise Smolak. They have 5 children and 12 grandchildren and live in Sauk Centre, MN.

Rich Eltgroth and his siter Rita visiting Pete Eltgroth in Livermore, CA 7 April 2011



Mary Hottua was born 22 June 1857 in Dubuque, IA to George and Mary Hottua (6.14). She married **Peter Meyer** 20 January 1880 in Caledonia, MN. The couple farmed in Fulda, MN and had 13 children. [76 descendants](#) are known. Among their great-grandchildren is **Wendy Meyer** born in 1952 who married **Tom Prokosch**. Wendy and Tom live on a farm near Mora, MN and she was librarian in Mora.

Wendy Prokosch with Grandchildren
Photo: Facebook

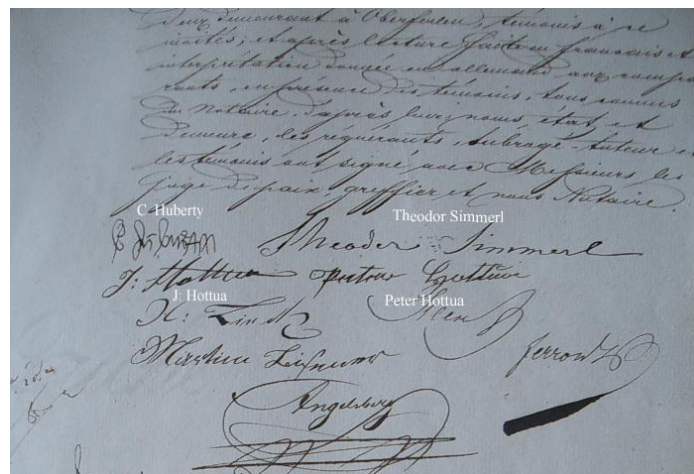


6.15. Jean Hottua was [born 6 November 1824](#) in Oberfeulen to Peter Hottua and Elisabeth Huberty. In the family tradition he learns the blacksmith trade as we read in the 1847 census. In 1849 he marries **Marie Catherine Heinen** who was [born 26 May 1826](#) in Marnach, L.

Jean and Marie Catherine will have 8 children of whom 3 will die in infancy and the other 5 will emigrate to the United States:

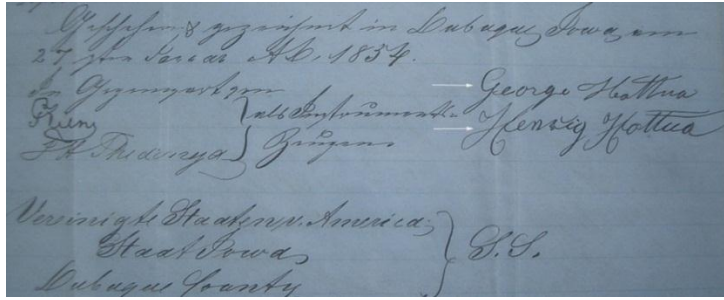
- Marie "Mary" Hottua born 1850 (7.35.)
- Henri "Henry" Hottua born 1853 (7.36.)
- Jean "John" Hottua born 1855 (7.37.)
- Martin Hottua born 1857 (7.38.)
- Anna Hottua born 1860 (7.39.).

Jean's (1824) father Peter Hottua died in 1847, and in the early 1850's there was a cohabitation under one roof of 2 households and 3 generations: Peter's widow Elisabeth Huberty with 3 minor children (Marie b. 1833, Jean b. 1836 and Jean b. 1844), a married son (Jean 1824) with 2 children of his own and a major son Peter b. 1831. Two sons had already emigrated to the US: George born 1823 (6.14.) and Henry born 1829 (6.16.). It was time for Jean to take over the family property and especially the blacksmith shop. The inheritance was however a complicated issue involving a widow with 3 minor children and 2 sons living in America. On 11 May 1854, the heirs of Peter Hottua sold the commonly owned real estate in a public auction sale under supervision of the court and in presence of the tutor of the minor children, Theodor Simmerl. He was the husband of Angela Hottua (6.11.), a daughter of Peter Hottua from his first marriage with Catherine Gloesener. Among the 11 lots of the sale was "a house with a small blacksmith shop, free space in front and a garden in the back, known as Schmieden (blacksmith's) situated in Oberfeulen". Jean Hottua (1824), "co vendor for one seventh" bought this lot for 567.50 francs. He had of course to do so, as the blacksmith shop was the income basis for his family. Here is the page of the notary deed with the signatures:



ANL MCN 1914 Angelsberg 1854 Deed 83 Sale Hottua-Huberty 11.5.1854 Oberfeulen
Photo: 7418 Claude Lanners 17 December 2009

As George (6.14.) and Henry Hottua (6.16.) were not present, they had given a general proxy to their mother which is attached to the notary deed. The proxy was signed in Dubuque, IA 27 January 1854. It is written in German in Gothic characters and bears on page 2 the signatures of George and Henry:



ANL MCN 1914 Angelsberg Sale Hottua-Huberty 11 May 1854 Photo Cl. Lanners 17 Dec. 2009

This document may bear the only handwritten trace left of George and Henry and has as such an “affective” interest for George’s descendants.

Beside his main job as blacksmith, Jean Hottua also served as [town crier](#) as we can read in the 1867 census. His talents were also used by notaries in public sales where the crier’s mission consisted not only in announcing the objects on sale, but also in inducing potential buyers to go up as high as possible in their offer.

Jean Hottua [died 18 October 1873](#) in Oberfeulen at the age of 49 years. His death is declared by his brother-in-law Peter Pott: all his 8 children are either dead or may have left the country. His wife Marie Catherine Heinen had passed 3 years before at the age of 44.

The death of Jean Hottua ends a 100 years of presence of the Hottua family in Oberfeulen which had begun with the arrival of Michel Hottua (4.3.) from Oberpallen in 1769. The house and the forge have been bought by the neighbouring Schleich farmer family and have been demolished to be integrated, probably around 1900, into the barn/stable complex that is shown on the photo below. In 2011, the barn in turn is scheduled to disappear for a condominium development.



Oberfeulen, Rue Vieille, Barn where Hottua house stood, left of house #1 Photo Clade Lanners 10.12.2009
Position: 06°01'57.8"E 49°50'49.1"N



Photo: ACT Luxembourg map.geoportail.lu

7.35. Mary Hottua was [born 24 June 1850](#) in Oberfeulen to Jean Hottua and Marie Catherine Heinen. Her last trace in Luxembourg is found in the December 1871 census when she acts as housekeeper in her father's household, her mother having passed away in June 1870. Her father dies in 1873 and the household does not show up any more in the 1875 census. We can therefore situate her emigration to the US around 1874. As the 5 surviving children will live in America, the question comes up whether they travelled together or at least for some of them in a group. Pending more precise information to be unearthed, it is admitted that at least Mary, Martin and Anna did so as they will all live in Chicago. Their age, 24, 17 and 14 makes a common journey of the siblings the more likely as pointed out Bob Foster.



Why Chicago? This city was of course a major Luxembourg settlement and hub for the Midwest farmland destinations, but for our travellers the presence of their half-first cousin Nicholas Hottua (7.20) from Niederfeulen, also a blacksmith, might have been decisive. And Mary's choice when looking for a husband shows again the ironworker connection: she married 12 July 1877 in Chicago **Nicholas Feipel**, blacksmith, who was [born 20 November 1846](#) in Buschrodt, Wahl, Luxembourg.



Nicholas and Mary were the parents of 5 children and [23 descendants](#) are known to the author. Mary died 13 November 1925 and Nicholas Feipel 19 April 1932, both in Chicago.



Mary Hottua picking tomatoes in garden about 1915

The Feipel-Hottua family 1901
876 N Irving Avenue Chicago
Photos: Bob Foster Collection

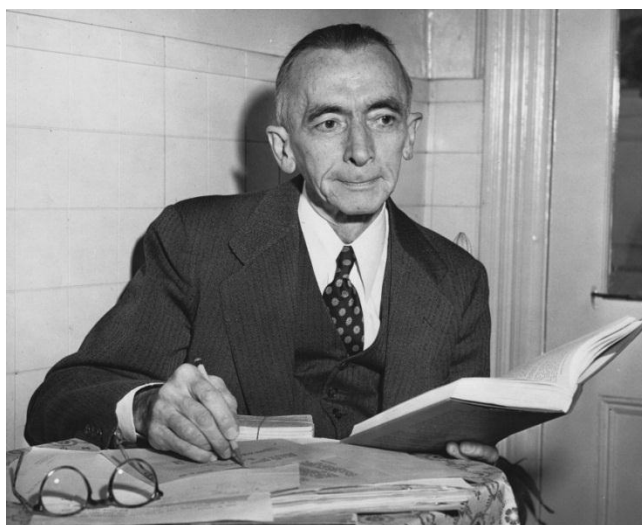
"I assume the house was designed so that it could be used by two families, or one family with boarders. In a typical floor plan, the right-hand door opens either directly into the living room on the main floor or onto a corridor with doorways to the other rooms. The left-hand door opens onto a staircase leading to the second-floor rooms. The kitchen was often in the basement. I do not know if there was a tenant at 876 Irving in 1901, or if the Feipels used both floors and the basement for themselves." Bob Foster



Their son **Louis Nicholas Feipel** born 21 August 1883 in Chicago became a librarian and distinguished scholar at the [Brooklyn Public Library](#). His grandson **Bob Foster** has helped a lot in researching Mary's family and has contributed Louis' biography:

"Louis N. Feipel (1883-1968), son of Mary Hottua and Nicholas Feipel, was born and raised in Chicago, Illinois. The first member of his family to be college-educated, he attended Northwestern University from 1904 to 1906. Inspired by his love of books, in 1907 Feipel moved to Annapolis, Maryland, to work as an assistant librarian at the U. S. Naval Academy Library. During his time in Annapolis, he wrote several monographs on naval history, which were published in the [United States Naval Institute Proceedings](#). In 1914 Feipel became Editor of Publications at the Brooklyn Public Library, where he remained for 35 years, rising to the position of Superintendent of Book Order at one of the country's largest public library systems.

Feipel's life-long interest in book production, distribution, and use are reflected in numerous articles on library science and related subjects, culminating with his co-authorship of the authoritative *Library Binding Manual* (1951). His research on word usage and names led to articles published in academic journals such as *American Speech*, although most of the citations he provided to the *Oxford English Dictionary* were rejected as mere "Americanisms". Feipel became best known for his hobby of identifying editing errors in already-published books and sending lengthy letters to their authors. Some did not respond and others were



merely polite, but several hundred engaged Feipel in dialogs about the authorial process and standards of usage, punctuation and style. These correspondents included major authors such as D. H. Lawrence, Sinclair Lewis ("Feipel is a wonder"), John Dos Passos, and Robert Graves; important cultural figures of the period including Scott Moncrieff (who translated Proust into English), Llewelyn Powys and his brother John Cowper Powys, the civil rights leader Elmer Gertz, and Leon Trotsky; and authors such as Fannie Hurst and Cecil Torr whose fame has not outlasted their times. Feipel's correspondence with authors, described in a [feature article](#) written by E. B. White in the *New Yorker* magazine, led to numerous freelance editorial assignments, including a key role in the multi-volume catalogue of the Frick Collection.

Always proud of his Luxembourg heritage, Feipel visited the country in 1911. During World War II, he assisted the Luxembourg Consulate in New York, in preparing a series of pamphlets on Luxembourg and its culture."

7.36. Henry Hottua was [born 26 May 1853](#) in Oberfeulen to Jean Hottua and Marie Catherine Heinen. He emigrated about 1874, as we read in a search request posted in the *Luxemburger Gazette* 13 March 1877: "*Where is Henry Hottua from Oberfeulen, Grand Duchy of Luxembourg? The said immigrated in America in 1874. The last news came from New York City on November 23, 1875. Information asked by his brother Martin Hottua, Nr 446, South Halstead Str., Chicago, Ill.*"

Apparently Henry did not see his brother's note and no contact was made later: Henry is not mentioned in the obit of his brother John (7.37.). He married 15.9.1889 in Manhattan, NYC **Emma Lechner** who was born in Alt Wiesloch in Germany in the Heidelberg area. Henry's profession is butcher.

A son **Mattis William Hottna** was born 20 January 1891 in New York, found by Bob Foster thanks to his creative research for the misspelled Hottua name.

No later trace of Henry's family has been discovered so far. It is likely that they left NYC, but did they go beyond the United States? Or did Henry die, as an Emma Hottma married Friedrich Kull 19 December 1895 in Manhattan?

7.37. John Hottua was born 6 April 1855 in Oberfeulen. In the 1880 US Census he is registered in Liberty Township, IA as labourer in the household of Nickolaus Henkels, farmer, also of Luxembourg origin. In 1880 he is a guest at the wedding of Peter Mergen and Susanna Reisen in Luxemburg, IA, as "*old school fellow of the bridegroom from Oberfeulen*". He died in August 1901 in Luxemburg, IA, as the Luxemburger Gazette 3 September 1901 reports in his obit.

7.38. Martin Hottua was [born 24 April 1857](#) in Oberfeulen. He probably emigrated in 1874 and in 1877 he lived in Chicago at 446 S Halsted Street when he posted the search message for his brother Henry (7.36.). Martin was an active member of the local Luxembourger community as he was "*Protokollierender Sekretär*" i.e. secretary in charge of the minutes in 1877 and 1878 of the "*Luxemburger Central-Unterstützungsbund*" (Luxembourg Central Benefit Society, a mutual support organisation acting as an insurance in case of disease/death of its members). His half-first cousin Nicholas Hottua b. 5 January 1843 in Oberfeulen (7.30.) was treasurer and we can admit that both had been founding members of the association in 1876.

This photo published on [Ed Tate's website](#) shows according to Ed on the right Martin Hottua. Bob Foster thinks the person in the middle could be his great-great-grandfather Nicholas Feipel, spouse of Mary Hottua (7.35.), and the man on the left side Nicholas Hottua b. 1843 (7.30.). He looks better dressed and might have been the boss. The Chicago Directory gives 446 S Halsted for Nicholas Hottua's wagon maker business from at least 1874 onward and in 1876 Martin is also listed here. This common address suggests that Martin worked with or rather for Nicholas who was 13 years older and arrived in Chicago about 10 years before Martin. The fact that the blacksmith Nicholas Feipel married Martin's sister Mary is definitely not a coincidence: Did he work for Nicholas Hottua and was he introduced to Mary by Martin?



Martin became a US citizen 30 October 1884 in Chicago, Nicholas Hottua acting as witness.

On 25 November 1886 he married in Chicago **Mary A. Koch** who was born in Chicago 26 November 1868 and the couple had 2 children: Louis and Rose Anna.

In the [1920 census](#) Martin is listed with his wife Mary, son "Lewis" and daughter-in-law Lenore at 5606 Wood Street. Father and son are saw filers working on their own account.

Mary Koch passed away in 1930 and Martin lived until 11 January 1954 when he died, 97 years old, in Chicago.

- **Louis Hottua** was born 13 October 1888 in Chicago and he was a saw filer as we read in the 1920 census (Lewis Hottua). He married at an unknown date Lenore (Leonore?). No children have been found so far. Louis died in February 1963 in Chicago.

- **Rose Anna Hottua** was born 17 August 1890 in Chicago to Martin and Mary Hottua-Koch. In 1914 she married **Edward "Paul" Piffner** who was born 24 December 1889 in Buffalo, NY. The couple had 2 children, Edward Paul born 20 June 1915 and Robert Lewis born 23 August 1917, both in Chicago. In the 1920 census the family lived at 5612 Wood Street in Chicago, next to Rose's parents at 5606. Rose Anna died 10 July 1957 in Chicago.

Edward Paul Piffner married Frances June McLaughlin and they are the parents of [Ed Tate](#) who lives in a suburb of St. Louis, MO. Ed is married and has 2 sons. Edward Paul died 11 May 2003 in Rockford, IL.

Robert Lewis Piffner married in 1944 Caroline Novak and they had a son. Robert Lewis died 22 February 1991 in Chicago.

Rose Anna and Paul have [12 descendants](#).



Quite a handsome young lady. Rose Anna Hottua about 1910.
Bob Foster Collection.

7.39. Anna Hottua was [born 29 August 1860](#) in Oberfeulen to Jean Hottua and Marie Catherine Heinen. She emigrated, most likely with her sister Mary and her brother Martin, in 1874 after the death of her father in 1873. She is listed in the 1880 US census as Annie Hottway, born about 1861 in Luxembourg, servant, single, in the household of the Edw. Cass family in Chicago who are supposed to have been her employers. On 21 September 1880 she marries in Chicago **Louis N. Opitz**, born in 1857 in New York State and harness maker of trade.

Anna and Louis had 4 children and [13 descendants](#) are known.

6.16. Henry Hottua was [born 30 June 1829](#) in Oberfeulen to Peter Hottua and Elisabeth Huberty. Profession farrier, he is present at the 1851 census, but no more in 1852. In January 1854 he signs in Dubuque a proxy for the sale of his part of the Feulen family property. His trace is lost until the publication of a note in the "LuxemburgerGazette" 11 april 1876, p. 8:

"Where is Henry Hottua? He was born in Oberfeulen, Canton of Diekirch, came to America in 1847 or 1848, served in the Northern army, probably in an Iowa regiment. Whoever can give information should address it to the editorial office of this newspaper."

It is not clear who of the family posted the above note and Henry's later life remained in the dark until March, 2011 when Bob Foster (great-grandson of Mary Hottua b. 1850 -7.35.) discovered his trace and was able to bring together his last years. Henry lived in 1860 in Franklin, WI, and joined 5 December 1862 in [Port Washington, WI](#) the [16th Wisconsin Infantry Regiment](#) (not Iowa as supposed in the Lux. Gaz. note). He served with the 16th Wisconsin, known as the [Ozaukee Rifles](#), throughout the Vicksburg campaign. He died of disease at Lake Providence, LA on 5 August 1863. During the course of the war, nearly two-thirds of the regiment's casualties would come from disease. (Bob Foster).

The Nicolas HOTTUA – Marguerite HILTGEN lines

Hottua Nicolas 1787 - Hiltgen Marguerite	.Hottois Nicholas. 1818	6.17.
	Hottois Peter 1820	6.18.
	Hottois Peter Joseph 1822	6.19.
	Hottois William 1824	6.20.
	Hottois Clement 1826	6.21.
	5.7 Hottois Mary Ann 1828	6.22.
	Hottois John Peter 1832	6.23.

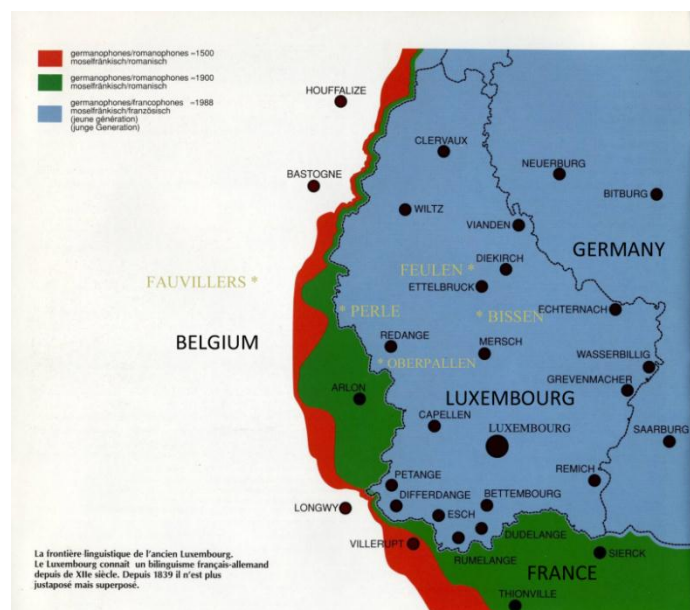
5.7. Nicolas Hottua was born 19 April 1787 in Oberfeulen to Michel Hottua and Marie Catherine Petit/Klein (4.3.). He was a blacksmith-farrier and [married 15 February 1814](#) in Bissen **Anne Marguerite Hiltgen** born 21 September 1790 in Bissen. The couple lived initially in Bissen, where a first child Anne Catherine was born 28 November 1814. A second child Catharina was born 26 February 1816 in Ospern and the following 7 in [Perlé](#) where the family lived from 1818 onward. The 7 children born in Perlé emigrated all to America. The very fact of their emigration and any trace had been lost in Luxembourg until **Kathy Facer** from Batavia, NY made a contact with the author in May 2006. Kathy had visited the [Hottua family site](#) and contributed the biggest part of the US Hottois history.

Anne Marguerite Hiltgen died 17 April 1836 in Perlé. In 1838, Nicolas married Anna Marguerite Reisdorff from Hovelange. Nicolas [passed away 4 December 1851](#) in Perlé. [293 descendants](#) are known.

From HOTTUA to HOTTOIS

The change in residence from Ospern to Perlé also triggered the change in the name spelling from Hottua to Hottois. In the birth record of Nicolas 1818 the father's name is spelled Hotois by the municipal officer (probably of French speaking origin) and he signs Hottua. In the record for Pierre 1820 the officer again writes Hotois and Nicolas signs for the first time Hottois; he will keep this spelling in all the subsequent records. The existence of the US Hottois was unknown in Luxembourg until Kathy Facer discovered the [Hottua site](#) in 2006 and established a contact with the author.

There is both a geographic/linguistic and a political explanation for the change from Hottua to Hottois. For English-speaking readers it must be emphasized as well that the two spellings are pronounced almost identically in French, close to: "hotwaw". The map below shows the linguistic border in Europe between the Romance language area, (French in France and Belgium) and the germanophone area (Luxembourgish which is a Germanic language in Luxembourg, and German in Germany), passing just west of Luxembourg. Whereas Bissen is located in the centre of the country in a Luxembourg-speaking environment, Perlé is situated on the western border next to a French-speaking area.



Language border Source: Gilbert Trausch, La signification historique de la date de 1839, Essai d'interprétation, 1989

The years when the Hottua/Hottois-Hiltgen children were born were a politically unstable period during which today's Belgian Province of Luxembourg was still part of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg. Perlé was located in the "Canton de Fauvillers", a French-speaking area, today in Belgium.

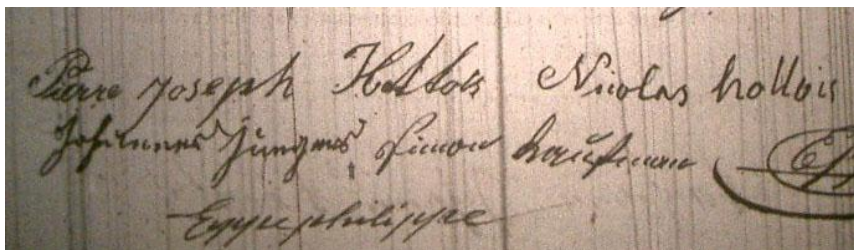
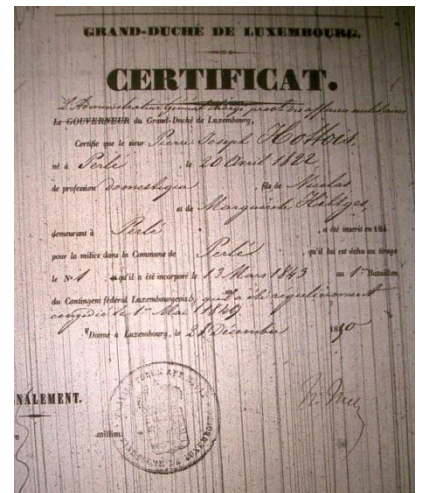
For the evolution of the name Houton-Hottua-Hottois and the spelling variations see [here](#).

6.17. Nicholas Hottois was born 1 July 1818 in Perlé to Nicolas Hottua/Hottois and Anne Marguerite Hiltgen. In the 1843 census, he is listed as blacksmith. On 23 December 1844 he marries in Perlé **Elisabeth Mollitor**, 18 years old, from Radelange, a village not far from Perlé in the commune of Martelange, now in Belgium. In the 1846 census and subsequently the couple is not present and no children have been found. Kathy Facer communicated Nicolas' death 3 December 1867 in Sheldon, NY.

6.18. Peter Hottois was born 21 May 1820 in Perlé. His profession and the date of emigration are unknown. He married **Crescentia Helzer** or **Holzer** and the couple had [6 children](#) born in Sheldon, NY between 1858 and 1867. The family moved later to Michigan where there are still descendants living.

6.19. Peter Joseph Hottois was [20 April 1822](#) in Perlé to Nicolas Hottois and Anne Marie Hiltgen. In the 1847 census of Perlé he is listed as absent since 2 years at "Moulin Gruwel" in Bonnert, Belgium which is the Grubermühle located next to Oberpallen where the Houton/Hottua family is first found by 1693. Three years later he lives as millwright at the [Platinerie](#) (owned 80 years before by his grand-uncle Charles Klein, see 4.3.) and on 15 January 1851 he marries in Bonnert **Françoise Jungers** who was born 18 October 1823.

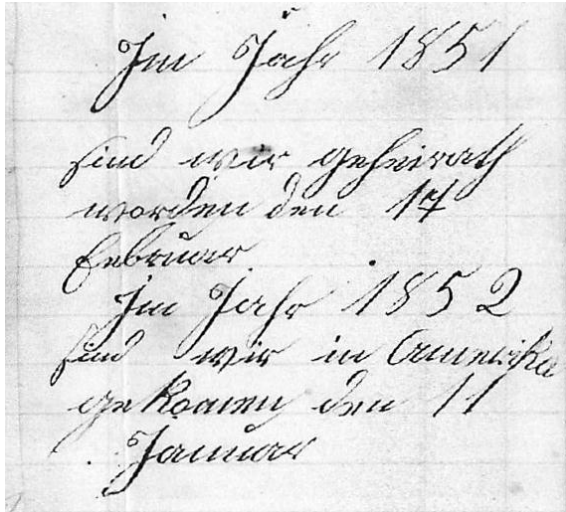
Among the documents the bridegroom had to present for the marriage was a certificate attesting he had fulfilled his military service at the [Luxembourg Federal Contingent](#), the first Luxembourg army. Pierre Joseph was enrolled from 1 March 1843 to 1 May 1849, obviously only part of that period in active service.



Signature of Pierre Joseph Hottois and his father Nicolas under the marriage deed.

His bride Françoise Jungers did not "know to sign".

AEA A53 Bonnert Photos: Claude Lanners 1 June 2006



In the year 1851
 we were married February 17
 In the year 1852
 we came in America January 11
 Document: Kathy Facer Collection

As the text (German, gothic characters) reads, either Peter Joseph Hottois or his wife Françoise Jungers were the writers. Compared with Peter Joseph's signature above, he does not seem to be the author. So it was his wife. The marriage record says however Françoise was not able to write. This is a very nice, regular handwriting of a person who learned to write definitely as a child. Why didn't Françoise sign her marriage record?

In late 1851, the young couple emigrated to America with Françoise's parents Dominique Jungers - Anne Marie Muller and at least 6 of the 8 children. The travellers arrived on 11 January 1852 from Antwerp after a voyage of 95 days at sea and moved on to Sheldon in upstate New York. Pierre Joseph and Françoise were farmers.

They had 6 children and [183 descendants](#) are known, among them:

- **Kimberley Anne "Kim" Hottois-Lindsay** from Rochester, NY;
 - **Kathy Facer** from Batavia, NY;
 - **Jo Elle Perkins-Hottois** from Blythe, CA
 - **Evelyn Dolan-Hottois** from Louisville, KY
- who shared their family information with the author.

6.20. William Hottois was born 8 January 1824 in Perlé. A William Hottois born in Belgium lives in 1870 in Sheldon, NY on a farm as farm labourer.

6.21. Clement Hottois was born 12 March 1826 in Perlé. In the 1847 census in Perlé, he is said to be absent from home for 4 years, staying in Neufchâteau in Belgium. In 1855, we find him arriving 15 January on the "Gosport" in New Orleans from Le Havre.

6.22 Mary Ann Hottois was born 27 October 1828 in Perlé. In 1847 she was absent from home, working in Weyler, Belgium. In 1880, she lives as servant in Cleveland, OH and is single.

6.23. John Peter Hottois was [born 9 May 1832](#) in Perlé. He marries in the US **Catherine Crezan** who was born in Berne, Switzerland. In the 1880 US census he is listed in Cleveland, OH, labourer, living with his wife and children John P. and Mary E. in the same house as his sister Mary Anna. K. Facer reports he worked as a gardener for John D. Rockefeller. John Peter and Catherine have [78 known descendants](#), among them **Robert Lawrence Hottois**. A born Clevelander, Bob is a partner at Deloitte & Touche and lives now in South Lake, TX with his family. His wife **Beverly Blazek** has contributed Bob's closer family.



The Bob and Beverly Hottois-Blazek family 2009
 Source: southlake.ourgreatcity.com 9.2009

Historians distinguish [3 waves of immigration](#) from Luxembourg to the United States of America, at different periods and to different destinations. The Hottois were part of the first wave with destination western New York State and Ohio, the exception being Clément who chose Louisiana.

Michel HOTTUA - Catherine LUDIG branches

Hottua Michel 1700 - Ludig Catherine 2.2	Hottua Elisabeth 1723 - Delleré Joseph 3.4	Delleré Mathias 1755 - Gengler Maria 4.4	Delleré Jean 1786- Marie Jeanne Husting 5.8	Delleré Mathias 1812- Wolles Madeleine 6.24	Delleré Henri 1846- Angelsberg Elisabeth 7.40	Dellere Jean/John 1883 8.23	
				Delleré Nicolas 1817- Rettinger Anne 6.25	Dellere Jean/John 1864 7.41		
				Delleré Henri 1825- Suzanne Ehleringer 6.26	Dellere Eugene 1864 7.42 Dellere Mathias 1869 7.43		
		Delleré Joseph 1759- Even Anna Catharina 4.5	Delleré Michel 1792-Von Banck Anna Marie 5.9	Delleré Guillaume 1827- Goedert Suzanne 6.27	Dellere Jean/John 1869 7.44		
			Delleré Dominique 1791 - Birgen Elisabeth 5.10	Delleré Michel 1825 - Lambert Marguerite 6.28	Delleré Marguerite 1858 - Gilson François 7.45	Gilson Anne 1881 - Henrotte Jules .Joseph 8.24	Henrotte Emile 1915 9.2
						Gilson Fred A. 1889 8.25 Gilson John 1901 8.26	
					Delleré Jean Pierre 1864 – Fehlen Margaret 1870 7.46	Margaret V. Dellere 1892 8.27 Cecelia F. Dellere 1893 8.28	
					Delleré Marie Jeanne 1866 - Weimerskirch Pierre 8.29	Weimerskirch John Adolph 1895 (Al Weimer) 8.29 Weimerskirch	

					7.47	François 1898	
						8.30	
					Delleré John Nicholas 1871 – Fehlen Margaret 1870		
					7.48		

The Delleré family is related to the Hottua through Elisabeth Hottua who married in 1753 in Oberpallen Michel Dellery/Delleré from Reimberg, Bettborn:

- 1 Maternus Hottua, Houton b: Abt. 1667 in ex Belgica
.. +Catherine Coune b: Abt. 1671 m: Abt. 1692
- 2 Michel Hottua, Houton b: mai 1700 in Dudling, Oberpallen, L d: 30 mai 1759 in Oberpallen, L
..... +Catherine Ludig b: Abt. 1698 m: Bef. 1723
- 3 Elisabeth Hottua b: 14 août 1723 in Oberpallen, Luxembourg d: 26 mars 1786 in Reimberg, Bettborn,
..... +Joseph Delleré, Dellery b: Abt. 1729 in Parrette, Attert, B m: 26 déc. 1753 in Oberpallen, L
d: Bef.1786
- 4 Mathias Delleré b: Abt. 1755 in Reimberg, Bettborn, L d: 31 mars 1835 in Platen, Bettborn, L
..... +Maria Gengler b: Abt. 1760 in Reimberg, Bettborn, L m: 03 févr. 1785 in Ospern, L
d: 27 déc.1836 in Platen, Bettborn, L
- 5 Dominique Delleré b: 17 oct. 1791 in Platen, Bettborn, L d: 06 févr. 1857 in Pratz, Bettb.,L
..... +Elisabeth Birgé b: 22 mars 1800 in Meysemburg, Larochette, L m: 11 févr. 1824 in
Bettborn, L
- 6 Michel Delleré b: 21 janv. 1825 in Platen, Bettborn, L d: 08 mai 1901 in Platen, Bettb.

4.4 Mathias Delleré was born about 1755 in Reimberg and married **Maria Gengler**.

5.8 Jean Delleré, son of Mathias Delleré was born 29 January 1786 in Reimberg and married **Marie Jeanne Husting**.

6.24 Mathias Delleré, son of Jean was born 20 November 1812 in Platen and married **Madeleine Wolles**.

7.40 Henri Delleré, son of Mathias was born 11.July 1846 in Platen and married **Marie Elise Angelsberg**.

8.23 John Dellere, single, lives in 1910 in Spokane, WA and files 11 August 1919 in Benton City, WA an application for a passport to travel to Luxembourg for family reasons. He gives as birth date and place 11 June 1883 in Everlauge, no doubt Everlange, Useldange. As no Delleré birth is recorded in Everlange, but a **Jean Delleré** is born 10 June 1883 in Platen, Bettborn, only 3 miles away, we admit that this is John, despite the fact that family details in his [passport application](#) match only partially the Jean Delleré family pattern. Jean's parents Henri and Marie Elise Angelsberg lived by 1905 in Everlange. John married about 1919 **Lucie Catherine Friedrich**, born 1882 in Rumelange, Luxembourg who was then a widow living also in Benton City. She died in 1924 and John married at an unknown date **Lilly Cleo Schwendig**, born 1907. [9 descendants](#) are known, part of them living in Grand Prairie, TX. John [died in 1955 in Benton City, WA](#) where he is buried. Sad to say, but one of their grandsons was convicted of child pornography offenses and heavily sentenced. Yes, this is part of family history too and should not be passed in silence.

6.25 Nicolas Delleré, son of Jean 5.8, was born 7 September 1817 in Platen and married **Anne Rettinger**.

7.41 Jean/John Dellere, son of Nicolas, was born 29 August 1864 in Platen. A John Dellere, 42, single, clerk, American citizen, enters 21 August 1906 New York on the Vaderland from Antwerp. He should be Jean Delleré born 29 August 1864. Being already an US citizen means that he immigrated in earlier years. His life in America is not documented so far.

6.26 Henri Delleré, son of Jean 5.8, was born 1 March 1825 in Platen and married **Suzanne Ehlinger**.

7.42 Eugene Delleré, son of Henri, was born 7 October 1864 in Platen, Bettborn. He emigrated in 1892 and worked in Chicago as a gardener, maybe for one of the numerous Luxembourg immigrants who operated greenhouses in the Chicago periphery. He married in 1894 **Theresia Hehn** and died in 1909 in South Evanston, IL. There are no descendants.

7.43 Mathias F. Delleré is [buried at St Joseph Cemetery](#) in New Almelo, KS. According to the gravestone, he lived 1879 to 1916. A close relation with the John Nicholas Dellere family (7.48) must be admitted, but only a **Mathias Antoine Delleré** born 26.4.1869 in Platen, son of Henri (6.26) is listed in databases like Rob Deltgen or luxroots.com or in the Bettborn decennial tables. The only possible explanation is an error in the birth year: 1879 is most likely 1869. A Mathias Delleré is not listed in the 1910 Census in New Almelo.

6.27 Guillaume Delleré, son of Michel and of Anne Marie Von Banck, was born 23 November 1827 in Reimberg and married **Suzanne Goedert**.

7.44 John Delleré born December 1869 in France, single, jeweller, immigrated 1892, is listed in the [1900 census in Milwaukee, WI](#). According to Änder Hatz in *“Emigrants et Rémigrants”*, a **Jean Delleré** from Reimberg emigrated in 1891. He should be Jean/John Dellere born 22 May 1869 in Reimberg, son of Guillaume (6.27). No later trace of him has been discovered so far.

6.28. Michel Delleré was born 21 January 1825 in Platen, Bettborn. He was a shoemaker and married in 1857 **Marguerite Lambert** born 28 July 1833 in Nobressart, Belgium. The couple had 10 children.

7.45. Marguerite Delleré was born 7 April 1858 in Platen to Michel Delleré and Marguerite Lambert. She married in 1880 **François Gilson** from Mertzig who was “Steinhauer” i.e. worker in the Mertzig sandstone quarry. Their daughter **Anne Gilson** born 28 August 1881 married in 1914 in Mertzig **Jules Joseph Henrotte** from Marmont, Belgium. (8.24.).

9.2. Emile Henrotte was born 15 December 1915 in Mertzig to Jules Joseph Henrotte and Anne Gilson. He married **Julia Baumgartner** born 18 September 1917 in Chicago and the couple has 2 children: Richard born in 1937 and Marie Antoinette born in 1946 in Chicago.

8.25. Fred A. Gilson was [born 27 December 1889](#) in Obermertzig as “Franz” to François Gilson and Marguerite Delleré. He left Luxembourg in 1906 and arrived in New York 11 August on the Vaderland, accompanied by his sister Catherine, 22, and they gave as destination Chicago. Fred was naturalized in 1912 and in 1920, he started in Chicago the Gilson Employment Service, a kind of early interim labour agency and a travel agency. Fred married Eleonora Brons and the couple had 2 children, Fred and John.

Fred Gilson became a very active member of the Luxembourg community in Chicago:

“Shortly after his arrival in America, Gilson joined section 3. Before he passed away on May 1, 1964, Fred Gilson would be elected Grand President of the LBA in 1931 and would hold that post for 12 years, retiring in 1943.

But, his greater accomplishment on behalf of the LBA lay in his willingness to record the history of the Brotherhood and its sections. For example, in the 1938 Golden Jubilee Book, he wrote the history which formed the foundation for his work. In 1952, he authored the history of Section 8 which was followed by the history of the Schobermesse in 1953, and the history of Section 21 in 1957. Without these histories and the cogency of their content, it would have been impossible to compile this work.

In 1934, Fred Gilson was appointed Chancellor of the Luxembourg Consulate in Chicago and in 1954 he was appointed Vice-Consul, a post he would hold until his death. He was decorated by the Luxembourg Government on two occasions, once in 1934 and again in 1953”.



Richard Witry “Luxembourg Brotherhood of America 1887-1987”, p. 61:
Fred A. Gilson
Schobermesse Committee 1943 Chicago

Witry, LBA 1887-1987 p. 69

8.26. John Gilson was born 30 May 1901 to François Gilson and Marguerite Delleré (7.45.). According to available information he died in Chicago.

7.46. Jean Pierre Delleré was [born 17 July 1864](#) in Platen to Michel Delleré and Marguerite Lambert. He married 4 February 1891 in Grosbous **Marguerite Fehlen** who was [born 23 July 1870](#) in Grosbous. Jean Pierre Delleré died 15 November 1893, a few weeks only after the birth of the couple’s second child. His widow will marry, probably in America in 1900, her brother-in-law **Jean Nicolas Delleré (7.48.)** born 1871 who had emigrated in 1891 and the new family will live in 1910 in New Almelo, Norton, KS, together with the 2 daughters of Jean Pierre, Marguerite and Marguerite Cécile.

8.27. Marguerite/Margaret V. Delleré [born 16 January 1892](#) in Grosbous. She will marry **John Bruce Lawn** born in 1891 and they farmed in Norton County in NW Kansas. [36 descendants](#) are known.

8.28. Marguerite Cécile/Cecelia F. Delleré born 22 September 1893 in Grosbous. She married twice, but descendants are not known.

7.47. Marie Jeanne Delleré was born 13 August 1866 in Platen to Michel Delleré and Marguerite Lambert (6.28.). She married in 1894 in Bettborn **Pierre Weimerskirch** who was born 1 September 1867 in Grosbous. The couple had 4 children of whom 2 emigrated.

8.29. John Adolph Weimerskirch was born 11 February 1895 in Grosbous. He emigrated in 1913 via Antwerp and arrived in New York 24 May on the Kroonland. On the immigration form, his profession was waiter and he was going to his cousin Fred Gilson in Chicago (8.25.). He served in WWI and, an excellent bugle player, was assigned as musician to the 6th Cavalry Band, stationed in France. At the end of the war, he could pay a visit to his relatives in Grosbous.



Jean Adolphe married **Anna Benes** and a daughter Charlotte was born in 1923. He

changed later his name to **Adolph John "Al" Weimer** before his second marriage in 1939 with **Mary Margaret Callaghan** born 10 November 1910 in Finleyville, PA. Photo: Al and Mary Weimer-Callaghan with daughters Dorothy, Carol and Marilyn about 1948.

Adolph John Weimer has [34 known descendants](#), among them **Katie Anderson** from Chagrin Falls, OH. Katie maintains contacts in Luxembourg with [Fernand Pletschette](#) and with the author.



Katie Knapp and son Cal



Wedding Jason Knapp-Katie Anderson 2007

Photos: Katie Knapp-Anderson 13 April 2011

8.30. François Weimerskirch was born 8 March 1898 in Grosbous. He was a brother of John Adolph (8.29.) and on the [Fernand Pletschette](#) site he is said to have died in the US. Although the date of his emigration has not been discovered so far, his presence in America is confirmed as he joined Section 3 of the Luxembourg Brotherhood of America in Skokie, Chicago 14 February 1937. In 1987 "Francis Weimeskirch" was honoured for 50 years membership. (Witry, LBA, p. 78)

7.48. John Nicholas Delleré was [born 4 April 1871](#) in Platen, Bettborn to Michel Delleré and Marguerite Lambert. He is mentioned on the Platen emigrant list in 1891 in Änder Hatz, *"Emigrants et Rémigrants"*. Bob Foster spotted him in [New Almelo, Norton, KS](#) where, according to the [1910 US Census](#), he was a farmer owning his land. He had married in 1900, probably in the US, the widow of his brother Jean Pierre (7.46), **Margaret Fehlen** born 1870 in Grosbous. Margaret took with her to the US the 2 daughters from her 1st marriage with Jen Pierre Delleré who will live in the new family in Kansas as we read in the 1910 census. John Nicholas and Margaret will have 10 children born from 1901 to 1914 and [74 descendants](#) are known.

Emigration to the United States of America

During the 19th century as many as 70,000 people, about a third of the population, left Luxembourg, most of them to the United States.

A number of reasons motivated people to leave (**push factors**):

- Difficult living conditions after the turmoil of the French Revolution in a country with a reduced territory, politically independent but economically unable to survive on its own;
- Lower child mortality and bigger families; on farms, only one son could take over; the other children had limited possibilities: marry into other families or stay as farmhands;
- Military service and wars in Europe.

On the other hand the United States seemed attractive under different aspects (**pull factors**):

- Availability of land and possibility to buy at favourable conditions, at certain periods and locations even for free (homesteading);
- Improving travel conditions with technological progress (railway, steamships);
- Aggressive promotion by emigration agencies;
- Positive reports from those who had settled in the US.

[Three immigration waves](#) from Luxembourg into the US can be identified:

1. From 1830 to the mid 1840s to the west of New York State and Ohio;
2. From 1846 to 1860 to Illinois, eastern Wisconsin and eastern Iowa;
3. From 1860 to 1900, with a peak in the 80s, to Minnesota, the Dakotas, and western Iowa: Algona, Gilbertville, Remsen.

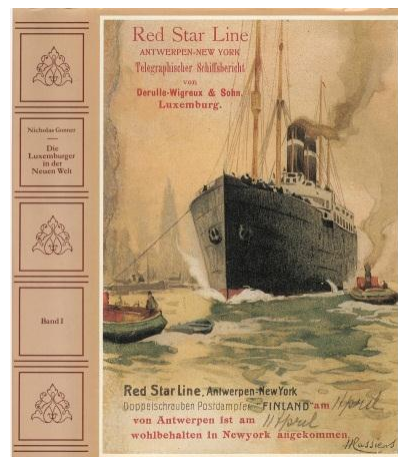
More info on the Luxembourg emigration can be found [here](#) and [here](#).

In order to keep the contact between immigrants and to help those being in need, associations like the [Luxembourg Brotherhood](#) were created. The LBA is still active in some areas.

Another link between the Luxembourg immigrants was the "[Luxemburger Gazette](#)", a newspaper edited in Dubuque by Nicholas Gonner and published from 1871 to 1918. It is a most helpful resource to find information on Luxembourgers. A source still to be tapped, thanks to Jean Ensch and Jean-Claude Muller who indexed the name and location entries and made them thus available on 680 pages in Volume 2 in their re-edition of Nicholas Gonner's "[Luxembourgers in the New World](#)"

Cover of the 1985 reedition of Nicholas Gonner's reference work "Die Luxemburger in der Neuen Welt".

Pictured is a facsimile of a postcard the emigration agency used to send to the family announcing the arrival of the ship, here the Finland April 11 in New York.



In our days, the "[Luxembourg News of America](#)" offers a news platform for the American-Luxembourg community.

The relations between Luxembourg and the descendants of Luxembourg immigrants are now best served by the "[Luxembourg American Cultural Society](#)" that operates the Cultural Center in Belgium, WI with its "[Roots&Leaves Museum](#)".

The mystery of the Floridian wreckage

In *"Luxembourgers in the New World"*, Editions Schortgen 1987, Nicholas Gonner mentions in Chapter IV on emigration from 1841 to 1851 at page 51:

"The ocean voyage was not always without danger, as the fate of the "Floridian" demonstrates. Under the command of Captain Whitmore, the ship left Antwerp with far more than 200 passengers. It was wrecked on "Longsand", a sand bank on the coast of England. One emigrant and three sailors were saved. The rest perished. Among them were a number of Luxembourgers, including the Hottua family from Feulen."

The sinking has been confirmed and dated thanks to a research of Nicole Mousel-Gnad:

FLORIDIAN

E.D. Hulbert; 1840 (circa); 500 tons.

The American barque *Floridian* was chartered by a German company to carry emigrants to the United States. She left Antwerp on Tuesday evening February 27th, 1849, under Capt. Whitmore, having on board a crew of 20, the captain's wife and 176 emigrants, for the most part German agricultural labourers and mechanics with their wives and children. The ship encountered bad weather soon after leaving the Flemish Banks, with hail and snow, and by Wednesday morning she was facing a full gale. At three o'clock in the afternoon she struck on the Long Sand off Harwich and in a Very short time became a total wreck. The first officer was in charge of the ship and had gone below to check his position, the second officer remaining on deck. Capt. Whitmore ordered out the boats as soon as he saw the plight of his ship, but the first boat smashed and capsized. The second boat was then got away, among its occupants being the captain and his wife. The emigrants seeing themselves thus deserted made a rush for the boat which was at once overcrowded and sank. The remainder of the emigrants, about 100, took refuge on the quarterdeck, but the crew lashed themselves to the rigging. An hour after striking the *Floridian* broke in two and the mainmast fell overboard with all those clinging to it. During the night many more were swept from the decks and those lashed in the rigging were frozen to death. On Friday afternoon, March 2nd, H.M. revenue cutter *Petrel* approached the wreck and saved three of the crew and one passenger, the latter having lost his reason. The total loss of life was 193 persons, about 80 of whom were women and children.

The [sinking was also reported](#) in the Illustrated London News.

Which Hottua family was it? It is amazing that apparently such a catastrophe has not left any souvenir in the family.

Around 1849 several Hottua families lived in the villages of the Wark valley:

- Hottua-Marnach at Niederfeulen
- Hottua-Huberty at Oberfeulen
- Hottua-Lambert at Obermertzig
- Hottua-Petesch at Grosbous.

On top of those, there were Hottua spouses in some families: Simmerl-Hottua, Kintziger-Hottua and Pott-Hottua at Oberfeulen as well as Beaufils-Hottua at Grosbous.

Except the Michel Hottua-Christina Lambert household, all these families show up in the census of December 1849, 10 months after the sinking, as well as in the subsequent censuses.

So, Gonner's information on the loss of a Hottua family from Feulen could not be confirmed by the censuses. Was it perhaps not a whole family that emigrated but only some members, maybe one parent and children?

Looking for Hottua born between 1800 and 1849 in the authors' database for persons with missing information on date and place of death, drew attention on the Pierre Hottua-Elisabeth Huberty family.

Pierre Hottua dies in 1847, leaving a widow and 7 children. The second son Jean born in 1824 marries Marie Catherine Heinen in April 1849 and the young couple settles in the family house "Schmidden" (blacksmith's) at Oberfeulen. The eldest son Gérard (later George) left for the United States between 1843 and 1847, his brother Henri probably followed in 1847/1848. It is worthwhile noting that George is still mentioned as present in the December 1849 census, although he has been in America already since 1847 according to a note on the census sheet of said year. In a similar way, Henri is recorded as present in 1849 and 1851, although he emigrated around 1847/1848 according to a note in the "Luxemburger Gazette", a weekly newspaper for Luxembourg immigrants published by Nicholas Gonner in Dubuque (April 11 and 18, 1876, p. 8).

It looks like, at least in this family, that people used to consider emigrants for some time as still being part of the household (a special sheet for people temporary absent will be introduced for the 1890 census only). Well, we notice that the widow Elisabeth Hottua-Huberty and the 4 children remaining in the household are still present in 1852, but they disappear with the 1855 census without leaving any trace in Feulen and without any date or place of death known.

Could they be the unfortunate passengers of the Floridian mentioned by Gonner? The circumstances allow at least this assumption: the taking over of the family estate by the eldest son who stayed in the country, 2 sons who already left for America.....

The persons of the family to be considered as potential Floridian passengers are:

- Elisabeth Huberty born January 11 1798 at Bastendorf, widow of Pierre Hottua
- Pierre Hottua born October 10 1831 at Oberfeulen
- Marie Hottua born October 30, 1833 at Oberfeulen
- Jean Hottua born January 31 1836 at Oberfeulen
- Jean Hottua born September 28 1844 at Oberfeulen.

It should be noted that a Marie Hottua is listed in 1871 as maid in the Weyland household in Oberfeulen.

Unfortunately the above developed theory fell apart when the deed of the sale of Pierre Hottua's estate on 11.5.1854 was found: Elisabeth Huberty signed and the children were also present.

[\(Cadastre Feulen p.3+4\)](#)

The Floridian tragedy is also confirmed by the Luxembourg historian Joseph Hess in an article on the Picard family from Septfontaines published in "Biographie nationale du pays de Luxembourg", [Volume 06, page 362:](#)

"Nicolas (Picard) managed the papermill of St. Léger at the death of his father. Due to the decline of the company, he left for Brazil, but soon after leaving a storm sunk the ship "Floridian" on the English coast 27 February, 1849, in the vicinity of the Longsand sandbanks. Another Luxembourg family, the Hottua from Feulen, died in the same shipwreck."

The LUXEMBURGER WORT, in its number 34 issue of 21 March 1849, reports also in detail the Floridian sinking on page 2:

"The Floridian sinking and the Luxembourg emigrants

....Among the passengers are Mr. Picard Nicolas from Siebenborn, Wagner Johann and Possing from Useldange....."

Unfortunately the Hottua are not listed. A search in later issues was not successful; apparently the paper has not brought up the topic again.

The other Luxembourg newspapers of the time, “De Patriot” and “Der Volksfreund” don’t mention the tragedy. The “Luxemburger Zeitung” is not available at the National Archives in Luxembourg.

Without a passenger list it will be difficult to break this enigma; apparently the Antwerp archives have been destroyed. The question should also be raised whether Gonner’s information was correct. He relates the accident in his book published in 1889, 40 years after it happened. And what was the source of Hess?

GRUBERMUHLE and PLATINERIE History

GRUBERMUHLE

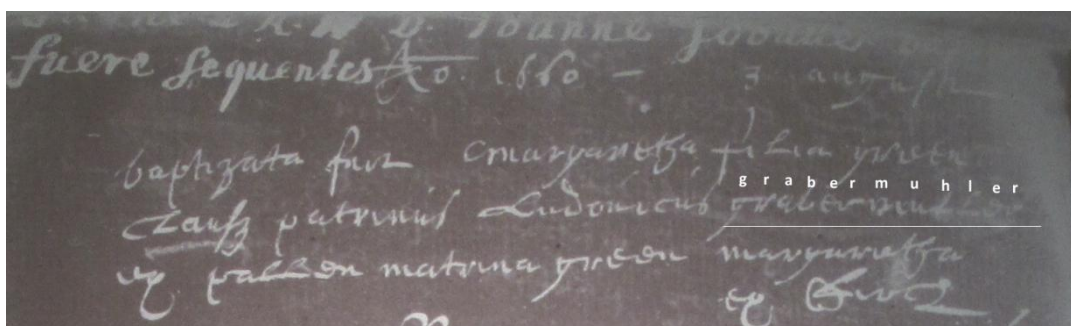
The Grubermühle (Grabermühle, Gruewermillen, Greuermühlen, Grübermühle), is a mill located upstream of Oberpallen just beyond the Luxembourg-Belgium border on the Pall brook.

A mill is documented in Oberpallen in 1319, in 1529 and again in 1643, most probably on the present site of the Grubermühle.

The etymology of the (germanic) name is not totally clear. Grube in German means hole, pit. In the initial birth records it seems the pastor wrote some times Graber: Graben means ditch, same as Gruew in Luxembourgish: a mill had always a ditch bringing in the water to the mill from a dam or a pond in a straight line and at a minimal inclination to gain the height needed to power most efficiently the wheel. Could an installation present at virtually every mill have served to identify a specific mill? [Cristian Kolmann](#) proposes a derivation from the owner's name "Graber", meaning "who lives at the ditch" which turns in Luxembourgish to "Gruewer".

Gruber is also a family name still present in Luxembourg (64 in 1984, 136 in 1880).

The first record in the Oberpallen parish register which was opened in 1660 by pastor Joannes Idouille is the baptism 3 August 1660 of Margaretha, daughter of Clauss Green, the godparents being Ludovicus Grabermuhler from Pallen and Margaretha Green. Clauss Green is for sure the "Grünen Nickel" mentioned as being the only inhabitant of "Oberpollen" in the 1656 census of "fireplaces", i.e. households. He had 4 horses and 4 cows. (Oster).



ANL RP 135A Oberpallen 1660-1770 Photos Georges Eicher OaE000006

In 1662, Nicolaus, a son of Ludovicus Müllers is baptized, the first recorded birth at the Grubermühle. Ludovicus (Louis) is the godfather we met in the record shown above.

The Green-Greun-Grein-Greins-Graine-Greiner will be present in the Pall valley up to our days, as [Andrée Grein](#) (Jaumotte) is the owner of the Platinerie in 2011.

The presence of the Coune family at the Grubermühle is first documented 22 August 1676 when Anna, "*filia Joannis molitoris Counne ex Grabermuhlen*"-daughter of the miller Joannes Counne of the Grubermühle, acts as godmother of Paul, son of Dominique Green, followed in 1678 and in 1680 by her brothers Philippe and Joannes as godfathers. In 1693, Jean Kuhn (German spelling for Counne) is tenant at the Grubermühle: "*... lesquelles deux fontaines (Quellbour-Platinerie) sont conduites par un canal qui fait tourner le moulin de Groubermuhlen appartenant au roi affermé à*

Jean Kov(u)en, meunier-these two fountains (Quellbour-Platinerie) go to a canal that runs the Grubermuhlen belonging to the king and having as tenant Jean Kov(u)en, miller”.(Bourguignon, p. 387). Jean Koven/Kuhn seems to be a descendant of the Meiger Coennen of 1567 mentioned in the chapter about the Platinerie and he is also the Jean Counne quoted in the record of 22 August 1676 above. Philippus “*filius ex graber mühlen molitoris*”-son of the miller of the Grubermühle acts as godfather of Catharina Feller, followed 26 August 1680 in the same role by his brother Joannes. In 1694-95 Pierre and Jean Kuhn/Counne were the tenants at the Grubermühle. As an Anna, an Angelica and a Catharina Coune are godmothers of Maternus Houton’s first three children 1693-1699, we can assume that Maternus’ wife Catharina was a Coune, certainly related to the millers and probably stemming from the mill.

In 1766 Michel Graine is miller and at the latest in 1824 (1st Cadastre in Luxembourg) the Grein family is the owner with Michel Grein at the “*Gruvermuhle*”.

On the 1776 Ferraris map, the Grubermuhle is represented with 2 parallel buildings left of the Pall brook. This setting differs from the 1827 Cadastre layout.



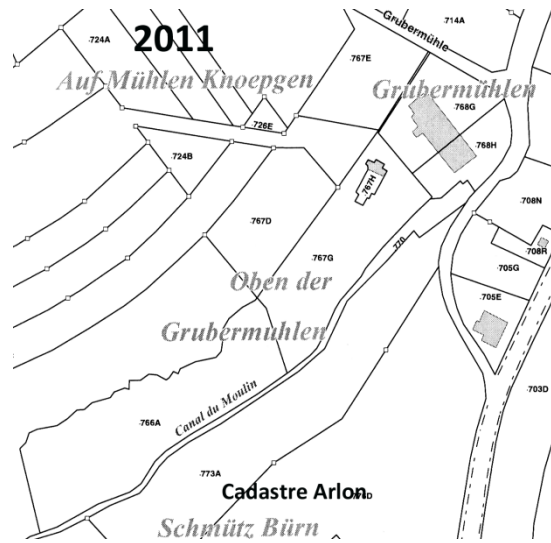
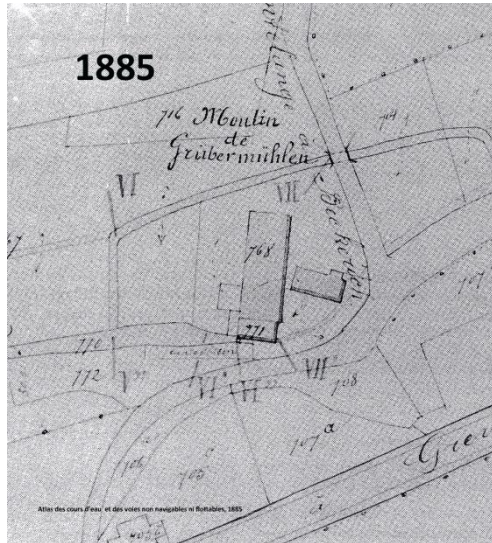
Ferraris Map
223
Septfontaines



Beckerich
Section F
Oberpallen
Cadastre 1827

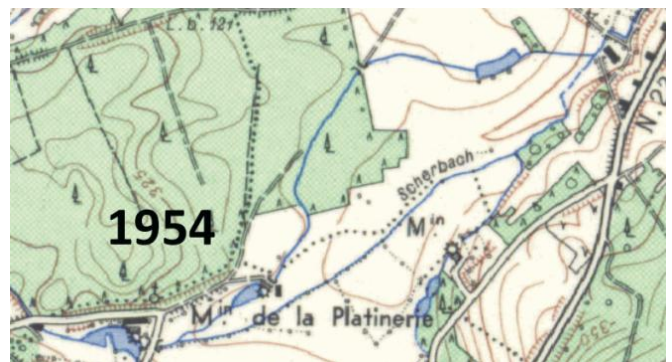
At the latest in 1827 (1st Cadastre in Luxembourg) the Grein family is the owner with Michel Grein at the “*Greuvermühlen*”. He is the builder in 1838 of the still existing house and barn. Only one year later, the border drawn between the Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg and Belgium after the split off of the [Province of Luxembourg](#) locates the mill in Belgium. This new border meant losing the secular main market of the mill, the Oberpallen population. Indeed, before the French revolution the Grubermuhle was the mill the farmers of Oberpallen had to go to for milling their grain.

On 7 January 1895, the Grein family sold the whole property to the city of Arlon who built a water pumping facility to supply the city. BNL *Au fil de l’eau ... de moulin en moulin : circuits de découverte des moulins du pays d’Arlon*, 1992. It is not known when the milling activity was stopped. We admit that the milling building was demolished, but where had it been? A plan from 1885 published in the brochure quoted above and a 2011 cadastral plan give the answer: the mill was built against the 1838 house and fed by a canal derivated 500 m upstream from the Pall. Question: was the mill built next to the house after 1838 or was the house added to a mill structure that stood here possibly for decades?



The Grubermühle was again the theatre of an industrial episode based on the local water resources in the 20th century, when the City of Arlon built a pond on the height "Auf Mühlen Knoepgen" fed by a ditch from the Platinerie area, more precisely from the pond remaining of a platinerie/mill East of the present Platinerie. The water of the new pond was directed via a pressure pipe into the barn of the Grubermühle to power a turbine coupled to an electric generator. Construction and discontinuation dates of this facility are not known, but Camille Thein, Michel's father-in-law and born in Oberpallen, has still seen it running in the 1960s.

Three excerpts of maps of different periods illustrate this short-lived initiative:



Not yet built in 1927, in service in 1954, the pond has already been reconquered by vegetation in 1989.

We should mention here the outstanding role of the upper Pall area in the water supply of the City of Arlon (28 000 inhabitants). Springs and wells in the Platinerie and Grubermühle area deliver about 50% of the 5 200 m³ needed per day. A pumping station built next to the Grubermühle house sends the water to the city reservoirs and over the water divide at Bonnert from the Rhine catchment into

the Meuse basin. Thus the Pall waters will meet again only in the Meuse-Rhine delta in the Netherlands.

The Grubermühle, front (East) about 1980

Left: the generous and well proportioned house with steel anchors above the 2nd floor showing the construction date: 1838 The keystone of the entrance door has also the date 1838 and the name of the owners: "M. Grein/A.M.A./",

Right: stables and barn with the grain lift on the extreme right.

Photo: Patrimoine monumental de Belgique p.113



The Grubermühle house in 2012, reconditioned and transformed into 8 apartments.



Keystone of the entrance door with name of the builders: Michel Grein born 22 February 1793 at the Grubermühle and Anna Maria André. They are the ancestors of Andrée Jaumotte-Grein, owner of the Platinerie in 2012.

Photos: Michel Lanners 1.1.2012



Front (East): Barn. The original wide barn door with the 1838 keystone has been narrowed in later years.



Back: House and barn 2011 (West side) Photos: Bob Foster 24.8.2011

The Grubermühle has always been a grain mill, whereas the Platinerie further upstream has been for almost two centuries an iron flattening shop. The relations between the owners/operators were often difficult, be it for water using modalities (Bourguignon p.389), be it that they have been competitors when the Platinerie was a grain mill.

A calvary on the site of the Grubermühle, a classified historic monument since 1991, confirms the link to the history of the Hottua family (via Catherine Coune, spouse of Maternus Houton). Dated 1710, it mentions as donators PETRUS/KOUN/ANNA/MATTH(Y) and has the commemorating inscription "HIE.IST.GE/STORBEN/SUSANNA/KOUN. ANNO/1672/REVIESCAN T". "*Here died Susanna Koun in 1672 rest (in peace)*" Such a monument points to an unnatural death of Susanna, accident or, more likely, crime, at the mill site. Susanna's identity could not be determined in the Oberpallen

birth records. The donators show up in the birth record of Pierre Mathy in 1702 in Tontelange when Pierre Koun, miller at the Grübermühle, husband of Anne Mathy, acted as godfather. A close relationship with Susanna must be admitted: she was either the daughter or a near parent. (Hémecht 1999, p. 507)

A more “romantic” but highly unlikely version of the crime has been published in the *Luxemburger Wort* newspaper 12 August 1962: jealousy of a servant, shooting, forgiving by the dying bride and marriage on the spot by the priest, the whole drama crowned by the magnanimity of the court that discharged the murderer. A little bit of Shakespeare on the Pall!



Christ between Maria and St. John, below St. Peter and St. Anna? The inscriptions are taken from “*Patrimoine monumental...*” (See Sources) and they cannot be deciphered any more today, consequence of an aggressive atmosphere and acid rain destroying the sandstone. A pity the original is still outside rather than in a covered space and a copy on the spot. A matter of time anyway before it will be stolen. Photos: Bob Foster 24.8.2011

PLATINERIE

A **platinerie** (plat [plɑ:] in French means flat) was a plant transforming heated iron bars into sheet or at least flat iron with a mechanical hammer ([trip hammer](#)) powered by a [water wheel](#). Two resources were needed which were available on the site: water and wood. The flattening technique by hammering was replaced in the 19th century by the more performing industrial rolling mills.

The greater area around Oberpallen in Luxembourg and Belgium had many iron foundries working on [bog iron](#). [Charcoal](#) or iron producing knowhow might have been the reason that the Houton/Hottua came from Belgium to the Oberpallen area.

The [history of the Platinerie](#), or at least the “industrial” activity at the site goes back to 1567 when Meiger Coenne from nearby Bonnert built a [fulling mill](#) and also a grain mill. Unclear water rights triggered a suit of which proceedings have been kept in the archives of the Guirsch castle. The suit had the merit of relating this otherwise not very spectacular event and to give evidence of the earliest known ancestor of the Hottua. Catherine Coune, the spouse of Maternus Houton born about 1670, is no doubt a descendant of this Meiger Coenne, even if we cannot trace the family line between them.

The reason for Meiger Coenne’s venture on this spot was the presence of the fountain “Quellbour” (spring fountain) which is in fact the source of the Pall brook and which could supply the energy to power a hammer that replaced the manual (or rather pedestrian) force used so far in [fulling](#). To compensate for the limited flow of the Pall he built a pond which will be known later as “Connenweyer”, carrying on the owner’s name.

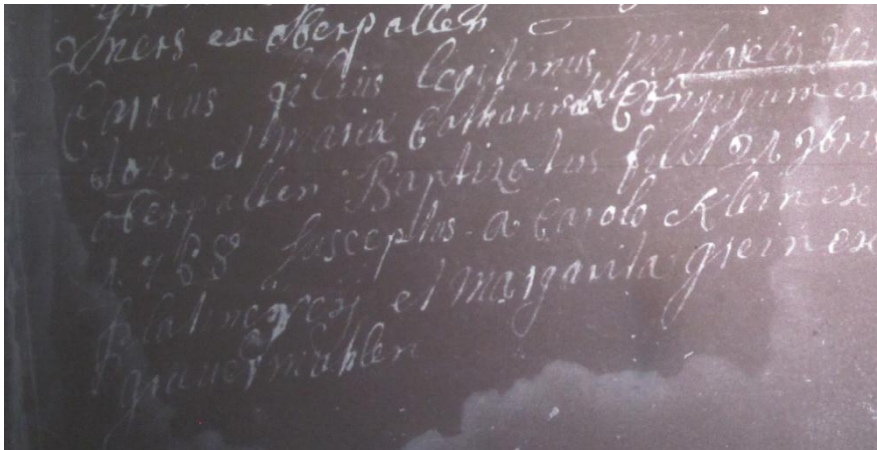
By 1614 the site was occupied by an iron furnace and it was in 1693 that the permit was granted to the owner of the [Pont d’Oye](#) iron mill to build a platinerie at the very site of the fountain. The permit was opposed, without success, by Jean Konen/Kuhn, miller at the Grubermühle. A year later, he filed a complaint because the Platinerie would sometimes hold back the water to store it in the pond for a whole day preventing the Grubermühle from serving its customers. An unanswered question is why the Grubermillers did not build their own pond to shake off the dependence of their upstream neighbour?

In 1732, Pierre Petit became the tenant of the Platinerie and he will stay for for 30 years. Among his children are Charles Petit/Karl Klein (French/German for the same name) born 20 March 1737 and Marie Catherine Petit born about 1747.

Karl will obtain a long term lease on the Platinerie in 1762, but he will pass away already in 1769. The chapel with the KK monogram was built to his memory. His widow Barbe Moris married Pierre Molitor who had been working at the Platinerie and they are the [ancestors of Andrée Jaumotte-Grein](#), the present owners.

Marie Catherine Petit will marry in 1767 in Oberpallen Michel Hottua. The couple will move to

Oberfeulen and they are the ancestors of the author and of a substantial part of the US Hottua descendants, among them Bob Foster. Their first child Carolus/Charles is born in Oberpallen 21 November 1768 and his birth record features the names and places this note deals with: the parents Michael Hautois and Maria Catharina Klein from Oberpallen, the godparents Carolus Klein from the "platinerey" and Margarita Grein from the "grauermuhlen".



ANL RP 135A Birth record Carolus Hautois

The iron flattening activity was stopped in 1836, 142 years after its beginning. If political changes contributed to the closure, the main reason was the upcoming of the rolling technology to form iron, offering higher productivity and quality. The owner Nicolas Molitor decided to convert the site with its water resource into a grain mill, sparking off again the opposition of the Gruber miller, officially for the old reasons of water availability, but no doubt also to keep off a new competitor. The milling activity went on in the Platinerie until the middle of last century and the equipment is still in place.



Left: Pond, Right: Platinerie/mill, Back: House Photo: Bob Foster 24.8.2011



House and barn 1828

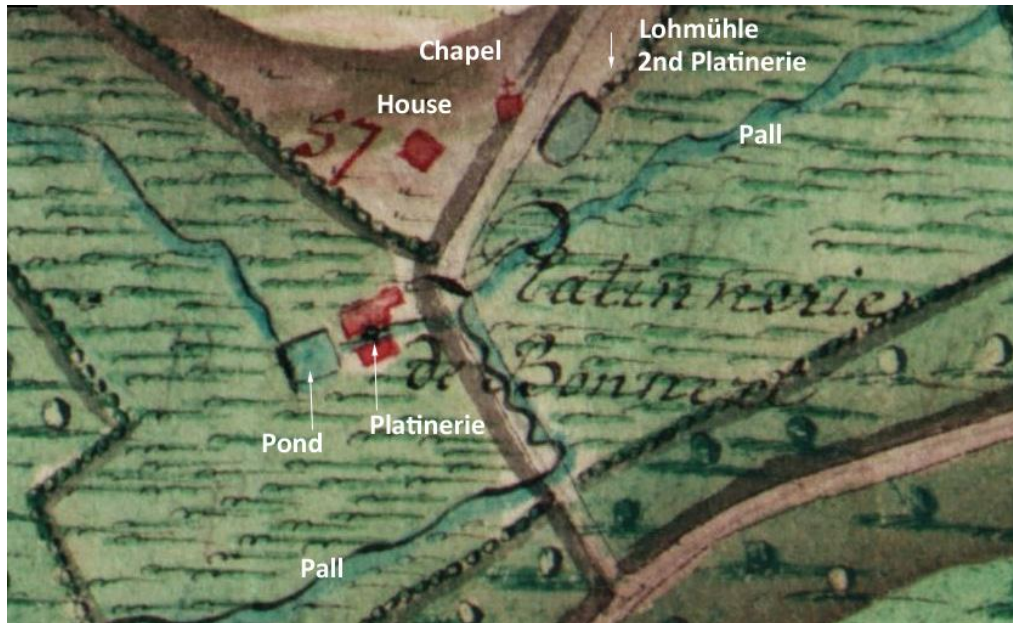


Mill with millstone, old grain mill equipment. Photos: Bob Foster, Claude Lanners



The owner's name plate in the mill!

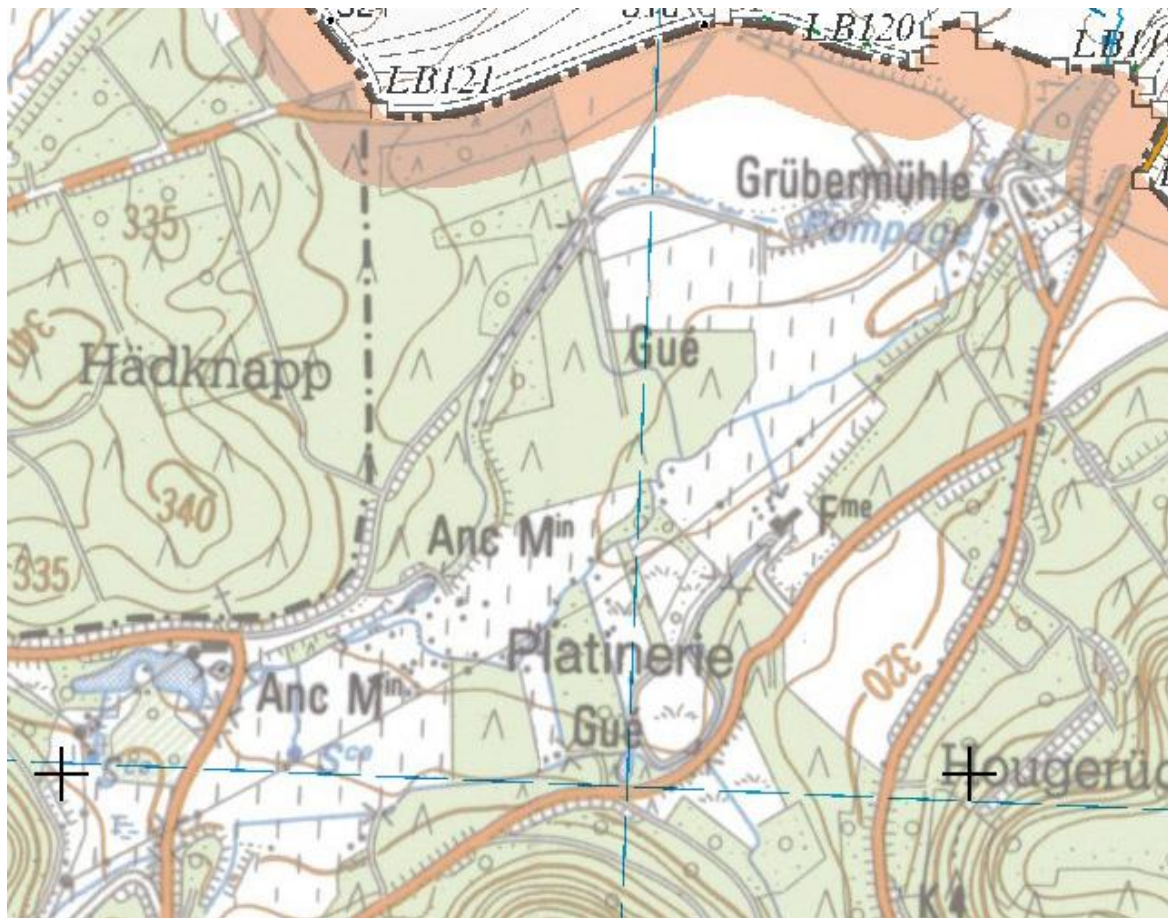
The Platinerie is represented on the Ferraris map from 1776 (Planche 202 Arlon, BNB):



The information given by the Ferraris map above is not totally consistent with the complaints of the Gruber miller that have been reported above: on the map the Pall brook does not enter the pond of the Platinerie and its flow was thus not limited by the activity of the flattening shop.

The map also shows a second pond East whose water supply is not indicated. The remainders of the pond are still visible today and marked on maps. Jean Pierre Klein, a son of Charles Petit/Klein, born 1762, built around 1795 an oak bark mill which he sold by 1816/17 to Jean Reuter from Bonnet. Reuter added a platinerie, which he sold in 1824 to Nicolas Molitor, the owner of the Platinerie. Molitor reconverted the site in an oak bark mill which was known as "Lohmühle", the German word for oak bark mill. (La Platinerie in: L'Ère du Fer en Luxembourg, Marcel Bourguignon p. 406-7)

Details of the topographic and hydrographic situation in the area are shown on this Belgian survey map excerpt:



Source: ACT geoportail.lu

The whole area is obviously known under the name Platinerie. The old metal working shop and mill is the place left of the lower “Anc Mⁱⁿ” (Ancien moulin-former mill). The upper “Anc Mⁱⁿ” marks the location of a mill that existed for a short period and has disappeared. “Gué” means ford and marks the crossing of ways and small water trickles. “Sce” marks a spring. The valley between the Platinerie and Grubermühle is a kind of a swamp as the III signs confirm.

A closer look on the contours of the map may also give the answer to a question adressed nowhere in the literature: why did the millers from the Grubermühle not build their own pond to create their own water reserve and become thus independent from their upstream neighbours? It seems that the downgrade was just not sufficient to gain enough height.

The [border between Luxembourg and Belgium](#) has been materialized by cast iron markers in cone shape and the number [LB 121](#) shown on the map is here:



The author's family pictured both in Belgium and in Luxembourg at beacon 117 between Oberpallen and Tontelange
Photo Mich Lanners 1.1.2012

Sources and literature for Grubermühle and Platinerie:

- ANLux - National Archives Luxembourg
- AEA – Belgian National Archives Arlon
- Le Patrimoine monumental de la Belgique, Wallonie, Tome 19 Luxembourg, Arrondissement d'Arlon 1994 Editions Pierre Mardaga, Liège ISBN 2-87009-571-6 BNL B 22.660 19 CL 6.2006 (Extracts p. 9, 10 and 12 below)
- Marcel Bourguignon, [L'ère du fer en Luxembourg](#) p. 379
- Emile Erpelding, Die Mühlen des Luxemburger Landes (p. 11 below)
- Charles Bivort, Mon village-Oberpallen, 1902 BNL LA 21999
- Nic. Bosseler, Die Gemeinde Beckerich, 1996
- Ed. Oster, Feuerstättenverzeichnis 1656. Réédition Fons Wiltgen
- [Promenade Pédestre Transfrontalière](#)

Timeline

Family event and date		Year	Historic event and date	
		1659	7.11	Peace Treaty of the Pyrénées, 1st partition of the Duchy of Luxembourg, Thionville to France
Birth Maternus HOUTON Oberpallen		Abt.1670		Little ice age and bad crops
		1684	4.6.	Capture of Luxembourg by VAUBAN under LOUIS XIV
Birth Augustinus HOUTON Oberpallen	May	1693		
		1714		Austrian period -1795 « Golden Age of Luxembourg »
Birth Michel HOUTTOY Oberpallen	19.3	1720		
		1737		Construction « Schlassbreck » in Luxembourg
		1740		Accession MARIA-THERESIA of Austria
Birth Michel HOTTOIS Oberpallen	2.3.	1744		
		1749	28.8.	Birth GOETHE
		1756	27.1	Birth MOZART
		1766		Cadastre and census of households
Marriage Michel HOTTOIS–Marie Catherine KLEIN Oberpallen	14.12.	1767		
		1770	17.12.	Birth BEETHOVEN
		1776	4.7.	Independence United States of America
Birth Pierre HOTHOI Oberfeulen	2.12.	1779		Construction road Luxembourg Namur
		1789	14.7.	French Revolution
		1791	30.9.	„Zauberflöte“ Vienna
		1792	27.8.	GOETHE in Luxembourg
		1792		French troupes in Luxembourg
		1794	16.12.	Skirmish at « Lopert » Feulen 6 inhabitants killed
		1800	1.9.	Mathias LINCK 1st mayor of Feulen
Marriage Pierre HOTTUA–Catherine GLOESENER Feulen	23.1.	1803		
		1804	9.10	NAPOLEON in Luxembourg
Birth Angela HOTTUA Oberfeulen, ancestor of Suzanne Bunkers	16.2.	1808		« Faust »
Birth Jacques HOTTUA Niedermertzig ancestor of the Hottua in France and of the Hotua in Belgium	16.12.	1808		
Birth Nicolas HOTTUA Oberfeulen, ancestor of Claude Lanners and of Dan Hottua	5.5.	1810		
		1814		2nd partition of the country: St. Vith and Bitburg to Germany
		1815		Vienna Congress: Luxembourg made Grand-Duchy under William I of Orange, part of the Netherlands
		1824 1824	7.5.	9th Symphony BEETHOVEN Vienna William TURNER paints in Luxembourg
Marriage Angela HOTTUA–Theodore SIMMERL Feulen	14.2	1827		Permit for canal Moselle to Meuse, remainders of tunnel in Hoffelt
Birth Susanna SIMMERL Oberfeulen	2.4.	1831		
		1837		1705 distilleries in the country Beginning of steel industry by Auguste METZ & Cy
Marriage Nicolas HOTTUA–Anne Marie	14.2.	1838		

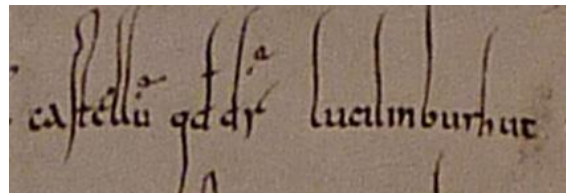
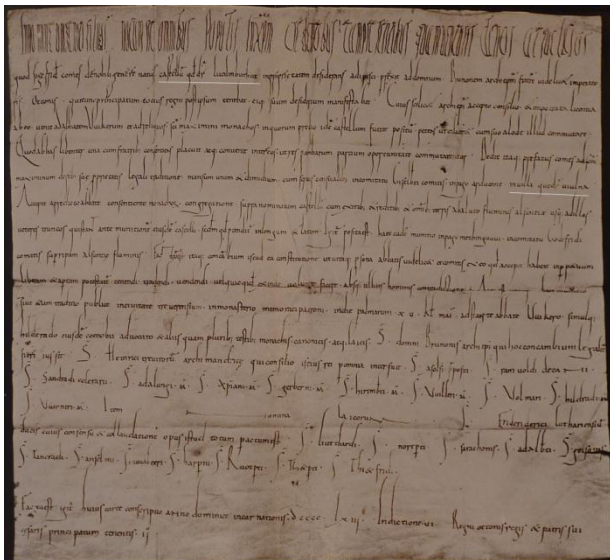
Family event and date		Year	Historic event and date		
MARNACH Feulen					
Construction house « Schmidden » Niederfeulen by Nicolas HOTTUA		1838		Construction road Ettelbruck to Heiderscheid in Niederfeulen	
		1839	19.4	London Treaty, 3rd partition of the country, Arlon, Bastogne, Neufchâteau to Belgium	
		1842	2.2.	Incorporation into the German customs union « Zollverein »	
Emigration Jacques HOTTUA Neufchâteau		1847			
Death HOTTUA family of Feulen		28.2	1849	28.2.	Sinking of the emigrant ship « Floridian »
Birth Jean HOTTUA Niederfeulen		22.3.	1854		
Birth Barbara SIMMERL Oberfeulen		30.12.	1856		Foundation State Savings Bank and International Bank, Luxembourg
Emigration Susanna SIMMERL USA			1857		
Jacques HOTTUA works at the construction of the railroad track Libramont-Arlon			1858	7.10	Railroad line Brussels-Arlon
		1859			Railroad line Luxembourg -Thionville
		1861			Civil war in America
		1864	5.6.		National anthem« Hémécht » Ettelbruck J.A. ZINNEN and M. LENTZ
Emigration Angela HOTTUA and Barbara SIMMERL USA			1866		
		1867	11.5		London Treaty, neutrality, demolition of the fortress
		1871			„Luxemburger Gazette“ by Nicolas Gonner , Dubuque, Iowa (-1918)
		1872			“RENERT” by Michel Rodange, Wiltz
Marriage Henry BUNKERS–Barbara SIMMERL Dyersville, Iowa		20.7.	1875		
		1882			First lead storage battery by Henri TUDOR Rosport
Marriage Jean HOTTUA-Catherine SCHLIM Feulen		9.1.	1883		
Birth Frank Peter BUNKERS New Vienna, Iowa		16.3.	1883		
Birth Nicolas HOTTUA Niederfeulen		9.8.	1883		
		1886	19.7.		Last concert of Franz LISZT in Luxembourg; died 29.7.
		1889			„Die Luxemburger in der Neuen Welt“ by Nicolas Gonner, Dubuque, Iowa
		1903			Adolphe bridge in Luxembourg
Marriage Frank Peter BUNKERS-Roseline Lilian WELTER Granville, Iowa		2.6.	1908		
Marriage Nicolas HOTTUA-Justine BORMANN Feulen		9.6.	1909		
Birth Suzanne HOTTUA Niederfeulen		10.4.	1910		
		1911			ARBED Aciéries Réunies Burbach Eich Dudelange (steel company)
		1914	28.7.		First World War -1918
		1919	15.1		CHARLOTTE Grand Duchess
Birth Léon HOTTUA Niederfeulen		16.8.	1915		
Birth Jerome Anton BUNKERS Mahnomen, Minnesota		16.11.	1921	25.7.	UEBL Belgo Luxembourg Economic Union
		1927			Nik. FRANTZ wins Tour de France
		1928			CEGEDEL Electrification of the country
		1929	25.10.		Crash New York Stock Exchange World economic crisis
Marriage Eugène LANNERS-Suzanne HOTTUA		18.4.	1938		

Family event and date	Year	Historic event and date
Feulen		
Birth Claude LANNERS Dudelange	18.7.	1939
		1.9
		10.9.
		21.12.
Marriage Jerome Anton BUNKERS-Verna KLEIN Granville, Iowa	14.6.	1949
Birth Suzanne Lillian BUNKERS Le Mars, Iowa	20.4.	1950
		18.4.
		26.7.
Birth Antoine HOTTUA Diekirch	26.2.	1955
		1969
		20.7
Birth Daniel HOTTUA Luxembourg	30.6.	1980

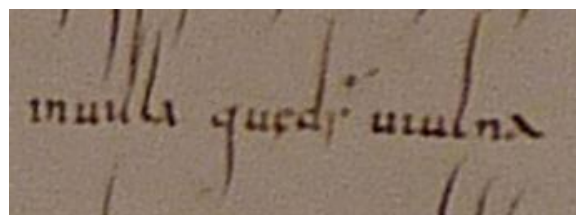
963 FEULEN and LUXEMBOURG

The area around Feulen has been occupied by man since at least 500 BC. In the Roman period after 54 AD several “villae”, a kind of farms, existed and the parish church may have been built on the remainders of such a farm or possibly a pagan worshipping place. The first written trace is found in 893: Fulina.

The “official” entry into history dates however from 963. In that year, on Palm Sunday, April 12, a count Siegfried exchanged in the abbey of St. Maximin in Trier a piece of land he owned in Feulen “viulna” against a castle situated on a rock which was going to develop into Luxembourg “lucilinburhuc”.



“castellu q(uo)d d(icitu)r lucilinburhuc”
the castle called lucilinburhuc



“in villa que d(icitu)r viulna”
in the village called viulna = Feulen

This charter, which is kept in the archives of the city of [Trier](#) (Germany, 30 miles east of Luxembourg), is considered to be the birth certificate of the country of Luxembourg.

In 1963 millennium celebrations took place on a national level but also in Feulen .

The castle developed later on into a fortress that was considered as one of the most important in Europe and put Luxembourg in the center of political rivalry among the European powers Austria, France and Spain.

Frequent wars and changing control of the fortress took a high toll from the population which remained very poor. Initially a county, Luxembourg was later on a Duchy and controlled a territory three times bigger than its present size.

Sources and literature

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- [AEA](#) Belgian National Archives, Arlon
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- [Familysearch.org](#) Luxembourg civil registration 1793-1923
- [luxracines.lu](#) Luxembourg genealogical site

- [Luxembourgers in the New World](#), a reedition based on the work of [Nicholas Gonner](#) "Die Luxemburger in der Neuen Welt", Dubuque, Iowa, 1889. Esch-sur-Alzette, Grand Duchy of Luxembourg : Editions-Reliures Schortgen, 1987. (Vol.2: Indexation of entries in Luxemburger Gazette)
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- [The Luxembourgers in America](#), Library of Congress
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- [Gaul News](#)
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- [Bach-Dunn Collection](#) of Luxembourgianna, University of St. Thomas. St. Paul, MN
- Claude Lanners family documentation and [database](#).

Sites of Family members

- [Ed Tate](#)
- [Suzanne Bunkers](#)
- [Stan Bormann](#)
- [Jack E. Mergen](#)
- [Bob and Keith Gaul](#)
- [Bill Welscher](#)
- [Dana Kellerman](#)
- [Jean Istace](#)

Genealogical Databases



- [Luxracines](#)
- [Luxroots.com](#)
- [Rob Deltgen](#)
- [Familysearch.org](#)
- [Geneanet](#)
- [Ancestry.com](#)
- [Genealogical Data from Luxembourg](#)
- [GENELUX](#)
- [Ellis Island Passenger Arrivals](#)
- [Castle Garden Immigrant Center](#)
- [Stephen P. Morse](#)
- [Germanroots.com](#)
- [Luxembourg Genealogy Forum](#)

The Author

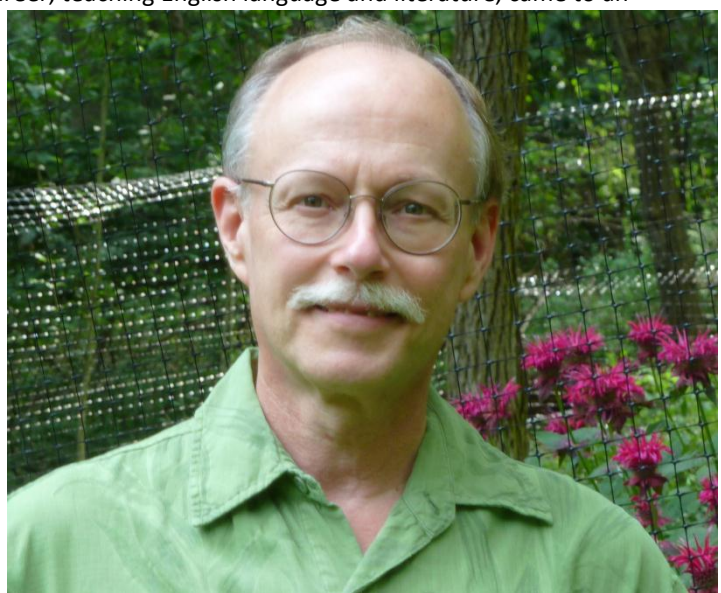
Claude Lanners was born 18 July 1939 in Dudelange, Luxembourg. He married Mariette Eicher in 1963 and the couple has two children, Martine born 1965 and Michel born 1968, and 5 grandchildren. They live in Luxembourg City, since 2010 in a condo due to Claude's reduced mobility as a consequence of ALS. During his professional life Claude was a civil servant working for the Ministry of Economy in the economic development area and missions to the US gave him the opportunity to visit Bormann relatives in Madison, MN and St. Joseph, IA. The wide US Hottua connection was still unknown. From his mother Suzanne Hottua, he inherited his interest in family history and he spent most of his time when retired researching and writing the history of the [Lanners](#), [Hottua](#) and Bormann families.

Back: Claude Lanners and daughter
Martine Ruiz-Lanners
Front: Bob Lanners, Daniel Ruiz, Nick
Lanners, Pit Lanners, Michel
Lanners, Laura Ruiz
Photo Edmée Lanners-Thein 9.2009
Pétange



Michel Lanners is webmaster.
mich@lannersnet.lu

Bob Foster was born 6 September 1949 in Brooklyn, NY and, thanks to his grandfather, Louis N. Feipel, always knew about his Luxembourg descent. His first career, teaching English language and literature, came to an early, untenured end, but his "Complete Guide to Middle-earth" remained in print for 30 years. Bob's second career - business analysis and software design in the financial services industry – proved more successful. After retiring in 2010, he was able to pursue his interest in family history and was delighted to find Claude's rich store of information about the lives of the Hottuas in Luxembourg. Bob and his wife live in Chatham, NJ, where he tries to persuade the deer, rabbits and woodchucks not to eat his garden. When indoors, he can be reached at <mailto:bobfoster312@comcast.net>



Bob in his botanic garden in rural New Jersey. Disregard the fence that should keep off his friends and competitors from the plantation.

A HOTTUA family reunion 1982 in Niederfeulen



22.8.1982 Hottua family reunion of the author's branch in front of the Niederfeulen blacksmith shop, now a service station. Claude Lanners 5th from left, Dan Hottua next on the arm of his mother, then Antoine Hottua, Dan's father and Mariette Lanners-Eicher, Claude's wife.