

Appendix B

Key Places in the Zeisset Family Story

This appendix provides a quick reference to the towns, estates, regions, and family locations that appear throughout the Zeisset family history. Many of these places were not villages in the modern sense, but farms, estates, leaseholds, or small communities where Mennonite families lived and worked.

Regions and Historical Context

- **Switzerland, especially the Bern region** – The believed homeland of the Zeisset family before their move into Germany. Many Swiss Mennonite families came from the area around Bern.
- **The Palatinate** – A politically and religiously fragmented region of southwest Germany that became a refuge for some Mennonite families after periods of persecution.
- **The Kraichgau** – A region of southwest Germany between the Neckar and Rhine rivers where Mennonites found limited tolerance and where several related families lived.
- **Baden** – The former German state where several Zeisset family locations were found, including Rauhof, Menzingen, Sindolsheim, and Rosenberg.
- **Württemberg** – The former German state associated with Willenbach, Lautenbach, Schrozberg, Krailshausen, Kreuzfeld, Schwäbisch Hall, and other later Zeisset locations.
- **Hohenlohe** – The district where Hofgut Kreuzfeld was located. The region was associated with the Hohenlohe family and its estates.

Early Zeisset Locations

- **Rauhof** – The first known Zeisset location in Germany, where the family reportedly settled after leaving Switzerland. Jakob Zeisset is identified by Alfred Funk as the first Zeisset there. Abraham Zeisset later rented the Rauhof estate.
- **Immelhausen and Hasselbach** – Mennonite congregations associated with Abraham Zeisset, who served as an elder and was involved in a major church dispute described in the *Mennonite Encyclopedia*.
- **Willenbach** – An estate near Ödheim where Zeisset families lived after leaving Rauhof. Abraham Zeisset's later years and several family records are associated with this place.

- **Lautenbach** – Another Mennonite estate near Ödheim where Zeisset families lived and farmed. Several direct-line ancestors were born, married, or died here.
- **Ödheim** – The nearby town whose Catholic church records include vital records for Mennonite families living at Willenbach and Lautenbach.

19th-Century Family Moves

- **Menzingen** – A major Zeisset family location after the move from Lautenbach. Jakob Friedrich Zeisset was born there as Jakob Friedrich Epp, and the family lived near the Menzingen estate associated with the water castle.
- **Dammhof** – The birthplace of Christina Bär, wife of Johannes Zeisset, and an important Bär family location connected to later Zeisset-Bär relationships.
- **Helmstheim / Helmstheimerhof** – A farm near Sindolsheim where the Zeisset family lived briefly after leaving Menzingen. Magdalena Zeisset, sister of Jakob Friedrich, was born there in 1854.
- **Sindolsheim** – The family lived and farmed at Schlossgut Sindolsheim after Helmstheim. Johannes Zeisset died there in 1855, Jakob Zeisset died there in 1861, and the important Zeisset family photograph was likely taken there around 1860.
- **Rosenberg** – The brief home of Johanna Luise Epp Zeisset and her children after the Sindolsheim tenancy ended and before the move to Kreuzfeld.

Kreuzfeld and Nearby Places

- **Hofgut Kreuzfeld** – The central location of the story of Jakob Friedrich Zeisset and Margaretha Müller. Their six surviving children were born there, and the family's financial crisis, barn fires, auction, and displacement occurred there.
- **Kreuzfeld** – The small settlement associated with Hofgut Kreuzfeld and the birthplace of the six Zeisset siblings who later immigrated to Kansas.
- **Krailshausen** – The church and school location for the Zeisset children at Kreuzfeld. Margaretha Müller Zeisset and several infants were buried in the Krailshausen cemetery.
- **Schrozberg** – The regional administrative and church-related center near Kreuzfeld. Johanna Zeisset and Magdalena Zeisset Sönder lived there during part of the family story.
- **Neuenstein** – The archive location where records about Hofgut Kreuzfeld, the house, farm diagrams, and Jakob Friedrich's circumstances were found.

- **Schwäbisch Hall** – The city where Jakob Friedrich Zeisset was tried, imprisoned, died of typhus, and was buried in the Nikolaifriedhof.

Related Family Locations in Germany

- **Semd** – The hometown of Margaretha Müller, wife of Jakob Friedrich Zeisset. Her Müller family lived there, and her father was a shepherd.
- **Adelsheim** – The district seat where Jakob Friedrich Zeisset and Margaretha Müller were married in 1864.
- **Niedersteinach** – Home of Magdalena Zeisset Bär Bühler and later Johannes Zeisset's family. Bettie and Henry lived there after the breakup of the Kreuzfeld household.
- **Obersteinach** – Home of Barbara Zeisset Schmutz and her family; Jakob Friedrich's aunt, sister of Magdalena Zeisset Bär Bühler
- **Eichenau** – Farm location where Isaak Zeisset lived and where Lizzie and Jake stayed after the Kreuzfeld household was disrupted.
- **Darstadt** – Later home of Isaak Zeisset near Würzburg. Lizzie Zeisset was associated with this location before immigrating to Kansas.
- **Fasanenmühle and Waldenburg** – Johanna Luise Epp Zeisset died at Fasanenmühle in 1889 and was buried at Waldenburg.
- **Würzburg** – A later destination for Johannes Zeisset and his family after leaving Niedersteinach.

American Destinations and Family Memory

- **Pennsylvania** – Early destination for some Zeisset and related families who immigrated to America, including distant relatives in Lancaster County. Louise Zeisset lived here three years before she went to Kansas.
- **Ohio and Michigan** – American locations associated with earlier Zeisset-related immigrant lines, including descendants whose surname spellings varied widely.
- **Illinois and St. Louis, Missouri** – Locations associated with John Zeisset of the Illinois branch and his descendants.
- **Kansas** – The destination of the six Zeisset siblings: Louise, Bertha, Lizzie, Jake, Bettie, and Henry. Their new lives in Kansas mark the conclusion of the German portion of the family story.
- **Leonardville, Kansas** – The site of early Zeisset family reunions and a central location for preserving and renewing the family's shared memory.