SURNAME FINDING AID FOR CANTON BERN, ALSACE, GERMANY, AND PENNSYLVANIA ©

BRUCE FOSNOCHT

INTRODUCTION

This finding aid contains over 44,000 line items of data on hundreds of Swiss and German surnames, including 29,000 birth records, 6,200 marriages, and 560 death records between 1549 and 1777. It contains a list of about 300 surnames. If names of interest are found, 10 PDF files are included, with further information including event date, birth, marriage, death, man last, man first, woman last, woman first, child, canton/country, town/farm, notes, and references. Almost all this data is taken from original primary sources. There are 10 PDF files, each sorted on the various column headings above to present the data in the most useful formats, namely Marriages by Groom, Marriages by Bride, Births by Surname/Child/Date, Family Groups, Adult Males by Date, Adult Females by Date, Male Deaths by Date, Female Deaths by Date, 1715 Register by Surname, and 1715 Register by Location. A spreadsheet is available, upon request, for those who are already skilled with that format (or are willing to learn). The files can be downloaded and searched for data that will be helpful for continued research on your surnames of interest in Europe. A tutorial includes examples using this data to successfully trace 4 families from the immigrant ship Oliver back to their roots in Switzerland.

This data is the product of 10 years of research by the European Research Committee of the group named Binkleys in America. We had named it the Binkley Master File (BMF), but it is much more than that. It is a most powerful research tool that has enabled us to determine that all descendants of all five Binkley immigrants to America before 1737 are all related to a common ancestor named Jerman Binggeli, whose marriage to Elsbeth Spring on 21 Nov 1603 is recorded in the first church book of Wahlern parish.

This file began when we purchased a transcription of every birth, marriage, and death entry in the earliest church books of Wahlern and Guggisberg parishes and converted that data into a spreadsheet containing about 19,000 line items. Thus, it is a complete record for those researching any Swiss surname originating in these 2 parishes.

We have expanded this file to include data from tax/tithe lists, church court manuals, Pastor's registers, and many published reports about the Anabaptist movement of the district Schwarzenburg. We have added entries for Binggelis and their associated surnames from the church books of every parish within about 25 km of Guggisberg. As our Binggelis moved from Canton Bern through Alsace and Germany, we have added data on those Bincklis and their associated families also.

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USER GUIDE

The data in this finding aid has been accumulating for more than 10 years in a spreadsheet I have been maintaining for doing research in Europe for a one name study group called Binkleys in America.

Our European Research Committee purchased a CD containing, among many other documents, a German language transcription of every BMD entry in the church books of Wahlern and Guggisberg, the home parishes of our Binggeli ancestors in Canton Bern Switzerland. One of our members converted this register from .doc format into a spreadsheet in .xls format. We have found that the spreadsheet format is an excellent method of viewing and analyzing genealogical data. The ability to filter, sort, search, and print selected data was invaluable to us in our Binkley research. These features facilitated our determining and locating the common ancestral couple for the five Binkley men who independently immigrated to present day Lancaster County during the early 1700s – Jerman Binggeli and Elsbeth Spring.

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The first task for us was to organize and standardize the data so that it could be sorted properly. This was particularly necessary for the spelling of surnames, forenames, and locations. All spellings that could be considered reasonably similar were standardized to use the one we deemed most prevalent. As the spreadsheet grew over the years, we adopted other conventions, usages, and other methods of analysis.

The column headings in the included PDF lists are explained here.

ID is for the type of record.

T(auf) is for baptism. (Early Swiss church registers list only one date, so this is also used as birth date.)

D(eath) records only begin in Wahlern in 1728 and in Guggisberg in 1731. Swiss death records give very little information. German records provide much more.

E(helich) is for marriage. In Canton Bern, the parents of the bride and groom are very rarely provided, making it very difficult to choose which are the correct parents.

L(ocation) is a designation used for any other record that indicates the location of an event, also for a record that establishes a family relationship for the participants. The 1715 register made by the Guggisberg Pastor lists the families of his parishioners by their town or farm of residence.

Dates are written YYYY/MM/DD to ensure correct sorting.

The 5 columns for names contain the standardized spellings we have chosen, but a bit of further explanation should be added. Swiss children in Canton Bern were baptized with only one forename, with only rare exceptions. We changed every Swiss Johannes to Hans as the standardized spelling for proper sorting. As we followed families into Alsace and Germany, where saint names and call names were sometimes used, we chose the call name. Johan Peter became Peter, etc. In Swiss records, women were known by their own surnames, not their married names.

Ct is for Canton/Country. After using only Canton B(ern) initially, we added Canton V(aud). For country, we added A(lsace) and G(ermany).

Notes initially contained only what was provided in the transcribed Bernese church records we bought, and usually included 1-3 baptismal sponsors. We retained the original German spelling variations for the sponsor names. Many other notes were added later as our spreadsheet evolved.

Reference is for the source of the record. Many are abbreviated for space-saving. Most are from a KirchenBuch(KB), and some of those have a volume number and page added. The sources that begin with the letter A are from the Zinsbuchs. Zins can be translated as tax or tithe.

SURNAME LIST

ABERHOLD	ARNI	BALER
ABISCHER	ASCHBACHER	BALMER
ALBEN	BACH	BALSINGER
ALLMUTH	BACHMAN	BALTZLI
ALTSCHINGER	BACHOFNER	BART
AMMAN	BADER	BARTHOLOME
ANNELER	BADSTUBER	BATSCHER

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BAUER	BUCHER	FISHER
BAUMHOWER	BULMAN	FLUMAN
BAYER	BUNTSCH	FREY
BECKER	BURCKI	FREYBURGHAUS
BERGER	BURKHART	FRIEDERICH
BERINGER	BURRI	GARTWYL
BERNARD	BUSCHI	GASSER
BERNER	CARL	GEBHART
BEYELER	CHRISTMAN	GILGEN
BICKHART	CLAUDE	GLAUS
BIENTZ	CONRAD	GOLZER
BIGEL	DACHS	GOSSET
BINCKLI	DANGELI	GOTTSCHMAN
BINGGELI	DEDI	GRAFF
BINKLEY	DEPPEN	GRIMMEN
BISCHOFF	DIEHLMAN	GUGGISPERG
BLATTER	DIETRICH	GURTNER
BLINN	DUBACH	GYGER
BLUM	DURRENMATT	HACHER
BOLEN	EBERT	HACHLER
BOUMGART	EGGENBERGER	HAFFEN
BOWE	EGLI	HARNISH
BRAUN	EICHER	HAUSINER
BREIT	ENGELOCH	HEGGI
BRODETH	ENGGIMAN	HELGENSTEIN
BRONNIMAN	ETTER	HENNEBERGER
BRULLHART	EYER	HERREN
BRUN	FELLER	HERTZOG
BRUNISHOLTZ	FERNDRIGER	HILDEBRAND
BRUNNER	FIFIAN	HINNI

HIRSCHI	KLEIN	MULHEIM
HIRT	KNORI	MULISTEIN
HOFFMAN	KOLB	MULLER
HOFFSTETMAN	KOLI	MURER
HORST	KOMMER	MURRI
HOSTETTLER	KONIG	NIDEGGER
HUBER	KORMAN	NIDERHUSEREN
HUFFACKER	KRAMER	NOTH
HUGI	KREBS	NUSSBOUM
HURST	KRENGER	OTZ
HUSSLER	KRIEGER	PAULI
HUSSONG	KRUMMEN	PFANDER
IMMER	KRUTTER	PFISTER
ISLER	KUNDIGER	PFOUTI
JABERG	KUNTZ	PORTNER
JACOB	KUPFER	POSS
JAUSSI	KURTZ	POTH
JENCK	LAUER	PULVER
JENNI	LEEMAN	RACHER
JOHN	LOSSI	RAFLOUB
JORDI	LUTHOLD	RAMEN
JOSSI	LYB	RENTSCH
JULMI	MADER	RIEDER
JUNGI	MARTI	RIEDWYL
JUTZELER	MASSERLI	RIEM
KAPPELER	MAST	RINGEISEN
KASTELER	MEYER	RISEN
KIENER	MICHEL	ROGGLI
KILCHER	MISCHLER	ROHRBACH
KISSLIG	MOSER	ROLI

ROTHEN	SCHWEINGRUBER	ULRICH
RUMPF	SCHWEITZER	UMMEL
RYCHART	SCHWENDI	URFER
SANGER	SEILER	WACHTER
SCHALLER	SENFT	WAGLI
SCHANTZ	SHIRK	WALTHART
SCHAREN	SIGERIST	WASEM
SCHERLER	SPANI	WEBER
SCHERR	SPICHER	WECK
SCHERTZ	SPRING	WEHRLI
SCHICK	STAHLI	WEIGS
SCHINDLER	STEINACHER	WEINBACH
SCHIRRA	STEINER	WEISS
SCHLACHT	STEINHUSS	WEISSENBACH
SCHLECHT	STEINMAN	WENGER
SCHLECHTER	STEPHAN	WILLI
SCHLEGEL	STERR	WILLINEGGER
SCHMIDT	STOCKLI	WINZENRIED
SCHNEIDER	STOLL	WIRZ
SCHONTAL	STOSS	WISPI
SCHRACK	STREIT	WITSCHI
SCHREYER	STUBI	WITTWER
SCHROTER	STUDEMAN	WOLF
SCHUMACHER	STURLER	WUL
SCHUNER	SUMMEROUW	WURSTEN
SCHUSTER	SUTER	WYDER
SCHUTZ	THEILKAS	WYLER
SCHWAB	THOMAN	WYSS
SCHWARTZ	TRACHSEL	ZAND
SCHWARTZWASSER	TRAUTMAN	ZBINDEN

ZEHENDER	ZINGG	ZULAUFF
ZIMMERMAN	ZISSET	ZWAHLEN

RESEARCH GUIDE

The data in this finding aid is presented in several ways in order to serve users with varying skill levels and with varying amounts of information about their surname in Europe. We hope you will be able to advance your research.

Begin with the Surname List as above. It contains those surnames which appear in the spreadsheet more than about a dozen times. If your surname of interest is not there, it is not likely you will find enough information here to be helpful. But please read on to see what kind of help is available if you should later become interested in any of these names.

There are 10 PDF files, each sorted on the various column headings above to present the data in the most useful formats, namely Marriages by Groom, Marriages by Bride, Births by Surname/Child/Date, Family Groups, Adult Males by Date, Adult Females by Date, Male Deaths by Date, Female Deaths by Date, 1715 Register by Surname, and 1715 Register by Location.

If you have found a surname of interest, the absolute best outcome from the use of this data will be obtained by those already skilled in the use of spreadsheets, and by those who are willing to acquire a spreadsheet software program and learn to use it. We strongly recommend using the power of a spreadsheet, which provides the ability to filter, sort, and print the data. A spreadsheet formatted file is available, upon request, for those users who are interested.

With the understanding that researchers of many different skill levels will be using these files, I have done my best to include some examples of how to use these files to advance your research in Europe.

Most of us who have some brick walls in our ancestral lineages will have a forename, surname, and a birth date (either exact or approximate). The following examples will demonstrate the various techniques for identifying those ancestors who had come from Europe.

I had learned that my immigrant ancestor, Hans Michael Binkley, arrived in Philadelphia on the ship Oliver in 1735. His age was 23, as given in the ship list. The birth entry for Michael can be found in the PDF file, BIRTHS BY SURNAME CHILD DATE, on page 89. This data is taken from page 21 of the first church book of Lambsborn, Germany.

This leads us to scroll through the FAMILY GROUPS PDF file to find his parents, Hans Binckli and Barbara (Unknown), on page 132-135. These pages can be printed for further study. This family listing (because it is my own ancestry) contains much more data than most. I will use it as an example of some of the typical usages, conventions, and abbreviations used throughout our spreadsheet.

There is no marriage record, so I constructed this entry. The date is written YYYY/MM/DD to ensure correct sorting (1689/00/00 means it's an estimate). Different records give the mother's name as Anna, Barbara, and Maria Barbara. Barbara was chosen for standardization. I listed myself as the source, because this was my own research, and I included the birth date and parents of the father Hans (as we will learn as we move forward). The births of the early children are estimated, some using their confirmation dates. Birth records from the church books continue through 1702.

Note that in 1704, there were two different families of the same names (Hans and Barbara) in locations very close together. This is not uncommon in Europe because the same common forenames were used so often. We are

following the Hans and Barbara from Morsbach (not Limbach). There are baptisms through 1714, and then location entries where their children were married and where members of this family sponsored children of other families.

The wife Barbara died in 1731 and Hans died 1737/03/30 in Krahenberg. His age was given as 74, thus born in 1662 or 1663. But page 136 of the PDF BIRTHS BY SURNAME CHILD DATE file shows us that 6 families in Canton Bern had sons named Hans in those years. Which was the correct family for Hans?

This is, without a doubt, the hardest part of research in Canton Bern. The common forenames such as Hans, Christen, Anna, and Barbara are used by almost every family. Marriage records almost never give the parents of the bride or groom. These factors make it extremely difficult to advance from one generation to the next. I have seen numerous mistakes made by researchers in Alsace and Germany who simply accepted the first child baptism or marriage partner in a Swiss record that seemed to fit their situation, not knowing that there are usually many more of the same names who would also fit. We are forced to use whatever external facts we can unearth, such as the location or home farm, or the baptismal sponsors. Even then, we can only draw firm conclusions when we find some very rare, unusual, and preferably unique individuals, or some particular combination of siblings in one family.

Those researchers with a spreadsheet program and skills should follow along through this brief tutorial, and you will learn how to use some of these techniques. Others should follow along using the applicable PDF files, and you will be convinced that you should acquire a spreadsheet program and learn to use it.

The 6 candidate Hans Binggelis who could be Hans Michael's father can be seen on page 136 of the PDF file BIRTHS BY SURNAME CHILD DATE. The procedure for selecting the correct Hans is to make or print a list of the candidates, and then print the appropriate pages from the FAMILY GROUPS PDF FILE containing the family groups for each set of parents for study and analysis.

The family sheet of Benedict Binggeli and Anna Studeman shows that their son Hans born 1662/06/15 died young and was replaced on 1666/11/18. He is not Hans Michael's father.

The family sheet of Hans Binggeli and Barbara Kienast shows that their son Hans born 1663/08/23 had many sisters, and one of them had the rare forename of Salome. The PDF file 1715 REGISTER BY SURNAME is the pastor's list of his parishioners. Pages 2-3 shows the families of all the Hans Binggelis, and we can find that Salome and her sisters Elsbeth, Benedicta, Madlena, Catharina and Christina are living with their brother Hans Binggeli and his wife Barbara Binggeli in Abnit. The FAMILY GROUP sheet for Hans Binggeli and Barbara Binggeli shows that on 1727/08/05, Hans Binggeli of Abnit wrote a new will naming his un-married sisters Madlena, Benedicta, Salome, Elsbeth, Christina, and Barbara. He died in Abnit 1736/02/05. He is not Hans Michael's father.

The FAMILY GROUP file of Hans Binggeli and Anna Wyder shows Hans Binggeli, Zimmerman (a carpenter), widowed, in Augsten, per the 1715 pastor's register. In his house are son Peter and wife Babi Gasser, as well as Hans' son Ulrich. The family sheet also has an entry from the Chorgerichtsmanual on 1713/11/03 saying Hans Binggeli "der alt" avoids church on Sundays. Hans "der alt" means he is the father of a Hans (or is older than another Hans) in the area. Examination of the PDF file 1715 REGISTER BY SURNAME shows many more Hans Binggelis than the widowed carpenter in Augsten. A search on Google Maps for Augsten, Ruschegg, Switzerland will locate Augsten. At a high zoom level, one can see the nearby farm of Wyssenhalten, the 1715 home of another Hans Binggeli, a carpenter, with a wife Elsbeth Rieder and 5 children. This is obviously the son of Hans der alt, (the carpenter), in nearby Augsten. He is not Hans Michael's father.

Thus, we have eliminated 3 possible fathers for my ancestor, Hans Michael Binkley. To proceed, we needed to consider a published source that states that "official papers" indicate that Michael had received an inheritance from an aunt in Switzerland. My inquiries to German archives unearthed some court records indicating that in

1664, "the heirs of Hans Binggeli of Morsbach" were sued for an old debt of their father. They used the emigrated Hans Michael's portion of an inheritance they all received from an aunt in Switzerland to pay this debt. By Swiss law, if a person dies with no will and with no living blood relatives, their estate reverts to their parents, and is distributed equally among the heirs of each of their siblings. This means that Michael's aunt in Switzerland was a Binggeli who outlived all her siblings.

This leads to a search, among the remaining 3 candidates, for a Hans Binggeli with a sister, probably younger, who would have died after the 1737 death of Hans of Morsbach, and before his heirs had received their inheritance in 1764.

The FAMILY GROUP sheet of Christen Binggeli and Anna Rothen shows that their Hans born 1663/06/21 had no sisters. He is not Hans Michael's father. Only 2 families remain.

A search of the FAMILY GROUPS PDF file shows that Simon Binggeli/Benedicta Mischler and Peter Binggeli/Madlena Spring both had youngest daughters named Anna, who would be the most likely to outlive their siblings. The FEMALE DEATHS PDF file contains 27 Anna Binggeli deaths in the years 1737-1764. Most of these records lack sufficient information to identify the Annas, but we can find one who was listed as the widow of Christen Schlegel, and died 1752/08/07 at age 80. There is no such couple in the FAMILY GROUP PDF FILE, but we can find a Hans Schlegel married to Anna Binggeli 1703/07/02. In addition to the record in the church book, a second source, Billeter's Notes, names Anna as the daughter of Peter Binggeli/Madlena Spring. Anna was in Zurchersburg in the 1715 register as Hans Schlegel's widow, with their only child Elsbeth Schlegel. In the 1736 register, Anna had with her her son in law Hans Schlegel's children, so her daughter Elsbeth Schlegel must have died earlier. Thus, when Anna Binggeli died 1752/08/07, she had no Binggeli heirs, and part of her estate would be sent to the heirs of her brother Hans in Morsbach, positively identifying the father of Hans Michael as a son of Peter Binggeli/Madlena Spring.

Other arrivals on the ship Oliver in 1735 were a Lazarus Wenger, age 19, Ann Wenger, age 18, and Ann Wenger, age 56. A search of the PDF file BIRTHS BY SURNAME CHILD DATE, on page 85, shows only one child with the rare name of Lazarus Wenger. This child, born 1715/09/22, matches the immigrant in the Oliver ship list.

He was the son of Hans Wenger and Anna Ulrich. Their family can be seen in the PDF FAMILY GROUPS table, on page 1722. The Ann Wengers in the 1735 ship list are clearly the mother and sister of Lazarus. A published tour guide for Canton Bern by Samuel L. Wenger states that Hans Wenger and Anna Ulrich were living in Ey when they sold their earthly goods, paid an emigration tax, and departed for America in 1735. The father Hans apparently died on the voyage. Which Hans Wenger was the father of Lazarus?

A search of the BIRTHS BY SURNAME CHILD DATE PDF file shows there was a child Hans born 1686/05/09 to Christen Wenger/Barbara Zbinden in Ey, which was the home of the emigrated Hans Wenger/Anna Ulrich family above. The FAMILY GROUP sheet of Christen Wenger/Barbara Zbinden ends on 1690/03/23, apparently because one of the parents died. Looking further in the second family group below that one, we find a Hans Wenger of Ey married to a Barbara Zwahlen 1691/03/20, strongly indicating that Christen Wenger of Ey quickly married again. That family group sheet ends in 1715, when the widow Barbara Zwahlen and 4 children are recorded in the 1715 register as living in Ey. Searching in the 1715 REGISTER BY LOCATION file for Ey, we find Christen Wenger's widow Barbara Zwahlen and her children are living in the same place as Hans Wenger and Anna Ulrich. This confirms that Lazarus Wenger's father, who died before arriving in America, was the 1686/05/09 son of Christen Wenger and his first wife Barbara Zbinden.

The uncommon forename of Lazarus Wenger allows us to easily trace his maternal lineage. His baptismal sponsor in 1715 was Lazarus Ulrich. There are so few adult males named Lazarus Ulrich that all the Lazarus Ulrich events can be seen in neat chronological order in the PDF ADULT MALES BY DATE file, on pages 1565-1566. This shows

that the only Lazarus Ulrich who could sponsor Lazarus Wenger in 1715 is the 1685 brother of Anna Ulrich(1679) in the family of Lazarus Ulrich/Elsbeth Mischler. This Lazarus Ulrich is the 1645 son of Lazarus Ulrich and Elsbeth Stoss, the family immediately above. So the maternal lineage ends with a Lazarus Ulrich born about 1611.

Another family arriving on the ship Oliver in 1735 were adult males Hans Booker, age 54, and John Booker, age 20. Children were Benjamin Booker, age 13, and Cristan Booker, age 10. Also an adult female Cristana Booker, age 35. Searching through the FAMILY GROUP file, we can find 12 families headed by a Hans Bucher. But the combination of the 3 children as above occurs only in the family of Hans Bucher and Madlena Kuntzi. Madlena's last child was born 1730/04/17, so she probably died, and the Cristana Booker, age 35, was probably a younger second wife of the father Hans.

Also arriving on the Oliver in 1735 were Christian Brenholtz, age 39, and Ann Brenholtz, age 40. There are 10 families headed by a Christen Brunisholtz in the FAMILY GROUPS file, but only the marriage of Christen Brunisholtz and Anna Schweingruber on 1717/11/04 fits the couple arriving in 1735. They had 5 children in Wahlern parish, but no children were in the ship list. Whether the children remained behind or died in travel is not known. The only Christian Brenholtz in the BIRTHS BY SURNAME CHILD DATE file who would be near age 39 is the 1696/12/27 son of Peter Brunisholtz and Christina Ferndriger of Wahlern parish, who were married 1690/08/21. Who were Peter's parents?

Peter was married in 1690, so he was born before 1672. The BIRTHS BY SURNAME CHILD DATE file, on page 190, shows only 2 Peter Brunisholtz born before 1672. The first is the 1665/02/05 son of Ulrich Brunisholtz/Christina Studeman (see page 375 of the FAMILY GROUP file). The second is the 1664/01/24 son of Jacob Brunisholtz/Anna Kasteler (see pages 369-370). Both these fathers would have been born before 1646, and the only Ulrich and Jacob that fit are both sons of Jacob Brunisholtz/Anna Mischler.

The surest way to determine which of these brothers is the father of Peter would be to study their FAMILY GROUP sheets to find some unique persons (or couples) among their sponsors and see if they (or their children) perhaps sponsored Peter's family. This can be done by searching for each sponsor in either the ADULT MALES BY DATE or ADULT FEMALES BY DATE file. If any sponsor name appears as the only one existing on or about the date of their sponsorship, this unique sponsor (or their child) might possibly provide a connection to Peter's family.

The family of the first, Ulrich Brunisholtz/Christina Studeman, is on page 375 of the FAMILY GROUPS file. Only one of their sponsors is unique, Catharina Habersat. Page 472 of the FEMALES BY DATE FILE shows she had 3 husbands between 1638 and 1675, but neither she nor her Risen or Weber husbands or children were sponsors of the Peter Brunisholtz family, so there is no unique connection.

The second family, Jacob Brunisholtz/Anna Kasteler, is on pages 369-370 of the FAMILY GROUPS file. Repeating the same kind of search of their FAMILY GROUP sheet shows a unique sponsor on 1662/10/19 named Benedict Jungi (see page 794 of the ADULT MALES FILE). This page shows he was married to Anna Bucher from 1671-1693. There was no other adult Benedict Jungi available on 1702/04/09 to sponsor Barbara of Peter Brunisholtz/Christina Ferndriger. This provides a unique inter-generational connection from Peter to his parents, Jacob Brunisholtz/Anna Kasteler.

We have already established that the only possible parents for the father Jacob (and grandparents of Peter) were Jacob Brunisholtz/Anna Mischler. Their FAMILY GROUP sheet shows they were married 1619/11/29, so Jacob was born before about 1600. There is only one Jacob in the BIRTHS BY SURNAME CHILD DATE file who fits, so his parents are Ulrich Brunisholtz/Margreth Binggeli. Their FAMILY GROUP sheet says they were married 1593/10/11, thus born before 1575, before the start of the Wahlern church book in 1577.

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In summary, these four examples taken from the limited information provided in this one immigrant ship list, demonstrate what a powerful analytical tool the collection of primary source records in this database can be. The analytical techniques described here are sometimes quite difficult, but once they are learned, they will become a useful and effective way for you to prove your European ancestries.

FURTHER RESEARCH

The database that provides the strength of this finding aid has never been static. It has been steadily growing as our European Research Committee has found additional records to include. With the publication of this data in PDF format, so that all users can use the data, those files will be frozen in time. We will be adding more records from Alsace and Germany as we try to follow those other Binggeli families who are known to have emigrated from Canton Bern. Whenever we amass a significant amount of new records, we hope to update the PDF files at some future time.

Those users who are successful in finding families of interest in the PDF files should seriously consider obtaining a spreadsheet program and learning how to use it. The spreadsheet format offers many additional ways to filter, sort, and otherwise manipulate the data. Those users who have a spreadsheet program may request a copy of the finding aid in spreadsheet format.

I will be acting as administrator of this finding aid file for the forseeable future, and will respond to requests for the spreadsheet format, as well as questions about the data and it's use for as long as my age and health allow.

Those researchers who are serious enough to have already amassed a significant amount of primary record data from a particular European location or family are invited to contact me to discuss making their own contribution to this database. If you're interested, and willing to transcribe and keystroke new primary source records, I can provide a template for you to use. I cannot accept additional data unless it is entered into this template and is from an original source record that is available online or otherwise transmitted to me.

For those users not already familiar with them, there are two excellent online repositories for original church book records in Europe.

Every original church book in Canton Bern is viewable online for free at the State Archives in Bern.

https://www.query.sta.be.ch/archivplansuche.aspx?ID=37

Archion is a paid web site with various subscription options providing access to original church books throughout Germany.

https://www.archion.de/

We hope you will have success with this finding aid for European research of your own families.

Bruce Fosnocht

bfosnocht@charter.net