

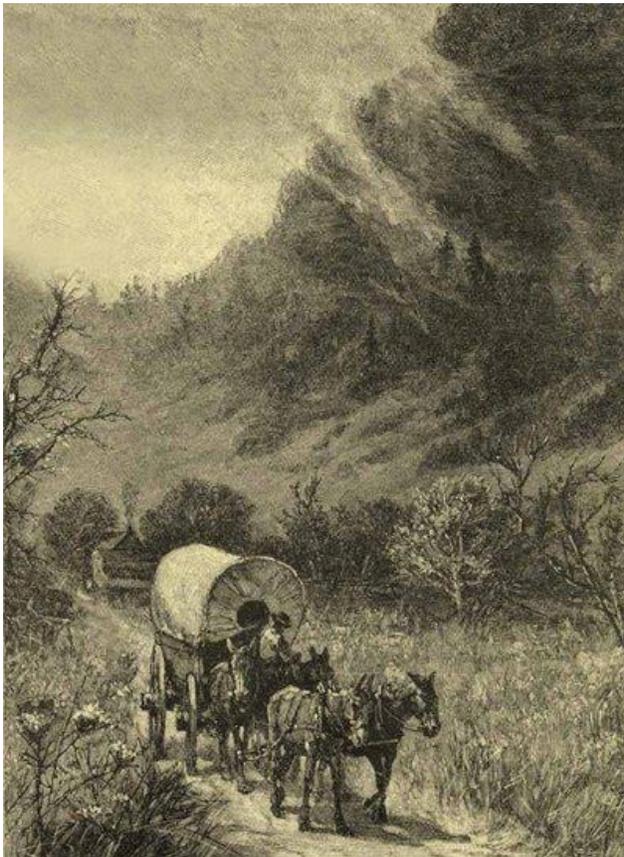
Bio: Magdalena Zimmerman

Pamela Hutchison Garrett, March 2019

Relationships in the Zimmerman family have not been worked through or proven. Placement of Magdalena Zimmerman Germann Determan as the daughter of George Zimmerman (sr), and the sister of George Zimmerman (jr) and Jacob Zimmerman is speculative.

Christian Germann's wife, Magdalena Zimmerman, claims her birth about 1825 in France. Living next door to Christian and Magdalena Germann, in the 1850 census, is a George Zimmerman who was born in 1782 in France. He is a good candidate for Lanah's father. Lanah was first married to Christian Germann, probably about 1840 - 1845. It is uncertain whether this marriage occurred in Germany, France, or New York. The marriage lasted about ten years, producing three children, while the family was living in the community of Black Rock (later Buffalo) in Erie county New York. Christian Germann died about 1854.

Family stories provide the clue that Magdalena Zimmerman Germann, "eventually sold the farm and gunsmith tools, took her children and went to live with her brother, John Zimmerman, and his family in the state of Ohio." John Zimmerman has been difficult to identify, but a Jacob Zimmerman, born about 1810 in France, does appear in the 1850 and 1860 census of Sandusky county Ohio, along with his wife and children.



Like Black Rock New York, Sandusky county Ohio, rests along the Lake Erie shoreline, but it is almost two hundred and fifty miles to the west. It appears that Jacob Zimmerman was a farmer, outside the town of Fremont, the Sandusky county seat. In the 1860 census Jacob's family is not far from Henrich (Henry) Arnold Determan, the man that Magdalena Zimmerman Germann had married in 1858. The name of Magdalena's second husband is variously given in records as Henrich, Henry, Arnold and AH - Determan, Determann, Dieterman, Ditterman and other spellings.

The 1860 census gives a clear picture of the recently combined Determan and Germann families. The family is shown as Arnold Determan, age 35; Magdelana Determan, age 34; Susan German, age 15, Alfred German, age 13; Lewis German age 11; Henry Determan, age 9 (son of Arnold); Mary Determan, age 1; and Lousia Determan, age 5 months.

A few years after the census was taken, young Alfred Germann went off to serve in the Union Army during the Civil War. He returned to his mother's family after the war, and by 1870 the Determans appear in the 1870 census of Belleville in St Clair county Illinois. Alfred Germann and his new bride are living next door. Magdalena Determan gives birth to four Determan daughters, Mary, Sophia, Louise, and Eveline Determan. Records suggest that Mary died in childhood, that Sophia and Eveline did not marry, and that Louise was married to HB McClelland of St Louis Missouri. Nothing further has been determined.

According to Missouri Death Records, Magdalena Determann died on the 24th of June 1876, at the age of fifty-three. She was living in St Louis at the time of her death, but no indication of burial location is given, and no obituary has been located. AH Determan, widower, is shown in the 1880 census of St Louis with his two younger daughters. Among the St Louis Death Records there is one for Henry A Determann who died on the 3rd of November 1894. His age is given as sixty-three which is off by several years for the second husband of Magdalena. But, he still appears as a likely candidate. His burial is shown at "Salem". This would be the Salem Methodist Church Cemetery which was located on Natural Bridge road just outside of the city of St Louis. It seems possible that Magdalena was also buried in this cemetery. In the 1950's Salem Methodist cemetery was closed down and many of the burials were moved to today's Bellerive Heritage Cemetery, but no record has been found to confirm the Determan's final resting place.

Do you want to know more?

[Link to Magdalena Zimmerman in the database](#)

Bio of Magdalena Zimmerman compiled by Pamela Hutchison Garrett for the Family Stories website; 2019.