

# RP: Johannes Zittel Death Date & Place

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Research Plan compiled by Erin Klein  
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 erin@myfamilyhistoryfiles.com

## Research Plan for Johannes Zittel - Death Date & Place

Another researcher pointed out to me that the FindaGrave.com memorial #46989402 that I had attached to John / Johann Zittel b: about 1780 and d: 8 Oct 1847 as a source for his date of death was currently a memorial for John Zittel b: 8 Sep 1842 and d: 8 Oct 1847. This 5-year-old John Zittel is attached to Peter Johann Zittel and Anna M. Oatman (Mary Anna Ottman) as their son.

Current Facts Known	Detail	Primary / Secondary	Direct / Indirect / Negative	Record
<p>Previously, FindaGrave.com memorial #4746989402 listed a birthdate as "unknown" and a death date for a John Zittel.</p> <p>[I believe the memorial was previously maintained by someone other than the current contributors.]</p>	<p>✓ Although difficult to read, the headstone looks be for a "John Zittel." The headstone is located in St. John's Cemetery in Sheldon, Wyoming, New York. Several other Zittel headstones can be found there. This was a likely choice for the headstone for John / Johann Zittel based on name and location.</p>	<p>From the picture, the headstone is sorely degraded and the dates cannot be read clearly. The birth date "unknown" and death date 8 Oct 1847 from the FAG memorial is secondary information since the dates cannot be read from the headstone itself. A FindaGrave.com memorial does not always note where the dates for the memorials are obtained if not clearly shown on the headstone or if no headstone is pictured. If there is no headstone or the dates are unclear, an obituary or death certificate is sometimes pictured but none would be available for this timeframe in New York state.</p>	<p>Because the stone is unreadable, the evidence is indirect and would need other sources to corroborate it.</p>	<p><b>Doc 1:</b>  <u>Screenshot of FindaGrave.com memorial originally attributed to Johann Zittel b: about 1780, d: 8 Oct 1847. Screenshot taken 6 April 2019.</u>  <a href="https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/46989402">https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/46989402</a></p>
<p>Current FindaGrave.com memorial #46989402 lists both a birthdate and death date for the headstone for 5-year-old John Zittel. It also lists his parents as Peter Zittel and Anna M. Oatman (Mary Anna Ottman)</p>	<p>⊙ Memorial #46989402                  John Zittel                  birth: 8 Sep 1842                  death: 8 Oct 1847                  burial: St John's Cemetery, Sheldon, Wyoming, New York, United States                  Links to parents' and siblings' memorials</p>	<p>Secondary information as stone is unreadable. Also no direct source is listed. The information could be from church record or later surveys done of the cemetery as noted on their website.</p>	<p>Again, because the stone is unreadable, the evidence is indirect and would need other sources to corroborate it.</p>	<p><b>Doc 2:</b>  <u>Screenshot of current FindaGrave.com memorial. Birth date has been added. Lists parents as Peter Johann Zittel and Anna M Oatman (Mary Anna Ottman).</u>  <a href="https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/46989402">https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/46989402</a></p>
<p>The photographers of the headstone, Jim and Elizabeth Love, have a page on their website dedicated to the photos they have taken of St. John's Cemetery in Sheldon, Wyoming, New York.</p>	<p>⊙ ZITTEL                  John                  Son of Peter &amp; Anna M. Zittel                  died Oct 8, 1947                  5y 1m</p> <p>(Birth date for FAG memorial is probably estimated from the tombstone.)</p>	<p>Secondary information as stone is unreadable. Also no direct source is listed. The information could be from church record or later surveys done of the cemetery as noted on their website.</p>	<p><b>Doc 3: Photo of tombstone taken by Jim and Elizabeth Love. Permission granted for non-commercial use at their FAG page:</b>  <a href="https://www.findagrave.com/user/profile/47230507">https://www.findagrave.com/user/profile/47230507</a>                  Jim and Elizabeth have pulled information from other sources and researchers for the names and dates they have associated with the photographs listed on their webpage for the cemetery. But again, the evidence suggested from this source is secondary and indirect because no easily verifiable source is noted.</p>	<p><b>Doc 4: Screenshot from the Dutch Hollow cemetery webpage of Jim and Elizabeth Love.</b>  <a href="http://www.possumjimandelizabeth.com/xhtml/gene_ny_dutch_hollow.html">http://www.possumjimandelizabeth.com/xhtml/gene_ny_dutch_hollow.html</a></p>

### Research Question

★ If the memorial at FindaGrave.com is for the younger John Zittel, when and where did the elder John / Johann Zittel die?

## ❖ Clues

### ▶ Working Hypothesis

- ❖ A death certificate will not be available. Death records were not kept during this time in New York state.
- ❖ Given the length of time that has passed and judging by the condition of the headstone that now appears to be for the son of Peter Zittel and Mary Ann Oatman, it is possible that a headstone for John / Johan Zittel no longer exists. Church records might confirm that he was buried in the church cemetery where other family members are buried.
- ❖ Previously, another researcher of the Sheldon, New York Zittel line who was looking for possible death information from the church records where the cemetery is located called the church office. The researcher was searching for death information about Jacob Zittel [John / Johann's youngest son] and was given a negative response by the church representative who answered the call. It was stated, "The records are written in old German and no one can read them."
- ❖ Although it may be possible to find someone who has access to the church records and can read them to provide a death date, with the current 2020 coronavirus quarantine that has churches closed down, it appears that church records are unavailable for the time being. It is not known for how long access to them will be unavailable. Other avenues will need to be searched in the meantime.
- ❖ Several members of the Zittel family line arrived in the U.S. in 1833. Directly below the family of Michel Hausauer and Margareth Zittel on the 1833 ship's passenger list is Margaret Motz, age 58. If this is Margareth Hausauer's mother, where is her father, John / Johann Zittel, at this time? **Doc 5: Ship Charles Carroll passenger list from Havre to New York, arrival 25 April 1833.**
- ❖ The 1840 US Census for Sheldon, New York [images 5 & 7] lists the families of Peter Zittel, Jacob Zittel and Michael Hausauer (Margareth Zittel's husband) and Frederick Zittel all living within close proximity to one another. There is no John / Johann Zittel listed nearby. By 1840 he could have passed away which would still make the above FAG memorial not his. **Doc 6 & 7: 1840 US Census, Sheldon, Genesee, New York.** (Note that Sheldon was in Genesee County until Wyoming Count was formed from a portion of it in 1841.)
- ❖ I have looked at land and court records for other members of the family. There are no land or other court records for a John / Johann Zittel among the indexes that I can recall but I will double check them.
- ▶ The evidence stated above [ship's manifest, census, court records] suggest to me that perhaps John / Johann Zittel did not die in Sheldon, Wyoming, New York but in Cleebourg, Bas-Rhin, France before the other family members emigrated.

## Tasks / Places to Look

- Check to whole of the 1840 US Census for Sheldon, New York to see if there is a John / Johann Zittel listed.  
Done: No John Zittel or any other Zittels listed except those noted above.
- Use the search at FamilySearch.com to look for Zittel families in passenger lists.  
No Zittels on passenger lists. (Note to myself about passenger list and misspelled names to be completed in another Research Plan to be prepared and copied to Peter, Jacob & Frederick Zittel; Michael Hausauer & Margaretha Zittel; Catherine Margaretha Motz and Mary Anna Ottman. Information is in RQ NB: 01Zittel: Inbox.)
- Use the decennial tables at Bas-Rhin Archives to look for possible death date for John / Johann in Cleebourg.  
Found death record for Johann Zittel, wife of Catherine Margaretha Motz. Confirmed this is the correct man by looking at marriage record to confirm wife and parents' names. Date for marriage record was found at FamilySearch.org once I had the parents' names.

New Facts Uncovered	Detail	Primary / Secondary	Direct / Indirect / Negative	Record
John / Johann Zittel is Johannes Zittel in Cleebourg records. He died on 5 Jan 1819 in Cleebourg, Bas-Rhin, Alsace, France. He was born about 1777.	Deceased: Jean Zittel (Johannes Zittel), age 42, teacher, living in Cleebourg. Father: Pierre (Peter) Zittel, farmer living in Cleebourg. Mother: Rosina Hauck.	Primary	Direct	<b><u>Doc 8: 1819 Cleebourg, Bas-Rhin, France Death Register</u></b>
Confirm Johannes Zittel's parents are Peter Zittel and Rosina Hauck through marriage record. Was able to connect to profile at FamilySearch.org where marriage date is listed as 7 Aug 1798.	7 August 1798 is 20 (vingt) Thermidor an VI according to Republican Calendar converter at <a href="https://www.napoleon.org/en/history-of-the-two-empires/the-republican-calendar/">https://www.napoleon.org/en/history-of-the-two-empires/the-republican-calendar/</a>  Cleebourg record for marriage of Johannes Zittel to Catherina Margaretha Motz lists his parents as: ✓ Peter Zittel and Rosina Hauck. Margaretha's parents are Peter Motz and Magdalena Haas.	Primary	Direct	Doc 9: Year VI Cleebourg, Bas-Rhin, France Marriage Register (Note that during this time the French Republican Calendar was in use.)

## Resolution or Concluding Statement

- ❖ Johannes Zittel, son of Peter Zittel and Rosina Hauck, died on 5 January 1819 in Cleebourg, Bas-Rhin, Alsace, France. This was before his wife, Margaretha Motz and four of his children, Peter, Frederick, Jacob and Margaretha emigrated in 1833 from Cleebourg to settle in Sheldon, Wyoming, New York.

**Doc 1: Screenshot of FindaGrave.com memorial originally attributed to Johann Zittel b: about 1780, d: 8 Oct 1847. Screenshot taken 6 April 2019.**



**John Zittel**


BIRTH unknown  
 DEATH 8 Oct 1847  
 BURIAL [Saint Johns Cemetery](#)  
 Sheldon, Wyoming County, New York, USA  
 MEMORIAL ID 46989402 · [View Source](#)

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MEMORIAL PHOTOS 1 FLOWERS 0

Photo added by Jim and Elizabeth

**Doc 2: Screenshot of current FindaGrave.com memorial. Birth date has been added. Lists parents as Peter Johann Zittel and Anna M Oatman (Mary Anna Ottman).** Find a Grave, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 01 May 2020), memorial page for John Zittel (8 Sep 1842–8 Oct 1847), Find a Grave Memorial no. [46989402](#), citing Saint John's Cemetery, Sheldon, Wyoming County, New York, USA ; Maintained by Jim and Elizabeth (contributor [47230507](#)).



**John Zittel**

BIRTH 8 Sep 1842  
 Sheldon, Wyoming County, New York, USA  
 DEATH 8 Oct 1847 (aged 5)  
 BURIAL [Saint John's Cemetery](#)  
 Sheldon, Wyoming County, New York, USA [Add to Map](#)  
 MEMORIAL ID 46989402 · [View Source](#)

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MEMORIAL PHOTOS 1 FLOWERS 0

Photo added by Jim and Elizabeth

**Doc 1: Photo of tombstone taken by Jim and Elizabeth Love. Permission granted for non-commercial use at their FAG page:** <https://www.findagrave.com/user/profile/47230507>



**Doc 4: Screenshot from the Dutch Hollow cemetery webpage of Jim and Elizabeth Love:**

[http://www.possumjimandelizabeth.com/xhtml/gene\\_ny\\_dutch\\_hollow.html](http://www.possumjimandelizabeth.com/xhtml/gene_ny_dutch_hollow.html)

Row 15



ZITTEL

John  
son Peter & Anna M. Zittel  
died Oct. 8, 1847  
5y 1m

son of Peter Zittel and Anna Mary Oatman;  
supposed to be oldest stone in cemetery

**Doc 5: Ship Charles Carroll passenger list from Havre to New York, arrival 25 April 1833:**

"New York Passenger Lists, 1820-1891," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:939V-PQTQ-7?cc=1849782&wc=MX62-JZ9%3A165725301> : 7 January 2015), 019 - 13 Apr 1833-21 Jun 1833 > image 129 of 748; citing NARA microfilm publication M237 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d.). > Ship Charles Carroll passenger list > page 2 > Margaret Motts, age 58.

Miletot Koushou	29	Male	Farmer
Maryann Koushou	30	Female	none
Johann Koushou	9	Male	none
Maryann Koushou	7	Female	none
Fred Koushou	3	Male	none
Margaret Motts	58	Female	none

**Doc 6 & 7: 1840 US Census, Sheldon, Genesee, New York:** (Note that Sheldon was in Genesee County until Wyoming Count was formed from a portion of it in 1841.)

"United States Census, 1840," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33SQ-GYBS-SW8V?cc=1786457&wc=31SK-GB4%3A1588666984%2C1588667177%2C1588668574> : 24 August 2015), New York > Genesee > Sheldon > image 5 of 28; citing NARA microfilm publication M704, (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d.). > Entries for Peter Zittel, Jacob Zittel and Michael Hausauer.



