

[Roger Miller](#)

Continuing the chain of documents from C R Gerig's father back to the valley of Hang in Bourg-Bruche.

Jacob's marriage record states he was born in Hang but his death record lists his birth place as Saint Marie-aux-Mines. We are fortunate that a state civil birth record in the municipality of Bourg-Bruche, where the valley of Hang is found, clarifies the matter. This record that I transcribed and posted below lists both Jacob's father and mother as residents of Hang. It proves they lived there. At the bottom of the record we find the only signature his father, Christian, left us.

On the record we can deduce the following:

- 1.) A son Joseph was born in 1799 at Hang. He either died as an infant or a child less than 4 years old. Christian Gerig and his wife Catherine Goldschmidt would have another son born at Hang on February of 1803 which they also named Joseph. There is no birth record for this second Joseph. His birth date is found on his marriage record.
- 2.) Child mortality was very high. Jacob himself named two sons Joseph in both 1836 and 1840. One died within 24 hours and the other lived only 9 days. Christian (Z) Gerig had 6 children. Three died as infants and one died at 6 years of age. Only C R Gerig and his sister Barbara lived to adulthood and came to America.
- 3.) Joseph was an important name to pass on in this Gerig family. Even Jean Gerig who moved with his brother Christian Gerig II to Hang in 1774 had a son named Joseph. Perhaps they had a grandfather or uncle named Joseph.
- 4.) Jacob's father created a unique signature for himself. He was one of three Christian Gerigs that lived at Hang. His father, a cousin and himself. He places a special "m" mark under his first name. Only he knows what that meant. He writes with so much ink it soaks through the paper to the other side.

Note:

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Notice that Christian Gerig signs his last name with 2 "G"s. He leaves out the "eri"!

Jean Pierre Gaire que Catherine Goldschmitt
 his wife in legitimate marriage has given birth yesterday at
 five o'clock in the morning in his home a male child, whom he showed
 me and to which he gave the first name of Joseph; according to this declaration the
 the citizens Martin Bajou and Joseph Masson have certified in conformity
 with the truth and the representation which was made to me of the child
 I then drew up the present record
 that the father of the child and Joseph Masson, have signed with me, but
 Martin Bajou did not have the useage of writing made an ordinary mark
 done at the municipality of Bourg and Bruche the day, month and
 year aforesaid
 Christian Gerig Joseph Masson
 Martin Bajou J P Gaire

Joseph Masson J P Gaire
 Aujourd'hui le douzieme jour du mois de Ventose le septieme de la
 Today the twelfth day of the month of Ventose the seventh year of
 Republic of France (March 1, 1799) one and indivisible pardevant moi Jean Pierre
 Gaire agent de la commune du Bourg et Bruche Canton de Saales
 Gaire agent of the municipality of Bourg and Bruche Canton of Saales
 Departement des Vosges recu le six germain de l'an cinq pour
 Department of Vosges reflected on the sixth of Germinal year five (March 6, 1796)
 to draw up the records and record the birth marriages and
 deaths des citoyens à six heures du matin est comparu dans le
 home municipality Christian Gerig domicilié au hang commune
 du Bourg et Bruche, assisté de Martin Bajou age de quarante
 of Bourg and Bruche, assisted by Martin Bajou age of forty
 ans aussi domicilié dans le même endroit et manoeuvre, et de
 years also residing in the same place and by
 Joseph Masson age of sixty two years old and a carpenter
 currently residing is the said municipality, and declare to me