

Here is a treasure trove of family history, put together by Julian Braatz in collaboration with many Braatz Family connections. Luckily he has a DNA match with me (Ned), giving me a new deep look into my ancestry as well. Julian has matched his histories with newer information he has gathered from a recent family reunion.



the guy in yellow is Tim, the blue on is me.

We want to thank Julian for the info he has gathered and shared with us here. His correspondence with me begins here:

I will be meeting with Timothy Buchholtz. Tim's great great grandmother was Dorothea Luise Oehlke, nee Kroll. We have DNA evidence that a sister of Dorothea, Wilhelmine Kroll, must have been the first wife of Carl Braatz (*1820-1825,+>1866). We have also DNA evidence, that Carl Braatz was my 3rd greatgrandfather. Why? I have many DNA matches with descendants of Carl Braatz' 3 daughters Auguste, Amelia and Mathilda

(with descendants of all 3) that live mainly in Wisconsin and Minnesota today. Carl Braatz had a 2nd wife, Auguste Zimmermann. Together they had two daughters, Bertha and Emma. My greatgreatgrandfather was Wilhelm Braatz. One of his sons went to Hettstedt as a miner. From there, his son emigrated to Australia. A descendant of this line is Martin Braatz that is a match of me and of Walter Röske. Walter Röske is also a match of me and he is a grandson of a daughter of Wilhelm Braatz and Auguste Zimmermann, Otilie Braatz. So Otilie was a sister of my greatgrandfather Hermann Braatz.

Walter Röske has also DNA matches with descendants of Emma and Bertha Braatz.

There is another interesting match of me and of Walter Röske, Timothy Buchholtz. He matches also many of the Carl Braatz descendants, but only descendants of Carl Braatz and his first wife. But he matches also descendants of a Henriette Kroll, married Krebs, that was a sister of his 2nd greatgrandmother Dorothea Oehlke. Walter Röske also matches these descendants of Henriette Krebs.

We only know the first name of Carl Braatz's 1st wife: Wilhelmine. But we think that she was Wilhelmine Kroll, another sister of Dorothea and Henriette.

Therefore, the connection between Tim and me would be 4C1R I guess. The mother of the Kroll sisters is known to be Rosina Riedemann, married Kroll. We also have paper trail sources for the 3 Kroll sisters and the 5 Braatz sisters.

There is a brickwall in finding written evidence that Carl Braatz was really the father of my 2nd greatgrandfather Wilhelm Braatz and we also don't have evidence for Wilhelmine Kroll being his first wife.

Another guy, Jeffrey Warren Herrmann, is also matching me and many of the Carl Braatz descendants. His 2nd greatgrandmother was Wilhelmine Flach, nee Braatz. She was born 1830 so that we think she was a sister of Carl. Written evidence in connection with DNA evidence implicates that Wilhelmine Flach had a sister, Johanna Braatz, married Krause, that went to South Dakota. Her parents were Johann Friedrich Braatz and Johanna

Freitag.

One of the daughters of Carl Braatz, Amelia (married Ewert) went to Minnesota, Waseca County. The other sisters Auguste and Mathilda went to Wisconsin. One of Amelia's neighbors was John Bratz, that was a son of Johann Friedrich Braatz and Dorothea Sophie Lück. After the death of Carl Braatz, his 2nd wife Auguste Krueger married again a Mr. Riesenbergs and went to Waseca County with the two sisters Emma and Bertha. Another neighbor of Amelia Braatz Ewert and John Bratz was the Krueger family. We have documents that implicate that Auguste Krueger Braatz Riesenbergs belonged to this family.

All in all it's extremely hard to understand all the connections but I thought the upcoming reunion would be worth to make a post on the Braatz family website. I will send you a 'selfie' afterwards.

All the Best

Julian

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So here comes the content:

A: confirmed information based on written evidence

1.) My paternal lineage

My known paternal lineage is as follows:

My paternal grandfather was Fritz Erich Hermann Braatz. He was born

JAN 02 1912 in Neuwedell (today Drawno, Poland).

His parents were Hermann Emil Braatz and Anna Emma Knabe.

Hermann Emil Braatz was born on NOV 28 1890 in Nemischhof (today Niemieńsko, Poland). He was a son of Friedrich Ferdinand Wilhelm Braatz and Auguste Zimmermann.

Hermann Emil had several siblings, including:

Louise Ottilie Emilie Braatz b. SEP 18 1886 in Nemischhof and Wilhelm Braatz, b. NOV 11 1877 in Nemischhof

Walter R. is a grandson of Louise O. E. Braatz b. 1886

Martin B. is a great grandson of Wilhelm Braatz b. 1877
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2.) The Carl Braatz family

Now, I want to introduce Carl Braatz and his family. Please just accept for a second, that the following seems to have nothing to do with my foresaid ancestors:

We don't know very much about Carl Braatz himself. He was maybe born between 1820 and 1825, and he died between 1866 and 1875.

He had two wives: his first wife was a Wilhelmine (maiden name unknown). They had at least three children:

(Henriette) Auguste Braatz, married Braatz b. 1849 in Nemischhof
Amelia or Emilie Braatz, married Ewert b. 1858
Mathilda Braatz, married Roggow b. 1860

The 2nd wife of Carl Braatz was Auguste Krueger.

They had at least two children:

Louise Pauline Bertha Braatz, married Pagel b. 1864 and
Emma Louise Braatz, married Krienke b. 1866

The 2nd husband of Auguste Krueger was August Karl Riesenberg. They had at least one daughter:

Minna Louise Riesenberg, married Grams.

Carl Braatz died most probably in his hometown, like his first wife. We don't have a confirmation for this, but it's very likely.

Henriette Auguste was already married and had some children when she emigrated to the U.S. The family went to Dodge County, WI. Her husband was August Karl Braatz, son of Ernst Braatz and Friederike Käding.

Another daughter of Carl, Mathilda, also went to Wisconsin, but to Waupaca County. There she married Carl Friedrich Roggow.

Another daughter of Carl, Amelia or Emilie, went to Waseca County, MN.

There she married Wilhelm Johann Ewert.

All three above sisters are children of Carl Braatz and his first wife Wilhelmine NN.

The half-siblings of the three above sisters, Louise and Emma Braatz, came to the US with their mother Auguste Krueger and they went to Waseca County, MN.

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3.) Waseca County connections

There is another Braatz family in Waseca County:

The neighbor of Amelia Braatz Ewert was a John Bratz

We know much about the parents of John Bratz and about his sblings. His parents were Johann Friedrich Braatz b. 1803 and Dorothea Sophie Lück. They came from Fürstenau (today Barnimie, Poland). His siblings were August Hermann Braatz and Henriette Braatz Lothert. Both emigrated also

to the U.S. and had family. August Hermann Braatz lived in Waseca County.

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4.) The Wilhelmine Braatz family

We found some documents about another branch of Braatzes that emigrated to the U.S. It's Wilhelmine Braatz married Flach. Wilhelmine Braatz Flach was born 1831 in Neuwedell and died in Milwaukee. We don't know her parents.

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5.) The Johanna Louise Braatz family

Johanna Louise Braatz was born in 1837 or 1842 (we have conflicting information about this) in Kratznick, Arnswalde Kreis. Her parents were Johann Friedrich Braatz b. 1800 approximately, and Johanna Louise Freitag. She also emigrated to the U.S.. After her marriage in Milwaukee with Johann August Teophilus Krause, the family ended up in Deuel ,SD. [Ed.: It's important to say, that there were probably two different individuals named Johann Friedrich Braatz, both born around 1800: One was married to Johanna Louise Freitag, one was married to Dorothea Sophie Lück. We have no confirmation, that they were two different individuals. Possibly, there was only one Johann Friedrich Braatz who had two different wives.]

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6.) The Kroll family

We also found written evidence that a Henriette Kroll, married Krebs who also emigrated to the U.S, was a sister of Dorothea Luise Kroll married Oehlke, who was the 3rd greatgrandmother of Timothy Buchholtz. The mother of Henriette Kroll Krebs and of Dorothea Kroll Oehlke Was Rosina Riedemann.

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B Hypotheses based on written evidence

There is also some written evidence that leads to certain hypotheses:

1.) Was Carl Braatz a brother of John Bratz from Waseca?

Due to a last will and testament of John Bratz, we assume that Carl Braatz could be a brother of John.

That's because in this testament John calls a girl named Martha Krage his brother's granddaughter. It's too much for now to go into details. But the fact that a John Bratz Was the neighbor of Amelia or Emilie Braatz Ewert, a

daughter of Carl Braatz, that went to Waseca County MN, far away from her sisters in Wisconsin, is remarkable.

2.) The Krueger family

Another neighbor of Amelia or Emilie Braatz Ewert was the Krueger family. The 2nd wife of Carl Braatz, Auguste Krueger, belonged to exactly this Krueger family. In the testament of Ferdinand (Fred) Krueger who died in 1877 in Waseca, he named Auguste Riesenber (formerly Braatz, nee Krueger) as one of his heirs at law. One hypothesis is, that Fred Krueger was a cousin or even brother of Auguste Krueger Braatz Riesenber. The fact that Auguste Krueger and her family went to Waseca is also important information in this case.

3.) Connecting Wilhelmine and Johanna Louise

There is some evidence, that Johanna Louise Braatz Krause (a daughter of one of the two individuals named Johann Friedrich Braatz b. around 1800) was the sister of Wilhelmine Braatz Flach:

-The marriage of Johanna Louise Braatz and Johann August Teophilus Krause took place in the house of Wilhelmine Braatz Flach in Milwaukee

-Johanna Louise Braatz was sponsor at the baptism of a child of Wilhelmine Braatz Flach in Milwaukee

-An emigration record of a girl named Emilie Ernestine Braatz says, that an older sister of her is living in the U.S. since several years, and that another sister will emigrate the same year and will join the older sister there.

We know, that the parents of Emilie Ernestine Braatz and Johanna Louise Braatz were the same: Johann Friedrich Braatz and Johanna Louise Freitag.

Since Johanna Louise Braatz emigrated in 1866 and the emigration record of Emilie Ernestine Braatz was also from 1866, and the fact that Wilhelmine Braatz Flach was much older than Johanna Louise and that Wilhelmine Braatz Flach lived already in Milwaukee since several years [Ed.: she immigrated to the U.S. via Quebec, Canada in 1863], this is good evidence for Wilhelmine Braatz Flach being a sister of Johanna Louise Braatz Krause.

C DNA evidence

1.) Was Carl Braatz my 3rd greatgrandfather?

Carl Braatz has hundreds, if not thousands of today living descendants. Some of them have taken a DNA test, and we have many, many DNA matches with these people. Also, my cousins Walter R. and Martin B. do match these people. That's important because they are like my father and I descendants of Friedrich Ferdinand Wilhelm Braatz and Auguste Zimmermann. So the connection must be through an ancestor of Friedrich F. W. Braatz.

It's also important to say, that there are DNA matches with descendants of all children of Carl Braatz, no matter if the mother was Carl's first or second wife.

Some of the matches are also quite large.

Because of the amount of shared DNA in some cases, the amount of matches, the fact that also my cousins Walter R. and Martin B. share these matches and that these matches are distributed over all children of Carl Braatz makes us confident, that Carl Braatz was the father of Friedrich Ferdinand Wilhelm Braatz, and therefore my 3rd greatgrandfather.

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2.) Was Johanna Louise Braatz Krause a sister of Wilhelmine Braatz Flach?

One of my DNA matches is Jeffrey Warren Herrmann. We share only 20 cM.

And indeed, Jeffrey Warren Herrmann and Walter R. do have some DNA matches with descendants of Johanna Louise Braatz Krause. Until now, the DNA matches do not make us confident that Johanna Louise Braatz Krause was a sibling of Wilhelmine Braatz Flach. They may have been half-siblings or 1st cousins.

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3.) Was the first wife of Carl Braatz Wilhelmine Kroll and was she my 3rd greatgrandmother?

Another DNA match of my father (not me) is Timothy Buchholtz. Jeff and I contacted him because he also has DNA matches with many descendants of Carl Braatz. We found out, that he only has DNA matches with descendants of Carl Braatz and his first wife Wilhelmine (maiden name unknown). We also found out, that he has DNA matches with descendants of Henriette Kroll married Krebs.

Interestingly, my cousin Walter R. also has DNA matches with these descendants of Henriette Kroll Krebs.

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4.) Was Wilhelmine Braatz Flach a sister of Carl Braatz?

My father and I have a DNA match with Jeffrey Warren Herrmann, and we also have DNA matches with some other descendants of Wilhelmine Braatz Flach [ed.: for example Erika P., Mary and Kathi K. and M. Caruso]. Additionally, Jeffrey has many DNA matches with other descendants of Carl Braatz, including Martin B. as well as with descendants of Carl Braatz' daughter Auguste Braatz.

But until now, we are not confident that Wilhelmine Braatz Flach was a sister of Carl Braatz. She may have been a half-sister or 1C. [ed.: If Wilhelmine was a sister of Johanna Louise Braatz, she is likely to be a sister or half sister of Carl Braatz, not a 1C. A descendant of Johanna Louise, Roger L. J. (d. 2023) was a fourth cousin and DNA match with Jeffrey Warren Herrmann, who is descended from Wilhelmine Braatz Flach].

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5.) Was John Bratz a brother of Carl Braatz?

This hypothesis that came up due to written evidence could not be confirmed. We have not found a single DNA match between descendants of Carl Braatz and descendants of John Bratz or his known siblings August Hermann Braatz or Henriette Braatz Lothert. We therefor think that these are two different Braatz lineages.

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Best regards

Julia Braatz