

sources, such as the Kocherthal and New York City churchbooks (Step #1). But an interesting picture emerged when studying the Rotterdam Embarkation Lists and the London Lists (Step #2): The original, mss. Rotterdam Lists (unlike published versions such as in Knittle⁹) were broken down into the individual shiploads of immigrants within each "party." Martin Zerbe was listed near Georg Volpert Schmidt, Nicholas Michel and Henrich Bartel not only on one of the small ships sailing from Rotterdam in the 4th party ("Johan Martin Zerber & vrouw, 4 Kind."), but also near them in the 4th arrivals encamped at London ("Martin Zerbst, 34, and wife, sons aged 11, 8, 4 and 2, Lutheran, Husbandman and Vinedresser"). Schmidt, Michel and Bartel all settled in New York: Bartel's home was named in Kocherthal as "Epstein, Duchy Of Darmstadt," which is Eppstein, an area near Wiesbaden.

A search was then instigated for anyone with the same surname as Martin Zerbe (Step #3). A "Philip Zerber" was found on the original Rotterdam Lists near Martin and also on the London Lists ("Philip Zerbst, 25, Lutheran, Figure-maker"). It was noted that the Kocherthal records show a "Johann Philipp Zerb of Kettenbach, commune of Minster" who was married to a "Maria Catharina Steiber of the commune of Hachenburg" on 9 Jul 1710. Maps showed that Kettenbach was north of Wiesbaden, near a town of Minster and but a few miles away from Eppstein. To cement the Bartel-Zerbe connection begun in Germany, Henrich Bartel appears near Martin Zerbe in the unalphabetized Hunter Subsistence Lists, and one "Maria Margaretha Barthel" sponsored Martin Zerbe's daughter baptized in 1715 by Rev. Kocherthal (Step #4). Neighbors remained neighbors, even surviving a trip across the ocean.

A professional genealogist was sent to Kettenbach to search for Martin Zerbe. The theory of his ancestral home, developed from the aforementioned four steps, was proved valid in the information found in the Kettenbach churchbooks:

Martin Zirbe(n)¹ was the earliest, direct ancestor of the immigrant found at Kettenbach. This Martin Senior was buried there on 8 Mar 1694; his wife Anna Elisabetha or Elbet survived him, as the records show she was buried at Kettenbach on 8 Jan 1703. Among their children were:

- 1) George Jacob², bapt. 16 May 1666. Sponsors were Georg Münch from Rückershausen, his brother in law Jacob, and Anna Margretha Ulyln.
- 2) Johann Martin², bapt. 17 Dec 1671. (More later)
- 3) Johann Peter², bapt. 27 Sep 1674.
- 4) Johann Georg², bapt. 21 Oct 1677. He married at Kettenbach 16 Sep 1704 Anna Elisabetha Röttcher.
- 5) Maria Margretha², bapt. 23 May 1680. Sponsors were Bastian Basser—a Würtzkrämer (spice merchant), Martin Hermann, Anna Margaretha Kümpelin and Anna Maria Schlottin.