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Photograph of the 6 Zeisset immigrants probably taken around the time of Henry Zeisset's wedding. Seated left to right: Lizzie Weller, Bertha Nanninga, Louise Swart Back row: Jake Zeisset, Bettie Hoerman, Henry Zeisset

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The Zeisset family tree begins with the earliest documented ancestor, Abraham Zeisset. This presentation focuses on the more recent ancestors.

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The Zeisset family lived at Menzingen from 1825 through March of 1851 and is thought to have possibly lived in this building. They managed the Menzingen estate. Jakob Friedrich Zeisset, the father of our 6 immigrant ancestors, was born here in 1837.

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The Zeisset family moved to Sindolsheim in 1851 and lived here for 10 years. They lived in part of the building pictured here. Jakob Friedrich Zeisset's father, Johannes died while the family was living here.

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Jakob Friedrich Zeisset married Margaretha Müller in Adelsheim in 1864. Jakob Friedrich Zeisset was living in Sindolsheim at the time, but the newlyweds and at least part of the other Zeisset family moved immediately to Kreuzfeld.

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Zeisset locations in Germany of importance include the Rauhof where the Zeissets were first known to have settled in Germany. From Rauhof they moved to Lautenbach. From Lautenbach the Zeisset family moved to Menzingen, then to Sindolsheim. Jakob Friedrich Zeisset was married in Adelsheim and then the Zeissets moved to Kreuzfeld where the six immigrant Zeissets were born. Jakob Friedrich's brothers Isaak and Daniel moved to Eichenau. Dammhof is also shown as the location where the Baer family lived. Matthäus Baer married Jakob Friedrich's aunt Magdalena Zeisset.

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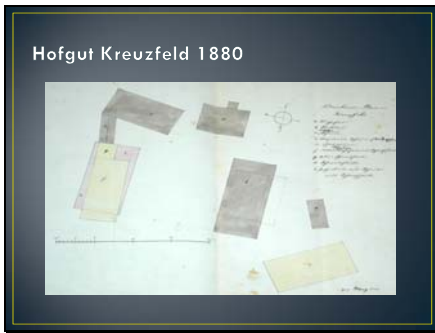
When the family moved to Kreuzfeld, Jakob Friedrich was the primary tenant of the farm. He was listed with his mother as well. Initially the entire family probably moved there, including Jakob Friedrich's brothers Isaak, Daniel and probably Johannes, and his sister Magdalena. Isaak, with his family, and Daniel Zeisset soon moved to another estate at Eichenau. Daniel died at Eichenau and the Isaak Zeisset family moved to Darstadt, not far from Würzburg. Johannes moved at some time to another estate at Erlach and then near Feuchtwangen.

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This diagram from the records of the estate, located in the archives at Neuenstein, shows the buildings on the farm. The original house is designated by the letter "a", and is shown in yellow. The house was added on to and is shown in pink and designated as the letter "f". The narrow yellow section, "c" is a building for colts. In front of this structure is a well. The gray building, designated with "b" is a barn for calves. The small gray structure designated with "d" was a pig stall. The pink building designated with the letters "a" and "g" shows a newly constructed stall which was the former location of a house. The "h" in the dotted lines shows the manure pile. The small gray building on the right "e" is a woodshed. The "b" is another barn.

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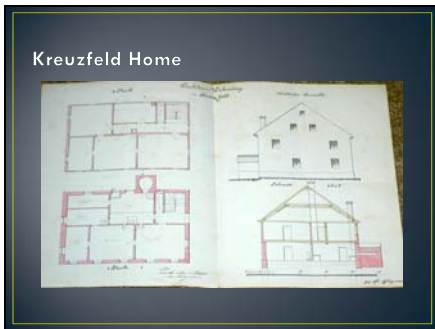
This diagram shows the estate at Kreuzfeld a year prior to Margaretha Zeisset's death. A new house had been constructed "a" and this is where the Jakob Friedrich Zeisset family lived. The stall is at "b", "c" is a calf barn, "d" in yellow at the south end of the Hof shows the location of a barn which had burned. The woodshed remains "e" and the old home "f" in yellow has become a sheep stall. The "g" shows the old horse stall, while "h" is now a pig stall. The last letter "i" shows a projected barn with a sheep stall.

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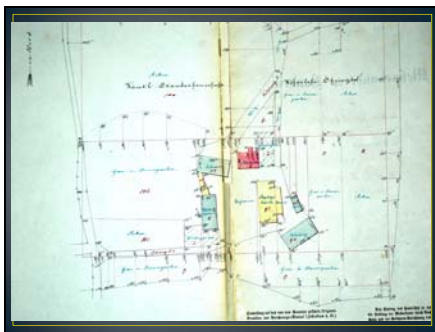
This is the current house at Hofgut Kreuzfeld. We believe that this is the same house which was present at the time our Zeisset family lived there. The records at the Neuenstein archive do not show any further construction of a home after this house was built. Residents of the house on the other hand have voiced their opinion that this house is not as old as our contention.

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From records at the Neuenstein archive, the floor plan is laid out as above. There were some alterations made on the lower level when the house was constructed. Interestingly, the diagram also shows the oven on the north side of the house which is the pink box.

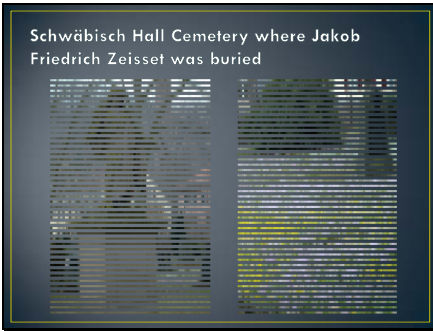
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This is a map of the Hofgut, showing the fields, gardens and orchards and the lay out of the buildings.

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For regular attendants of the Zeisset reunions, the story of Jakob Friedrich Zeisset's bankruptcy, 7 week sentence to prison for fraud where he died from typhus in 1884 at Schwäbisch Hall. This photograph shows the cemetery in which he was buried.

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This is a photograph from 1925 showing the cemetery in which Jakob Friedrich Zeisset was buried.

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This shows the years of the Zeisset migrations to the United States

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This is a photograph of the Hofgut Kreuzfeld which is taken from the northeast aspect of the estate.

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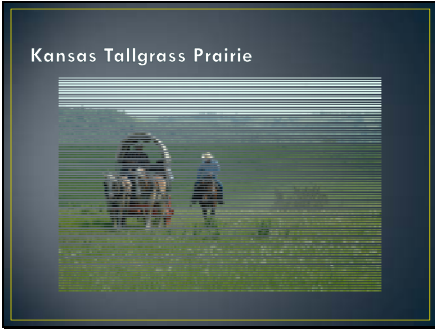
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After their father's death in 1884, the two youngest children, Bettie and Henry, moved to Niedersteinach. When the Zeisset Family history tour took place in 2006, the group received a warm welcome from the residents of Niedersteinach. This slide also symbolizes the "good-bye to Germany" by the Zeisset immigrants over the years 1883-1893.

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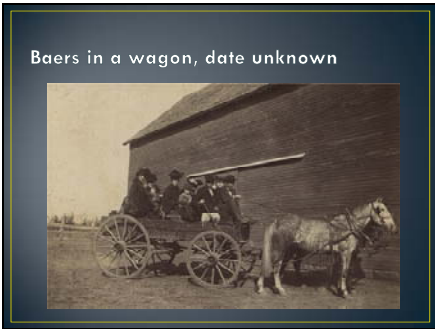
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Though we don't believe that our immigrant ancestors rode in a covered wagon, this photograph from the Symphony in the Flint Hills gives a view of a method of travel that was used when immigrants or migrants from the east traveled across the prairie. Our Zeisset ancestors took a train from New York City, probably through Chicago and Leavenworth to arrive in Leonardville as far as we know. Louise, the first to emigrate in 1883, stayed in Pennsylvania to work before coming to Kansas in about 1886.

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Bertha and Bettie came to Leonardville in the summer of 1885 and we're told that they were met by the Baer family. This is a photograph of unknown Baer members in a wagon from a later date. It is likely that the Baer party met the two newly arrived German girls in a wagon similar to this at the Leonardville train station.

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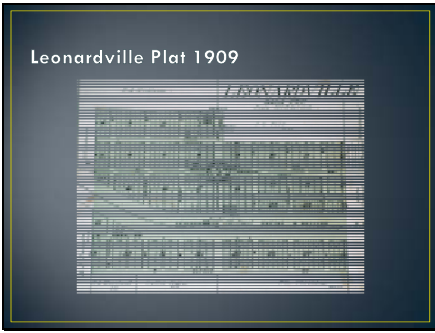
This is a view of Leonardville, reportedly from 1886. It is taken from the aspect of the railroad station at the south end of main street looking north. The water tower can be seen at the horizon in the center of the street.

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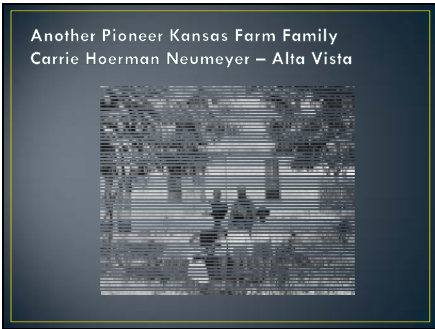
This is a later photograph from 1910 showing the northwest corner of the main street, Erpelding, and highway 24. Of course, highway 24 wasn't paved until 1935 and was previously known as US 40 N. The large limestone building in the photograph was the newly constructed Sikes general store which now houses Nelson's Landing, a restaurant. By 1910, all of the Zeisset immigrants had married and were living in the area except for Louise who married John Swart and moved to Nemaha County, Kansas.

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This shows the lay out of Leonardville from the 1909 Riley County Plat book. The railroad is noted with the depot in the center just east of Erpelding, the main street. The German Evangelical church is shown on the southwest corner of block 11 on the north side of the highway.

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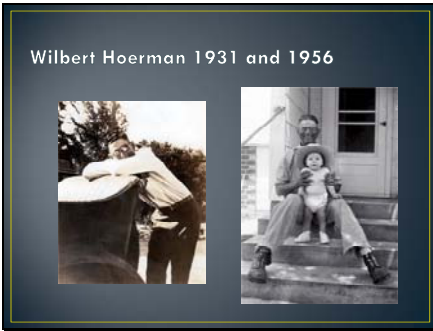
This is a photograph of an unrelated family from the late 1890s. The woman in the picture is Carrie Hoerman Neumeyer who became Bettie Zeisset's sister-in-law. The picture is here to indicate a typical immigrant farm family, the attire and the small home in which many people lived, similar to Bertha and Juergen Nanninga.

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Bettie Zeisset lived with the Peter Baer family north of Leonardville. She studied dressmaking with Mrs. Stadel and in this 1891 photo is perhaps modeling one of her creations. A later photo shows Bettie in 1944.

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One of Bettie Zeisset's sons was Wilbert Hoerman shown here in 1931 and in 1956 after the birth of his son.

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In 2006, thirty-one Zeisset descendants and families traveled to Germany to visit the locations pertinent to their heritage. Here they are gathered in at the prison yard where Jakob Friedrich Zeisset died in 1884. The prison by this time in 2006 had been vacated. The original structure was preserved and renovated. A shopping complex, garage and upscale housing now has been constructed in the location shown here.

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This shows an aircraft constructed by a Topeka anesthesiologist who is flying the plane. Loretta Hoerman's husband Hugh is the passenger.
So long until the next reunion!