

How I found our American relatives

First of all I want to introduce myself: My name is Erika Weith, nee Leidecker. I came from Billed and I am living in Fürth / Bavaria since 45 years. My roots are not only in Billed but also in Glogowatz. My grandfather on my mother's side came from Glogowatz. He was born 1909/07/23 in Glogowatz and died 1975/11/5 in Billed. He came to Billed in 1921 because he has found an employment there. In Billed he married my grandmother and stayed there the rest of his life. My grandparents have 2 daughters: Maria and Katharina.

In 1962 my parents, Josef and Maria Leidecker emigrated to Germany with me and my sister (5 and 2 years old).

Again and again we visited our relatives in Billed and Glogowatz. A sister of my grandfather lived still in Glogowatz: Anna Nemeth. She had a daughter: Elisabeth Reisz. The two were the aunt and cousin of my mother.

I knew that another sister of my grandfather, Rosalia Dumelle, has emigrated to the USA. But we didn't know where she has lived and what has become of them.

Now I wanted to search for my relatives in America. But how could we find these people without any idea how much living relatives we have and above all where they are living. In the USA people are not notifiable and a search in all telephone directories is not possible.

So I had the idea for a search in the internet. In the advent season 2003 I tried to find the name of our relatives: Vormittag.

The sister of my Dumelle grandfather has emigrated to America as a single girl and has married there Anton Vormittag who also came from Glogowatz.

I was anxious to know if the internet would help me. And really I had a hit which led me to a site of ancestry research. On this site you can search for relatives and ancestors. There I found an e-mail by Jack Vormittag from Lynchburg, Virginia. The information of Jack seemed to fit with my own research. I wrote at once being full of hope to get an answer as soon as possible. But he didn't answer.

But some times later I received an e-mail by Sharon Pierce from New York. Her informations seemed to fit with my knowledge of the Dumelle and Vormittag family.

We communicated all our informations about our common relatives: Sharons great grandmother was Rosalia Vormittag nee Dumelle.

Was she really the sister of my grandfather Jakob Dumelle? The answer was difficult because this siblings never knew each other.

My grandfather was born in 1909 and his sister emigrated to America in this year at the age of 17.

She never came back to Glogowatz. So they never could meet each other. Today very hard to imagine.

But they had contact per mail and my family received parcels from her. But when Rosalia died in 1959, the contact to her family teared off. She had 7 children but they didn't speak German. But without a common language there is no communication further more.

Now I had good contact to Sharon and Jack too had written to me. They told me that their aunt Kathy Vormittag in California is very engaged in ancestry research and that she really knows very much about the Dumelles and Vormittags.

Soon I was in contact with Kathy too and now an unbelievable amount of information about our family came to me.

This Kathy Vormittag is the wife of Paul Vormittag, a son of Rosalia Vormittag.

He is really a cousin of my mother!

Because of this exact information of Kathy it was doubtless proved that we were relatives.

We were very glad, because Kathy told us that Paul has two living brothers, one in Florida and one, John, in Las Vegas. With his son Jack all started.

Besides there are several nephews and nieces, one of them is Sharon.

Kathy and me interchanged pictures of our families. And she sent me a book with the results of her occupation with the ancestors.

So we learned that the first known Dumelle was born 1721, she could not verify where he was born, and died 1808 in Glogowatz.

To our surprise we learned that we are related to the Vormittags too, because my Dumelle great grandmother was a born Vormittag.

The ancestors of the Vormittag family originated from Fulgenstadt, today a part of the town of Bad Saulgau in Baden-Wuerttemberg in Germany.

Suddenly we had so many relatives in the USA we never had dreamed of.

Kathy and I kept in touch by e-mail. We sent actual pictures of our families. So we could state that Paul looks like my Dumelle grandfather.

In December 2004 we decided to go to America with my niece Hannah and her boyfriend to show them this great country. And than would it be possible to visit our new relatives?

They are living in Ventura, California about an hour from Los Angeles. And we wanted to see Los Angeles.

I wrote to Kathy of our plan to visit America and California. She was exited and invited us warmly.

Then we made our dream come true and made a tour to the USA for two weeks.

And we visited Kathy and Paul Vormittag. It was great and overwhelming. We were warmly welcomed. They are two very lovely people. We were there for about 4 hours and talked to each other as if we knew for a long time. We also met one of her daughters, Karen and her daughter Michelle, also very lovely people.

We asked them if they know what Vormittag means in German. They know the meaning despite they do not speak German.

As children they once spoke German. Kathys parents also came from Glogowatz. Kathys maiden name is Derner (American for Dörner). She is the daughter of Anton Dörner and Barbara Brodesser.

But some of the Swabian dishes of Rosalia they know now as before: apple strudel, nuss kipfle and rouladen.

At the end I want to mention the site of the internet with which our adventure of finding our relatives started:

[http:// boards.ancestry.com](http://boards.ancestry.com)