

Our Family News Letter

Issue 71

Greendale, Wisconsin

December, 2010

Clara Sibilla Stratmann's Birthplace Discovered After 35 Year Search.

By Bob Heck

This has been a wild two months of discovery. I had been searching for 35 years for the birthplace of Clara Stratmann. I had searched dozens of microfilms and hundreds of databases or family data web sites but always the results were the same: Clara Stratmann not found.

Let me start from the beginning. Clara Stratmann is my great grandmother. She married Henry Henningfeld and was the mother of Mary Elizabeth Henningfeld Brott, Frederick Francis Henningfeld, twins Sylvester and Carlos Henningfeld, Frances Henningfeld, Margaret Frederica Henningfeld Heck (my grandmother), Caroline Maria Henningfeld, George John Henningfeld, and Dorothy Amelia Henningfeld Heinrichs.

The Stratmann surname was written several ways in the various church and civil records. Some records showed the surname as Stratman, some as Stratmann, some as Strattman, and even Strattmann. This is not unusual and that is why it is so important to search for records under all of the possible spellings.

Family traditions from our cousins from Wausau, Wisconsin stated that Clara was from Coesfeld, Westphalia, Germany. Rosemary Heinrichs Reynolds was my main source of information on the Wausau connection to Clara. Rosemary lived in Wausau, which is where Clara lived until her death in 1927. Rosemary was the granddaughter

of Clara through Dorothy Amelia Henningfeld Heinrichs. The other source of information came from one of Clara's other granddaughters from Racine. She was Lolita Henningfeld Manske, the daughter of Frederick Francis Henningfeld. Lolita died in 2003 and Rosemary died in 2002. I had spent a lot of time talking to both Rosemary and Lolita over the years, and both of them remembered their grandmother Clara quite clearly. Clara moved to Wausau from Racine in 1923 and lived with her youngest daughter, Dorothy Amelia (Molly) Henningfeld Heinrichs' family.

There were many variations in the spelling of Coesfeld, including Koesfeld. I checked my past records and found that I had ordered and re-searched six different microfilms for the town of Koesfeld and seven for the town of Coesfeld. The results of those microfilm searches was always the same: Clara Stratmann was not found. I did find bits and pieces of information over the years, however.

1867

In 1867, a Clara Sabella Stratmann was a godmother to Clara Isabella Lange, daughter of William Lange and Wilhelmina Guthof, at Bork, Prussia. The child was born at Nettleberg. This was the first record in Germany that I suspected could be Clara Stratmann.

The Civil War in the United States ended in 1865 and the country was in the process of rebuilding. Immigrants were starting to enter the United States again after almost five years of war.

1868

In 1868, Clara, at the age of 20 years, departed Germany from the port of Bremen on the ship, SS Hermann. She arrived at the port of Castle

Garden in the New York harbor on 15 June 1868. Ellis Island would not start operations for another 24 years. Clara's home was listed on the ship's manifest as the village or city of Hamm. A transcript of the passenger list showed that Hamm was misinterpreted as an abbreviation for Hamburg.

Clara traveled alone from Germany to Wisconsin. According to family stories, she was engaged to a man named Henning. He apparently died while she was in transit to America or shortly after she arrived. She reportedly worked for a Judge at the Racine County Court House and probably lived in the City of Racine for a period of time. (This has not been confirmed by any documentation but was told to me by Clara's granddaughter, Lolita Henningfeld Manske in 2002. A search of the 1870 US Census for Wisconsin could not locate Clara or her brother Carl (Charles) Stratmann.

1869

On 19 June 1869, at the age of 50, Anna Maria Elizabeth Guthoff Stratman Heitkemper arrived at the Port of New York on board the ship S.S. Hermann with 847 passengers on board. Traveling with her were her two sons Carl Stratmann, age 20 years, and Heinrich Fredrich Heitkemper aged 7 years. This was the same ship that her daughter Clara Stratmann sailed on one year earlier in 1868. The ship's manifest incorrectly identified Cark Stratmann as Carl Heitkemper.

1873

Clara Stratmann marries in 1873.

MARRIAGE RECORD 6 May 1873: From the church record at St. Thomas Catholic Church at Waterford, Wisconsin: "Die 6 Mai in Matrimonum conjunxi: Henricum Heningfeld cum Clara Strattman, nulto obstante impedimento. Testes Fuere Carlos Strattman et Gmil Heningfeld."

TRANSLATION: " On the 6 May (1873) in matrimony are joined together Henry Heningfeld

with Clara Strattman without obstacles or impediments. Witnessed by Charles Strattman and William Heningfeld." The civil registration record for Racine County, Wisconsin showed that Clara's parents were Anton Strattmann and Elizabeth Strattmann. Other records show that Clara's mother was Elizabeth Guthoff. Charles Stratman, brother of Clara, was married to Elizabeth Larsman on 11 November 1873 at the St. Thomas Catholic Church at Waterford, Racine County, Wisconsin. The groom's parents were listed as Anton Stratman and Elizabeth Guthof.

1874

Clara gave birth to Mary Elizabeth Henningfeld on 27 March 1874 at Burlington. The christening took place at Waterford.

1875

Clara gave birth to Frederick Francis Henningfeld on 13 May 1875 at Waterford. The christening took place at Waterford.

1876

Clara gave birth to Sylvester William Henningfeld and Carlos H. Henningfeld on 31 December 1876 at Waterford. The christening of both sons took place at Waterford.

1879

Clara gave birth to Frances Henningfeld on 29 March 1879 at Burlington. Frances died the same day.

1880

Clara gave birth to Margaret Frederica Henningfeld, my grandmother, on 2 April 1880 at Burlington. Margaret Frederica Henningfeld was Baptized at St. Mary's Catholic church at Burlington, Wisconsin on 4 April 1880, FHC film number 1862418 page 84 states that her mother was Clara nata Strattmann ex loco "**Ham**", Prussia. This was the first document that listed a specific town in Germany as Clara's residence prior to coming to America. This does not mean that

Ham was the place of birth but it at least gives us an idea of where to start searching.

1882

Clara gave birth to Caroline Maria Wilhelmina Henningfeld on 7 September 1882 at Burlington. Caroline died on 20 April 1887 from an infected tooth. Her christening took place at St. Mary's Catholic church at Burlington on 10 September 1882. Parents were shown as Henry Henningfeld and Clara Stratmann from Ham, Prussia.

1884

Clara gave birth to George John Henningfeld on 6 July 1884 at Burlington. Christening at St. Mary's Catholic church at Burlington on 6 July 1884. Parents shown as Henry Henningfeld from Waterford and Clara Stratman from Ham in Westphalia.

1886

Clara gave birth to Dorothy Amelia Elizabeth Henningfeld on 21 July 1886 at Burlington. Christening at St. Mary's Burlington on 25 July 1886. Parents shown as Henry Henningfeld from Waterford and Clara Stratman from Hamm in Westphalia.

1894

On 13 September 1894, an Isabella Clara Henningfeld was a confirmation sponsor for Margaret Henningfeld, my grandmother, and Clara Wurms at St. Mary's church, Burlington, WI. It is believed that Clara Isabella Stratman and Isabella Clara Henningfeld are the same person, Clara Stratmann.

We now had four documents showing that Clara Stratmann came from Ham or Hamm which is located today in the **Nordrhein-Westfalen** area of Germany. There is a County, Kreis in German, named **Hamm**.

Knocking Down The Brick Wall

In August, 2010, I was doing a search on a new web site from the Family History Center known as the Mormon LDS web site. The address is <http://beta.familysearch.org> which will lead you to the free site. The site was new and included a transcription of millions of early German church and civil records. I had searched the site for Stratman and Stratmann but without any luck. I then did a search for Clara's mother by entering the name Guthof. I also conducted a search for the name spelled Guthoff and that is when I found a connection.

The transcription record indicated that Elisabeth Guthoff, born in 1819, married Anton Strutmman, born in 1813. Note that Anton's surname was transcribed as STRUTMANN rather than STRATMANN. The date of the marriage was 15 February 1846 and the place of marriage was Geithe, which is a small village located near the town of **Hamm** in the **County of Hamm**, in **Nordrhein-Westfalen**, Germany. The record stated that Elizabeth's father was Heinrich Guthoff and that she was a widow.

A second record showed that Elisabeth Strutmman married Friedrich Heitkemper on 6 March 1859. That record also showed that Elizabeth was a widow. Both records listed the FHC film number as 949283. I immediately called my cousin, Cheryl Heck, daughter of Bob & Lorraine Heck, and told her the news. Together we ordered three microfilms of the Giethe Catholic church record. Two weeks later the microfilms were delivered and Cheryl, her Dad, and I started scrolling through them.

1864 Marriage Record of Anton Stratmann and Anna Maria Elizabeth Guthoff

The first record that we found was the marriage of Anton Stratmann and Anna Maria Elizabeth Guthoff, widow of (Peter) Brüggemann. Anton Stratmann was shown as being from the village of Hultrop and Elizabeth Guthoff was from Ostenfeldmark. Anton's mother was listed as Anna Maria Stratmann also from Hultrop. Elizabeth's

parents were listed as Diedrich Guthoff and Elizabeth Peiler from Ostenfeldmark.



Bob Heck, with his daughter Cheryl Heck, reading a microfilm of Geithe, Germany.

Shown below is the Geithe Catholic Church record of the marriage on 19 February 1846 of Anton Stratmann to Anna Maria Elizabeth Guthoff. The marriage is item three in the figure below.

The record reads: Anton Stratmann, a Weaver residing in Hultrop, married at Geithe. In the last five years resided in Westenfeldmark. His mother was Anna Maria Stratmann from Hultrop. His parents are deceased. He is 33 years of age and was not married before. Anna Maria Elizabeth Guthoff, widow of Bruggemann, she is from Ostenfeldmark in the parish of Geithe. She is 27 years old. Her father is Diedrich Heinrich Guthoff, a day laborer. Her mother is Elizabeth Peiler. Her parents reside in Ostenfeldmark.

pg. 7.	Aufgaben 23. Februar 1846.				1846. — fortgesetzt mit dem 23. Sept.					
1.	Johann Theodor Roth, Engländer, in Werries.	Johann Hermann Roth, Vater, in Aupfahl Beckum, zu Elisabeth Lethofrie	29. Februar	Der Vater ist einmütig eingewilligt.	Maria Catharina Schulte, Tochter des Büdeler zu Werries.	Bernard Schulte, Sohn des Engländer in Braam, zu Anna Catharina Schulte, Tochter des Bruggemann in Ostenfeldmark.	41. Februar	Mit Zustimmung der Familienräthe des Bruggemann in Braam, zu Maria Schulte, Tochter des Bruggemann in Ostenfeldmark.	19. Februar, um 10 Uhr.	Anton Stratmann, Weber, in Hultrop.
2.	Franz Wilhelm Schlieper, Weber, in Braam.	Johann Wilhelm Schlieper, Weber, in Braam, zu Maria Johanna Schlieper, Tochter des Bruggemann in Ostenfeldmark.	28. Februar	Der Vater ist einmütig eingewilligt.	Maria Catharina Schulte, Tochter des Büdeler zu Braam.	Diedrich Peiler, Engländer in Braam, zu Anna Catharina Peiler, Tochter des Bruggemann in Ostenfeldmark.	27. Februar	Der Bruggemann in Braam ist einmütig eingewilligt.	19. Februar, um 10 Uhr.	Anton Stratmann, Weber, in Hultrop.
3.	Anton Stratmann, Weber, in Ostenfeldmark, geb. in Hultrop.	Anna Maria Elizabeth Guthoff, Tochter des Guthoff, in Ostenfeldmark, geb. in Ostenfeldmark.	32. Februar	Der Vater ist einmütig eingewilligt.	Maria Catharina Schulte, Tochter des Büdeler zu Braam.	Diedrich Guthoff, Engländer in Braam, zu Elizabeth Peiler, Tochter des Bruggemann in Ostenfeldmark.	26. Februar	Mit Zustimmung der Familienräthe des Bruggemann in Braam, zu Maria Schulte, Tochter des Bruggemann in Ostenfeldmark.	19. Februar, um 10 Uhr.	Diedrich Berger, Weber, in Braam, zu Maria Schulte, Tochter des Bruggemann in Ostenfeldmark.
4.	Johannes Theodor Deppe, Kolon, in Meyrich, in Aupfahl Werries.	Gerhard Deppe, Kolon, in Meyrich, in Aupfahl Werries, zu Anna Sibylla geb. Minersop (+).	25. Februar	Der Vater ist einmütig eingewilligt.	Maria Catharina Schulte, Tochter des Büdeler zu Braam.	Franz Theodor Stines, Kolon, in Braam, zu Anna Catharina Schulte, Tochter des Bruggemann in Ostenfeldmark.	22. Februar	Der Bruggemann in Braam ist einmütig eingewilligt.	28. April, um 10 Uhr.	Anton Stratmann, Weber, in Hultrop.
5.	Friedrich Christian Heinrich Nischen, Engländer, in Braam, geb. in Braam.	Viktor Nischen, gut, in Braam, zu Elisabeth Kahlmann, Tochter des Bruggemann in Ostenfeldmark.	27. Februar	Der Vater ist einmütig eingewilligt.	Maria Catharina Schulte, Tochter des Büdeler zu Braam.	Johann Hermann Bruggemann, Engländer in Braam, zu Anna Catharina Schulte, Tochter des Bruggemann in Ostenfeldmark.	28. Februar	Mit Zustimmung der Familienräthe des Bruggemann in Braam, zu Maria Schulte, Tochter des Bruggemann in Ostenfeldmark.	11. May, um 10 Uhr.	Anton Stratmann, Weber, in Hultrop.
6.	Heinrich Rosen dahl, Weber, in Braam, zu Anna Maria Wiersgubahl, in Braam.	Serdinand Rosen dahl, in Braam, zu Anna Maria Wiersgubahl, in Braam.	15. 1807	Der Vater ist einmütig eingewilligt.	Maria Catharina Schulte, Tochter des Büdeler zu Braam.	Franz Christoph Wulf, in Braam, zu Anna Catharina Schulte, Tochter des Bruggemann in Ostenfeldmark.	25. 1807	Der Bruggemann in Braam ist einmütig eingewilligt.	14. May, um 10 Uhr.	Anton Stratmann, Weber, in Hultrop.

1847 Clara Sibilla Stratmann's birth and christening record

The next step was to see if Clara Stratmann was christened at Geithe. A quick scroll through the microfilm lead us to the record we had been looking for 35 years. The record showed that Clara Sibilla Stratmann was born on 14 November 1847 at 3 in the morning at the Village of Ostfeldmark in the parish of Geithe, County of Hamm. Clara was christened at Geithe on 21 November 1847.

1849 Carl Stratmann's birth and christening record

In the 1849 Geithe church record we found that Carl Stratmann, known in this country as Charles Stratmann, was born on 5 November 1849 and christened on 11 November 1849. Carl was born at 9 in the morning.

1853 Wilhelm Stratmann died

The church record at Geithe showed that Anton Stratmann and Elizabeth Guthoff had one more child besides Clara and Carl Stratmann. They had a son named Wilhelm who died on 7 April 1853 at the age of 2 months and 7 days at Ostfeldmark. Wilhelm was buried at Geithe on 10 April 1853.

1858 Death of Anton Stratmann

1858.		1858.		1858.		1858.	
18	Anton Stratmann geb. Ostfeldmark 14. Okt. 1814	geb. Ostfeldmark 14. Okt. 1814	geb. Ostfeldmark 14. Okt. 1814	geb. Ostfeldmark 14. Okt. 1814	geb. Ostfeldmark 14. Okt. 1814	geb. Ostfeldmark 14. Okt. 1814	geb. Ostfeldmark 14. Okt. 1814
Anton Stratmann, 44 Jahre alt, starb am 14. Oktober 1858 in Ostfeldmark. Begraben am 17. Oktober 1858 in Geithe.							

It didn't take long to find the death record of Anton Stratmann in the Geithe church records. Anton died at Ostfeldmark at the age of 44 years.

He died on 11 October 1858 at 9 in the morning. He was buried at Geithe on 14 October 1858. His entry is shown as line 18 in the document. He was known as Anton Stratmann Guthoff.

1859 Marriage of Elizabeth Stratmann, born Guthoff, to Friedrich Heitkemper

The marriage record for Elizabeth Guthoff and Friedrich Heitkemper, born at Werries, and currently living at Ostfeldmark, was located in the Geithe church record. The marriage took place on 8 March 1859, just 4 months and 25 days after the death of Anton Stratmann. Friedrich was 26 years and 3 months old when he married Elizabeth Guthoff, age 39 years old.

1862 Henrich Friedrich (Henry Fred) Heitkemper born

In previous research I had found the birth record for Heinrich Fredrich, known in this country as Henry Fred, Heitkemper. He was born on 20 September 1862 at Bork, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany. Seven years later he would arrive in the United States with his mother and brother.

1844 Peter Brüggemann died

1844.		1844.		1844.		1844.	
24	Peter Brüggemann geb. Werries 16. Okt. 1770	geb. Werries 16. Okt. 1770	geb. Werries 16. Okt. 1770	geb. Werries 16. Okt. 1770	geb. Werries 16. Okt. 1770	geb. Werries 16. Okt. 1770	geb. Werries 16. Okt. 1770
Peter Brüggemann, 74 Jahre alt, starb am 16. Oktober 1844 in Werries. Begraben am 19. Oktober 1844 in Geithe.							

The next step in our search was to find the name of Elizabeth Guthoff's first husband, named Brüggemann. We knew that he probably died

between 1842 and 1846. We found that he died at the age of 31 years, 5 months, on 11 December 1844, and was listed in the Geithe church record. He was listed as Peter Brüggemann, known as Guthoff, the husband of Elizabeth Guthoff. He was from Ostenfeldmark. Peter was buried on 14 December 1844 at Geithe. His entry is shown as line 23 in the document.

1813 Anton Stratmann's birth and christening record

Following is a translation of the church record from Hultrop. Anton's birth was marked "Illegitimate".

"In the year of our Lord eighteen hundred thirteen on the twelfth of June in the morning two o'clock born to Anna Maria Stratman (also known as Hatmer) the daughter of Maria Catharina Stratman (also known as Hatmer), an unmarried daughter had a son and on the same day and month was baptized and given the name Antonius. She gave the father's name as Franz Weiman of Keswinkel.

Sponsors were Antonius Mermejer, also known as Hane and Gertrud Grutte, both of Hultrop, along with the Pastor have signed below."

The image shows a handwritten church record in German. The text is written in cursive and is somewhat faded. It begins with 'Hultrop No: 9' and 'Antonius Stratman' followed by 'gemaunt Hatmer' and 'illegitimus'. The main body of text describes the birth and christening of Antonius Stratman on June 12, 1813, at Hultrop. It mentions the mother, Anna Maria Stratman, and the father, Franz Weiman. The record also lists the sponsors, Antonius Mermejer and Gertrud Grutte, and the pastor, Caspar Lünne. The record is signed by the pastor and the sponsors.

The christening and birth record of Anton Stratman, the illegitimate son of Anna Maria Stratman and Franz Weiman. This record was

from the Catholic church records at Hultrop, Germany.

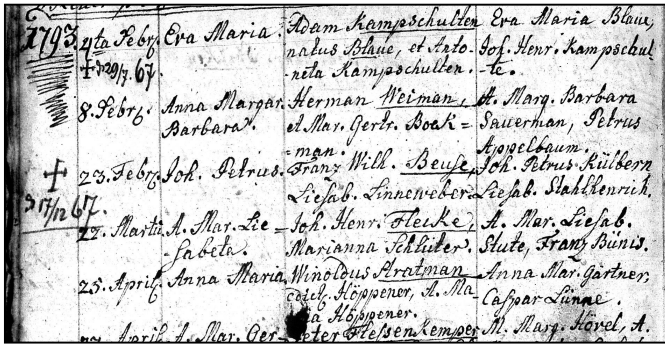


Clara Sibilla Stratmann, born 14 November 1847 at Ostenfeldmark, Germany. Died 18 May 1927 at Wausau, Wisconsin.

1793 Anna Maria Stratmann Born

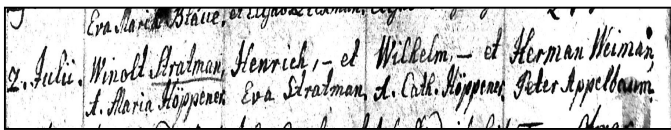
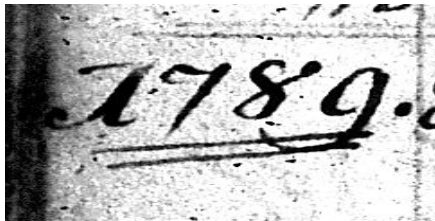
Anna Maria Stratmann was the mother of Anton Stratmann. She was born on 25 April 1793 at Hultrop, Kries Hamm, Germany. The christening record from the Hultrop Catholic church showed that her parents were Winold Stratmann and Anna Maria Höppener.

The following image is the christening record from Hultrop. The godparents were Anna Marie Gartner and Caspar Lünne.



1789 The Marriage of Winold Stratmann and Anna Maria Höppener.

Now that we had the christening record of Anton Stratmann's mother, we started a search for her parent's marriage record. We discovered that Winold Stratmann and Anna Maria Höppener were married at Hultrop on 2 July 1789.



Anna Maria Stratmann, the mother of Anton Stratmann, apparently never married. She died at Hultrop on 9 August 1828, at the age of 35 years. Her mother, Anna Maria Höppener, was born about 1756 and died on 21 March 1799, at the age of 43 years at Hultrop. Her father, Winold Stratmann, was born about 1764, remarried on 11 June 1799 to Maria Catharina Lünne, and he died on 1 September 1839 at Hultrop at the age of 75 years.

From the marriage record we were able to determine that Winold Stratmann's parents were Heinrich Stratmann and Eva, last name not listed. The parents of Anna Maria Höppener

were Wilhelm Höppener and Anna Christina, last name not listed.

The Guthoff Family

Heinrich Diedrich Guthoff was born about 1782 and died on 17 January 1859 at Ostenfeldmark. He married Elizabeth Peiler in about 1818. She was born about 1796. They were Clara Stratmann's maternal grandparents.

Clara Stratmann's mother was Anna Maria Elizabeth Guthoff and while researching the church records we determined that she had one brother and two sisters. Anna Maria Elizabeth Guthoff was born on 8 May 1819, Gerhard Heinrich Guthoff was born on 26 August 1823, Anna Clara Catharina Elizabeth Guthoff was born on 18 July 1825, and Wilhelmina Guthoff was born on 15 September 1833. All three of Anna Maria Elizabeth Guthoff's siblings married in Germany. It is not known if they came to America.

All of these names and dates are probably confusing to the average reader. I'm including a pedigree chart starting with Clara Stratmann and going out five generations.



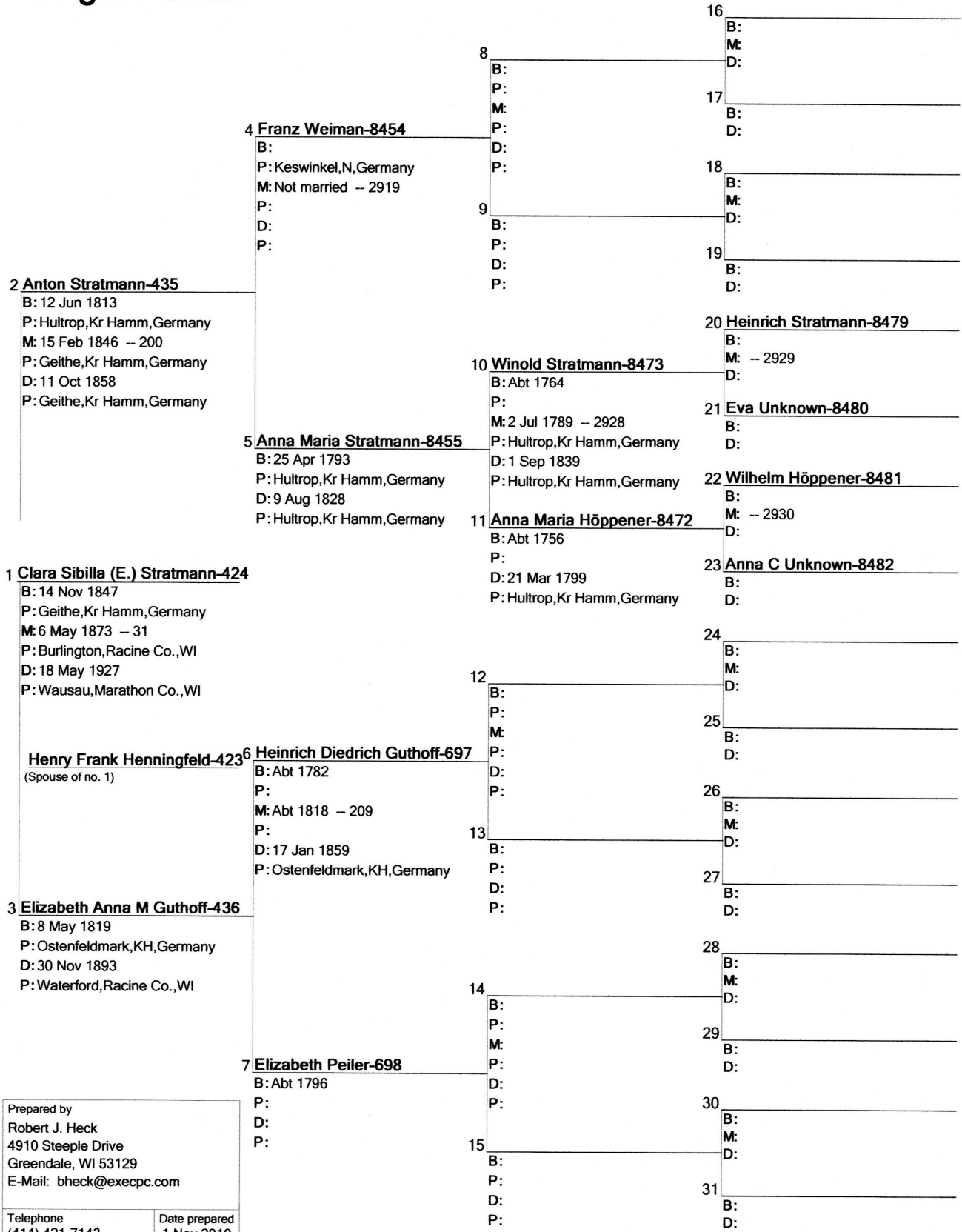
Anna Maria Elizabeth Guthoff Bruggemann Stratmann Heitkemper. 1819 - 1893

This newsletter is written and published by **Robert J. Heck, 4910 Steeple Drive, Greendale, WI 53129.**

Our Family News Letter is published quarterly and is distributed without charge. Contributions to help cover the costs are greatly appreciated. Please feel free to copy and share Our Family News Letter with your family members provided that it is not done for commercial gain. Our Family News Letter is copyright protected.

Pedigree Chart

Chart no. 1



Prepared by
 Robert J. Heck
 4910 Steeple Drive
 Greendale, WI 53129
 E-Mail: bheck@execpc.com

Telephone (414) 421-7143	Date prepared 1 Nov 2010
-----------------------------	-----------------------------