

RESEARCH REPORT (BASSETT)
2 March 2000

ESCH Family

Research continued on tracing the ESCH and related families of Runkel and Blessenbach, Hessen-Nassau, Preußen. The previous session had identified the marriage of Johann Mathias (Theis) ESCH and Maria Juliana ZIMMER in Blessenbach on 25 December 1701. According to that record, Johann Theis was the son of Wilhelm ESCH of Eppenroth, Schaumburg. While searching these records again, it was discovered that this entry was only the first proclamation read before the congregation, announcing the upcoming marriage of this couple, in order that anyone who knew of an impediment to uniting them might come forward. The actual marriage record was recorded on the same page, and was dated 10 January 1702.

Time ran out last session before the ESCH family could be looked for further. It was believed that Eppenroth may have referred to Eppenrod, Unterlahnkreis, Hessen-Nassau, as that village was not too far from Blessenbach. If married in 1702, Johann Mathias ESCH probably was born in the 1670s or early 1680s, so the Eppenrod christenings were searched from 1651–85, but no ESCH entries at all were noted.¹ Wilhelm ESCH presumably was still alive when his son married in 1702,

1. Evangelische Kirche Eppenrod (Unterlahnkreis). *Kirchenbuch, 1651–1896*. FHL Film No. 1195371.

so the Eppenrod burials were searched from 1702–60, but once again, the ESCH surname was not seen.² It would appear that this was not the parish referred to in Johann Mathias ESCH's marriage.

It's possible that the ESCH family was Catholic, and that Johann Mathias ESCH only married a Protestant woman, though no mention of this was made in his marriage. Eppenrod belongs to the Catholic Parish of Nentershausen, Kreis Westerburg, but unfortunately, the registers of that place only begin in 1681, probably after Johann Mathias would have been born. There is another village in the area which was believed a possible candidate for Eppenroth, and that was Egenroth. A search of the early christenings of that place, however, did not uncover the birth of Johann Mathias ESCH either.³ It was decided not to pursue this family further, given the lack of any other clues to their place of origin. It's possible that an area search of surrounding parishes, especially those which may have been part of the Principality of Schaumburg at one time, might uncover them, though given the early time period, that is by no means certain.

JOST Family

Research next turned to the related JOST family. Joham Adam ESCH (born 1744) married Maria Catharina JOST on 21 March 1770 in Runkel. At that time, she was said to be the daughter of Johann Peter JOST of that place. According to client information, Maria Catharina was born about 1749, so the Runkel christenings were searched from 1744–56, but no JOST entries were identified.⁴ The marriages were next examined, to see if Johann Peter JOST married here, but he did not do so between 1728–50.⁵ According to the ESCH/JOST marriage, Johann Peter JOST was still alive in

2. *Ibid.*

3. Evangelische Kirche Egenroth (Unterlahnkreis). *Kirchenbuch, 1614–1875*. FHL Film No. 1270387.

4. Evangelische Kirche Runkel (Oberlahnkreis). *Kirchenbuch, 1568–1876*. FHL Film No. 1195130.

5. *Ibid.*

March 1770, so the Runkel burials were searched from 1762–1822, and although no record was found for him, one of his children did die during that time period, as follows.⁶

Source	Evangelische Kirche Runkel (Oberlahnkreis). <i>Kirchenbuch, 1568–1876</i> . FHL Film No. 1195130.		
Page/Entry	Death or Burial Date and Place	Name	Description
191/42	Died 26 December 1762, Runkel; buried 28 December	Joh. Gottfried	Son of Joh. Pet. JOST, age 2 ³ / ₄ years.

Since it was known how old this child was, his christening was now searched for, but it was not found, so the family must have moved to Runkel in 1759 or later. Finally, the confirmation records were examined from 1761–65 and it was found the Maria Catharina JOST was confirmed in 1763, substantiating that she probably was born in about 1749, but obviously not in Runkel.⁷ Since the origins of this family also were unknown, no further research was done on this line.

KROH/GRAU/GRAW Family

Anna Maria KROH married Johann Henrich ESCH on 5 November 1726 in Blessenbach. She was the daughter of Johann Wilhelm KROH of that place, so research began in the Blessenbach registers, and the marriage of her parents is given here.⁸

6. *Ibid.* Research document 1.

7. *Ibid.* Research document 2.

8. Evangelische Kirche Blessenbach (Oberlahnkreis). *Kirchenbuch, 1655–1900*. FHL Film No. 1195107. Research document 3.

Source		Evangelische Kirche Blessenbach (Oberlahnkreis). <i>Kirchenbuch, 1655–1900</i> . FHL Film No. 1195107.		
Page/Entry	Date	Groom	Bride	Remarks
	28 Nov 1704	Johann Wilhelm GRAW, son of Stoffel GRAW of Bless[enbach]	Anna Catharina, daughter of Johann Wilhelm REUTHER of Eshb[ach]	Married after three proclamations, the first being on 28 September 1704

The children born to this couple were next searched for, with the following baptisms identified.⁹

Source		Evangelische Kirche Blessenbach (Oberlahnkreis). <i>Kirchenbuch, 1655–1900</i> . FHL Film No. 1195107.		
*Born or ~Christened	Child's Name	Father's Name	Mother's Name	Sponsors
~3 Oct 1706	Elisabetha Catharina	Johann Wilhelm GRAW of Blessenb.	[Not given]	1. Juliana Catharina, wife of Henrich STAUDT 2. Wife of Johann Peter LAUX 3. Martin Adam, son of Jacob HANSEN of Eckerhausen[?]
~29 Oct 1707	Anna Maria	Johann Wilhelm GRAW of Blessenb.	[Not given]	1. Wife of Andreas [Unknown] of Omenau [the minister probably forget the man's name, or was never told it] 2. Johann Adam HAUSEN of Blessenbach.
~2 Mar 1710	Anna Catharina	Johann Wilhelm GRAW of Bless.	[Not given]	1. Daughter of Joh. Henrich KUNKL[?] 2. Daughter of Hans Wilhelm DOER[?] 3. Son of Joh. Stoffel GRAW
~ 8 May 1712	Johann Henrich	Johann Wilhel. GRAU of Blessenbach	[Not given]	1. Henrich ANDRES, royal hunter here 2. Henrich LAUX of Münster 3. Daughter of Christophel GROW of Blessenb.

9. *Ibid.* Research documents 4–12.

Source	Evangelische Kirche Blessenbach (Oberlahnkreis). <i>Kirchenbuch, 1655–1900. FHL Film No. 1195107.</i>			
*Born or ~Christened	Child's Name	Father's Name	Mother's Name	Sponsors
~3 Feb 1715	Johann Jacob	Johann Wilhelm GRAW of Bless.	[Not given]	1. Jacob HAUTZEL 2. Wife of Hans Georg ACHENBACH, school teacher 3. Henrich STAUDT, son of Johann Henrich STAUDT of Blessenbach
~21 Feb 1717	Johann Christian	Johann Wilhelm GRO	[Not given]	1. Joh. Christ. HEIMBURGER[?] 2. Johann Adam HECK 3. Wife of Andreas GEILMANN
~10 Apr 1718	Johann Wilhelm	Johann Wilhelm GRO	[Not given]	1. Johann Wilhelm HEIL 2. Johann Adam FO[?]ITEL 3. Anna Juliana, daughter of Stoffel GRO
~30 Sep 1720	[Not given]	Johan Wilhelm KROH of Blessenbach	Anna Catharina	1. Christoph KROH, church elder and field juryman [settler of boundary disputes] of Blessenbach 2. Anna Maria, wife of Hermann REUTHER of Wolfsenhausen[?]
~17 Mar 1723	[Not given]	Wilhelm KROH of Blessenbach	Anna Catharina	1. Maria Magdalena NISIN of Firberten hoff[?] 2. Margretha [surname not given] of Seelbach 3. Andreas FINK of Omenau

The deaths of Johann Wilhelm KROH and his wife were searched for, but probably occurred during the gap in the records (1742–63).

Johann Wilhelm KROH was the son of Stoffel/Christophel/Christopher GRAW/KROH, so the marriage of that man was searched for, and it was discovered that he had been married twice, with his first marriage given below.¹⁰

10. *Ibid.* Research document 13.

Source		Evangelische Kirche Blessenbach (Oberlahnkreis). <i>Kirchenbuch, 1655–1900</i> . FHL Film No. 1195107.		
Page/Entry	Date	Groom	Bride	Remarks
	9 Oct 1666	Johan Christophel KROH, son of Johannes KROH of Blessenbach	Anna Agatha, daughter of Johann BECKER of Eschbach	Married after three proclamations, in the church in Blessenbach

Five children were found to have been born to this couple, as follows.¹¹

Source				
Evangelische Kirche Blessenbach (Oberlahnkreis). <i>Kirchenbuch, 1655–1900</i> . FHL Film No. 1195107.				
*Born or ~Christened	Child's Name	Father's Name	Mother's Name	Sponsors
~28 Mar 1669	Anna Christina	Johan Christoffel KROH of Blessenbach	Anna Agatha	1. Johan Friderich BUMMEL[?] of Weylmünster 2. Christina, wife of Hans LAUX, shepherd of Blessenbach
~8 Oct 1671	[Female; name not given]	Johann Stoffel GRAU	[Not given]	[Not given]
~15 Dec 1674	Anna Maria	Johann Stoffel GRAW	[Not given]	1. [Unclear] 2. Wife of Johann Adam [illegible]
~2 May 1677	Johann Jacob	Johann Stophel GRAW of Blessenbach	[Not given]	1. Johann Jacob BECKER of Eschbach 2. Johann [illegible] of Falkenbach[?]
~11 Jun 1680	Maria Juliana	Johann Stoffel GRAW of Pless.	[Not given] died in childbirth	1. Henrich BECKER 2. Wife of Hans Wilhelm DOEL

The death of Christophel KROH's first wife occurred in childbirth, as given here.¹²

11. *Ibid.* Research documents 14–18.

12. *Ibid.* Research document 19.

Source	Evangelische Kirche Blessenbach (Oberlahnkreis). <i>Kirchenbuch, 1655–1900</i> . FHL Film No. 1195107.		
Page/Entry	Death or Burial Date and Place	Name	Description
	Died 10 June 1680; buried 11 June	[Not given]	Johann Stoffel GRAU's wife; died in childbirth

Her widower married within a couple of months, probably to provide a mother for his young children, and that record is given below.¹³

Source	Evangelische Kirche Blessenbach (Oberlahnkreis). <i>Kirchenbuch, 1655–1900</i> . FHL Film No. 1195107.			
Page/Entry	Date	Groom	Bride	Remarks
	3 Oct 1680	Johann Stoffel GRAU, widower in Plessenbach	Maria Joh anata, daughter of the late Johannes HAUTZEL of Holthausen	Married after three proclamations

This couple had three children baptized in Blessenbach, although there was a twelve year gap between the first and second child, leading to the possibility that they lived somewhere else during those years.¹⁴

Source	Evangelische Kirche Blessenbach (Oberlahnkreis). <i>Kirchenbuch, 1655–1900</i> . FHL Film No. 1195107.			
*Born or ~Christened	Child's Name	Father's Name	Mother's Name	Sponsors
~19 Dec 1683	Johann Wilhelm	Johann Stoffel GRAU	[Not given]	1. Hans Wilhelm DOEL 2. Johann Adam HAUTEL 3. Wife of Christoffel GRAU of Wolffenhausen
~25 Mar 1695	Johann Peter	Christoffel GRAU	[Not given]	1. Johann Peter NATHER's wife, Anna Kinigundta 2. Johann LAUX of Weyer[?]

13. *Ibid.* Research document 20.

14. *Ibid.* Research documents 21–23.

Source	Evangelische Kirche Blessenbach (Oberlahnkreis). <i>Kirchenbuch, 1655–1900</i> . FHL Film No. 1195107.			
*Born or ~Christened	Child's Name	Father's Name	Mother's Name	Sponsors
~20 Mar 1698	Maria Catharina	Johann Christoffel GRAW of Plessen b.	[Not given]	1. Jacob HAITEN's wife 2. Wife of Jost FRIDERICH of Falckenbach 3. Henrich HAUTZEL of Plessenbach

Finally, the deaths of Christoph KROH and his wife were identified, as follows.¹⁵

Source	Evangelische Kirche Blessenbach (Oberlahnkreis). <i>Kirchenbuch, 1655–1900</i> . FHL Film No. 1195107.		
Page/Entry	Death or Burial Date and Place	Name	Description
#286	Died 1 December 1731; buried 3 December	Maria Johannel	Wife of Stoffel KROH, church elder here; age 73 years
#342	Died 4 November 1735; buried 6 November	Christophorus KROH	Of Blessenbach; in his 92 nd year; church elder and field juryman

According to his age at death, Christoph KROH would have been born in about 1643, several years before the Blessenbach registers began, but since his father was still alive when he married in 1666, his death was sought in the records. In addition to that entry, another was found for the wife of Johann GRAW, who may or may not have been Christoph's mother.¹⁶

15. *Ibid.* Research documents 24–25.

16. *Ibid.* Research documents 26–27.

Source	Evangelische Kirche Blessenbach (Oberlahnkreis). <i>Kirchenbuch, 1655–1900</i> . FHL Film No. 1195107.		
Page/ Entry	Death or Burial Date and Place	Name	Description
	Died 1674 [month and day not given]	[Not given]	Johann GRAW's wife
	Died 7 March 1682; buried 9 March	Johann GRAW	master carpenter/ construction worker in Plessenbach; burial presided over by the pastor of Münster[?]

Maria Johanata HAUTZEL, wife of Christoph KROH, was said to be from Holthausen, although that place was not positively identified. There were several places called Hol(t)zhausen in the area, but there wasn't enough time to search their records for her family. Given the early time period, however, it is not known if records are available for all of these parishes.

ZIMMER Family

Maria Julianna ZIMMER married Mathias ESCH on 10 January 1702, at which time she was identified as the daughter of the late Hans Georg ZIMMER of Blessenbach. Her christening was not located in this parish, but there were two marriages for a man named Hans Georg ZIMMER, as well as children born to his first wife. The second wife, Anna Sibilla WEIS[?], by whom Maria Julianna probably would have been born, was from a place which looked like "Münsen", but may have been Münster. The baptisms of that parish were searched from 1681–1707 for children born to Hans Georg ZIMMER, but none were found.¹⁷

Despite finding no christening for Maria Julianna, this probably was her family, so it was researched as far as possible, beginning with Hans Georg ZIMMER's first marriage.¹⁸

17. Evangelische Kirche Münster (Oberlahnkreis). *Kirchenbuch, 1681–1919*. FHL Film No. 1195154.

18. Evangelische Kirche Blessenbach, *op cit*. FHL Film No. 1195107. Research document 28.

Source		Evangelische Kirche Blessenbach (Oberlahnkreis). <i>Kirchenbuch, 1655–1900</i> . FHL Film No. 1195107.		
Page/Entry	Date	Groom	Bride	Remarks
	21 Jan 1659	Hans Georg ZIMMER, son of the late Hans ZIMMER, citizen of Trier	Christina, daughter of the late Johann FREMFELDEN[?], resident of Blessenbach	Married after three proclamations, the first being 9 January

This couple had five children born here, as follows.¹⁹

Source					Evangelische Kirche Blessenbach (Oberlahnkreis). <i>Kirchenbuch, 1655–1900</i> . FHL Film No. 1195107.				
*Born or ~Christened	Child's Name	Father's Name	Mother's Name	Sponsors					
~ 8 Apr 1660	Johannes Christophorus	Hans Georg ZIMMER of here	Christina	1. Hans Wilhelm, son of Peter DOEL 2. Johann, son of Jost BECKER of Essbach 3. Anna Elisabeth, "my" Christophori BRENDY[?], pastor's wife 4. Elisabeth, Hans KLING's wife					
~9 Mar 1662	Johan Stefen	Hans Georg ZIMMER of here	Christina	1. Johan Christoph PRIACKMAN, mayor of Schubach 2. Steffan KLING 3. Joh. Christoph, son of Johan KROH 4. Catharina, wife of Chriss STANOUR[?] of Buchenau[?] 5. Anna Agatha, daughter of Jacob HEYLE					
~12 Feb 1665	Johan Nicolaus	Hans Georg ZIMMER of Blessenbach	Christina	1. Mr. Nicolaus DIEL of Blessenbach 2. Conrad NEBE[?], merchant in Blessenbach 3. Anna Juliana, daughter of Jacob HÖPPE[?] of Blessenbach 4. [name not given], daughter of [not given], of Elkerhausen[?]					

19. *Ibid.* Research documents 29–33.

Source	Evangelische Kirche Blessenbach (Oberlahnkreis). <i>Kirchenbuch, 1655–1900</i> . FHL Film No. 1195107.			
*Born or ~Christened	Child's Name	Father's Name	Mother's Name	Sponsors
~24 Mar 1667	Johan Jost	Hans Georg ZIMMER	Cristina	1. Jost BECKER of Eshbach 2. Johan R[. . .] 3. Christ. STAUD of Omenau[?] 4. Anna Agatha, wife of Christoffel KROH of Blessenbach
~4 Apr 1669	Johannes	Hans Georg ZIMMER	Christina	1. Hans LAUX, at this time shepherd in Blessenbach 2. Anna Margareta, wife of Johannes MES[. . .]G of Eshbach

No death was located for Christina ZIMMER, but she had to have died, since Hans Georg was listed as a widower in the following record.²⁰

Source	Evangelische Kirche Blessenbach (Oberlahnkreis). <i>Kirchenbuch, 1655–1900</i> . FHL Film No. 1195107.			
Page/Entry	Date	Groom	Bride	Remarks
	1678	Hans Georg ZIMMER, widower of Ples.	Anna Sibilla, daughter of Diederich WEIS[?] of Münsen[?]	

Surprisingly, no burial was identified for Hans Georg ZIMMER, nor his wife, so they may have moved to another parish at some time, which may also account for the lack of a christening record for their assumed daughter, Maria Julianna. Hans Georg ZIMMER's father was identified as Hans ZIMMER of Trier. Unfortunately, the Family History Library (FHL) does not have any records of Protestant churches in Trier early enough to have included this family, so research had to stop.

REUTHER Family

20. *Ibid.* Research document 34.

The only other family related to the ancestral ESCH family, which was traceable at the FHL, was that of Anna Catharina REUTHER, who married Johann Wilhelm KROH in 1704. At that time she was identified as the daughter of Johann Wilhelm REUTHER of Eschbach. Although no marriage was located for him, five children were born to him and his wife, Walpurgis, as follows.²¹

Source	Evangelische Kirche Blessenbach (Oberlahnkreis). <i>Kirchenbuch, 1655–1900</i> . FHL Film No. 1195107.			
*Born or ~Christened	Child's Name	Father's Name	Mother's Name	Sponsors
~14 Jul 1667	Johann Herman	Johan Wilhelm REUTER of Eshbach	Walpurgis	1. Johannes HEYL[?], wagon maker in Wolfenhausen 2. Herman FULLE[?], presently mason[?] in Eshbach 3. Christina, wife of Jost BECKER of Eshbach 4. Eila[?], wife of Friderich ZIMMERMANN of Ekenbach[?]
~22 Dec 1669	Margaretha[?]	Johan Wilhelm REITER of Eshbach	Walpurgis	1. Johan REITER of Wolfenhausen 2. Margaretha, daughter of Theis [not given?], field farmer[?] of Eshbach
~12 Sep 1675	Johann Nicolaus	Johann Wilhelm REUTER of Eschbach	[Not given]	1. The miller from Filmer[?] 2. Johann MUST of Seelbach 3. Christ. HEIL's daughter
~24 Dec 1679	Anna Christina	Johann Wilhelm REUTHER of Eschb.	[Not given]	1. The mayor's second daughter 2. PEINMANN[?] of Haselbach
~14 Jan 1683	Catharina	Johann Wilhelm REUTHER	[Not given]	1. Johann Adam KISSEL 2. Wife of Henrich REUTHER of Wolfenhausen 3. Lambert FOLTZ[?] of Eshb.

Finally, although Johann Wilhelm REUTHER's burial was not identified, that of his wife was located, and an extract is given below.²²

21. *Ibid.* Research documents 35–39.

22. *Ibid.* Research document 40.

Source	Evangelische Kirche Bleszenbach (Oberlahnkreis). <i>Kirchenbuch, 1655–1900</i> . FHL Film No. 1195107.		
Page/ Entry	Death or Burial Date and Place	Name	Description
	Died 1 April 1684; buried 2 April	[Not given]	Wife of Johann Wilhelm REUTER, of Eschbach

Summary

Further research was not possible on the ancestral ESCH family, as their origins have not been positively identified. Neither was much accomplished on the JOST family, as they apparently moved to Runkel from another place after the birth of their daughter, Maria Catharina.

More success was had on the related KROH, ZIMMER and REUTHER families, and they were taken to the beginning of the Bleszenbach registers. It is doubtful that much more can be found on these or any of the other families uncovered during research.

Imprimatur

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