

**The German Ancestors  
of  
Wilhelm Kühn**

(Compiled by Valerie Kuehn-Engstrom, his Great Granddaughter)



## **The Kuehn Family Of Durmersheim, Baden, Germany**

The patriarch of our branch of the Kuehn family in the United States, William Kuehn, and his eldest son, Joseph Kuehn were born in the village of Durmersheim, in the district of Rastatt in the county of Baden of SW Germany. 1 Durmersheim is located between the cities of Karlsruhe and Rastatt in the valley of the Rhine River near the border of the Alsace region of France. The Hardtwald forest is 2 km east of the town, and the Black forest lies just beyond that and extends to the south. 8

When I began my search for information about the Kuehn family in 2001 very little information about William Kuehn was known. My father, Lloyd Kuehn, Sr., said that his father, Henry Kuehn, had told him that William was a cabinetmaker by trade. He thought that the family had come from Baden, Germany, but he was not certain. I had a hand written note from my father's cousin, Marianne Churchill, documenting the family of William's wife, Katharine Kuehn; but then my mother informed me that Katharine was William's 2<sup>nd</sup> wife and only the stepmother of his children. My father's sister, Dolores Miske, was able to add that William was Lutheran (a surprise to me!) and that his first wife was Rose Bloom, who passed away around 1896 in Chicago, Illinois.

Chicago is a huge city, and one small family's records are easily lost in the system. In fact, law did not require the recording of births and deaths in Illinois until 1916. My efforts to learn more about the Kuehn family resulted in only small victories and lots of dead ends. In 2004 I contacted Uncle Joseph Kuehn's daughter, Arline Soderlund, through her daughter, Marion Pechukas. She was unable to add any more information to the story other than confirming that she believed her father had been born in Baden, Germany.

My big breakthrough in tracing our family back to Germany came quite by accident on July 28, 2010 (which just happened to be the anniversary of my grandfather, Henry Kuehn's birth). I was at the New York Public Library researching my husband's family and was having no luck. I was using their computer on a website called "Family Search" which is an official site of the Mormon Church. Out of boredom, I entered William Kuehn's name and birth date into their search engine. To my surprise, I found a "Wilhelm Kuehn" with the correct date of birth who was born in Durmersheim, Baden. I have encountered amazing coincidences in the past, so I did not hold much hope that this was our ancestor. To try to test this new information, I entered Joseph Kuehn's name and birth date. There he was ... Joseph Kuehn, born in Durmersheim, Baden, to Wilhelm Kuehn and Margaretha Völlinger. It seems that our William had a wife before Rose Bloom.

In genealogical searches, one new piece of information can open the door to many avenues of discovery. Knowing a possible hometown for William and Joseph, I was able to find an amazing record that has survived to document our family in this region. The "family book" or "church book" containing the birth, marriage and death records for the

Catholic church in the town of Durmersheim still exists, and researchers have indexed it's contents on the internet. 1 With the data from this source I was able to trace some of William Kuehn's ancestors back as far as seven generations before his birth. With clues provided by the "church book" additional information could now be confirmed on other genealogy search sites such as ancestry.com. Although we can never know much more than the names of our ancestors, I find it somehow satisfying to acknowledge their existence.

#### Some notes on the entries from the church book:

1. A "?" in a birth, death or marriage year means that it was not recorded in the Catholic church records in Durmersheim. This means that either the event occurred in another town or it was recorded in the Lutheran church records in Durmersheim.
2. The dates of death for many of our early male ancestors are not listed. This could mean that they were conscripted into the military and died while away from their home.
3. I believe that the names of the fathers of the groom and bride were recorded on all marriage entries, so for some of our early ancestors who came from other villages, we know the father's name but little else.
4. It was not required to note the occupation of the parishioners, but it can be assumed that almost everyone farmed to support their families.
5. Wilhelm's father was first listed as Catholic, and then a note says that he was Protestant. His mother was only listed as Catholic. I am postulating that William was born and baptized Catholic, and then converted to the Lutheran faith at a later time.

## **A Chronology of Durmersheim and Our Known Ancestors**

The Baden region with its border on the Rhine River has historically been an area of political instability and turbulence. As a fief of the Holy Roman Empire it was carved up into estates owned by the nobility and the Catholic Church. Under a feudal system of government the common people lived and farmed these estates, but had to pay “duty” to their sovereign. This duty was paid in a share of their crops and livestock, and/or by doing service for their sovereign in labor or in the military. In times of war, drought or flood, the farm families were often left with little for themselves. 2, 8

- 1300            A village has existed on the site where Durmersheim is located since about 1300 AD. It belonged to the Margraves of Baden and was part of a “Granddutchy” with its capital in Karlsruhe. 8  
Politically, there was no “Germany” at this time. The area we now know as Germany was a loose confederation of as many as 225 petty states. 11a
- 1375            The Catholic parish church and Abbey of St. Mary’s was built in Bickesheim at the north end of Durmersheim. 8
- 1517            The Protestant Reformation, which began in 1517, caused religious wars and political upheaval throughout Europe. Baden suffered severely during this struggle, as some branches of the ruling family remained Catholic and some became Protestant.
- 1555            The Peace of Augsburg was signed, temporarily putting an end to the religious wars. It legalized the existence of the Lutheran faith within the lands of the Holy Roman Empire. Each ruling prince was allowed to determine the religion of his state. The victorious princes of the Baden region chose to remain predominantly Catholic, the religion of France and the Habsburg rulers of Austria. The northern German states became predominantly Lutheran. 8
- 1584 – 1622    Rivalry between two branches of the family of the Margraves of Baden resulted in open warfare as they fought among themselves for control of the region. 8
- 1616            The first mention of the Hotel Adler can be found in historical records. “The Eagle” was the first affordable hotel in the region, and an important station for stagecoaches in the middle ages. It was strategically located between the major towns of Karlsruhe and Rastatt. The Durmersheim town hall was nearby, as well as the parish house. 6  
Our ancestors are documented as having been innkeepers at The Adler as early as 1725. 1, 5

## 1618 –1648 THE THIRTY YEARS WAR

This war was basically a struggle for power between the Catholic Habsburg dynasty of Austria and its ally, Spain, and the newly Protestant princes of Prussia, Sweden, Denmark and the Netherlands. Catholic France joined forces with the Prussians because it feared the strength of the Habsburgs. The Baden region became a major battleground and people had to flee the towns and villages to live in the forests. 2, 8  
It was estimated that the Thirty Years War resulted in a 30% reduction in the population of Europe, but the Baden region lost as much as 70% of its people! 2, 8  
The earliest confirmed records for ancestors of Wilhelm Kuehn date back to the period during the Thirty Years War in Europe. 1

### SEVEN GENERATIONS BACK

- ~1625      **Johannes Haitz I** and the woman who would become his wife, **Anna \_\_\_\_\_**, were born in Germany. The church book only has a record of their deaths in Durmersheim, and the death of their son, **Wendel Haitz (? – 10 Jan 1733)**. 1  
**Johannes Haitz** died 10 Dec 1678 in Durmersheim. 1  
**Anna Haitz** died 7 March 1680 in Durmersheim. 1  
A source on ancestry.com says that Wendel Haitz was born about 1648. 3b
- ~1625      **Johann Kary and Catharina \_\_\_\_\_** were born in Germany. They probably were married around 1643. The church book has recorded two children born to them: **Barbara Kary (? – 1708)** and Nikolaus (? – 1724)  
**Catharina Kary** died 20 Jan 1676 in Durmersheim. 1  
**Johann Kary's** date and place of death are not known. 1
- ~ 1640      **Christmann Vögele** was born in Germany. The name of his spouse is not known, but the church book has records for five children born to him: **Sabina Vögele (? – 1718)**, Maria, Ottilia, Peter and Elisabeth. 1  
A source on ancestry.com says that Christmann's wife was named **Margaretha** and lists their children as **Sabina (b. 1660)**, Ottilia (b 1665), Maria (b. 1683), Peter (b.1684) and Catharina (b. 1702). 3b

### SIX GENERATIONS BACK

- 1638 – 1715      The reign of Louis XIV in France. Baden was ravaged by French troops as Louis fought to gain control of more territory. The towns of Pforzheim, Durlach and Baden were destroyed. 8
- 1648      The Peace of Westphalia was signed bringing an end to the Thirty Years War.

- ~1650 **Johann Conrad Dunz** was born in Germany. Little is known about him or his spouse except that their only known son, **Lorenz**, was born in the town of Gaggenau which is south and east of Durmersheim. 1  
A family tree on ancestry.com shows Johann's wife as, **Magdalena Boh** [could be Böhm] and says that Laurentius [Lorenz] was born in 1686. 3b
- 20 Jul 1671 **Michael Kelmel** and **Barbara Kary** were married in Durmersheim. They were the parents of six children: Eva (? – 1750); **Rupert Kelmel (16 Nov 1671 – 5 Mar 1727)**; Anna Catharina (1676 - ?); Margaretha (1677 - ?); Thomas (1679 – 1740); and Maria (1682 - ?). 1  
**Barbara Kary Kelmel** died on 24 Sep 1708. 1  
The date and place of death of her husband, Michael, are not known. 1
- ~1675 **Nikolaus Schlee & Margaretha \_\_\_\_\_** were married in Germany. They are known to have had three children born in Durmersheim: Sabina (1676 - ?); Maria **Schlee (7 Feb 1678 – 24 Oct 1747)**; and Johann Michael (1680 - ?) 1  
**Margaretha Schlee** died 13 Jan 1706 in Durmersheim. 1  
The date and place of death of **Nikolaus Schlee** are not known. 1
- 31 Jan 1678 **Wendel Haitz** and **Sabina Vögele** were married in Durmersheim. They were the parents of eleven children: Jakob (1679 – 1718); Wendell II (1681 - ?); Martin (1682 – 1764); Ann Catharina (1684 – ?); Johannes (1685 – 1735); Christoph (1687 - ?); **Margaretha Haitz (22 Jan 1689 – 15 Apr 1767)**; Anna (1692 –1750); Christian (1694 –1761); Balthasar (1700 – 1744); Anna Maria (1702 –1752). 1  
**Sabina Vögele Haitz** died on 29 Sep 1718. 1  
**Wendel Haitz I** died on 10 Jan 1733. 1
- 7 May 1678 **Hans Wilhelm Trapp** and his wife were living in the town of Sinzheim in the Rastatt district of Baden, Germany, where their son, **Johann Adam Trapp** was born on this date. 1  
Sinzheim is located about 6 km west of Baden-Baden in the wine growing region of the Rhine Valley. 8
- 1683 A census conducted by the Catholic Church counted 30 families living in the village of Durmersheim. 2 [about 150 people] 8  
About this time there were reports of miracles happening at the portrait of the Blessed Virgin Mary at St. Mary Bickersheim Church. It became a destination for religious pilgrimages by Catholics in Europe. 8
- 1689 French troops invaded this part of Baden and destroyed Elchesheim and the surrounding villages. They burned down the schools, churches, farms and city halls. 2

## FIVE GENERATIONS BACK

- 17 Nov 1698 **Rupert Kelmel** and **Maria Schlee** were married in Durmersheim. 1  
Rupert's occupation was "stabhalter" [judge of the court]. 1, 2  
They were the parents of seven children born in Durmersheim:  
Dionys (? – 1742 in Prag), Michael (1699 - ?), Lorenz (1701 - ?),  
Johann Rupert (1705 - ?), Nikolaus (1708 - ?), Brigitta (1712 - ?),  
and **Christina Kelmel (25 Mar 1717 - ?)**. 1  
**Rupert Kelmel** died on 3 May 1727 in Durmersheim, age 55. 1  
**Maria Schlee Kelmel** died on 24 Oct 1747 in Durmersheim, age 69. 1  
None of their children are recorded as having died in Durmersheim.  
They may all have moved away. [Perhaps Rupert was not a very  
popular judge?]
- 4 May 1711 **Lorenz Dunz** and **Margaretha Haitz** were married in Durmersheim.  
Lorenz was a "zimmermann" [carpenter] by trade. They are known to  
have been the parents of eight children born in Durmersheim: Maria  
Margaretha (1712 – 1794), Joseph (1714 – 1780), **Ignaz Dunz (1717 –  
26 Aug 1750)**, Lorenz II (1720 – 1752, Wendelin (1723 - ?), Walburga  
(1724 – 1780), Johann Adam (1727 – 1772) and Theresia (1729 - ?) 1  
**Lorenz Dunz** died on 17 Sep 1747 in Durmersheim. 1  
**Margaretha Haitz Dunz** died on 15 Apr 1767 in Durmersheim at the  
age of 78. 1
- ~1714 **Johann Adam Trapp**, an innkeeper by trade, was married to  
**Margaretha Rastädter** in Sinzheim, Rastatt, Baden, Germany.  
Their first three children were born in Sinzheim: Margaretha (??)  
Georg (1715 – 1771), and **Wilhelm Trapp (21 Sep 1716 –  
10 Jan 1768)**.  
Some time before 1725 Johann Trapp and family moved to  
Durmertsheim, where three more children were born: Johann Joseph  
(1725 - ?), Anton (1726 – 1806) and Andreas (1728 - ?).  
Johann was an innkeeper at the Hotel Adler. 1  
**Margaretha Rastädter Trapp** died on 13 Jun 1745 in Durmersheim. 1  
**Johann Adam Trapp** died on 20 Jul 1746 in Durmersheim at the age  
of 68. 1
- 20 Sep 1725 **Ulrich Knäble** and his family were living in Mörsch, Karlsruhe, Baden,  
Germany. Their only known daughter, **Catharina Knäble** was born on  
this date. 1  
Another researcher has this family's name listed as "Knäblin." 7  
Mörsch was a village just north and east of Durmersheim. It is  
now part of the city of Rheinstetten, Baden-Wuerttemberg, Germany. 8

## FOUR GENERATIONS BACK

- 1733 The population of Durmersheim had grown to 447 people.
- 1737 The Church of Maria Bickersheim was “modernized” with a new baroque altar. Perhaps some of our ancestors worked on this project.
- 17 Sep 1737 **Joseph Schlick** and his family were living in Salmbach, Alsace, France. His son, **Christoph Schlick**, was born there on this date according to the Durmersheim church book. 1  
No dates of birth or death are known for Joseph or his wife since they did not live in Durmersheim. Although located on the west side of the Rhine River, the village of Salmbach is probably only about 20 km from Durmersheim. The Alsace region was constantly changing political ownership and at times was under the control of Baden rulers. 8
- 9 Apr 1742 **Ignaz Dunz & Christina Kelmel** were married in Durmersheim. They are known to have been the parents of three sons: **Wilhelm Dunz (2 Jan 1743 – 6 Dec 1822)**, Andreas (1745 – 1746) and Carl Joseph (1749 – 1750). Only our ancestor, Wilhelm Dunz, lived to adulthood. 1  
**Ignaz Dunz** died on 26 August 1750 at the age of only 33. 1  
His widow, **Christina**, married Johann Martin Erhard in 1751, and they had a son, Martin, who was born in 1752. Johann Erhard died in March 1752, and Christina married for a third time in 1756 to Johann Beetsch. Their son, Johannes Beetsch was born in Durmersheim in 1757, and after that date there are no church records for the family. They may have moved from the village. 1
- 1744 – 1745 French troops were housed in Durmersheim and the town had to provide their food. 2
- 9 May 1746 **Wilhelm Trapp** and **Catharina Knäble** were married in Durmersheim, although neither of them had been born in that village. Wilhelm was an innkeeper at the Adler Hotel, but also listed as a “schultheiss” which means that he was some type of municipal official (perhaps the mayor) who was responsible for collecting the taxes for the Margrave. 1  
They are known to have been the parents of four children, two of whom did not survive infancy: Maria Elizabeth (1747 – 1750) and Franz (1748 – 1749). 1  
Their next two daughters, **Theresia Trapp**, born 14 Jan 1750, and **Catharina Trapp** born 24 Apr 1751, both became ancestors of Wilhelm Kuehn (which was not unusual in small rural villages). 1  
**Wilhelm Trapp** died 10 Jan 1768 at the age of 51 in Durmersheim. 1  
**Catharina Knäble Trapp**, age 43, died eleven months later on



15 Dec 1768. The family report in the church book lists her cause of death as a stroke. 1

- 1746 Charles Frederick of Baden-Durlach became the most notable prince to rule Baden. He made it his life's work to try to unify the territory of Baden. He was interested in the development of agriculture and commerce, sought to improve education and the administration of justice, and proved in general a wise and liberal ruler of the Enlightenment. 8  
Baden at this time included lands on both sides of the Rhine River. Although it was "united" under one ruler, each district continued to have its own customs, tolls, tax structure and laws. 8

### THREE GENERATIONS BACK

- 30 Dec 1762 The first documented reference to a member of our family with the "Kuehn" surname was the birth of **Johann David Kühn** on this date in Otigheim, Baden, Germany, to **Nikolaus Kühn** and an unknown mother. 1  
Otigheim is a small village in the Rastatt district of Baden, located about 5 km south and west of Durmersheim. 8
- 15 Aug 1769 **Christoph Schlick** and **Theresia Trapp** were married in Durmersheim. They were the parents of thirteen children, several of whom died in infancy. Christoph was the innkeeper of the Hotel Adler. 1, 5  
According to researcher Karl Schlick he also served as the mayor of Durmersheim. 3a, 3c, 12  
Their eight sons and five daughters were: Luitgard (1770 – 1846), Maria Anna (1771 - ?), Michael (1773 – 1773), Franz Joseph (1774 - 1846), Wilhelm (1776 - ?), Catharina (1777 – 1777), Fidel (1778 – 1856), **Johann Schlick (13 Jan 1780 – 18 Jul 1868)**, Philipp (1781 - ?), Michael (1783 – 1817), Christoph (1785 – 1786), Theresia (1787 - ?), Catharina (1790 - ?). 1  
**Theresia Trapp Schlick** died on 11 Feb 1817 at the age of 67. 1  
**Christoph Schlick** died on 21 May 1820 at the age of 82. 1
- 2 Oct 1769 **Wilhelm Dunz** and **Catharina Trapp** were married in Durmersheim. They were the parents of three children: **Anna Maria Dunz (13 Nov 1770 – 21 Jan 1841)**, Catharina (1774 -?) and Jakob (1775 – 1850). 1  
**Catharina Trapp Dunz** died on 9 Aug 1818 at the age of 67. 1  
**Wilhelm Dunz** died on 6 Dec 1822 at almost 80 years of age. 1
- 1789-1799 The French Revolution.
- 1792 When the French Revolution threatened to spread throughout Europe, Baden joined forces against France, and its countryside became a battle ground and was devastated once more.

- ~1793 The family of **Franz Joseph Streit** was living in Malsch, a village about 10 km south and east of Durmersheim on the edge of the Black Forest. 8 Little else is known about the family except that a daughter, **Crescentia Streit (1793 – 1850)** was born in this year. 1
- 1798 There is a note in the local history of Durmersheim that our ancestor, **Christoph Schlick**, had to keep soldiers at his inn, the Hotel Adler, during this time. It was reported to have cost him 2200 Gulden (old currency), but he only received 1100 Gulden back from the city. 5

## TWO GENERATIONS BACK

- 25 May 1789 **Johann David Kühn** and **Anna Maria Dunz** were married in Durmersheim. Johann was a schoolteacher. They were the parents of fourteen children, but only seven of them lived into adulthood. **Magdalena** (1790 – 1831) married **Franz Joseph Ganz**, a blacksmith, in 1814 and was the mother of eight children. 1  
**Catharina** (1792 – 1792) 1  
**Johann Phillip** (1793 – 1833) was a teacher in Vimbuch. 1  
**Maria Anna** (1795 – 1870) married Lukas Heck in 1828. They were the parents of four sons. 1  
 [July 1796: A bloody battle between the French and the Austrians took place somewhere between the villages of Malsch and Durmersheim.] 2  
**David** (1797 – 1797)\* 1  
**David** (1798 – 1798)\* 1  
 \* According to Birgit Gerstner the Durmersheim book says that troops were being housed in Durmersheim at this time, so there may have been a shortage of food. 5  
**Catharina** (1799 – 1873) married **Joseph Tritsch** in 1820. They were the parents of three sons and one daughter. 1  
**Damian** (1800 – 1851) was a shoemaker. In 1824 he married **Eva Catharina Oberdeck** from Bruchsal. They had several children who all died in infancy. Eva died in 1834 and he married **Louise Weingartner**. They were the parents of five children who lived into adulthood. 1  
**Crescentia** (1802 – 1802) 1  
**Franz Anton** (1803 – 1806) 1  
**Crescentia** (1805 – 1809) 1  
**Joseph** (1809 – 1812) 1  
**Johanna** (1810 – 1857) married **Clemens Abath** in 1829. He was an upholsterer. They were the parents of fourteen children, six of whom died young. 1

- David Kühn (25 Dec 1811 – 19 Mar 1877)** The last child of Johann and Anna Maria Kühn was our ancestor. 1  
**Anna Maria Dunz Kühn** died on 21 Jan 1841 at the age of 70.  
**Johann David Kühn** died on 13 Mar 1845 at the age of 82. 1  
All of their children lived and died in Durmersheim.
- 1804 The population of Durmersheim was now 748 people. 8  
Keep in mind that farms were inherited by the children and split equally among them. As the population increased [as it was now doing throughout Europe] each property became smaller and unable to sustain family life and pay the duties required by the Margraves. 2
- 1806 The Napoleonic Wars officially brought an end to the Holy Roman Empire. The rulers of Baden joined the confederation of the Rhine, and chose to lend their support to Napoleon and his wars.
- 24 Sep 1810 **Johann Schlick** and **Crescentia Streit** were married in Durmersheim. 1  
Johann was a salesman. 1  
They were the parents of fourteen children, five of whom died in infancy.  
**Heinrich** (1811 –1812)  
**Theresia** (1813 - ?) married **Valentin Nagel** from Muggensturm in 1833. He was a beer brewer. They were the parents of five children. 1  
**Amalia** (1814 – 1891) married **Jakob Schorpp**, a baker, in 1835. They had nine children and lived in Durmersheim all their lives. 1  
**Crescentia** (1816 –1817)  
**Anastasia Schlick (25 Oct 1817 – 15 Jan 1889)** Our ancestor. 1  
**Johann Evangelist** (1819 - ?) was a “dreher” [lathe operator?]. He married **Theresia Kutterer** from Daxlanden and they had eight children. The notes say that Johann became a protestant. There are no records for the family in Durmersheim after 1861. 1  
**Philipp Jakob** (1822 - ?) No record in Durmersheim. 1  
**Franziska Veronika** (1823 –1824)  
**Adelheid** (1825 - ?) married **Nikolaus Kloster** from Heddesheim bei Ladenburg in 1849. He was a teacher. Their first son died in 1850, and after that there are no records for this family. 1  
**Gustav** (1826 – 1826)  
**Maximilian** (1827 - ?) No record of marriage.  
**Catharina** (1830 - ?) No record of marriage.  
**Crescentia** (1831 –1832)  
**Barbara** (1832 - ?) No record of marriage. 1  
**Crescentia Streit Schlick** died in Durmersheim on 8 Jan 1850 at the age of 57. 1  
**Johann Schlick** died on 18 July 1868 at the age of 88 years. 1
- 1812 6766 men from the Baden region were sent to Russia under Napoleon. Only 400 of them would return. 2

- 1813 The population of Durmersheim was now 1,005 people. 8
- 1830 The Catholic Church of St. Dionysius was built in Durmersheim to serve the needs of the city's growing Catholic population. 8

### ONE GENERATION BACK

- 4 Sep 1838 **David Kühn** and **Anastasia Schlick** were married in Durmersheim. 1  
David was a carpenter by trade, and according to the notes in the church book he became a Protestant. His wife, Anastasia, is only listed as a Catholic. 1, 4d

They were the parents of twelve children, five of whom died at less than 5 years of age. The deaths of their other seven children were not recorded in the Durmersheim family book, which may mean that either they were recorded in the records of the Lutheran church, or like their son, Wilhelm, they emigrated from Durmersheim.

I have attempted to trace our William's siblings out of curiosity about the family and in hopes of finding out whether any other members emigrated to the United States. Unfortunately the emigration records are extremely incomplete, because only those persons who emigrated "legally" by applying for exit visas are recorded in the official records. Many people left "illegally" to avoid tariffs and mandatory military service. To date, I have been unable to confirm any emigration by other members of the Kuehn family.

The following is what I have been able to learn about the twelve children:

- 1839 1. **Ignaz** (b. 15 May 1839 - ?), like his father, was a carpenter. He married **Phillippina Axtmann** from Au am Rhein in 1863, and two children were born to them: **Carl David** (7 Dec 1863 - ?) and **Rosa** (1865-1865).  
After Rosa died in 1865, there are no more entries for their family in the church book. 1  
[The following births for this couple were found on familysearch.org: **August** (b. 17 Sep 1866), **Ignaz** (1868 – 1868), **Leopold** (b. 6 Mar 1871) **Albert** (b.27 Sep 1872) and **Wilhelm** (b. 16 Sep 1883)] 4e
- 1841 2. **Johann** (25 Jan 1841 - ?) No additional records in the church book. 1  
[Johannes Kuehn married **Sophie Axtmann** on 15 Nov 1866. A son, **Gustav Adolph Kuehn** was born to them on 30 Aug 1867. Johann died some time before 1873. It is possible that he was killed in the Franco-Prussian War.  
His widow, Sophie married **Simon Heck** on 25 Sep 1873.] 4f

- 1842 3. **David II** (31 Mar 1842 - ?) No record in the church book. 1  
 [David Kuehn married **Luise Raha Haitz** on 24 Feb 1868. Records on familysearch.org show that at least ten children were born to them: **Karl Friedrich** (25 Jul 1869 – 8 Sep 1876); **David Jakob** (15 Jan 1871 - ?); **Emma** (16 Jul 1873 - ?); **Ludwig** (26 Sep 1875 - ?); **Herman** (18 May 1877 - ?); **Adolph** (23 Jun 1880 - ?); **Otto** (15 Jul 1883 - ?); **Heinrich** (27 Sep 1885 - ?); **Lydia** (10 Jul 1888 - ?); and **Luise** (19 Aug 1892 - ?).] 4g  
 David was a witness on the marriage record of Wilhelm Kuehn and Maria Anna Völlinger. 9
- 1843 4. **Amalia** (8 Aug 1843 – 2 Oct 1848) 1
- 1846 – 1847 Harvest failures caused by weather disasters and the potato weevil resulted in wide spread famine and misery throughout Europe. 11
- 1848 – 1849 The Baden revolution: The working class grew tired of the chaotic disunity of the German region and demanded a unification of the German principalities under a single government elected by the people. They also demanded basic human rights such as freedom of speech and religion, social security, and removal of privileges from the nobility. 2, 11
- A cousin of Wilhelm Kuehn's, **Joseph Schlick**, is mentioned in the local history books as having fought in the Baden Revolution. He was a grandson of **Christoph Schlick**, the innkeeper of the Hotel Adler. 2  
**Joseph** and his father, **Fidel Schlick**, were also innkeepers at the Adler, and meetings of the revolutionary party were held there. 2, 6  
**Joseph** was married to **Elisabeth Welz** and they had an infant son who died in February of 1849. Joseph died on August 6, 1849, after Prussian troops were brought in to put an end to the political uprisings in Baden. It is possible that he was put on trial and executed for his activities in the revolution. His daughter, **Theresia Josepha Schlick**, was born in Durmersheim on February 2, 1850, six months after his death. 1  
 According to the church book, his widow died in Ottenau. 1
- 1849 The protestant congregation of Durmersheim was organized.
- 1849 5. **Joseph\*** (21 Sep 1849 - ?) No record in the church book. 1  
 \*Perhaps named in honor of their nephew, Joseph Schlick.  
 [Joseph Kuehn married **Katharina Heck** on 25 Oct 1877. They are known to have had at least one child, **Maria**, born 19 Sep 1880] 4h
- 1851 6. **Catharina** (16 Feb 1851 - ?) No record in the church book. 1  
 [Katharine Kuehn was married to **Ludwig Woerner** on 23 Dec. 1872] 4i
- 1852 7. **Andreas** (3 Oct 1852 – 12 Sep 1853) 1

- 1854 8. *Wilhelm (1854 – 1912)* Our ancestor. Details to follow.
- 1856 9. **Emilia** (2 Jul 1856 – 29 Jul 1858) 1
- 1857 10. **Albert** (8 Oct 1857 – 2 Oct 1858) 1
- 1861 11. **Amalia** (26 Jan 1861 - ?) No record in the church book. 1
- 1863 12. **Karl** (18 Jul 1863 – 5 Sep 1863) 1

### WILHELM KUEHN IN DURMERSHEIM

- 29 Aug 1854 **Wilhelm Kühn** was born in Durmersheim to **David & Anastasia Schlick Kühn**. He was the eighth of their twelve children. 1
- 1 Sep 1854 **Wilhelm Kuehn**, the son of **David Kuehn** and **Anastasia Schlick** was christened in Durmersheim A. Rastatt, Baden, Baden. 4a
- 5 Aug 1857 **Maria Anna Völlinger** was born to **Andreas Völlinger** and Ursula **Heck Völlinger** in Durmersheim. She was the eighth of nine children. Her father was a Protestant and her mother was Catholic. 1, 9
- 1866 Austro-Prussian War
- ~1869 *Wilhelm Kuehn* would have been learning the trade of cabinetmaker.
- Jul 1870 The Franco-Prussian War  
The final struggle between Catholic France (under Napoleon III) and Protestant Prussia (under Wilhelm I and Bismarck) for control of the Catholic states of southern Germany. 11  
[It is possible that Wilhelm Kuehn's older brother, Johann, was killed in the Franco-Prussian War. There are records on ancestry.com that might confirm this, but they are in German and I have not been able to get them translated. Johann's widow remarried in 1873.] 4f
- Jan 1871 The Prussian King, Wilhelm I, was proclaimed German Emperor, although the monarchs of the constituent states continued to regard themselves as sovereigns of their own territories. Baden, Wuerttemberg and Bavaria, the predominantly Catholic States, became part of Prussia. 11
- 19 Mar 1877 **David Kühn**, the father of Wilhelm Kühn, died in Durmersheim at

the age of 65. 1

- 29 Nov 1877 **Wilhelm Kühn** was married to **Maria Anna Völlinger** in the Evangelische Pfarramt of Durmersheim. The marriage was witnessed by David Kühn II and Joseph \_\_\_\_\_. 9
- 27 Oct 1878 **Joseph Kuehn** was born to Wilhelm Kuehn and Margaretha [Maria Anna] Völlinger, in Durmersheim A. Rastatt, Baden. 4b
- 4 Nov 1878 **Joseph Kuehn** was christened in Durmersheim. 4b
- 26 Apr 1880 A son, **Wilhelm Kuehn II**, was born in Durmersheim (A. Rastatt), to Wilhelm Kuehn and Maria Anna Völlinger. 4c
- 6 May 1880 **Wilhelm Kuehn II** was christened in Durmersheim, Baden, Germany. 4c
- 11 Jul 1880 Wilhelm Kuehn II died in Durmersheim, Baden, Germany, at the age of 2 months and 15 days. 4c
- 7 Aug 1880 The Ship Nederland sailed from Antwerp, Belgium, on this date with a 26 year old carpenter named **Wilhelm Kühn** on board. At this time, I have not been able to confirm that this was our ancestor. Maria and Joseph were not on board this ship. This is, however, the closest match I have been able to find for a William Kuehn in the emigration records.  
[note: I singled out this possible match because William Kuehn's naturalization papers, which I have, stated that he emigrated in 1880. I have since discovered that these were the wrong emigration records, and so this date is in question. It is still the best match I have found. VK]
- 15 Jan 1889 **Anastasia Schlick Kühn**, the mother of **Wilhelm Kühn**, died in Durmersheim at the age of 71. 1

As of this writing, the fate of **Wilhelm's first wife, Maria Anna Völlinger**, is not known. She probably did not die in Durmersheim, because a person from the Evangelical Church searched the records and the town registers for me. United States census records indicate that Wilhelm's son, Joseph, did not emigrate until the late 1880's. Several of Maria's brothers are known to have immigrated to the United States and made trips back and forth between the two countries. It is possible that Joseph could have traveled with members of either the Kuehn or the Völlinger families.

The search continues ...

## SOURCES

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<http://durmerversheimmigration.webs.com> A web site created by Birgit Gerstner, a resident of Baden, who after tracing her own family, became fascinated with finding out what had become of all the people who left the Baden region for other lands.
3. Information found on Ancestry.com [Sources not always noted]
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  - b. Family Tree: Angschwartz18 by “Swartzrob”
  - c. Family Tree: KH SCHLICK by “khschlick”
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  - b. Joseph Kuehn: Extracted birth or Christening Record – 27 Oct 1878
  - c. Wilhelm Kuehn II: Extracted birth or Christening Record – 26 Apr 1880
  - d. Germany Marriages: David Kuehn & Anastasia Schlick – 4 Sep 1838
  - e. Records for five children born to Ignaz Kuehn and Phillippina Axtmann, all occurring in Durmersheim.
  - f. Record of marriage and birth of son for Johann Kuehn & Sophia Axtmann.
  - g. Record of marriage and birth of children for David Kuehn & Luise Haitz.
  - h. Record of marriage and birth of daughter for Joseph Kuehn & Katharina Heck.
  - i. Record of marriage for Katherine Kuehn & Ludwig Wörner.
5. E-mail correspondence with Birgit Gerstner, a resident of Baden and an active genealogical researcher.
6. <http://www.adler-durmerversheim.de/geschichte.htm> The web site of the Hotel Adler in Durmersheim.
7. <http://www.myheritage.com> Pitzrick Web Site (which is also cited on the Schlick family tree by “Gabikg” on ancestry.com).
8. Wikipedia.org was used for some of the historical background material.
9. Marriage Record for Wilhelm Kühn and Maria Anna Völlinger from the Evangelical Church in Durmersheim:



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10. Naturalization papers for Wilhelm Kühn. \*
  - a. Copy of intent to naturalize sent from Milwaukee, Wisconsin.
  - b. Actual final oath papers (in possession of Valerie Kuehn) signed in Chicago, Illinois, on 10 Oct 1890.\* In 2013 it was discovered that these were the naturalization papers for a different "William Kuehn", and not the record of our ancestor.
11.
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  - b. Corrine Hummel family tree
  - c. Bernard Heim family tree