



**AMERICAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY
OF GERMANS FROM RUSSIA**

Honoring our Past • Embracing the Future



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“

Who are the
ancestors of

Matthias Truchman

Mathias Stechman
of Pfeifer, Russia

?”

Research Question

The specific genealogical research question for this request focuses on tracing the ancestors of Mathias Stechman back through the village of Pfeifer, Russia.

Mathias Stechman's parents are Jacob Stechman and Anna Maria Stechman geb. Jacob, according to the informant Mary Jacobs on his Illinois Death Certificate:

3 V. S. 4
1940 REVISION
(A8150-24E 13a.
10-35) 2

STATE OF ILLINOIS ORIGINAL
HENRY HORNER, Governor
Department of Public Health—Division of Vital Statistics

CERTIFICATE OF DEATH
Registered No. 5569

1. PLACE OF DEATH. Registration 3104
County of COOK Dist. No. 5104
CHICAGO (Village, Township, Precinct, Ward, Precinct, or other P. O. address)
Street and Number, Wd. 1452 BARRY AVE St. 45 Wd. 45
(If death occurred in a hospital or institution, give the NAME instead of street and number.)

2. PLACE OF RESIDENCE. STATE ILLINOIS County COOK Township Road Dist.
CHICAGO City or Village Street and Number 1452 BARRY AVE

3 (a) FULL NAME. MATHIAS STECHMAN (Print or type) (b) SEX M (c) RACE W (d) SOCIAL SECURITY NONE (e) MARRIAGE STATUS NONE (f) COLOR W (g) SINGLE, WIDOWED, MARRIED, DIVORCED, WIDOWED (h) NAME OF HUSBAND OR WIFE MARIAN (i) AGE OF HUSBAND OR WIFE (j) BIRTH DATE OF DECEASED FEB. 10 1867 (k) AGE: Years 74 Months 0 Days 11 (l) BIRTHPLACE UNKNOWN RUSSIA (m) USUAL OCCUPATION LABORER (n) INDUSTRY OR BUSINESS (RETIRED) (o) NAME OF HUSBAND OR WIFE JACOB STECHMAN (p) BIRTHPLACE UNKNOWN RUSSIA (q) MARRIAGE (r) MARRIAGE (s) MARRIAGE (t) MARRIAGE (u) MARRIAGE (v) MARRIAGE (w) MARRIAGE (x) MARRIAGE (y) MARRIAGE (z) MARRIAGE

4. DATE OF DEATH. Month Feb. day 21 year 1941 hour 2 minutes 30 a.m.

5. I hereby certify that I attended the deceased from Feb 18 1941 to Feb 21 1941 and that death occurred on the date and hour stated above.

6. Immediate cause of death. Chronic Myocarditis 6 mos

7. Was an operation performed? No Date of - - - - -
For what disease or injury? - - - - -
Was there an epidemic? No
Findings? Physical Examination

8. If a communicable disease; where contracted? - - - - -
Was disease in any way related to occupation of deceased? No
If so, specify here: - - - - -

9. (Sign) A. W. Hansen M. D.
Address 739 S. Dearborn St. Chicago, Ill. Telephone 2-2443
Date Feb 21 1941

10. Filed Vermon H. Brundage Registrar

P. O. Address - - - - -

MARICHA REEFER, COUNTY CLERK, COUNTY OF COOK, ILLINOIS. WHITE PRINTED WITH UNPAID INK—THIS IS A PERMANENT RECORD. IN CASE OF DEATH OF A UNITED STATES CITIZEN, THIS FORM MUST BE FILED WITH THE COUNTY CLERK OF THE COUNTY OF DEATH. IN CASE OF DEATH OF A FOREIGN BORN CITIZEN, THIS FORM MUST BE FILED WITH THE COUNTY CLERK OF THE COUNTY OF DEATH. IN CASE OF DEATH OF A FOREIGN BORN CITIZEN, THIS FORM MUST BE FILED WITH THE COUNTY CLERK OF THE COUNTY OF DEATH. IN CASE OF DEATH OF A FOREIGN BORN CITIZEN, THIS FORM MUST BE FILED WITH THE COUNTY CLERK OF THE COUNTY OF DEATH.

Examining Pfeifer Records

I was able to find one Jacob Stegmann that matched the estimated birth date in the Pfeifer 1857 revision list.

Jacob Stegmann (1838) is located in the household of his father Wilhelm Stegmann and his mother Maria Anna. Wilhelm Stegmann's parents are listed as Johann Adam Stegmann (1790) and Katherina (1795):



Examining Pfeifer Records

Name: Wilhelm Stegmann¹

Birth: 1813 Pfeifer (Gnilushka), Russia
Father: Johann Adam Stegmann (1790-)
Mother: Katharine ? (1795-)
Spouse: Maria Anna ?¹

Birth: 1816

Children

1 F: Anna Margaret Stegmann¹
Birth: 1835 Pfeifer (Gnilushka), Russia

2 M: Jacob Stegmann¹
Birth: 1838 Pfeifer (Gnilushka), Russia

3 M: Johannes Stegmann¹
Birth: 1849 Pfeifer (Gnilushka), Russia

4 F: Christina Stegmann¹
Birth: 1853 Pfeifer (Gnilushka), Russia

5 F: Barbara Stegmann¹
Birth: 1855 Pfeifer (Gnilushka), Russia

Sources

1. 1857 Census for Pfeifer (Gnilushka), Russia--December 15, 1857--
Translated by Paul M. Leus, Census #48.

A Census of the Village in 1857, 15 December 1857. Kevin D. Rupp.



Examining Pfeifer Records

Examining the Pfeifer death records from VolgaRecords.com suggests that Jacob Stechmann and Maria Anna Jacob had additional children that passed away young, including Caspar, Magarethe, and Johannes:

7	1871	1	22	--	--	2	Caspar	Stechmann		Jacob Stechmann, Maria Anna Jacob
---	------	---	----	----	----	---	--------	-----------	--	-----------------------------------

1878	9	17	9	19	2 M	Margarethe	Stechmann		Jacob Stechmann, Maria Anna Jacob
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47	1880	7	27	7	30	1 M	Johannes	Stechmann		Jacob Stechmann, Maria Anna Jacob
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Additionally, the Pfeifer birth records on VolgaRecords.com contain an instance for Peter Stechmann:

1872	1	1	Peter	Stechmann	Jacob	Jacob	Maria Anna	Pfeifer
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Examining Pfeifer Records

The 1834 Revision List mentions two households under the name Stegman (Stechmann):

37	Georg Stegman	35	54		
	Wife: Katerina		54		
	Sons: Christof		7		26
	Wife: Eva				24
	Son: Peter				2
	Daughter: Christina				3 mos
	Georg		2		21
	Wife: Elisabeta				17
	Johann Adam				18
	Jakob				15
Anna Maria		11			
Barbara		8			

38	Adam Stegman	25	44		
	Wife: Katerina		44		
	Sons: Valentin		2		21
	Wife: Maria Anna				18
	Matias				19
	Johannes				15
	Gottfried				3
	Daughters: Maria Anna				9
	Christina				3
	Anna Maria				3 mos



Examining Pfeifer Records

The 1857 Revision gives Jacob Stegman's birth date as 1838, and the death entry for him provided by VolgaRecords.com supports that date given that he was stated to have died in 1909 at age 72:

1909	5	17	--	--	72	Jacob	Stechmann	--	Children: Matthias, Peter.
------	---	----	----	----	----	-------	-----------	----	----------------------------

Unfortunately, no parents are listed in this entry, but his children Mathias and Peter are listed.

I was unable to find an exact entry for the father Wilhelm Stechman in the 1834 census, but I was able to follow the listed grandfather, Johann Adam Stechman and wife Katarina to household 38 under Adam Stegman and wife Katarina.



Examining Pfeifer Records

From there, there is no son under the name “Wilhelm,” who was born about 1813, but there is an entry for a son named “Valentine,” who is of the correct estimated age, and has a spouse of the correct name as in the 1857 revision, Maria Anna.

Is it possible that this was a recording error or that this individual’s full name is Valentin Wilhelm or Wilhelm Valentin? Possibly, but without additional records it is difficult to say.

The rest of the information lines up, so I will continue to track Johann Adam Stechman (1790).



Examining Pfeifer Records

Here are the two entries with the surname Stegman in the 1798 Revision list:

55.	Valentin Bem [Behm, Böhm] wife Klara Stegman	51 49	1		1		
	daughter: Katarina	8		1			

44.	Georg Heinrich Ziegler wife Maria Anna Tom [Dohm, Domme?]	32 40	1		1		
	children by her first husband Adam Stegman, sons:						
	Georg	18	1		1		
	Johann	7	1			1	
	daughters:						
	Margareta	16		1			
	Barbara	13		1			
	Margareta	11		1			
	Katarina	5		1			
	Maria Anna	1		1			



Examining Pfeifer Records

In household 44, Johann, age 7 is most likely Johann Adam (1790). It is possible that the data was recorded prior to his birthday, yet this information can still indicate a birth year of about 1790.

His father is listed as Adam Stegman. His mother Maria Anna Tom (abt. 1758) has remarried to Georg Heinrich Ziegler (abt. 1766).

It appears that Georg Stechman (1780) and Johann Adam Stechman (1790), indicated in the 1834 Revision list, are indeed brothers from the same father, this Adam Stegman.

We can now turn to earlier records to locate more information about Adam Stegman such as his birth or death dates, or where he lived prior to Russia, if applicable.



Examining Pfeifer Records

I was able to locate one entry for an individual under the correct surname in *Einwanderung in das Wolgagebiet 1764 - 1767 Band 3* for the colony of Pfeifer:

93. Stegmann, Sebastian, 46, kath., Ackerbauer aus *Aschaffenburg*

Witwer

Sohn: Johann Adam, 15

in der Kolonie eingetroffen am 20.8.1767

erhalten vom Vormundschaftskontor in Saratov 25 Rbl., 1 Pfd.

1768 gab es in der Wirtschaft 1 Pfd., gepflügt: 1 Des., gesät: 2 Četverik Roggen



Examining Pfeifer Records

Translation:

93. Stegmann, Sebastian, 46, cath., farmer from **Aschaffenburg**
widower

Son: Johann Adam, 15

Arrived in the colony on the 20th of August, 1767

Received from the Guardianship Office in Saratov

25 rubles, 1pfd.

In 1768 in production: 1pfd., plowed: 1 deciatine sown: 2 cetverik of rye

Note: a deciatine, or dessiatin, is an archaic word referring to a measurement of land of approximately 2.702 acres. See Wikipedia, "Dessiatin." A cetverik is approximately 0.75 bushels, see Convert Me



Analysis

The only major inconsistency of this line of research is that of Wilhelm Stegman. Without additional records, of which I was unable to find, it would be difficult to resolve.

However, other information lines up well, and the only entry for Stechman or anything similar that I was able to find in regards to the early settlers of Pfeifer was that of Sebastian Stechman and his son. Even if the inconsistency in the generation of Wilhelm Stegman is present, it is likely that the family still traces back to Sebastian Stechman.

We were also able to find the death of other siblings to Mathias and Peter Stechman.



Conclusion

We have been able to trace the Stechman line with moderate to high certainty from Mathias Stechman to his father Jacob Stechman, and on, back through Russia to the first settler of the Stechman family in Russia, Sebastian Stegmann.

No information about Sebastian Stegmann's spouse is given other than that he is a widower. The only other information that is given about his family is that his son is Johann Adam (abt. 1752). However, a location is given for his residence prior to Russia - Aschaffenburg.

There are several Catholic churches in Aschaffenburg, as noted on the German Wikipedia entry for the location under Sakralbauten, and there are records near Aschaffenburg available for viewing at Matricula Online. Any of these would be a suggested next step in confirming and furthering research on the Stechman family in Aschaffenburg.



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