

Appendix A

Zeisset Family Timeline

This timeline summarizes key events in the Zeisset family history, from the family's Swiss Mennonite origins and early settlement in Germany through the immigration of the six Zeisset siblings to Kansas.

16th–18th Centuries: Mennonite Roots and Early Zeisset Generations

- **1517** – Martin Luther posts his 95 theses in Wittenberg, helping launch the Protestant Reformation.
- **1525–1527** – Anabaptism emerges as a distinct movement, later including Mennonites.
- **1536–1537** – Menno Simons organizes Anabaptists in the Netherlands, giving rise to the Mennonite faith.
- **1660–1670** – According to Alfred Funk's 1939 records, the Zeisset family comes from Switzerland and settles at Rauhof in Germany.
- **About 1680** – Jakob Zeisset is identified by Alfred Funk as the first Zeisset at Rauhof.
- **1718** – Abraham Zeisset, the first documented ancestor of this Zeisset line, is reportedly born at Rauhof.
- **1731** – Abraham Zeisset, presumably the father of Abraham born in 1718, serves as elder at Hasselbach.
- **1749** – Abraham Zeisset (1718) begins serving as elder of the Immelhausen and Hasselbach Mennonite congregations.
- **1764** – Jakob Zeisset, son of Abraham Zeisset (1718) and Elisabetha Landes, is born at Rauhof.
- **1766–1782** – Abraham Zeisset is involved in a major Mennonite church dispute described in the *Mennonite Encyclopedia*.
- **1778** – Abraham Zeisset departs from Rauhof; the family moves to Willenbach and Lautenbach.
- **1785** – Jakob Zeisset marries Magdalena Pletscher of Meckesheim.
- **1787** – Abraham Zeisset dies at age 69.

19th Century: Lautenbach, Menzingen, and Sindolsheim

- **1794** – Johannes Zeisset, son of Jakob Zeisset and Magdalena Pletscher, is born at Lautenbach.
- **1813** – Jakob Zeisset dies when his son Johannes is 19 years old.

- **1815** – Johannes Zeisset pays a military-duty redemption fee and marries Christina Bär at Lautenbach.
- **1816** – Jakob Zeisset, son of Johannes Zeisset and Christina Bär, is born at Lautenbach.
- **About 1823** – Several Zeisset families move from Lautenbach to Menzingen.
- **1825–1826** – Several Zeisset family deaths occur at Menzingen, including children and extended family members; Magdalena Pletscher Zeisset dies in February 1826.
- **1837** – Jakob Friedrich Epp, later acknowledged as Jakob Friedrich Zeisset, is born to Johanna Luise Epp at Menzingen.
- **1838** – Jakob Zeisset acknowledges Jakob Friedrich as his son and marries Johanna Luise Epp.
- **1839** – Isaak Zeisset, brother of Jakob Friedrich, is born at Menzingen.
- **1841** – Johannes Zeisset, brother of Jakob Friedrich, is born at Menzingen.
- **1848** – Daniel Zeisset, brother of Jakob Friedrich, is born at Menzingen.
- **1851–1854** – The Zeisset family leaves Menzingen and is next found at Helmstheim, near Sindolsheim.
- **1854** – Magdalena Zeisset, sister of Jakob Friedrich, is born at Helmstheim.
- **1855** – Johannes Zeisset dies soon after the family moves to Sindolsheim.
- **About 1860** – The Zeisset family photograph at Sindolsheim is believed to have been taken.
- **1861** – Jakob Zeisset dies at Sindolsheim at age 45.
- **1863** – The Zeisset tenancy at Sindolsheim ends; the family moves briefly to Rosenberg.
- **February 1864** – Jakob Friedrich Zeisset, his mother Johanna, and other family members move to Hofgut Kreuzfeld.
- **March 14, 1864** – Jakob Friedrich Zeisset marries Margaretha Müller of Semd.

1864–1884: The Kreuzfeld Years

- **November 1864** – Georg, first child of Jakob Friedrich and Margaretha, is born and dies the same day.
- **July 1865** – A stillborn son is born to Jakob Friedrich and Margaretha.
- **July 20, 1866** – Johanna Luise “Louise” Zeisset is born at Kreuzfeld.
- **June 1867** – Emma Zeisset is born and dies in infancy.
- **June 1868** – Bertha Zeisset is born at Kreuzfeld.
- **March 1870** – Elisabeth “Lizzie” Zeisset is born at Kreuzfeld.
- **1870** – Jakob Friedrich commits to an 18-year lease of Hofgut Kreuzfeld.

- **1870–1878** – A new house and stable are planned and built at Hofgut Kreuzfeld.
- **December 31, 1873** – Georg Jakob “Jacob” Zeisset is born at Kreuzfeld.
- **April 1875** – Barbara “Bettie” Zeisset is born at Kreuzfeld.
- **1876** – A poor farming year, livestock losses, and family illness contribute to Jakob Friedrich’s financial troubles.
- **November 1876** – Daniel Zeisset, brother of Jakob Friedrich, dies of tuberculosis.
- **February 1878** – Heinrich “Henry” Zeisset is born at Kreuzfeld.
- **May 1878** – Hohenlohe estate accountant Mr. Schmidt investigates Jakob Friedrich’s rent arrears and farm conditions.
- **July 1878** – Jakob Friedrich’s brothers, Isaak and Johannes, assume the Kreuzfeld lease as subtenants to help avoid bankruptcy.
- **November 11, 1880** – A barn at Hofgut Kreuzfeld burns, destroying stored produce belonging to Jakob Friedrich.
- **February 20, 1881** – Margaretha Müller Zeisset dies after a difficult birth, leaving six surviving children.
- **July 13, 1883** – Louise Zeisset arrives in New York and begins her life in America.
- **November 9, 1883** – Bankruptcy proceedings are opened against Jakob Friedrich Zeisset.
- **December 4, 1883** – Bankruptcy proceedings are discontinued because Jakob Friedrich lacks sufficient assets to cover the cost.
- **January 21, 1884** – Two large barns burn at Hofgut Kreuzfeld.
- **February 2, 1884** – Jakob Friedrich’s lease of Hofgut Kreuzfeld officially ends.
- **February 11–12, 1884** – An auction is held at Hofgut Kreuzfeld to sell remaining livestock, equipment, and household goods.
- **February 1884** – Jakob Friedrich is arrested during the auction and taken before the investigating court.
- **August 14, 1884** – Jakob Friedrich is tried at Schwäbisch Hall, convicted of one count of fraud, and acquitted on four other counts.
- **August 26, 1884** – Jakob Friedrich enters the state prison at Schwäbisch Hall.
- **October 6, 1884** – Jakob Friedrich dies of typhus in prison.
- **October 9, 1884** – Jakob Friedrich is buried in the Nikolaifriedhof in Schwäbisch Hall.

1883–1893: The Six Zeisset Siblings Immigrate to Kansas

- **1883** – Louise Zeisset leaves Germany and arrives in America; she later joins her siblings in Kansas.
- **1884** – After Jakob Friedrich’s death, the six surviving Zeisset children are orphaned; all but Louise live with relatives in Germany.
- **1885** – Bertha and Bettie leave Germany to join Baer and Bletscher cousins in Kansas.
- **February 1888** – Isaak Zeisset and his family move from Eichenau to Darstadt, near Würzburg, taking Lizzie and possibly Jacob with them.
- **January 1889** – Johanna Luise Epp Zeisset, mother of Jakob Friedrich, dies at Fasanenmühle and is buried at Waldenburg.
- **February 1890** – Jacob Zeisset immigrates to Kansas.
- **May 1891** – Lizzie Zeisset immigrates to Kansas.
- **July 1891** – George Weller, who had worked for Isaak Zeisset, leaves Germany; he and Lizzie marry shortly after arriving in Kansas.
- **April 1893** – Henry Zeisset immigrates to Kansas, becoming the last of the six siblings to leave Germany.
- **1893** – Johannes Zeisset and his family leave Niedersteinach and move to Würzburg.

20th–21st Centuries: Remembering and Researching the Family

- **1969** – The first Zeisset family reunion is held in Leonardville, Kansas.
- **1970** – Ray and Carolyn Zeisset, with Merton and Ina Zeisset, travel to Germany to learn more about the family history.
- **1972** – The second Zeisset family reunion is held in Leonardville; a one-page family history has been written by this time.
- **1992** – Merton Zeisset publishes *Our First Century in America – The Zeissets Who Came to Kansas from Germany 1884–1893*.
- **2000** – A new narrative of the Zeisset family history is written by Loretta Hoerman, with later amendments in 2006 and 2008.
- **2006** – Zeisset descendants participate in a family tour to Germany.
- **2026** – The current expanded Zeisset family history is prepared, incorporating new and corrected research findings.