

[CR Gerig Family](#)
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Trying to find our way back from Christian Gerig the 1st to Hans Gerig.

This is no easy task. Here is the problem -

We have a span of 21 years without any Gerig documents or records (1711 to 1732), and looming large, and almost immediately after we see the last of Hans Gerig in 1711, is the life changing event the following year of **The Edict of Expulsion of Anabaptists from France** by King Louis the XIV (the builder of Versailles) on September 1712. Many went to Montbéliard and other areas outside the control of France. Even Jacob Ammann left.

So if the Anabaptists of Sainte Marie-aux-Mines have been expelled and left, how can we ever hope to trace Hans Gerig to our Christian Gerig the 1st? If Hans left how can we know that our Christian Gerig in 1732 was his son?

1.) Perhaps he never left. We know of at least one family that didn't, the Blanck family. Robert Baecher gives an account of Nicolas & Michel Blanck, the same two men on the 1732 list that included our Christian Gerig. What follows, because Ann Blanck is one of our ancestors, is part of our family history: "In 1710 Nicolas [Blanck] gave the whole of the farm to his sons, Nicolas and Peter, by means of a notarial document with the stipulation that it was not to be divided. The younger Nicolas then proceeded to sell Mongoutie [the farm] on September 25, 1712, because of the royal order of expulsion "from the territories of France," which impacted all Anabaptists. The purchaser was Francois Lue Bartemann of the Consel Souverain, the judicial body that served as provincial parliament in Alsace. The purchaser, however, continued discreetly to employ the younger Nicolas Blanck as farm manager. His brother Michel ran the neighboring seigneurial farm called Landhaus. The other brother, Hans, moved to the County of Montbéliard."

2.) Or perhaps Hans Gerig moved to a nearby place like Hang that was secluded, remote and therefore safer. Perhaps then either he or a son returned to SMaM when it felt safe - hearing how the Blanck brothers were fairing that stayed.

- Robert Baecher discovered a number of documents (notarial notes, etc.) from the records of SMaM concerning the Blanck family. Perhaps if someone searched these same records with Gerigs in mind we would find numerous entries for our Gerig family. We might find land ownership, leasing and other business transactions of interest. The span of 21 years between 1711 and 1732 may only be empty for lack of looking. Perhaps in the effort one might even find the age of either Hans or Christian, which would open the door wide open to the Gerig lineage in Bern, Switzerland.

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I should have added as supporting evidence the congruence we find in the given names for our Gerigs beginning with the 1780 Census in Hang. Given names are repeated from generation to generation.

Brothers Christian and Johannes in 1780 both have sons named Christian and Johannes. We discovered that their father was Christian Gerig the 1st. We should expect in turn to find out that Christian Gerig the 1st's father is either named Christian or Johannes. Of course we find Hans Gerig amongst Jacob Ammanns earliest followers. Hans is the shortened form of the name Johannes.