

2. THE INTRIGUING DISCOVERY OF THE BAUMANN RELATIVES IN THE USA.

HK. June 2017.

We searched, celebrated and reflected on the racism that separated us in colonial and apartheid times when we met in Komaggas in September 2014 and again in April 2016.

The family tree, enlarged, stretched for twenty meters on one wall of the community hall. All 150 of our clan were invited to scribble on the family tree to add names, dates and even anecdotes. Many attached photos of grandparents, uncles and aunts to augment a past that had been hidden until now. The tough journey to re-build connections across the race divide had started. The words “I am sorry for what my forebears did” had not yet been spoken.

Oral historians in and around our family enriched the stories of the twilight zone between Khoi and white settler and missionary, much of it yet to be committed to paper.

But there remained gaps in the family tree. Hinrich and Zarah Schmelen’s middle daughter Johanna (Hanna) married Franz-Heinrich Kleinschmidt and they had eight children. At the two family gatherings the offspring of seven of the children attended, but we had not found the family of Marie Kleinschmidt, the oldest of their children, - until now. All we knew was that Marie married a missionary Baumann and the names of their children and their children’s children. But where were they? Nobody knew.

Then, in October last year I had an enquiry from a Michael Hammond, in Washington State, USA.

He said he was not sure, but thought he was a descendent of the Baumann’s. I was unable to help him. I had no information to connect us. But Michael had already done some research and asked if I would do a DNA test? Michael had recently had a DNA test done for him and his mother, to look for genetic cousins. He asked if I would have a DNA test done.

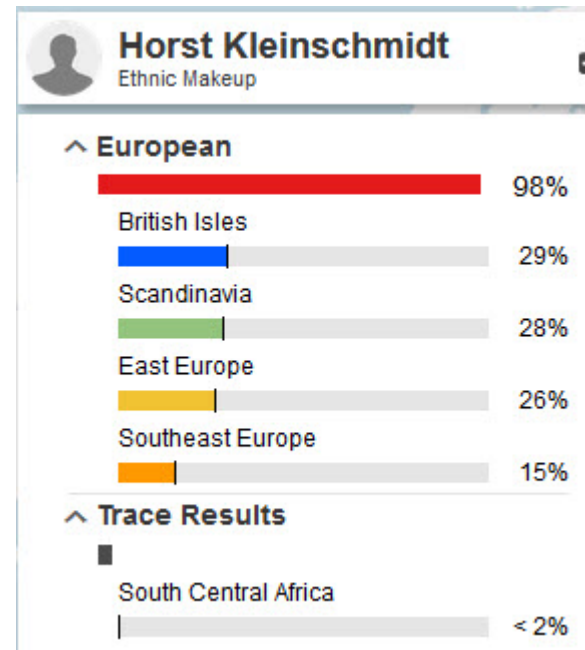
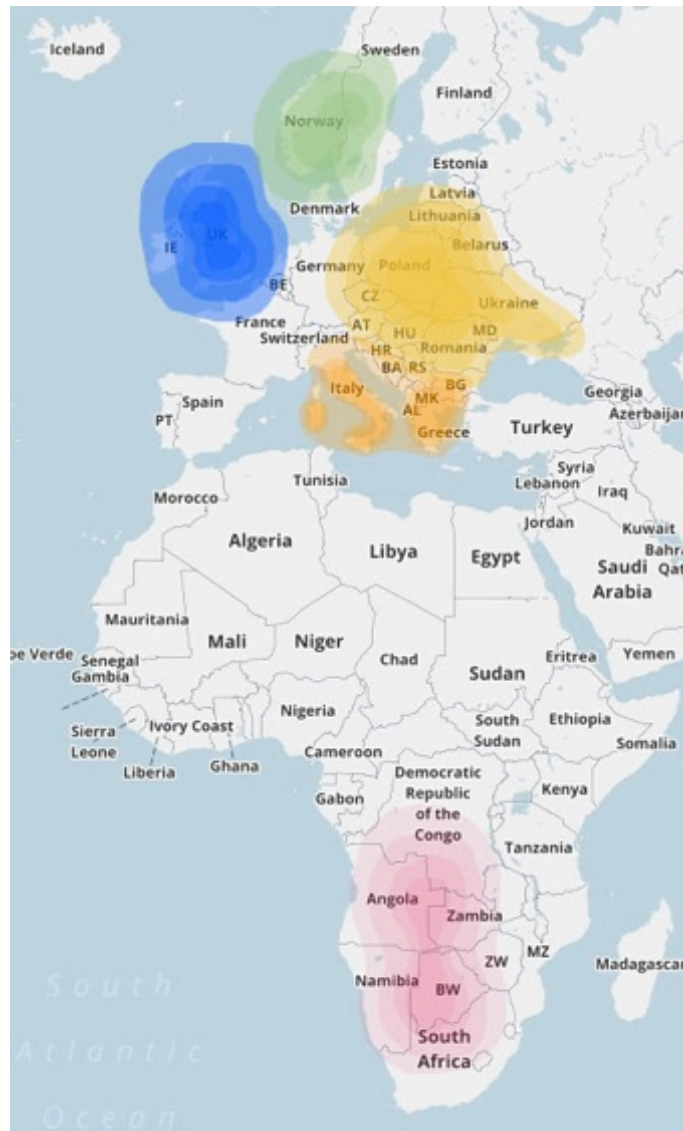
Via registered post received two swabs and two tiny bottles of liquid. An early morning wipe on the inside of my cheeks and each swab secure in its bottle, the mail went back to the laboratories that specialise in DNA research. In March Michael wrote: “Horst, you match my mother, so there is genetic proof that you and

Marie Baumann born, Kleinschmidt



my mother are 3rd cousins.” I asked Michael to provide an explanation of what is being tested through this method. See below¹.

The testing company also provided the map below. It shows the general location and spread of my ethnic origins.



My 29% DNA from the British Isles might come as a surprise but has to be seen in a wider time frame than the ten generations our family tree covers. The Eastern Europe connection would point to my mother’s family, the Jatow’s, who came from Poland and before that from Russia. Their surname was once Jatov and before that Jagetov (During the Nazi era they had to establish their ethnicity. Apparently it was traced back to 1200, a time when peasant rebellions burnt many church books – This was told to me by my mother who heard it from her parents). The Scandinavian connection can also be explained via my mother’s family. Her grandfather came from Copenhagen but moved to the German port of Kiel on the

¹ Michael used the Family Finder test, available through Family Tree DNA. The following is his description of

Baltic Sea, where he married Frieda, my grandmother. The surname was Liebnitz.

The Namaqua Khoi have 14% Hamitic/Semitic genes, a connection to the Middle East that goes back 2000 years. Khoi people to the north and south of the Namaqua also have these genes but in smaller percentages. Zarah Schmelen is the harbinger of these genes into our family.

Michael, in far away USA, has since connected the dots between us. A wonderful further chapter in our family emerges.

Besides his Southern African connection, Michael recently wrote: "Interesting enough, there appears to be some tie to black people on my mother's paternal side of her tree. We still don't know who her white father was, but [Ancestry.com](http://ancestry.com) (a genealogy website offering some DNA testing) has linked me with eight other people who share a link with a man known as John Creed Napier, who lived during the 19th century. At the time of the American Civil War (1861-1865), JC Napier lived in Jones, Mississippi, a county in the American Deep South, a location unique in the fact that it rebelled against the slave-holding Confederacy, where some families intermarried with freed slaves. There is a recently made movie that I have not yet seen, called 'The State of Jones' which relates this story about Jones County. Here is a link to an article from Smithsonian magazine, about the true story of 'The Free State of Jones': <http://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/true-story-free-state-jones-180958111/>

"My mother and I appear to have a tie to East Africa or Northeast Africa, much more substantial percentage-wise, to our racial link to South Central Africa, where the Schmelen/Kleinschmidt family lived. I'm wondering if this link to Jones County, USA might be a part of that tie.?" I hope Michael will delve and get more about these connections.

Because many people have asked how to go about starting an enquiry into one's past, I asked Michael how he went about finding out. This is what he wrote:

April 2016: I sent in a form to the Post Adoption office of the agency that handled my mother's adoption (The Children's Home Society of California, USA), to get non-identifying and medical information on my mother's birth family."

August 2016: I receive the letter from Children's Home Society, which contains a substantial amount of information about the family, without any identifying (naming) information attached. I am confused by the term "High German family" in the letter, and enquire on an international genealogical forum (on [WikiTree.com](http://www.wikitree.com)) about how this term might be interpreted. I also attach a copy of the letter. A German genealogist mentions that the birth references to German South West Africa refers to today's Namibia, and gives me the email address of the Vereinte Evangelische Mission in Windhoek.

September 2016: I contact Wolfgang Apelt of the mission archive, and he provides me with the list of family members mentioned in the adoption agency letter. Twentyfour hours later, he sends me the names of all the Baumann family members, and what additional details he

can offer, including information on the Kleinschmidts, all the way up to Hinrich and Zara Schmelen.

October 2016: I do a random Google Search online for anything I can discover about Zara Schmelen, and soon find some of the newsletters written by Horst. I soon find Horst's biography on his personal webpage, and decide to contact him.

November 2016: I ask Horst if he would be willing to submit to a DNA test, to affirm my mother's relation to the Baumann family. Horst agrees.

December 2016: Horst receives his test kit and sends it back to the Family Tree DNA testing facility in Houston, Texas, USA.

March 2017: I receive the results of the test from Family Tree DNA, which shows a match of 61.6 centimorgans on Chromosomes 5, 7, and 8 between Horst Kleinschmidt and my mother, Beverly Hammond, proving the evidence that they are genetically 3rd cousins².

From Michael's and my research the following picture emerges:

Michael's great great grandfather was missionary **Christian Baumann**, (31.5.1842 - 14.5.1888) born in Lichtenthal³, Bessarabia – Russia. He married Johanna **Maria (Marie) Kleinschmidt** (born 29.9.1872 in Otjimbingue – died 16.2.1926 in Gütersloh, Germany) in pre-colonial Namibia. Marie was the oldest daughter of missionary Franz-Heinrich Kleinschmidt (1882 – 1864) and Johanna (Hanna) (1817 Hinrich Schmelen), the one we knew so little of till now.

The 4th child of Christian and Marie Bauman was **Hugo Martin Baumann** (born in pre-colonial Namibia), a carpenter by profession who later (1894-1900) trained in the seminary of the Rhenish Mission in Barmen, in today's Germany, to become a missionary. When he returned to his country of his birth it had been colonised by Germany and was then known as Geman South West Africa.

He learned the Namaqua and oshiWambo languages. He worked at the Okombahe (1900 – 1911) mission in what was called Ovamboland, where his Finnish-born brother-in-law, Marti Rautanen founded a Lutheran Mission. Rautanen was married to Marie's sister Frederike.

Hugo Martin Baumann and Anna Helena Hartwig (born 23.4.1878 in Itzehoe, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany, then part of Prussia) got married on 29 April 1902.

² If people are interested in having their DNA tested to find cousins, I would recommend Family Tree DNA, because they have the widest array of services, and I understand that they serve the entire world. Some of the other testing companies (like Ancestry.com or '23 and Me') are limited to only certain parts of the world. If you decide you want to have your Y-DNA (paternal) and mitochondrial DNA tested only Family Tree DNA performs those services to the highest/most detailed level possible, - to my knowledge. Family Tree DNA also has the cheaper autosomal DNA test compared to Ancestry and 23 and Me (Family Finder, at around 79 US dollars, not including tax and shipping ... I think it cost me 12 dollars tax and shipping to sent the test to South Africa).

³ In the family tree Erika von Zedlitz composed she refers to Friedensthal. I assume she was mistaken.

The Baumann's had six children, 2 sons and 4 daughters (all born in German South West Africa). Their first daughter, Hildegard-1, during infancy before the family left for Europe.

In 1911, the family moved to Germany, then emigrated to the United States, arriving at the port of Baltimore, Maryland, in May 1912. Hugo worked as a pastor for German-speaking congregations, in Illinois, North Dakota, South Dakota, Washington State, and California. Anna bore two more daughters after the family arrived in the US, one born in Illinois, and the last in North Dakota.



Hugo Martin Baumann, whose great grandparents were Hinrich and Zara Schmelen of

Horst adds: My family tree of this branch ends with naming the 6 children and states that they “lived in the USA”. Nothing after that.

The Baumann family had good reason to leave German South West Africa and possibly had premonitions about staying in Germany. Counter to the law in Germany at that time, the judiciary in the colony (GSWA) pioneered racist verdicts and the spotlight fell on our family more than any other. In some instances, in defence of the offspring of Zara and Hinrich it was argued that they were positive examples of what education and socialization did to make them acceptable to the white colonists. But in others instances vicious judgements were pronounced against family members. Yet others laid low in order not to attract attention.

The 1904-1908 war against the Herero and Nama peoples further hardened colonial attitudes. It was likely Hugo Baumann and family watched the trial of his younger brother Ludwig with particular concern and worry.

Zara Hendricks or //Gaixas who married Hinrich Schmelen, grandmother of Marie Baumann.



Ludwig Baumann, a trained engineer, had appeared in the Swakopmund Landesgericht - charged with embezzlement. He was found guilty and sentenced to two years imprisonment and the suspension of his civil rights for five years. He appealed to the higher court in Windhoek, but instead of dealing with the case against him - on 10 January 1913 - declared that he would no longer be recognized as a 'white' person and instead be considered a 'native'. The court referred him to the 'native courts' (also under colonial rule) for his case to be adjudicated. Here his sentence was reduced to six months imprisonment with hard labour.

As a last resort he appealed to the German Governor for clemency and promised he would leave the country if his sentence were suspended. The Governor suspended his sentence whereupon Ludwig left for South Africa. We have not as yet traced his family.

Hugo and his family were long gone when Ludwig's verdict was pronounced, but the contentious wrangling in the courts prior to their departure would have influenced their thinking.

This was not all. In 1913, in the small village of Karibib, **Mathilde Kleinschmidt**, a first cousin of Hugo's (and the sister to my grandfather), was told by the court that she could not marry **Fritz Ewaldt** on the grounds that she failed the 'one-drop-of-blood' rule. Once again our Khoi ancestor was obstacle in the eyes of the emerging racial order.

Mathilde and Fritz also appealed to the court in Windhoek, well aware of the Ludwig Baumann judgement. Their appeal was upheld, and they got married on the strength of a witness, who in essence, said: "She may not be white, but she conducts herself like white people".

Mathilde and Fritz also left the colony and settled in Germany where more tragedy was to befall Mathilde. Fritz committed suicide in circumstances that point to pressure about his wife's race. His suicide was concealed as him being a casualty in WWI. The real story only emerged from one of the grandchildren who spoke about for the first time in recent years. (See also Newsletter 32 and the obituary of Peter Ewaldt, Mathilde's grandson).

And there was even more. **Ludwig Kleinschmidt**, Hugo's uncle, was widely discussed by those designing the colonial, race-based rules.

Ludwig had broken the unspoken rule in our part of the family: children should be implored to marry spouses who were unambiguously 'white'. In this way the last drop of 'dark blood' would eventually be forgotten or maybe diluted beyond contention. Ludwig turned his back on this mythology. He, and his children in turn, married without regard to the racial origin of their spouses.



On the left Mathilde, brothers Heinrich and Gerhard, and sister Helene. Gerhard is Horst's grandfather.

My grandfather Gerhard was friends with Ludwig, and his son also named Ludwig, but after that a cloud of silence settled over him and his branch of the family. In the foundational family tree (compiled by Erika von Zedlitz) there are no entries after Ludwig (senior).

The offspring of Ludwig Kleinschmidt attended the family gatherings and they hosted the second gathering. Through Charles Otto /Uirab, great grandson of Ludwig, we remedied this gap in the family tree.

Michael adds:

Below are the children of Hugo Martin and Anna Helena (born Hartwig) Baumann:

1. Christian (Cristel) Henry Baumann, b. 13 Sept 1903, in Okombahe, Namibia. He married Alma May Peterson in 1935. He enlisted to fight for the US Army in 1942. He died in 1998, at the age of 95 years.

2. Irmgard Dora Frieda Brown (nee Baumann), b. 13 Oct 1906 in Okombahe, Namibia. In 1930, in the USA, she met a man on a streetcar, and being "gullible and easily deceived by others", had a relationship, and became pregnant. She relocated and reported that the father promised marriage, and would visit her after her relocation. He failed to do so, and so his whereabouts became unknown to her. Giving birth in 1931, she considered her options, and although difficult, decided adoption was the best plan. That child was later named Beverly Anne Buntzler by her adoptive parents, Paul Buntzler born in Chur, Switzerland and Anne Jenkins, from Shelbyville, Tennessee.

Beverly Anne Buntzler married Wesley Ashworth Hammond, in 1961, in Carmel, California. She had two sons, David Blair Hammond, who was born in Carmel in 1964. They moved to Wenatchee, Washington State in 1965, and had a second son, Michael Davis Hammond, born in 1966. David and his family live in Seattle, Washington State, and Michael presently in Wenatchee. [Michael, as you may have

gathered is the person in the USA whom I correspond with and who is the substantial source to the information]

Prior to 1940, Irmgard (Irma) married Ambrose Brown, originally from Kentucky. Ambrose fought in WWII, member of the US Army. They lived in San Francisco. Irmgard died in 1993, at the age 86.

3. Gertrud Laura Duncan (nee Baumann), b. 15 Dec 1907 in Okombahe, Namibia. got a teaching degree from the University of Puget Sound while the family was living in Tacoma, Washington. In 1951, she married Horace Duncan of California. Gertrude died in 1992, at 84 years of age.



Gertrud Baumann, age 21.
Photo from the 1929
University of Puget Sound

4. Erna Ida Milam (nee Baumann), b. 16 Mar 1909 in Okombahe, Namibia. She married a man with the surname of Milam, full name unknown at present. She lived in San Francisco and Lodi, California. Her obituary made no mention of her former husband. She died in 2003, at the age of 93.

5. Helmut L. Baumann, b. 5 Nov 1910 in Okombahe, Namibia. Helmut enlisted in the US Army, fought in WWII and died in 1943. He never married.

6. Marie Elizabeth Bechtol (nee Baumann), b. 8 July 1913 in Carmi, Illinois. She married John E. Bechtol in 1956. She died in 1993 in San Francisco, California.

7. Hildegard Adella Berreth (nee Baumann), b. 7 Feb 1919 in Gackle, North Dakota. She married Clarence Julius Berreth of South Dakota, in 1935. (His father was, like Christian Baumann, also German and born in Russia.) They lived in South Dakota, and later moved to be near the family in California. They had two children, Terry M. Berreth and Gerry Clarence Berreth, presently living in California, age 75 and 72 respectively. Terry and Gerry appear to have had one child each. Hilda passed in 2008, at the age of 89.

Hugo Baumann's profile and image is available on WikiTree, at <https://www.wikitree.com/index.php?title=Baumann-627&public=1>.

You, my readers, might like to write to Michael Hammond. Please write to: mot1892@gmail.com.

I want to thank Michael Hammond for his considerable input to this Newsletter. I enjoyed our collaboration across continents greatly. Many of you might want to

enquire about doing DNA tests now that this avenue of family research has been opened up.

There are Baumann's in Cape Town. I need to go searching.

Horst.
