

CHAPTER THREE

The Family of Sylvestre SCHNEIDER and Maria-Eva BOUCHER

Jean SCHNEIDER
m. Marie SCHLACHTER
- Joseph SCHNEIDER
m. Marie-Elisabeth WENTZEL-GREINER
- Sylvestre SCHNEIDER
m. Marie-Eva BOUCHER
- Jean Michel SCHNEIDER, Sr.
m. Catherine BENJAMIN
- Jean Michel SCHNEIDER, Jr
m. Margaret GRIBLING
- Michael Mathias SCHNEIDER
m. Catherine MESSMER
- Michael Edward SCHNEIDER
m. Catherine A. BRUNN
- Urban Carl SCHNEIDER
m. Esther M. VOISARD
- Urban E. SCHNEIDER
m. Sylvia A. STEINKE

(Francois) Sylvestre SCHNEIDER and Maria-Eva BOUCHER

(Francois) Sylvestre SCHNEIDER b.6/20/1745 Arzwiller m.2/8/1774 Arzwiller d.bef. 1808 Arzwiller Maréchal-ferrand (Blacksmith) or Charron (wheelright)	Joseph CHABLE b.3/30/1771 Mittelbronn	Page A21
	Christine SCHNEIDER b.12/3/1774 Arzwiller d.11/18/1826 Montbronn	
	Gaspard ENGEL b.~1774 Guntzwiller	
	Marie-Anna SCHNEIDER b.1778 Arzwiller m.1/17/1803 Arzwiller	
	Michel SCHAEFFER b.~1780 Saarflitroff	
	Marie-Eva SCHNEIDER b.1779 m.9/20/1812	
	Jean Michel SCHNEIDER, Sr. b.9/18/1781 Arzwiller m.11/8/1808 Arzwiller d. in USA?? Farmer	
	Catherine BENJAMIN b.1/14/1787 Arzwiller d.1/16/1845 Arzwiller	
	Jacques Pierre CHABLE b.7/29/1784 Mittelbronn	
	Catherine SCHNEIDER b.~1787 Arzwiller m.2/19/1811 Arzwiller	
Marie-Eva BOUCHER b.1751	Page A6	



“BOUCHER” is a French or English occupational name for a butcher or slaughterer.

Sylvestre SCHNEIDER was born June 20, 1745 in Arzwiller, Moselle, Lorraine, France. He was the youngest of seven children born to Joseph SCHNEIDER and Marie-Elizabeth WENTZEL. Most sources did not include ‘Francois’ as his first name, so he probably used Sylvestre as his first name.

(Francois) Sylvestre SCHNEIDER and Marie-Eva BOUCHER were married on February 8, 1774 in Arzwiller, Moselle, Lorraine, France.

Marie-Eva BOUCHER was born in 1751, probably in Arzwiller, Moselle, Lorraine, France. She was the daughter of Frederic BOUCHER and Catherine (ISAAC) BOUCHER. Marie-Eva BOUCHER had at least one half-sister.

No records have been found yet concerning Marie-Eva (BOUCHER) SCHNEIDER’s death.

(Francois) Sylvestre SCHNEIDER’s occupation was a Maréchal-ferrand, which means blacksmith. He is also listed as a Charron, which means wheel-right (one who makes wheels) - which a blacksmith could do also.

(Francois) Sylvestre SCHNEIDER and Marie-Eva BOUCHER had five known children. Only one of whom is known to have immigrated to America.

Since records do not mention him at his son’s wedding (Jean Michel SCHNEIDER’s), it is likely to assume that (Francois) Sylvestre SCHNEIDER died sometime before 1808, probably in Arzwiller.

Maréchal-ferrand - Blacksmith

(Francois) Sylvestre SCHNEIDER was a blacksmith in Arzwiller. Below is a description of the blacksmith trade from the time of (Francois) Sylvestre SCHNEIDER. (Roughly translated with google translate).

“The children were always impressed by the huge leather bellows, which served to rekindle the coals and made a terrifying noise. The children went to the forge to carry tools that needed sharpening, and sometimes the plow. They were more or less afraid of this workshop; a little dark, glowing coals from the bellows, as the blacksmith kindled the activated charcoal.

You could see the blacksmith beating the iron threw sparks and sinking each of his vigorous strokes. There were no crowded frames in which the forge, but there were all kinds of agricultural tools. The boys loved to see this giant leather apron build new parts of plowshares, the moldboard, wagon hubs.

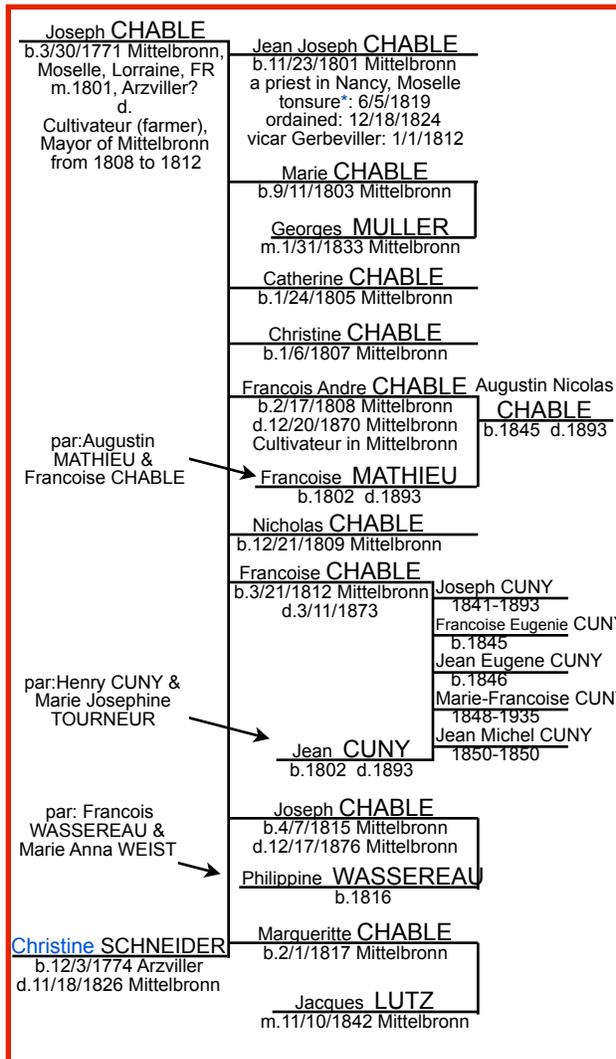
The elders remember WIEST Frantz, the last village blacksmith. He was still working at age 80. His studio was located on Church Street. The former house and studio were demolished and replaced with a nice house occupied by his daughter Jeanne GAERTNER, (born WIEST).

When it was very glowing, the blacksmith put his all red iron on the anvil and then he molded by striking it with his big hammer.

The boys were very attracted to this profession. Master of Fire, Iron Master, the blacksmith was never without work. At dawn, we heard the “chimes” from his hammer hitting the anvil, and we could see the hearth in the distance, topped by a hood and a huge bellows that kept it burning bluish.”

from: http://www.aparzwiller.org/apa_nt/arzwiller/forgeron.htm





Christine SCHNEIDER was born on December 3, 1774 in Arzwiller, Moselle, Lorraine, France. She was the oldest of five children born to (Francois) Sylvestre SCHNEIDER and Marie-Eva (BOUCHER) SCHNEIDER.

Christine SCHNEIDER married Joseph CHABEL in 1801, probably in Arzwiller or Mittelbronn, Moselle, Lorraine, France.

Joseph CHABEL was born in a nearby town of Mittlebronn, Moselle, Lorraine, France, on March 30, 1771. His parents were Francois CHABLE and Francoise (LELIN) CHABLE. Joseph's first cousin, Jacques Pierre CHABLE married Catherine SCCHNEIDER, the sister of Christine SCHNEIDER.

Joseph CHABEL was a farmer, he was also elected the Mayor of Mittlebronn from 1808 to 1812. Joseph CHABLE died on _____.

Christine (SCHNEIDER) CHABLE died on November 18, 1826 in Mittlebronn.

Joseph and Christine (SCHNEIDER) CHABLE had ten children from 1794 to 1817.

*What is meant by "tonsure"?

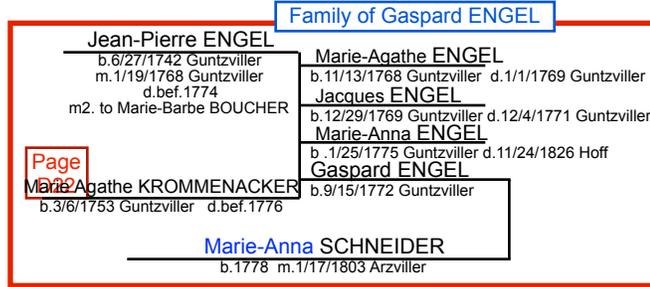
Tonsure is sacred rite instituted by the Roman Catholic Church (as well as other religions) by which a baptized and confirmed Christian is received into the clerical order by the shearing of his hair, leaving a narrow ring of short hair, sometimes called a "monastic crown"; and the investment with the surplice (a large-sleeved tunic of half-length, made of fine linen or cotton, and worn by all the clergy). The shaving of the hair in a tonsure was abolished in the Roman Catholic Church in 1973 by Pope Paul VI.



Jean Joseph CHABLE (above) and a cousin, Joseph CHABLE, entered into tonsure on June 5, 1819. Joseph was ordained in 1820, and Jean Joseph, in 1824.

Joseph CHABLE
b.6/6/1794 Mittelbronn
a priest in Hilbesheim
tonsure*: 6/5/1819
ordained: 9/23/1820 Metting
pastor at Hilbesheim 4/1/1830
d.2/4/1871





Marie Anna SCHNEIDER was born in 1778, probably in Arzviller, Moselle, Lorraine, France. She was the second of five children born to (Francois) Sylvestre SCHNEIDER and Marie-Eva (BOUCHER) SCHNEIDER.

Marie Anna SCHNEIDER married Gaspard ENGEL on January 17, 1803 in Arzviller, Moselle, Lorraine, France.

Gaspard ENGEL was born in the neighboring town of Guntzviller, Moselle, Lorraine, France, on September 15, 1772. He was the fourth, and youngest child of Jean-Pierre ENGEL and Marie Agathe (KROMMENACKER) ENGEL. Marie Agathe KROMMENACKER's great-grandfather was a founder of glassmaking in Guntzviller, and many of his family members became glassmakers. Gaspard ENGEL's mother died a few years after he was born, and his father married Marie-Barbe BOUCHER, a first cousin of Marie-Eva BOUCHER, on the previous page. Gaspard ENGEL had six half-siblings from his father's second marriage.

"ENGEL" is a German personal surname, referring to one named Engel. It could also refer to a Germanic god or folk hero, and Angel 'Angle'. The Angles were a Germanic tribe living on the Jutland peninsula; in the 5th–6th centuries they invaded eastern and northern Britain and gave their name to England (Old English Englandland 'land of the Angles').

No further records of Marie Anna SCHNEIDER and Gaspard ENGEL have been located yet, so it is unknown when they died, and if they had children.

An 1800 home in Arzviller

Arzviller is built on two rows of houses on both sides of the Teigelbach. These houses were almost all built in the same way throughout Lorraine, and did not allow for more than a small farm. The house is actually a house and barn together, and they shared the outer walls with the next family's house.

The house consisted of two parts: a housing generally a "stub", a "hinterstub" and "Kish" and on the floor two or three bedrooms. A large corridor separated the house from the barn. The farm outbuilding is a shed, a barn. Following the barn, there was still an area for breeding pigs and rabbits.

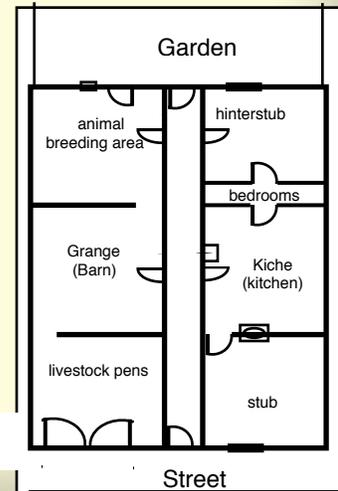
On the facade above the door of the barn, there was a small opening, it was the entrance to the barn. A small scale against the wall allowed the hens and roosters to return to their homes or to go down to scrape the manure to the house.

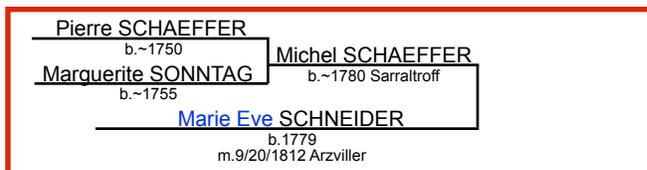


The manure had a place in front of each house. This place is still called the usoir and belongs to the municipality. For some, usoirs continued on the other side of the road. It filed the firewood "Holzplatz" and they built a "Schopf" to make farm equipment, mower and at least two carts, a "Britchewawe" and "Leiderwawe".

At the rear of each house there was a courtyard, a garden and an orchard.

Some farmers had two horses or oxen to carry the carts, but the largest number of cows they had to harness was two to four cows. The larger animals were watered each day at the village fountain. So cattle and horses were lead down the street daily to get water, more water was then carried back for other animals and household use.





“SCHAEFFER” is a German occupational surname meaning ‘steward’. or ‘bailiff’. It is from the Middle High German word ‘schaffen’, which means ‘to manage’.

Marie Eve SCHNEIDER was born in 1779, probably in Arzviller, Moselle, Lorraine, France. She was the third of five children born to (Francois) Sylvestre SCHNEIDER and Marie-Eva (BOUCHER) SCHNEIDER.

Marie Eve SCHNEIDER married Michel SCHAEFFER on September 20, 1812 in Arzviller, Moselle, Lorraine, France.

Michel SCHAEFFER was born about 1780, in the town of Sarraltroff, Moselle, Lorraine, France. He was the son of Pierre SCHAEFFER and Marguerite (SONNTAG) SCHAFFER.

No further records have been found yet on this family.

Farming in Arzviller http://www.aparzviller.org/apa_nt/arzviller/agriculture_maison.htm

In the spring, we had to get out and scatter the manure, then plow the fields and sowing oats, barley and summer wheat. In late April, they planted potatoes and fodder beets. There was the whole family that attended. Children carried the bundles of seedlings for parents to plant. They used a simple planter, this work took a long time and was tiring.

On returning, he had to feed livestock, make hay, sliced beets in a manual grinder first and then the electric motor. We had to take the animals to the public water fountain. This is still in the village. Then came the hard work. Initially, it was done by hand, much later, came the electric milking machines. The milk from the udder of cows was poured into large containers from 10 to 15 liters. These cans were placed in small carts and delivered to the dairy, located across from the dentist. Once the milk was measured and poured into a separator that separated cream from the whey. The cream was left at the dairy and each member, there were 98, brought the whey home. It was a feast for pigs. ...

Before the existence of the dairy, people made their butter themselves, skimming the milk, then stirring the cream in a churn to make butter. Some of the largest farmers even made cheese at home. Milking was repeated morning and evening. The pigs squealed often with hunger. Their meal consisted of potatoes, cracked wheat and whey.

In May, the cattle would graze in parks or in other pastures... We went there on foot. We walked a lot in the past. Fortunately, there was a shoemaker in the village. In early June, it was weeding and hoeing potatoes and beets.

Mid-June, began the haying. It was hard work. We had to cut the grass, fade, piling the dry grass and load the "Britchwawe". Hay was brought home and loaded in the loft. All this was done also by hand with a wooden rake and a pitchfork...

In early August came the harvest. There was no combine harvester. It was done by force of arms with the scythe or a mechanical mower pulled by cows. Part of the family was busy mowing and others gathered armfuls of wheat and placed it on the twine held by the children. Then the wheat was being grouped in 7 sheaves to form piles. After a drying time, the bundles were taken home. Some farmers went immediately to the thresher under the canopy at Miss Anne Muller. There was a lot of entertainment night and day, even a few fights because we had to follow the queue...

End of August brought the harvesting of potatoes every night. With renewed energy we uprooted the potatoes. It was at least eight days of work. ... Followed by the uprooting of sugar beets. Like potatoes, they were kept in the cellar. We had to remove the tops of beets by hand and throw them on the cart. Next, they were loaded into the cellar. Often, it was cold because it was already October. Then followed the planting, rye, barley and winter wheat and plowing more land for a new preparation in the spring.

In the late 1950s, there were huge changes. The tractor replaced the cows and horses. The carts had road tires. Milking was done by electric milking machine. Electric power took the place of the children. Many houses have been transformed. The garage replaced the barn, the car the manure pile. Everything is ultra sophisticated. There remain only a few farmers, but small-scale agriculture has indeed disappeared.



<p>Page A6 A21</p>	<p>Jean Michel SCHNEIDER, Sr. b.9/18/1781 Arzviller m.11/8/1808 Arzviller farmer</p>	<p>1. Jean Michel SCHNEIDER, Jr 2. Johann Michael SCHNEIDER 3. Maria Eva SCHNEIDER 4. Franziska SCHNEIDER 5. Catharine SCHNEIDER 6. Maria Anna SCHNEIDER 7. Johann Joseph Silvester SCHNEIDER 8. Nicholas SCHNEIDER</p>
<p>Page A6 A23</p>	<p>Catherine BENJAMIN b.1/14/1787 Arzviller d.1/16/1845 Arzviller</p>	

Those names, at right, in green print were members of this family who emigrated from France in 1848. With them were Jean Michel SCHNEIDER, Jr.'s wife and two year old son.

"BENJAMIN" was the youngest and favorite son of Jacob and supposed progenitor of one of the twelve tribes of Israel (Genesis 35:16–18; 42:4). It is rare as an English and French surname; the personal name was not common among Gentiles in the Middle Ages, but its use was sanctioned by virtue of having been borne by a saint martyred in Persia in about ad 424.

Jean Michel SCHNEIDER, Sr. was born September 18, 1781 in Arzviller, Moselle, Lorraine, France. He was the fourth of five children born to Sylvester SCHNEIDER and Marie-Eva (BOUCHER) SCHNEIDER.

Jean Michel SCHNEIDER, Sr. and Catherine BENJAMIN were married on November 8, 1808 in Arzviller, Moselle, Lorraine, France.

Catherine BENJAMIN was born January 14, 1787 in Arzviller, Moselle, Lorraine, France. She was the daughter of Michel BENJAMIN and Catherine REHEITZ (possibly REHEIS or REHER). Catherine BENJAMIN had at least one brother, who was about three years older than her.

Catherine BENJAMIN died on January 16, 1845 in Arzviller, Moselle, Lorraine, France.

Jean Michel SCHNEIDER, Sr. immigrated to America a few years after his wife's death, in 1848. Immigrating with him were his three adult sons, Jean Michel Jr., Silvester, and Nicholas, a daughter-in-law Margaret (GRIBLING) SCHNEIDER, and his only grandson, Michael M. SCHNEIDER, who was just two years old.

Jean Michel SCHNEIDER, Sr. and Catherine BENJAMIN had one living daughter named Franziska SCHNEIDER, who married Joseph Ambroise GARTISER in Arzviller, France in 1840. I have found records on his parents and grandparents, but no other records on Franziska or her husband, in either France or America.

Jean Michel SCHNEIDER, Sr. travelled with his family to the area near Fryburg, Ohio, and became established as farmers there. Jean Michel SCHNEIDER, Sr. and Catherine (BENJAMIN) SCHNEIDER had eight children, four of whom died young.

No records have been found yet on Jean Michel SCHNEIDER, Sr's. death, but he probably died near Fryburg, Ohio before 1850.

More information on this family is in the next Chapter:

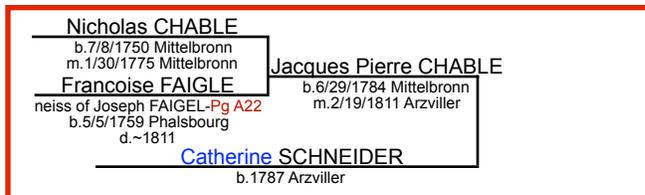
["Jean Michel SCHNEIDER, Sr. and Catherine BENJAMIN"](#).

Farming in Arzviller

Each farmer raised two, three, seven cows, perhaps twenty on the biggest farms. Others raised goats. The men had a dual activity. Most worked in the quarries of sandstone and also an agricultural activity. Others were loggers and had their small farm.

With the closure of the quarries, everything changed. The passage of the railway line Paris-Strasbourg and the construction of the station brought new jobs. Now it was station agent and they worked in glass and crystal at Sarrebourg. But everyone kept their operations inherited from the parents.

But who cared for animals and other farm work during the day? Well, it was the women. The women had no jobs, like today. They were at home to take care of the household, children, and farm work. They were helped by grandparents living with them or by children. At the time, the children helped with many small jobs.



for information on CHABLE relatives,
go to this link:
[http://gw0.geneanet.org/index.php3?
b=devbern&lang=en&m=N&v=CHABLE](http://gw0.geneanet.org/index.php3?b=devbern&lang=en&m=N&v=CHABLE)

Catherine SCHNEIDER was born in 1787, in Arzviller, Moselle, Lorraine, France. She was the last of five children born to (Francois) Sylvestre SCHNEIDER and Marie-Eva (BOUCHER) SCHNEIDER.

Catherine SCHNEIDER married Jacques Pierre CHABLE on February 19, 1811 in Arzviller, Moselle, Lorraine, France.

Jacques Pierre CHABLE was born on June 29, 1784, in the town of Mittelbronn, Moselle, Lorraine, France. He was the third of four children born to Nicholas CHABLE and Francoise (FAIGLE) CHABLE.

Jacques Pierre CHABLE was a first cousin of Joseph CHABLE, who married Catherine (SCHNEIDER) CHABLE's sister, Christine SCHNEIDER.

No further records have been found yet on this family.

The Carpenter http://www.aparzviller.org/apa_nt/arzviller/schnaps.htm

Some of our ancestors also worked as carpenters. Here is information on what it took to be a carpenter in the 1800's in France:

"In the past, it took three years of training to be a carpenter. The apprentice thus became a skilled worker. In most cases, he set out across the roads of France, as a companion to gain additional expertise and become more diverse among different masters. Only after his military service he decided to move to his own account, in a village, as a boss. He did not take long to find work. His reputation was done by word of mouth.

He practiced his art both in the manufacture of furniture (wardrobes, tables, chairs, benches, stools, beds, shelves, ...), and in the manufacture of doors, windows, floors, stairs, shutters, coffins ...

The difficulty was to find good quality wood, with little knots (oak, fir, beech, cherry, walnut) that were selected in the forest. They were then marked and felled in winter, the branches used for firewood, logs were stored for several years around the shop before being sawn into boards by the sawyers and sawmills. Their thickness varied from ten to twenty centimeters, they were dried at a rate of one centimeter per year. Later appeared the dryer where they burned wood chips and sawdust. ... If the carpenter was lucky, he could sometimes buy a walnut, but it was rare. This tree was also coveted by the cruet because nuts were used in the manufacture of oil making it difficult to find trees to cut. The preparation of this tree require special care: it had to dig as deeply as possible to avoid damaging the roots in order to get the ball to drown popular. Large branches were used in the manufacture of shoes.

Sometimes he had to create a "new piece of furniture of the past": it was to transform an old piece of furniture or copy while still respecting the spirit of its author.

The manufacture of furniture passed through different stages and at this level that distinguished between the cabinet maker and the carpenter: the first used mainly veneer and glue, while the second, working solid wood, had more use of mortises, tenons and pegs to assemble the different parts of his work."



