

# The Zimbelmans Who Came to Colorado

by Robert Zimbelman

## Introduction - Records, Assumptions, and Notations

This history represents but a few of the names (about 2500 of them) in our Personal Ancestry Family (PDF) chart. To get other than those represented here, we can provide a copy of the entire chart or that portion of interest. Because of repetitious names and to keep it less complicated, we will use the birth date (b. <date>) to identify key persons. Certain details beyond the birth and death dates and locations that help to tell the story are based on verbal communications or from reading about other families with similar backgrounds and assuming their experiences are similar. At times, the translation from German listed the name as Zimpelmann, but we have arbitrarily changed it to "Zimbelmann" after the first generation beyond the common ancestor who went from Germany to Russia. For those who remained in Russia or Germany, we have attempted use "nn" (Zimbelmann) but only one "n" (Zimbelman) for those who came to America. For the location of the villages in Russia, we will use Russia, although those villages are now in the Ukraine since the USSR ceased to exist in about 1989. I have given extra attention to the family of John Zimbelman Sr. – my grandfather – and to my parents and siblings. That is only because I have more accurate info about them, I am certain that I am missing recent information on more distant relatives as genealogical data is always changing. I hope cousins (first, second, and third) will update the specific history of their ancestors and descendants.

## From Germany to Russia – Jacob Karl Zimbelmann

Jacob Karl Zimbelmann was born on April 25, 1766 to Johann Jacob Zimpelmann and Maria Tropf in Billigheim, Pfalz, Germany. He was the eighth of 15 children, although eight children died before adulthood. Johann Jacob (b. 14 July 1726) was born in Mulhofen and married Anna Maria Tropf (b. 19 November 1733) on 26 February 1754 in Billigheim. He died in Billigheim. Her parents were Benedict Tropf of Billigheim and Maria Magdalena Hoffman of Rohrbach, Germany.

Jacob Karl's grandparents were Johann Jacob Zimpelmann (b. 1697) of Mulhofen and Maria Juliana Erne (b. about 1700). We also have record of their parents' marriage - Johann Jacob Zimpelmann (b. about 1670) and Anna Maria Pfister (b. about 1670) on 8 November 1695 in Barbelroth, Germany.

The earliest Zimpelmann record we have is of Jacob Karl's great-great grandfather, Johann Valentin Zimpelmann who was born in 1642 and died in Muelhofen in 1729.

At the age of 43, Jacob Karl went to Russia from Billigheim/Bergzabern in the Pfalz region, according to Stumpp (1-p. 496 and 981) and the translation by Height (3). Billigheim-Ingeheim is in the Rheinland-Palatinate (Pfalz) region of Germany, very near the German town of Rohrbach. Nearby was a small village named Worms, not as famous as the Worms in which Martin Luther posted his reformation theses. The Russian village of Rohrbach was named by early immigrants for the villages in Germany from which they came according to Griess (2).

We don't know his reason for immigrating, but understanding the region and times may lead to some conclusions. This region is just across the Rhine River from France. Many wars had occurred across the Rhine in that region and residents were tired of the frequent wars. Land also had become scarce, creating tension for farmers. Another contributing factor to the desire to move appeared to be religion. On the west side of the Rhine was France, primarily Catholic, while on the German side it was primarily Protestant. Protestants in France were called Heugenoats and this may have pertained to some Zimbelman relatives. A much further description of the times and conditions in Germany is discussed by Griess (2). Uwe Zimbelmann, my second cousin, was responsible for much of the information from the Billigheim area through records from the Evangelical church there (5).

We have information from one family who retains the name Zimpelmann in America. Their information suggests that a relative (perhaps brother or cousin) also was from the Billigheim area and emigrated to Switzerland and then to the Midwest USA (Iowa, Wisconsin) area.

As reported in the book by Karl Stumpp (1,p. 981), a Jacob Zimbelmann emigrated to Russia in 1809 from Billigheim, Bergzabern in the Pfalz region of Germany. The 1814 census (revision list), Stumpp (1, p. 790) showed a Karl Zimbelmann with children of the same age as those who had traveled to Russia.

In Germany at that time, it was not uncommon to have the first name be "honorific" and for the person to be called by the second name, thus we feel certain that the 1809 passport and the 1814 census report are for the same person. All GRs (Germans from Russia) with the name Zimbelman are thus descendants of Jacob Karl. Germany was not unified as a single country at this time, so passports had to be stamped when traveling through each territory. Stumpp (1) lists Jacob Karl's passport being issued at Frankfurt au Main on 26 April, 1809 and shows the following cities through which he passed:

Erfurt - 19 May, 1809  
Weimar - 19 May, 1809  
Jena - 20 May, 1809  
Babice - 12 June 1809  
Myslenie - 14 June, 1809  
Bochnia - 15 June 1809  
Tarnow - 16 June 1809  
Lemberg - 24 June 1909  
Brody - 26 June 1809

Other German emigrations had occurred via the Danube River or by sailing across the North Sea, but Jacob Karl and family went overland. The first three cities above were in German regions, the last six cities were in Poland, they then went by the Bug River valley to the Ukraine (2).

Jacob Karl had two wives. The first was Catherine (nee Huthmacher) born 1771 and she died prior to or on the trip to Russia. Jacob Karl and Catherine had nine children, five survived. The oldest was Peter (b. 1797), who traveled to Russia with the family of his wife, Anna Maria (nee Bierele). They were reported as emigrating from Munchausen/Weissenburg in Alsace according to Stumpp (1-p. 788). Since his son emigrated from Alsace with his in-laws, there was some confusion in certain reports on where Jacob Karl lived prior to emigrating. However, all of the children of Jacob and Catherine were born in Billigheim. Those surviving made the trip with their father. The Zimbelmans who emigrated to Colorado descend from Jacob Karl and

Catherine's fifth child, Christoph (b.1801) and Anna Maria (nee Schneck, b.1803).

The second wife of Jacob Karl was Anna Maria (nee Kogler) born 1787; they married in 1809 just prior to or soon after emigration to Russia. They had eight children all born in Rohrbach, Russia, seven survived into adulthood.

Christoph and Anna Maria had 13 children, the sixth was Daniel, born in Rohrbach in 1832. Daniel married Karolina (nee Pflugfelder, b.1832), they had nine children. The fourth child was Johann (b.1860) and he represents a nearer starting point for our history.

## **Johann Zimbelmann and Katherine Sauter**

Johann (b.1860) married Katherine (nee Sauter) who was born in the nearby village of Waterloo in 1860. They are the parents of the three brothers who eventually emigrated to America. They had ten children. Three sons were born in Rohrbach – namely Johann (b. 1883), Jacob (b. 1885), and Heinrich (b. 1888) Johann came to America in June 1906 and will be referred to as John Sr. from now on. Jacob also came to America in 1913 and will be known here as Jake. Heinrich remained in Russia. (*I'll talk about him later.*)

The next births to Johann and Katherine were twin boys, Peter and Andreas, born in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in 1890. (*More about them later.*)

Johann (b.1860) and Katherine apparently returned to Russia and the following children were born back in Rohrbach. They were: Karolina (b. 1893), Friedrich (b. 1895), Christina (b. 1897), Kasper (b. 1900), and Anna (b. 1903).

Based on the births of the children, we can place Johann and Katherine in Brazil for some time between 1888 and 1893. We are not certain of the reasons for going to Brazil or returning to Rohrbach. There are reports to indicate that Brazil had been encouraging settlers by giving them free land, but about that time policies changed and land had to be purchased. Other reports have indicated that the land in Brazil was not similar to the land in Russia and farmers were not happy with those conditions for farming. Many GRs who initially went to Brazil later moved to Argentina where they could farm more like they were used to doing in the Ukraine. We probably will never know the full story on these moves by our great-grandparents. They apparently, and understandably, did not wish to cross the Atlantic again, but three of their ten children were so motivated. Peter, the third brother who came to America, was one of the twins born in Brazil. He came in November 1906, a few months after his older brother, Johann (John Sr.).

## **To America – John Sr., Peter and Jake**

John Sr. came to America on 24 June 1906 through the port of Galveston, TX on the ship S.S.Cassel. Port records show that his wife, Elizabeth (nee Muhlbeier, b. 1882) accompanied him as well as an infant son born during the trip across the Atlantic. The ship on which they came had started in Bremen, Germany on 31 May 1906, and stopped in Baltimore on 15 June 1906. It is not clear why they continued on to Galveston. The records show that he had a sponsor named Jacob Klein in Fort Collins, CO. We believe that Jacob Klein was married to a cousin of John Sr. Surviving relatives recall an "Uncle Jake" who visited from the Fort Collins area, but we are not certain of the relationship.

Despite assurances of former Russian rulers that the German immigrants would never have to fight in battle for Russia, that provision was no longer honored in the late 1800s. The manifesto issued by Empress Catherine the Great on 22 July, 1763 promised German immigrants that they could retain their German language and culture and never have to serve in the Russian army. The first wave of German immigrants who accepted Catherine's offer went primarily to the Volga River region of South Russia, in the Saratov region in the 1770s. They are known as Volga Germans or Volgadeutsche. Her grandson, Tsar Alexander I, followed suit with similar inducements and promises and this lead to a second major wave which went primarily to the area now known as the Ukraine; these are known as Black Sea Germans. Villages started out representing one religious group or another. The villages were Protestant, Catholic, or Mennonite. Rohrbach, Worms and Waterloo were the three villages in which our descendants had settled and these were Protestant villages. With time there were some marriages between villages, particularly Protestant and Catholic, but the villages remained largely as initially established. Mennonites, being pacifists and marrying almost exclusively within their religion, usually moved in their entirety when they came to the Americas.

In the early 1900s the Russians were involved in the great Russo-Japanese war, and Japan seemed to be winning or at least scoring some major victories. John Sr. served in the Russian army for eight months. During a 12-month leave for John Sr., a family member loaned him \$125 for the trip and suggested that he go to America rather than return to the Russian Army. At that time, a tour of duty was for multiple years. The typical tour was active duty for 6 months and home for 6 to 12 months. Since later tsars broke their promise about service in the Russian army, it probably seemed justified to escape. Earlier, the Russian government was beginning to require that everyone learn the Russian language, another broken promise which led many persons to emigrate to North or South America in the late 1800s.

Peter came to America later in 1906 through New York on the ship S.S. York. We have no evidence of a sponsor other than possibly his older brother, but he also went to Colorado. (*More about Peter's trip later.*) Peter seemed to settle in the same farming areas as his brother John Sr.

Jake came to America in 1913 and had also served in the Russian army. We have only verbal reports on the port or ship. We have a family picture of Johann, Katherine and their children minus John Sr. and Peter. Jake also is not in the photo in person, but rather a framed picture of him in his army uniform is being held by his mother, Katherine.

It is said that permits to leave Russia were for periods of six months, but most GRs probably had no intention of returning. During the first two decades of the 1900s, Russia was in turmoil including a rejection of tsarist rule and the Bolshevik revolution. So the likelihood of sending someone to America who would return later was very unlikely. The GRs, as a rule, moved with conviction to obtain naturalization papers or otherwise to establish their American citizenship, since most of them had no desire to return to the land where they had made their home for nearly 100 years.

## Siblings Who Stayed in Russia

We have some information about the siblings who stayed behind in Russia. During WWII, the German army captured the villages in the Ukraine. Persons who could prove they were of German descent for three generations were allowed to return to Germany. **Andreas**, twin to Peter, filled out a form with three generations of family history which was helpful to us in tracing

our genealogy. These records were called EWZ records and were in Berlin. The Allies captured these records when they captured Berlin and brought them to the US. The German government asked to have them returned and the US did return them. However, the US copied them first and they were in our National Archives where we used them to fill in blank spaces in our genealogy (7). In particular, we could not find record of Daniel (b. 1832) until we came across those records. Interestingly enough, the EWZ records were not available to German citizens, so we furnished copies to Uwe Zimbemann.

Andreas was allowed to go to Germany during the war, but was not allowed to stay there after WWII. During negotiations to divide up Germany after the war, Stalin insisted that those Germans who went to Germany be returned to Russia. So they were ordered to go back to Russia. It must have been difficult be torn between two of the most sadistic rulers of all times. These GRs had originated in Germany and still spoke that language, yet after about 100 years in Russia they felt mixed about their loyalty to each country. Loyalty to Germany or Russia was a difficult issue and decided differently by each GR. Hitler in Germany had millions killed while Stalin also was responsible for millions of deaths. Many Russian citizens were killed by gunshot or through starvation. Historians debate as to which tyrant was the worst, although most agree it was Stalin.

Those who returned to Russia as a result of that order probably thought they would go back to their former villages, but that was not to be. They were sent to Siberia and Kazakhstan or other locations east of the Ural Mountains, many times to labor camps for some time. Andreas returned to Russia and was sent to Kazakhstan where he died in Alma Ata. Andrea's son, Woldemar (b.1927) refused to go back to Russia however, so he lived in East Germany. He undoubtedly had to hide his identity to some extent. Woldemar had a son, Uwe (b.1956) who has visited with the Colorado Zimbelmans on several occasions. Uwe moved from East Germany to West Germany as soon as the wall came down and travel was permitted.

The third oldest son, **Heinrich**, was arrested in 1938 by Russian authorities. He was accused of being a revolutionary. Heinrich had been going to the German Embassy in Odessa to appeal for funds to help starving persons in Rohrbach. The German Embassy agreed to provide funds which Heinrich used to buy food and other essentials for the poor people of Rohrbach. One of the conditions was that the funds were to be used only for those of German descent. This required a certain amount of secrecy. Heinrich's trips were found out by government officials (NKVD- secret police), and they accused him of being a revolutionary not loyal to Russia.

Eventually, probably through torture, Heinrich signed a statement admitting that he was a counter-revolutionary and that was the basis for him being shot on 18 August 1937 in Odessa. He had to name others who were involved in this "plot" and he provided names, but most of them were already dead (6). To provide no names was not acceptable. Stalin was very paranoid about those successful German speaking citizens (called kulaks) on his southern border, so he had the NKVD (probable precursor to the KGB) look for reasons to take their property and keep them hungry and poor. The 1930s saw much starvation and deaths due to shortage of food. Ukraine, known as the "bread basket" of Russia still produced lots of crops, particularly wheat. However, Stalin imposed such extreme goals for export that the farmers who raised the wheat were not allowed to keep enough to feed their families. Hiding enough grain to feed your family was a crime, often punishable by execution. Communes that replaced individual German farmers also were less efficient and workers were less motivated to be productive.

About the same time, his brother, **Friedrich**, was also arrested. In both these and similar instances, their land and other belongings were confiscated. A fairly detailed list was made, but probably with no future value, except that it was a complete record. Friedrich was accused of being active in the church and having a letter with an American return address in his home. He was sentenced on 10 August 1937 to 10 years in labor camp. Upon getting out of labor camp, Friedrich sent a letter to the KGB asking what happened to his brother, Heinrich. The KGB sent a letter back saying that Heinrich was sent to labor camp and died of a heart attack. When Nikita Kruschev came to power in Russia, he called for all of these records to be released. He apparently realized the cruelty of the Stalinist regime and wanted to distance himself from those days. Both Heinrich and Friedrich were exonerated (called “rehabilitation” by the Russians) in 1956, but of course it was too late for them to know that. These activities were known as Repression and involved some non-German Ukrainians as well. A further description of this “reign of terror” was recently described in more general terms by Griess (8). Knowing this about our ancestors should make us very happy that our direct ancestors made the decision to come to the American Continent.

We know less about the other siblings. We know that **Karolina** (b. 1893) married Friedrich Moser and died in Kazakhstan. We have little information on **Christina**, other than her marriage to Heinrich Langjahr. **Kasper** married Elizabeth Peter. **Anna** married Jacob Karl Langjahr and was in Alma Ata, Kazakhstan until the 1990s when she was allowed to return to Germany. She died in Holtzen, Germany in 1994.

Anna was visited while in Germany by three members of the family of John Sr., namely Anna Huwa, Rosie Weickum and Flora Zimbelman. She was also visited on another occasion by members of Jake’s family, namely Harold (b. 1917) and Alice plus their son Earl and his wife, Mary Sue. Most of these persons will be identified later. It seems interesting that Grandpa’s youngest sister and youngest child were both named Anna.

## Descendants of John Sr.

**John Sr.** married Elizabeth (nee Muhlbeier) from the village of Worms in 1903. They lived in the Loveland area until 1910, as their next two children were born there. They likely made a living as workers in sugar beet farming as that was typical for German immigrants to Colorado. In 1910 John Sr. homesteaded land (per the Homestead Act) in Keota. There was a rather large community of GRs in the Keota area. The land in Keota was suitable only for “dry-land farming” and a major drought occurred in 1918, causing him to go broke. He then rented land and had a general country store, cream station, and a pool hall (4).

John Sr. looked forward to using his equity for better farm land. He purchased 160 acres in Prospect Valley in 1928 for \$19,500, with \$3,000 down. In 1933, he purchased another 80 acres of land and rented another 320 acres. While irrigation was practiced prior to that time, he drilled the first (or one of the first) irrigation wells in Prospect Valley in 1933. In 1934, he bought four more parcels of land. He and his sons divided up the land in 1943, in a manner to be discussed later. I recall that the well was featured in a Yearbook of Agriculture, but have been unsuccessful in verifying which edition.

Prior to the arrival of electricity, water was pumped via a diesel tractor with a belt feed to the pump. Each of the farms was allotted water for farming by becoming members of the Henrylynn

Irrigation Company. After they had wells and electricity to power them, they chose to sell annually those water rights to other farmers and to pump their own water for irrigation. The well water was more reliable, more abundant, and clean enough that irrigation could be done with small pipes siphoning from the ditch. The chief cash crops were sugar beets and pinto beans. Alfalfa for hay and corn for silage rounded out the usual cropping scheme. German-Russian immigrants were very much a part of the sugar beet industry in Colorado, many as laborers initially and later as farm owners.

Their children were as follows:

**Frieda** born in Rohrbach in 1904, died there in 1905.

**Henry** was born in 1906 on the Atlantic Ocean during the trip to the US. Henry married Emma Bentz in 1926. They had the following children: Dorothy (b. 1930), Lorene (b. 1932), Edward (b. 1934), and Henry Jr. (b. 1935). All four survived to adulthood. Henry farmed in Prospect Valley for many years and was a co-owner of a farm implement store. He later owned a bar in Keenesburg. Henry and Emma divorced and he married Thelma Cooper. They had a son John (b. 1952) and daughter Linda (b. 1960). Henry and Thelma moved to Tucson AZ. He died there when he was shot by three persons who came to his home. His farm was sold to John Jr.

**George** was born in Loveland, CO in 1908. He married Molly Trupp in 1929. She was of Volga German heritage. Their four children were: Robert (Bob) (b. 1930), James (Jim) (b. 1934), Shirley (b. 1936) and Darell (b. 1941). All four children survived to adulthood. George farmed in Prospect Valley until 1957.

**Martha** Zimbelman was also born in Loveland in 1910. She married John Mitzel in 1929. They had a daughter Betty Lou (b. 1931, d. 1936) and a second daughter Diane (b. 1932) who survived to adulthood and a third child Jackie (b. 1939) who died shortly after birth. John farmed in Prospect Valley, and was co-owner of the farm implement shop with Henry.

The rest of the children were born in Keota, CO where John Sr. homesteaded land prior to moving to Prospect Valley (mailing address of Keenesburg).

**Pete** (b. 1913) married Edna Mae Green (b. 1920). Their first daughter, Deloris (b. 1936) died soon after birth. They later had two children who survived until adulthood, namely: Sherran (b. 1944) and Sherman (b. 1948). Pete farmed in Prospect Valley until retirement when he sold his farm to John Jr.

**John Jr.** (b. 1914) married Flora Kitzman (b. 1917). They had four sons all of whom survived till adulthood – Donald (Sonny, b. 1936), Marvin (b. 1938), Kenneth (b. 1943) and Jack (b. 1948). Jack farmed with his father. It was traditional for Germans and GRs that the youngest son farm with the father. After the land was divided, John Sr. and John Jr. had a larger acreage than the other sons. John Jr. took over the farming after the death of John Sr. He and his wife, Flora, and sons farmed several properties, some purchased from other family members.

**Rosie** (b. 1917) married Edward Weickum (b. 1911) and they had three sons all of whom survived to adulthood – Herbert (b. 1940), Edwin (b. 1943), and Larry (b. 1947). Ed farmed in Prospect Valley and Rosie took over the farm on his death.

**Lydia** (b. 1919) died in 1927 in a farm truck accident in Keota when she fell off of the truck and was run over by it.

**Anna** (b. 1926) married Herman Huwa (b. 1925). They had three children all of whom survived until adulthood – Doris Ann (b. 1945), Janet (b. 1949), and Richard (b. 1952). Herman served in the Army during 1945 and 1946 in the Philippines of the Pacific theater. They farmed at a few places in Prospect Valley, eventually settling at 33649 Hwy. 52, just west of Prospect Valley.

Typical of those times, children were often born over a twenty-year period, so the oldest of one generation was often a near contemporary of the youngest of the previous generation. Modern birth control methods were not yet available, and large families could help with farm work and care for older parents when they needed it. Jacob Karl had 17 children, the brothers that came to Colorado had six to eight and their children typically had two to four.

During WWII, the US government required Japanese-Americans to move away from the west coast. John Sr. heard of this and knew of his ancestors in Russia being discriminated against in a similar fashion. Many GRs were moved from the areas where they had their home for 100 years or more and were required to move to Siberia or Kazakhstan. Feeling for those Japanese farmers, he encouraged his sons to lease their farms to Japanese farmers to reduce the possibility of their placement in internment camps. The Japanese farmers were very knowledgeable about garden crops and the good soil and water of Prospect Valley led to very productive times. Harvested crops were transported primarily to Denver produce markets. John Sr. was quoted in a newspaper article as saying that was one of the best economic periods of farming in his lifetime. He told the Denver Post that the only time he was out of debt since 1906 was when he received his share of crop returns from the farming of these Japanese farmers (4).

Since the USA was at war with both Germany and Japan, this led to occasional comments questioning our loyalty, especially since our grandparents and parents often spoke German to each other in their homes. There was an occasional incident that arose from those feelings. One example is that when an uncle who served on the local school board came out after the meeting to find that the windows had been broken out of his pickup truck. I am certain that we grandchildren were not aware that the reasons for Grandpa's sympathy for the situation related to the experience of his own siblings who stayed in Russia. He was quite vocal about the fact that the US would rue the fact that we were allied with Russia. I guess the continuation of the Cold War until the late 1980s was some support that he was correct in his concern.

## **Descendants of Peter**

**Peter** (b. 1890) was one of the twins born in Rio de Janeiro. He was the second brother to come to the US, a few months after his older brother, John Sr. In November 1906, Peter and others left for the US on the SS Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse. One day out of port, the ship collided with a British steamer and 14 people were killed. Among the dead was George Muhlbeier, father of Elizabeth (b. 1882), wife of John Sr., and a Michael Zimbelmann. The dead were buried in Cherbourg, France. The remaining passengers boarded the S.S. York and continued to New York. Peter married Philipina Wilhelmina (nee Redman) who was born in the village of Worms in 1893. Philipina came to the US with her aunt Christina who had married Jacob Weickum; she may have been adopted by them. Their children were:

**Elizabeth** born 1911 in Loveland, CO and married to Phillip Eisenbath in 1931.

**Rosella (Sally)** born 1913 and married to Ernest Reichert in 1931.

**Theodore (Ted)** born 1915 and married to Esther Hofferber in 1940.

**Pete** born 1917 married to Bertha Peil in 1937.

**Andrew (Andy)** born 1918 and married to Elizabeth (Betty) Wurm in 1946.

**Leon (Whitey)** born 1920 and married to Evelyn Knowlton in 1944.

The above five children were all born in Keota, CO where Peter also farmed with a number of other GRs.

**Viola** was born in Sterling, CO in 1925 and married Gerald Johnson in 1944.

**Luella** was born in 1931 in Yoder, WY and married Roy Kilmer in 1962.

Eventually, Peter and three of his sons farmed in Prospect Valley

## **Descendants of Jake**

**Jake** (b.1885) was the second oldest son of Johann and Katherine. He did not come to the US until April or May of 1913, some seven or so years after his two brothers came. Jake, his wife, and one daughter are reported to have arrived in Halifax, Nova Scotia and traveled to Colorado through New York City. We do not have written confirmation of that, however. It seems that the US was reluctant to receive immigrants from certain countries at that time for political reasons; this may have been the reason to come through Canada. He probably was among the last to leave Russia as approvals to leave the country were soon to be denied as Russia was in a state of turmoil trying to deal with displeasure with the tsarist regime and a revolution was developing as described by Griess (2). The world was on the edge of WWI, Russia probably wanted all of her citizens to serve in their military.

Jake married Margaret (nee Ackerman) who was born in Rohrbach in 1885. Jake and Margaret married on the same day in the Ukraine as did Peter and Philipina in the US. Their children were:

**Frieda**, born in Rohrbach in 1911, married Wayne Lawrence.

**Rosella (Sally)** born 1913 in Loveland, CO, married Earl Grey in 1936.

**Bertha** born in 1915 in Keota, CO, married Vance Stine.

**Harold** born in 1917 in Orchard, CO, married Alice Graves in 1937.

**Lillian** born in 1920 in Yuma, CO, married Leonard Dirks.

**Emma** born in 1922 in Yuma, CO.

**Mary Louise** born in 1924 in Sterling, CO, married Robert Dietrick.

**Wilbur** born in 1926 in Sterling, CO, married Dorothy Farney.

Jake did not farm, but worked on the farms of others for a few years. Then he worked for the Union Pacific railroad in Sterling until moving to Denver. In Denver, he worked for Gardner Denver until he retired. After retirement, he moved to Phoenix, AZ and died there.

*I cannot provide much accurate detail about later descendants of Peter and Jake, so I challenge their descendants to fill out their history in more detail.*

## **Other Known Zimbelmans Who Came to the United States**

As we stated earlier, we've had contact with one family which continues to use the name Zimpelmann. They can trace their ancestors from the Billigheim area thru Switzerland and then to the Midwest US, in the general areas of Iowa and Wisconsin.

There was also a large group of Zimbelmans in St. Francis, Kansas. They descended from Jacob Karl through his son, Johann Jacob (b. 1806), and Eva Kathrina Wahl, then through Phillip Zimbelmann (b. about 1829) and Michael Zimbelmann (b. 1850). Some had started in Ohio and Sutton, Nebraska before settling in St. Francis. Others were from the Peter Zimbelmann (b. 1797) and Anna Maria (nee Bierle) line.

Another group of Zimbelmans went to and settled in the Sutton, NE area. They descended from Jacob Karl's son Jacob (b. 1806) then Adam (b. 1833) and Frederick (b. 1861). Frederick's first child was born in Sutton, NE in 1888, so they came to US earlier than the Colorado Zimbelmans. The Zimbelmans in Sutton were married to other GR families with the names: Griess, Huber, Ulmer and others.

There was another group of Zimbelmans who moved to North Dakota. They also descended from Jacob Karl's oldest son, Peter (b. 1797), then Konrad (b. 1830), Konrad (b. 1856), and Gottlieb (b. 1888) in Rohrbach. The Zimbelmans in ND married other GRs whose names include: Huber, Scheerer, Zimmerle and others. Many of these Zimbelmans migrated to the Lodi and Sacramento area of California, particularly during or after the very dry years of the 1930s in ND.

## **The George Zimbelman family**

George was the first child to be born to John Sr. and Elizabeth in the USA. After time in Loveland and Keota with his parents, he moved to Prospect Valley (near Keenesburg). Robert, was born on 4 September 1930 at 33313 Weld County Road (WCR) 16. Later, George and his family moved to 8020 WCR 69, where they owned one-quarter section of land. This farm was where we lived when my three siblings were born; Jim and Shirley on the farm and Darell at a midwife's home in Fort Lupton. This farm was on the SE corner of the intersection of the east-west road WCR 18 and the north-south road WCR 69.

Our farm was between those of my grandparents and uncles. Uncle Pete lived just north of us at 8510 WCR 69, with Uncle Henry across the road at 8507 WCR 69. Grandpa John Sr. and Uncle John Jr. farmed the land just across WCR 69 to the west, their homes being located at 33715

WCR 18. Just across WCR 18 to the south was the farm of John and Martha Mitzel with their home being about one-half mile east. Adjoining our farm to the east was the farm of Ed and Rosie Weickum, with their home located about  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile east of our home – so all of those children of John Sr. were located close to each other on farms acquired during and following the Great Depression of the 1930s. The youngest daughter, Anna, was still in school but she and her husband, Herman Huwa, also lived and farmed in Prospect Valley after their marriage and his service in the Philippines during WWII. Anna and Herman were essentially contemporaries of mine, since she was 20 years younger than her oldest brother, Henry.

Robert (Bob) married Phyllis (b. 1931, nee Foster) and we had four children. Karen (b. 1953) was born in Lawton, Oklahoma while I was in Basic Officer's Training (BOT) at Fort Sill, OK. David (b. 1954) was born in Wayne, NE while Phyllis was home with her parents when I was in Korea. I graduated from Colorado State University (CSU - then Colorado A&M) in 1952 where I was in ROTC. I was supposed to go directly to BOT (Basic Officer Training) but my father got a farming deferment for me until 1 September 1952. I went to Korea just at the time that the ceasefire had been signed, so was not there for actual combat.

I was discharged in 1954 as a First Lieutenant, and returned to the farm. My father had begun dairying with Registered Ayrshire cattle in the late 1940s and I had a deep love for cattle. I went to CSU with the intention of returning to breed the best cattle possible. However, the farm life was very demanding and left little time for any social life. Thus, I decided to use my GI bill benefits and go to Veterinary School at CSU. During a visit to Fort Collins to check on the procedures to do that, I ran into a former professor, Dr. Howard Stonaker. A few days later, I received a letter from him offering to discuss graduate school with me. I consulted with him and applied to various programs, both in Animal Genetics – his field – and in Reproductive Physiology. With his guidance, I chose to go to the University of Wisconsin with Dr. L. E. Casida and received my Ph.D. in Endocrinology from there in 1960.

Our son, Mark (b. 1959) was born while I was in graduate school in Madison. I then took a position with the Upjohn Company in Kalamazoo, MI to begin a research program to control and improve reproduction in farm animals. Our last son, Brian, (b. 1962) was born in Kalamazoo. After 27 years at Upjohn, I took early retirement and moved to Rockville, MD in 1987 to establish an office for a professional society, the American Society of Animal Science (ASAS).

Eventually two other scientific societies, namely the American Dairy Science Association and Poultry Science Association, joined to form a Federation of Animal Science Societies (FASS) in order to continue the representation in the Washington, DC scene and to achieve certain economies at our headquarters. I served as the first Executive Vice President-Scientific Liaison for FASS until I retired in January 1999.

I had a brief rebound marriage after the divorce from Phyllis and after a number of years being single, I married Arlene (nee Kruse, b. 1944) on 23 February 1987. Arlene provided me with a stepson, Ronald Scott Boling (b. 1969). I made Arlene an instant grandmother as my grandson, Aaron, and granddaughter, Amy Michelle, were born to Mark and his wife Karen (nee Burton) before our marriage. Although not related by blood, Arlene has been the most caring and thoughtful grandmother any of my grandchildren could ever want. Our life together has been full of interesting experiences, especially travel to foreign countries usually researched by Arlene.

My brother, James, graduated from Prospect Valley High School and enrolled at CSU. After one

quarter, he went into the Army. Jim returned to CSU for a time after discharge from the Army. My parents had moved to Brighton, CO after sale of the farm and Jim joined them there. My father got into real estate and found what he thought was a good deal on a gas station and salvage yard business in Fort Lupton, CO. My parents sold their Brighton home and Dad and Jim bought the business and named it Z&Z Services. Jim married Donna (nee Seekins). Jim continued the business after my father's death in 1968 until he sold it in 1992. My mother worked with him at times though she eventually moved back to Brighton, CO.

My sister, Shirley, enrolled at the University of Colorado to study pharmacy. She quit the university to have a family. She married Jack Schreiner in 1956 and they had two children Martin (b. 1956) and Michelle (b. 1964). Shirley spent most of her career working for one or more federal agencies at the Denver Federal Center, doing or managing accounting work. She retired from there, but passed away in 2006.

My youngest brother, Darell, was born at a very auspicious time. The day he was baptized and we were returning from my grandparents (the Trupp's) home in Greeley, CO, we heard that the Japanese had bombed Pearl Harbor. An extended family photo was taken on that day. Darell attended Prospect Valley School until our parents moved to Brighton. He graduated from Brighton High School. Darell attended CSU and received a B.S. degree in Civil Engineering in 1964 and an M.S. in Civil Hydraulic Engineering in 1966. He served in Vietnam, getting a leave to return home for our father's funeral in January 1968.

Darell married Suzanne (nee Simonet, b. 1943), and they had two sons – Douglas (Doug, b. 1969) and Erick (b. 1970). While working for the Salt River project in Tucson, AZ he received his Ph.D. from Arizona State University in 1981. His thesis was on measurement of water, and he eventually moved back to Colorado, becoming chief engineer for the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District. He retired from NCWCD in 2006 and has continued to be active in several professional society activities and consulting with various groups on water issues.

## **Origin of the name**

We believe that our family name originated as “player of the zimbel.” The zimbel is a wood instrument with strings which lays on one’s lap, similar to a dulcimer. Most of the reports we have seen on the zimbel discuss it being played at a wedding. Some persons believe that the zimbel was a cymbal, that metallic instrument which supplements the percussion part of a band, but we believe it is a different instrument. Uwe Zimbelmann (5) has a photo of a zimbel.

## **Concluding Remarks**

This history hopes to provide some feel for what the Zimbeltmans who came to Colorado had as life experiences. It also is intended to provide enough genealogical data to help those who may wish to pursue further information on ancestors and descendants in the future. I have not attempted to provide details on more recent generations other than my own family as that is an ever-changing situation. I challenge those who are interested in creating their own history or to build on this as they see fit. I also challenge my children to add to the story with their life stories. We hereby give permission to anyone interested in this genealogy to use information for their own benefit. Attribution would be nice but is not necessary.

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Written at Georgetown, TX where the author has retired.