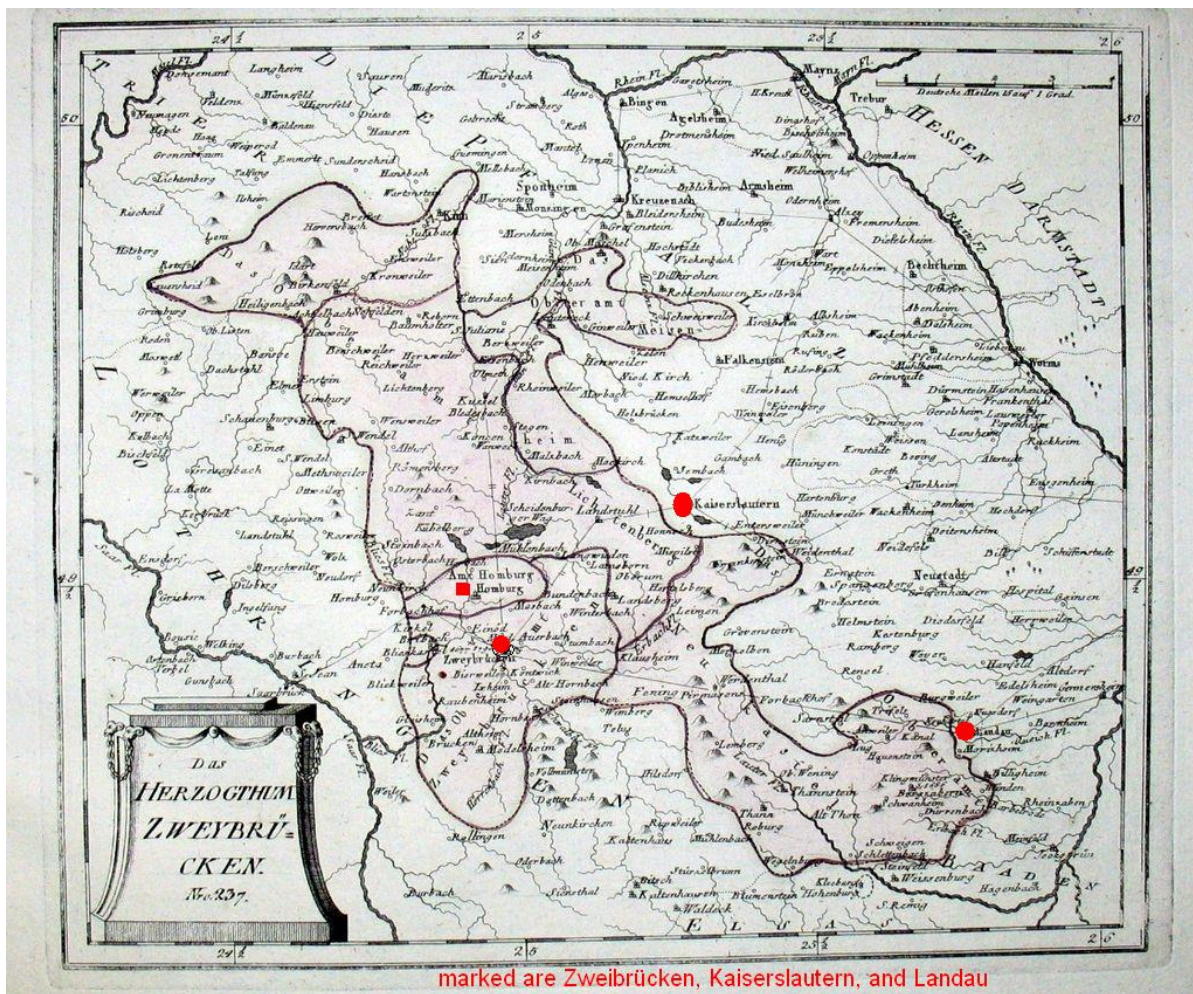


Jean Caspar Wiederhold (1703-1768)

A French branch of the Wiederholds started when Franz Johannes Kaspar Wiederhold was sent as a process server (hussier) to Oberbronn, in the Elsass region between Germany and France, south of Strasbourg. The name he used there was Jean Caspar Wiederhold.

Jean Caspar's father, Adam Wiederhold (born 1657), had been a city scribe and overseer in Altenburg castle for Count Ludwig VIII. of Hessen-Darmstadt. Another of Adam's sons, Christian Bernard Wiederhold became a scribe for the Count of Hessen-Kassel.

The countess Elisabeth of Hessen-Kassel married in 1700 Friederik 1st of Prussia. She died already in 1705 and Frederik soon after married the princess Ulrike Eleonora of Sweden. Her father, king Charles XII of Sweden gave the pair as a wedding gift the County of Zweibrücken.



Zweibrücken then comprised lands south in the Elsass region, north of Strasbourg and across the Rhine from Heidelberg, remnants of the duchy (Herzogtum) Zweibrücken shown here, which had stretched for about 100 km, about 25-km wide between the Mosel and the Rhine, never reaching either river.

[Note: in its center is a town Homburg □, which is confused at times with Homberg an der Efze in Hessen, the birthplace of many Wiederholds.]

During the 30-years war its parts were objects of religious strife, pitting local and foreign Catholics against Swedish Lutherans and German protestants. That county had been originally obtained by Charles XII' ancestor, king Charles IX of Sweden through his marriage in 1579 to Anna Maria von der Pfalz (a region north of Strasbourg). The gift by Charles to his daughter and son-in-law made much sense, since the area was much closer to Hessen than Sweden.

Later, in 1792, the area was conquered by French revolutionary troops. After several truces, land trades, wars, and armistices the northern part, with the town Zweibrücken, became part of the German state Rheinland-Pfalz and the southern part, with Oberbronn, is now the Bas-Rhin department of France.

I assume that Johann Kaspar's father Adam and brother Adam helped to obtain Johann Kaspar's appointment as an official in Oberbronn, a town in the Zweibrücken area at that time controlled by the count of Hessen. Since Kaspar was Adam Wiederholds's youngest son of 11 children and 6 surviving sons, he had little chance of an inheritance, so he must have been happy to get the appointment. There are records of him travelling back to Hessen for some military obligation.

Jean Caspar soon married Anne Eve Still (1706-1768), from Mertzwiller, a town 12 km south. Her family may have come from the area of Mainz, but I have no solid records. Jean and Eve have many descendants in the region, but some wound up in Paris, and others near the Pyrenees.

A graphical depiction of [Jean Caspar's ancestry](#) has been placed in the Source section of Wiederhold.org. You can check out Alfred's source data of [German ancestors](#) (pages 5,16) and [French descendants](#). I have collected many more French descendants. Some are: Auguste (1899-?) Joseph (*1857-?) and George Wiederhold (1911-1968) settled in Gundershoffen; Joseph Wiederhold (1884-1961) wound up in Metz; Raymond Auguste Wiederhold (1931~1983) in Ars-sur-Moselle, France; Louis George (1920-bef.2017) has children in the mid-Pyrenees Area. Several are active on Facebook. Because of privacy protection rules I won't mention here Wiederholds that may still be alive.

Jean Caspar Wiederhold also became the 6th great-grandfather of [Christine Lagarde](#) *1956, who became in November 2019 the president of the [European Central Bank](#). Prior to that appointment she was since July 1911 the chair and managing director of the [International Monetary Fund](#).

Descendants in the USA

One descendant. François Joseph Wiederhold (born 1816). emigrated with his wife Eva Rosina Wald and 5 children in 1846 to Ohio. They had another 5 children there. Their eldest daughter, Anne, married in Kentucky 1852 Jean Maschinot, also an immigrant from France. They had 11 children there. François, then also listed as just Joseph Weiderhold had a son Jean or John (1853-1925), who had 5 children. Another son, Louis (1856-1924) had one daughter, all in Ohio.

When researching US immigration records it is important to be aware that between 1815 and 1856 that region was part of the Kingdom of Bavaria (Bayern) - light-green here - although not geographically connected. To the north of that region were Prussia and Hessen, and to the east were Baden and Württemberg. French-German immigrants from that area may cite Bavaria as their origin, which does not at all comport with current notions of what Bavaria entails.



I have records that a Louis Wiederhold from France (shown born in 1898) <check boat records> lived and got married in San Francisco in 1917, but that ancestry is not now verified. <Look at 1930/1940 census.> There is a possibility that he is identical to the person shown as August Wiederhold, born in Oberbronn in 1898, who appears later in Paris. Did he subsequently use the name of his short-lived brother Louis (born 1896, died 1901)? We can only hypothesize why – maybe to avoid military conscription.

Other Wiederholds in France and emigrations

A family of [shepherds named Wetterhold](#) is shown in the upper Elsass region around 1690. There are intermarriages with a family named Urban. Since they are likely also Wiederhold descendants I have made a tentative match of an ancestor shown in Geni: Johannes Nikolaus Wetterhold to Johannes Wiederhold, shown as born in 1667 in Neukirchen (Hessen) to Nikolaus Wiederhold, the municipal forester there. Note that around 1690 the plague ravaged Germany, so that remaining family members may have fled to what they considered safer locations. Descendants are found on both sides of what is now the border of Germany and France. Several descendants are shown in Lorentzen, in the Grand-Est region of Alsace, France, a forested area south of Saarbrücken (Germany). Moving around, their names were spelled inconsistently, Wetterhold is one common spelling.

That Nikolaus Wiederhold (1667—1728) is the ancestor of two sets of immigrants into the US, separated by many generations, one a grandson and one a grand⁵-son. Although the recorded family names changed, they kept giving the children similar first names.

The alternative spellings and similar naming has led to confusion in several on-line genealogies, as some assigning children to their grandfather. Unreasonable birthdates help in spotting errors. I spent much time sorting them out as best as possible. I have not tracked all their descendants beyond 1900.

Johann Niklaus Wetterhold (1700) and descendants in Virginia

About 1690 a Johann Niklaus Wetterhold (1667-1728) moved from Hessen in Germany to Altwiller in the Alsatian region. The area was mainly under French control after the Thirty-Years' War (1618-1648). At its end half of the population had disappeared. There were ongoing conflicts with German, Protestant interests. Between 1671 and 1711 many Baptists, not tolerated by Lutherans and Calvinists, moved there.

The third son of Johann Nikolaus Wiederhold (1667), also named Johann (or Hans) Niklaus Wetterhold (1700-1728) and Anna Maria Urban (1695-1728), then living in Lorraine, had seven children, there. They, in turn, named their third son Johann Nicolas (1722—1791). He emigrated with his wife, Catharine Elizabeth Dormeyer (1724-1775) and two daughters to Virginia around 1756 and had 8 more children there. Some were registered there as Weatherholt and later ones as Weatherholz, and even as Wiederhold.

In many public genealogies children of Johann Niklaus W. (1722) and Elisabeth Dormeyer (1724) are assigned to Johann Niklaus W. (1700) and Anne Marie Urban (1695). But those children were born after Anna Maria Urban's death. There were other intermarriages of Wetterholds with Urban daughters, further confusing the histories. I believe the genealogy in the [Wiederhold Tree](#) sorts it all out properly.

Johannes Heinrich Wetterhold (1813) and descendants in Michigan

An older brother of Johann Niklaus (1700-1728) is Caspar Wetterhold (1698-1769), who married Johanna Christina Urban (1689-1798), a sister of his brother's wife. They have a great³ grand-son Johannes

Heinrich Wetterhold (1813-1869), who moved about 1845 to the USA. His children also used the name Weatherholt there. His young son, Henry (1844-1927) later settled in Michigan and has many descendants there. More children were born in the US.

Two brothers of Johannes Heinrich Wetterhold (1813-1869), Anton Philipp Hermann Wiederhold (1817-1893) and Anton Philipp Hermann Wiederhold Ludwig Edmund Otto Wiederhold (1821-1868) went to Paris and worked there as bookkeepers and at banks. Anton married twice and returned to Germany, but both brothers have descendants in Paris.



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