

Bohrmann Family of Schroon Lake, New York

by [Donald R. Falkenburg](#)

The Bohrmann family of Schroon Lake has its roots in Germany. Henrich Jacob Bohrmann was born in August 1730 in the town of Steinbach, Germany a region which today is located in the German state of Hesse, 7 km from the current city limits of Frankfurt, Germany. In 1750 this community had a population of 220 persons with homes clustered around a spring located at the center of town. This was home to Heindrich Bohrmann and his wife Katherina Wilhelm.

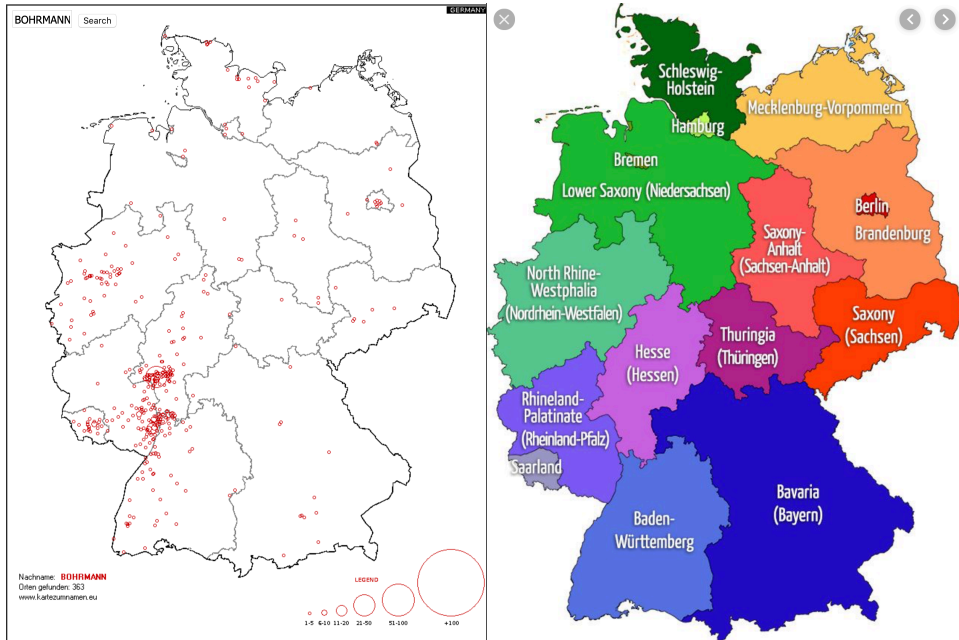


The Steinbach Spring

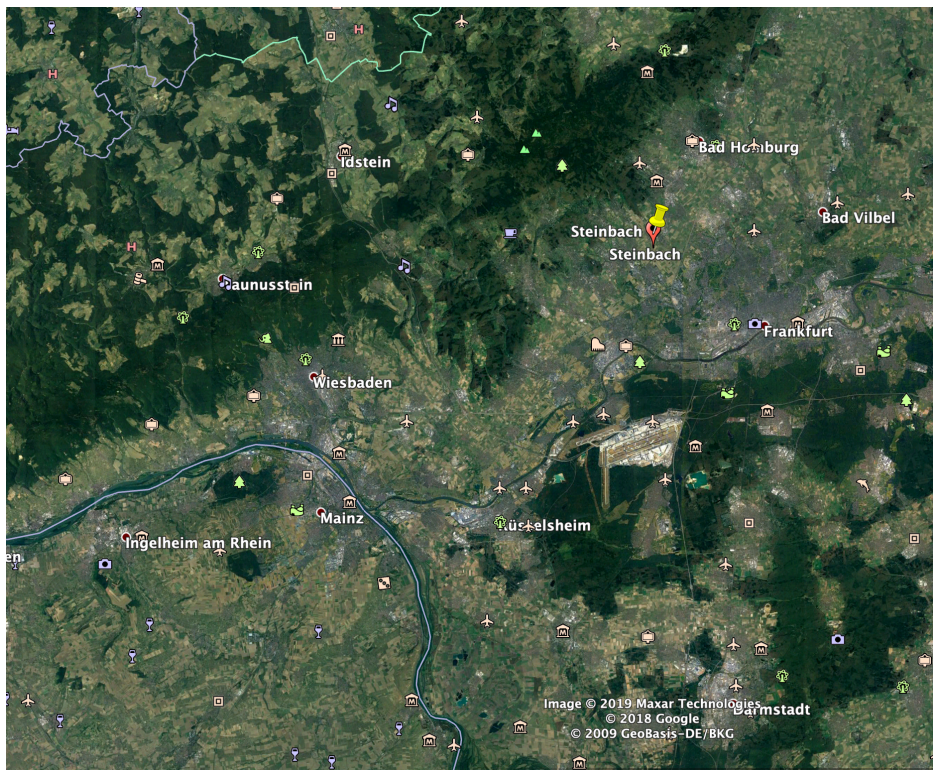
For the next three generations of this branch of the family, Hesse and neighboring Rheinland-Pfalz (Rhein Hessen) would be home.

The [map](#)¹ on the next page (left) shows the geographic distribution within Germany of the Bohrmann family. On the right is a depiction of the current German States. It is clear that Hesse and Rhineland-Pfalz represent the area most densely populated by Bohrmann families. A current Google Earth map at the bottom of the page locates Steinbach northwest of Frankfurt and northeast of the Rhine River town of Mainz. German records reveal that Heindrich Bohrmann married Katherina Elisabetha Wilhelm 18 JAN 1761 in Steinbach.

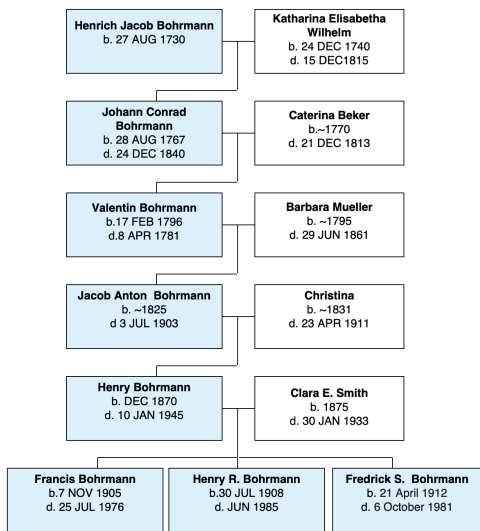
¹ The web reference does not specify a year for this data, but I assume that this is likely recent data.



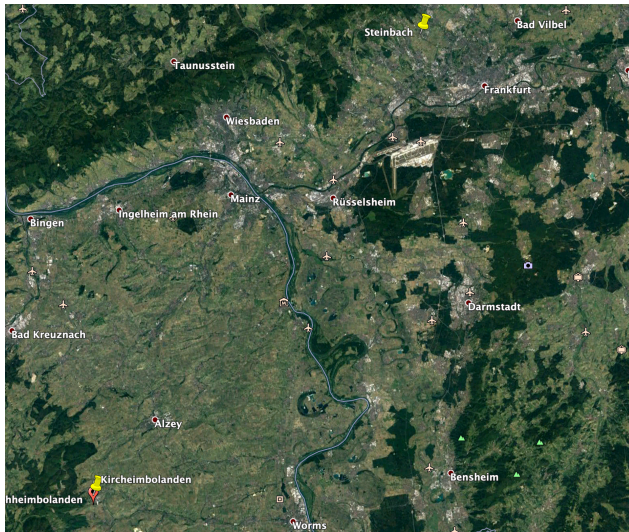
(left) distribution of the surname Bohrmann in Germany; (right) German states.



Location of Steinbach from Google Earth
 © Donald Falkenburg 2019



Jacob Bohrmann great grandson of Heindrich Bohrmann was born in Kirchheimbolanden in the municipality of Marnheim located west of the Rhine River about 40 miles southwest of the ancestral home in Steinbach. Jacob was the son of Valentin Bohrmann and Barbara Mueller. Born in 1825, Jacob was one of ten siblings. A record of his birth is found in a database entitled *Germany, Lutheran Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials, 1500-1971*. The database provides access to the handwritten records (in German) and summarizes important data in a transcription.



Name	Jacob Bohrmann								
Gender	männlich								
Event Type	Geburt								
Birth Date	3 Juli 1825								
Birth Place	Marnheim, Bayern, Deutschland								
Father	Valentin Bohrmann								
Mother	Barbara Bohrmann								
Parish as it Appears	Marnheim								
City or District	Marnheim								
Page number	42								
Author	Evangelisch-Reformierte Kirche Marnheim (BA. Kirchheimbolanden)								
Film Number	193043								
Household Members	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Name</th> <th>Age</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Jacob Bohrmann</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Barbara Bohrmann</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Valentin Bohrmann</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Name	Age	Jacob Bohrmann		Barbara Bohrmann		Valentin Bohrmann	
Name	Age								
Jacob Bohrmann									
Barbara Bohrmann									
Valentin Bohrmann									

(Left) Location of Kirchheimbolanden southwest of Steinbach
(Right) Birth record Jacob Bohrmann

Kirchheimbolanden, Germany,

Kirchheimbolanden is called “Kibo” by those who know it. The town has a charming medieval character reflected in its city walls and turrets, as well as traces of its later history in the form of a landscaped garden, Orangerie and palace. [Touring Kibo](#).



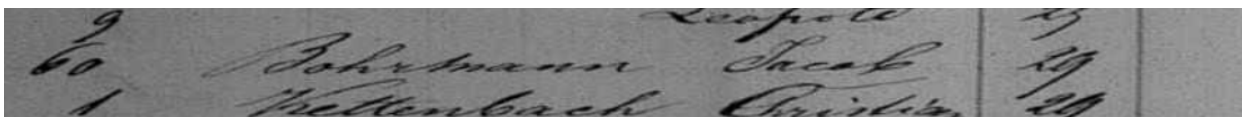
Jacob emigrated to the United States in 1854². The record of his arrival in New York is archived by ellisland.org. He is listed on the manifest of the ship *Art Union*, with his place of residence given as Hesse.

Bohrmann, Jacob

1854

Hesse

Art Union



Manifest from ship Art Union records Jacob Bohrmann

Jacob Bohrmann is found in the New York Census of 1875 and the U.S. Census of 1880 and 1890 in Schroon Lake, Essex County, New York. From these records we can identify three Bohrmann children: William (b. 1860), Henry (b. 1870) and Lucy (b. 1874). The 1875 NY Census identifies Carri Watsak as the stepdaughter of the head of the household, Jacob Bohrmann. The 1900 U.S. Census confirms that Jacob and his wife Christina (b. 1831)

² ellisland.org lists three Jacob Bohrmann immigrants. If we examine the 1990 U.S. Census for Schroon Lake NY, however, we learn that Jacob immigrated in 1854. This allows us to identify our Jacob. While the 1900 census reports Christina emigrating in 1854, in the 1910 U.S. Census, Jacob has passed away and Christina and daughter Lucy are living with son Henry Bohrmann. Here the reported date of immigration to the U.S. is stated as 1850, predating Jacob's arrival.



(left) Schroon Lake is the Adirondack Mountain region of New York State; (right) Property ownership in the town of Schroon Lake from the 1876 Essex County Atlas

were both born in Germany, and they both emigrated to the United States in 1854. The census record also reports that Jacob and Christina were married in 1870. At the time of their marriage, Jacob would have been about 45 years of age and Christina would have been 39 years old. From these data it is safe to say that both Jacob and Christina were previously married before their union in 1870. William would have been born by Jacob's first wife and Carrie, born in Christina's first marriage. I have uncovered an old map of Schroon Lake from the 1876³ [Essex County Atlas](#) which shows Jacob's home in the village. In his [History of Schroon, New York](#), H.P. Smith records that Schroon Lake was formed in 1804. He states that the Episcopal Church in the Town of Schroon was formed in 1878, and Jacob Bohrmann was among the first members of the congregation. He is listed as a vestryman in this document. Smith also states that "*J. Bohrmann has a furniture manufactory and store a little out of the village.*" We see that Jacob's occupation is consistent with the 1880 U.S. Census, and also the 1990 U.S. Census which list him as a cabinet maker. Although I have found no records to confirm the fact, it is likely that Jacob learned his craft of building furniture in his homeland, perhaps from his father or an uncle.

³ An [earlier map](#) dated 1858 does not locate Jacob Bohrmann in the area of the village of Schroon Lake.

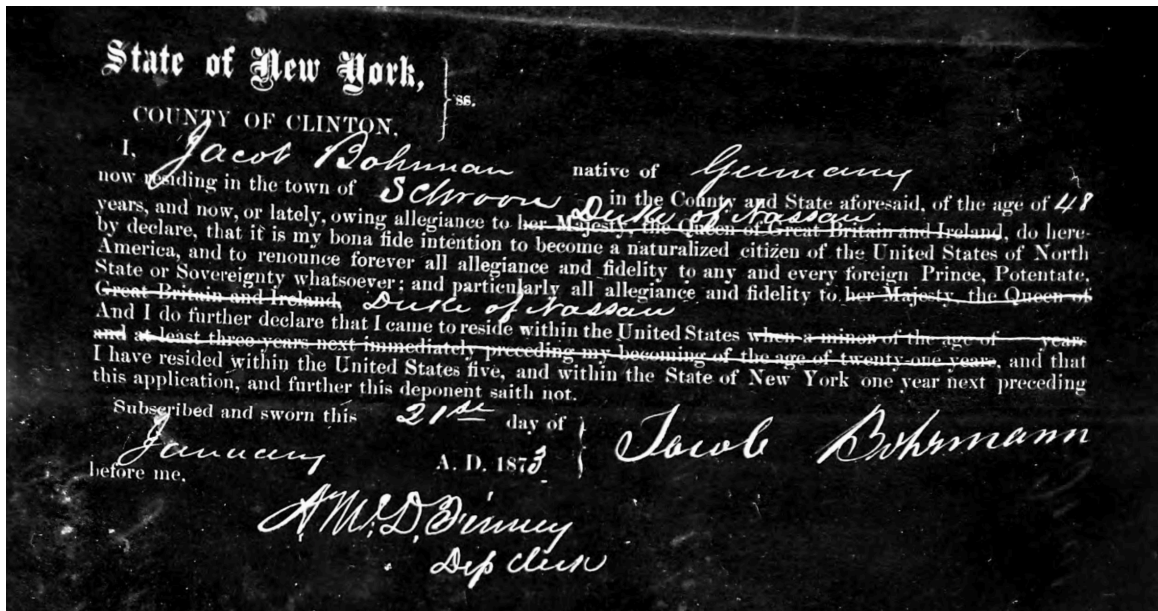
It is most likely that Jacob and Christina were married in the Episcopal Church, Schroon Lake. The Church burned down 1 NOV 1914 likely destroying all of the church records. After extensive searching, I can find no record of the marriage of Jacob and Christina except in the census records.



Schroon Lake Buildings Burn.
 GLENS FALLS, N. Y., Nov. 1.—Fire today destroyed the Leland House at Schroon Lake, one of the most widely known hotels in the Adirondacks. The Episcopal Church, three cottages, and an electric light plant connected with the hotel were burned. The fire started in a pile of dead leaves near the hotel. The hotel was owned by State Senator James A. Emerson of Warrensburg and his brother, L. W. Emerson, former Congressman.

(Left) 1880 photo of the Episcopal Church, Schroon Lake shown above is from the

Jacob Bohrman applied to become a naturalized citizen of the United States on 21 JAN 1873 in the County of Clinton, New York. I can find no record of a



Declaration of Jacob Bohrman in the process of naturalization.

similar document for wife Christina. Perhaps Christina was naturalized before she married Jacob. It is also possible that, since women did not have the right to vote, Christina did not seek to be a naturalized citizen of her adopted country. In this document, Jacob Bohrmann renounces allegiance and fidelity to the Duke of Nassau. This along with the record of immigration gives us detailed information about the region of Germany Jacob left as he entered the United States. The nation of Germany did not exist until the formation of the German Empire by Otto von Bismark in 1871 (some 17 years after Jacob left his homeland). Germany was formed from a number of independent states. In the *Research Notes* at the end of this document, I include a map of the several Hessen states, which were under the Dukes of Nassau.

Jacob Bohrmann wrote his *Last Will and Testament* on 15 Sept 1886 (see *Research Notes*). From this document we find a few interesting facts. Jacob signs his middle name *Jacob Anton* Bohrmann. This is the only record I have found that identifies his middle name.

In his will Jacob states

“I give and bequeath to my wife Christina all my cabinet making business....the stock of furniture, lumber, materials, tools....I also bequeath to ...Christina all the interest income, rents,...of my property real, personal. ...Immediately after the death of my said wife I direct my executors... to divide the whole of my said estate...into eight equal shares... one of each share I give devise and bequeath to each of my six children, namely Hannah Christina Bullett, Louisa Allen, Matilda Taylor, Josephine Squires, Henry Bohrmann, and Lucy Bohrmann. ... the remaining two share ...I give to my son William Bohrmann....”

Jacob names 7 of his children in the will: (1) Hannah Christina Bullett (2) Louisa Allen (3) Matilda Taylor (4) Josephine Squires (5) Henry (6) Lucy and (7) William. The first four daughters do not appear in any of the census reports already cited. Carrie, Jacob's stepdaughter by Christina's first husband is not mentioned in the will. It would appear to me that Hannah Christina, Louisa and Matilda are daughters of Jacob by an earlier marriage and they each have married. I am reasonably certain that I have identified Jacob Bohrman's first wife as Anna Magdalena Metzger, whom he married in

Hesse, before emigrating to the United States. The detail of this is spelled out in the *Research Notes*.

I have also concluded that after arriving in the United States, Jacob resided in New York City. His daughter Louisa Allen (nee Bohrmann) was born in New York City. How long the family stayed in the city, I cannot say. We do know that he was in Schroon Lake as early as 1876. It is likely that being a furniture maker, Jacob would relocate in a region which had access to the Adirondack forests for the raw material to fabricate his furniture.

The Story Behind the Story and Research Notes

Doing genealogical research is a task akin to being a detective uncovering evidence to understand the timeframe, motives, and the players in a crime scene. I have often made an analogy to an old television show Columbo. *“For those not old enough to remember this police-genre television show which debuted in the 1970s, Columbo (Peter Falk) wore a rumpled raincoat, and had an unkempt look about him. Columbo interviewed many witnesses of a crime; each person had a different story of the events, leaving the television viewer totally stumped as to what had really happened. At the end of the show Columbo took each of these seemingly unrelated threads and wove a story of whole cloth. ‘Wow, how did he figure that out?’ The crime unraveled, Columbo shuffled off in an almost bumbling manner to tackle his next assignment.”*⁴



The Bohrmann story evolved as I uncovered facts about the family. I began with what I knew about Jacob Bohrmann. Jacob is listed in the U.S. Census for Schroon/Essex/New York in 1880 and 1900. In addition, the New York State Census reports for 1875, 1892 show the family. The 1900 census contains information not found in earlier reports. It documents Jacob’s birthdate as AUG 1825, his immigration year as 1854 and the year he

⁴ Excerpt From: Donald R. Falkenburg. “The Falkenburgs.” Donald R. Falkenburg, 2016. Apple Books. <https://books.apple.com/us/book/the-falkenburgs/id1140567365>



Jacob and Christine Bohrmann tombstone in Schroon Lake

married his wife Christine as 1870. These were key discoveries, which helped uncover additional information.

Ancestry provides many tens of thousands of databases that can be searched, one of which is *New York Passenger Lists 1820-1957*. I found the record of 29 year old Jacob arriving from Le Havre, France to New York aboard the ship *Art Union* arriving on 5 MAY 1854. This matches the record of the 1900 US Census. There are no other Bohrmanns in the database for this arrival. The same data is available on ellisland.org. Actually, the Ellis Island site specifies his origin as Hesse.

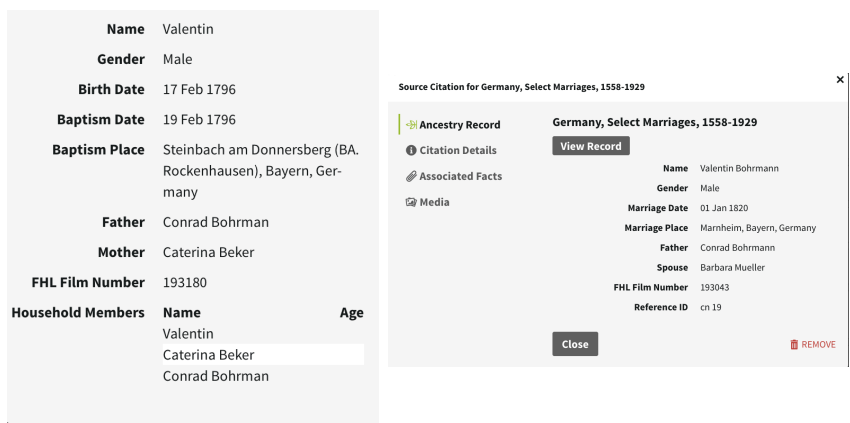
In another ancestry database (*New York, State and Federal Naturalization Records, 1794-1943*) I found a Jacob's application for U.S. citizenship. This document executed 21 JAN 1873 states that Jacob, a native of Germany, renounces his allegiance to the Duke of Nassau. When Jacob left Europe, the nation of Germany did not exist. The region was divided into independent states e.g. Prussia, Hessen. A little research on Google led me to find that the Dukes of Nassau controlled a region from roughly Frankfurt north and east to the Rhine River. This provided a first cut at what region of current Germany from which Jacob emigrated. Serendipity led to discover the distribution of Bohrmann families, which I have included in the family history. The strongest concentration of the family matches what appears to align with Jacob's naturalization papers.



The Hessen provinces

The next step was to explore Ancestry for German birth records. Using the database *Germany, Select Births and Baptisms, 1558-1898*, I found a record of the birth and baptism of Jacob Bohrmann. Parents Valentin Bohrmann and Barbara Mueller. Many of these records use the mother's family name. The baptism place is Marnheim and the year 1825. I found a second record

in *Germany, Lutheran Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials, 1500-1971*, but in this record we get closer to Jacob's birth town. The record shows: Evangelisch-Reformierte Kirche Marnheim (BA. Kirchheimbolanden). Marnheim is a district and the town is Kirchheimbolanden. I did a google search on this community to add color to the family history.



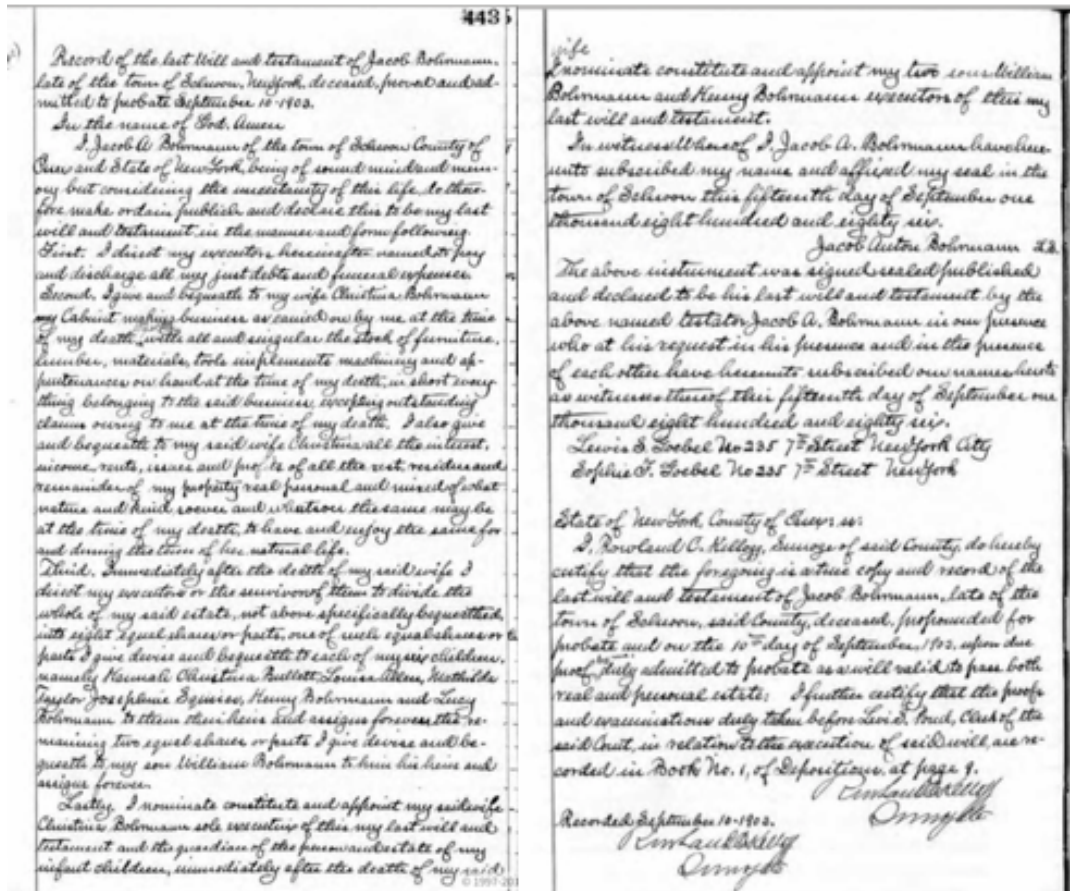
(Left) documentation of the birth of Valentin Bohrmann. (Right) The marriage of Valentin Bogrmann and Barbara Mueller

Could I find information regarding Jacob's parents? I found a record of the 01 JAN 1820 marriage of Valentin and Barbara. I then found the 1796 birth record for Valentin naming his parents Caterina Beker and Conrad Bohrmann. The birth place: Steinbach am Donnersberg (BA. Rockenhausen). In a similar fashion I found Conrad's parents to be Henrich Bohrmann and Katharina Wilhelm, also of Steinbach. In writing the history, I researched the town of Steinbach to add color to the story. Actually, we may be able to go back further. There is some indication that Henrich Bohrmann's parents are Bernhard Bohrmann (b. 1704) and Maria Elisabetha (b. 1708). I have not had time to do an in depth search to confirm this, so I did not include Bernhard and Elisabetha in the family history.

Going forward from Jacob Bohrmann of Schroon Lake, New York led to some interesting discoveries. First, I found that the 1875 New York State Census included 4 year old Henry Bohrmann, 1 year old Lucy Bohrmann, 14 year old William Bohrmann and 19 year old Cari Watsack. Cari is identified as the step daughter of Jacob. Clearly, these data indicate that both Henry and

Christina were married previous to their union in 1870. William being the child of Jacob's earlier marriage and Cari, a daughter of Christina's earlier marriage. My best guess is that Christina married Lewis Wathsack (or Wathsock/Wathsak/Wathsok) while in Germany. The only census record I have found is Christina as head of the family in the New York State Census of 1865 (Schroon, Essex, New York). Christina has three children: Lewis (b. 1854), Carri (b. 1856), and John (b. 1858). Christina's husband likely died between 1858 and 1865. The eldest child was born in Germany, suggesting that Christina was married there. Carri was born in New York.

I next discovered the Last Will and Testament of Jacob Bohrmann. The probate documents show a will written 3 JUL 1903. Here Jacob signs his



Jacob Bohrmann's will executed 15 Sept 1886 page 1

name Jacob Anton Bohrmann. He lists his children in the will. In addition to William, Henry, and Lucy, Jacob lists: Hannah Christina Bullett, Louisa Allen, Matilda Taylor, and Josephine Squires. My thinking—these must be three daughters of Jacob by his previous marriage. My next step was to try to find more about these three. Most obviously they married into families from Schroon Lake. None of these last three children appeared in any of the census reports already mentioned, so they must have married before 1875.

I did trace these daughters. Louisa (1854-1919) married George Allen. At the end of her life, Louisa lived in North Adams, MA. At some point she began to use her maiden name, Bohrmann. Her obituary (newspapers.com) indicates that Louisa was born in New York City. Confirmation that this is the correct Louisa appears in the obituary: it lists her siblings as Mrs. Charles Taylor, Mrs. Fred Squire, and Miss Lucy Bohrmann of Schroon Lake. Two brothers William Bohrmann of New York City and Henry Bohrmann of Schroon Lake are also identified.

Mrs. Bohrmann was born in New York city but came here about 30 years ago. She was well liked by all who knew her and had made many warm friends who mourn her death.

Besides her son, Mrs. Bohrmann leaves four sisters, Mrs. Charles Taylor, Mrs. Fred Squire and Miss Lucy Bohrmann of Schroon Lake, N. Y., and Mrs. Bullet of this city, and two brothers, William Bohrmann of New York city, and Henry Bohrmann of Schroon Lake, N. Y. The funeral will probably be held Tuesday afternoon from her late home and burial will be in Hillside cemetery.

Partial obituary for Louisa Bohrmann

What is interesting about this are two facts. first, Louisa's birth date is the same year that Jacob immigrated to the United States. Second, she is listed as being born in New York City. One of the unknowns from the census records is the residence of Jacob from 1854 to 1875—the first census record in Schroon Lake. This seems to indicate that at least for a short time, Jacob resided in New York City.

Following the clues, Louisa's obituary indicated that she was living in the same town as her sister Hannah Bullett. The 1880 US Census records Hannah Bullet in North Adams, MA, with her husband Louis Bullett. From the census report we find that Hannah was born about 1852 in Germany. Both of her parents were German. So, it appears that Jacob was married in

Hesse. This opened up a new line of inquiry. I began to search the German birth registries for Hannah Christina Bohrmann. Bingo! I found Johanna Christina Bohrmann born 1851 to Anna Magdalena Metzger and Jakob Anton Bohrmann. The record is from Starkenburg, Hesse-Darmstadt. So, we now have good evidence that Jacob married Anna Magdalena Metzger before immigrating to the United States. In my documentation I think it likely that Louisa's mother was also Anna, but I have no proof. In my records I list Louisa, Matilda, Josephine and William from the union of an unknown spouse.

Name	Johanna Christiana Bohrmann	
Gender	Female	
Birth Date	28 Nov 1851	
Baptism Date	14 Dec 1851	
Baptism Place	Evangelisch, Offenbach, Starkenburg, Hesse-Darmstadt	
Father	Jakob Anton Bohrmann	
Mother	Anna Magdalena Metzger	
FHL Film Number	1272723	
Household Members	Name	Age
	Anna Magdalena Metzger	
	Jakob Anton Bohrmann	
	Johanna Christiana Bohrmann	

Birth record Hannah Christina Bohrmann

Clearly, Hannah Bohrmann was three years old when Jacob came to the U.S. and Louisa was born during the year of his immigration. Why don't Louisa and Anna show up on the list of passengers of the ship along with Jacob? It is entirely possible that the passenger list only counted heads of families. We simply do not know.

Having an account on ancestry, I can accumulate documents on Jacob's page; the software tags important events (e.g. birth, immigration) and organizes them in a timeline while linking the appropriate documents. These timelines became the foundation from which I constructed the story.

Another hunch I have is that Jacob Anton Bohrmann, son of Valentin Bohrmann has French roots. Certainly, Anton and Valentin are not Germanic names. Jacob's birthplace is not far from the Alsace region of Germany. It may be at some point the Bohrmanns are linked to ancestry from eastern France or western Germany.

There are many twists and turns and dead ends I followed. for a time I was wondering why I could not find any census records for Jacob between his immigration in 1854 and the New York Census of 1875—nearly 20 years. I did find a Jacob Bohrmann in the 1860 census, Beardstown, Cass County, Illinois. This individual was reported to have been born in Germany in 1825. At first I thought that this might be Jacob Bohrmann before moving to

Schroon Lake. Perhaps, he had first moved to the midwest and later came to Schroon Lake. However, exploring this further, I found that the Illinois Jacob died in 1866 and is interred in Beardstown, Cass County, Illinois. I would not be surprised if these two Jacobs were descended from a common ancestor. Perhaps, even Hendrich Jacob Bohrmann, our Jacob Bohrmann's great grandfather.