

SIXTEEN



FREDRICK REBER & ANNA MARIA LANZ

The Reber family lived in a valley at the base of the Alps in a town called Shangnau, Canton Bern, Switzerland for eight generations of which we have record and perhaps for many more. Most of them were tradesmen and farmers who tended their fields carefully with the primitive tools then in use. Our immediate ancestor, Christian Reber, born in 1800, had a large family but we will be concerned here only with the three who joined the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormon) and came to Utah. These were Johannes, Samuel and Fredrick.

In 1859, the first Mormon Elders, Jabez Woodward and a companion, arrived in that part of Switzerland preaching of a new Gospel, which had been restored in far away America. A gospel, which had all the gifts and blessings, which had attended Jesus and his apostles in olden times. Among the first converts were Johannes and his wife Barbara Stucki Reber and the circumstances attending the baptism were so very unusual that they had a profound effect upon all the people who knew him.



Fredrick Reber

Although he was still a young man, being only thirty years old, Johannes had become afflicted with a type of rheumatism or arthritis, which attacked the upper part of his spine until it became misshapen and twisted. As the disease progressed, a large hump appeared on his shoulder, his body bent, and his hands became gnarled and stiff. In the midst of his suffering, he often prayed for God's help that he might be cured of this painful disease.

One night he dreamed that he saw a clear stream of water falling from a cliff. He was so thirsty and the water looked so inviting that he thought in his dream that if he could only drink of that stream, all his suffering would be over. Then it seemed that the stream moved toward him and he drank and was satisfied. So when he heard of the Elders in that neighborhood, he had two reasons for wanting to hear them.

Both John S. Stucki and his sister Mary Ann Stucki Hafen tell the story of

what followed and tell it in much the same way. The following is taken from John S. Stucki's story:



Fredrick Reber

"My father's sister Barbara had married a young man by the name of John Reber who afterwards became afflicted with rheumatism. My parents used to send me to their place from time to time... thus I had a chance to see Mr. Reber. I saw he was getting crippled hands and his back was pushed up into a high lump. It seemed to me the hump on his back was higher than his head and he could scarcely go from the bed to the table. This he managed to do with the aid of two short sticks and then he would groan out loud. Soon after the seventh doctor had given him up, my parents sent me there again on an errand. Then it was my aunt said they had sold everything they had, even their last cow, to pay doctor bills."

Not long after that an old school friend of Reber's came from another town to visit him. He told Mr. Reber that a man had passed through his town who claimed that the true Gospel had been revealed from Heaven and that same power and authority had been bestowed...as in the days of the Apostles of the olden times. The Elder was just such a man of God as their mother had told them they would live to see so it did not take them long to believe and become converted.

"The Elder set the time when they could be baptized which happened to be a very cold, clear December night. They had to take axes with them to chop through the thick ice."

"They first gathered at Reber's place where the Elder talked to them for a while. They had about a mile and a half to go from Reber's house to where the water was deep enough to be immersed in, so my father and his brother each took turns

carrying Mr. Reber until they had reached the place of baptism. After my parents and all the others were baptized, the Elder also baptized the crippled-up Mr. Reber in that icy water. He laid hands on him quickly and blessed him for the restoration of his health. Father and his brother took hold under his shoulders again to help him home, but Mr. Reber said he believed that he could walk home without help and would not need their help any more. He then threw away his two short sticks, which he had used for years, and walked home without any help."

"Two or three days later my parents sent me to their place on an errand again. While I was still quite a way off, I saw a straight man come out and walk around the house. Having seen Reber walk around nearly doubled up and hardly able to get from his bed to the table, I thought it was some other man. My Aunt said that it was the very same night when he was baptized that his crippled-up hands and back were all made as straight as any man's."



Anna Maria Lanz

This miracle caused many to investigate Mormonism and quite a number to join the church because of it. Perhaps the Stucki family were more easily converted than most others because six years earlier their grandmother, Elizabeth Schenk Stucki, had told them that men would come from the west and would carry the true gospel to them. She would not live to accept it herself she said, but she hoped that all her children would. Thus Johanne's wife, Barbara Stucki Reber, was from the very first, eager to welcome the Elders and the miracle at the baptism affected the families of both.

Johannes' younger brother Samuel (Sammy) was among these. He was a lively, restless youth who had spent his summers herding goats on the slopes of the Alps. The message of the elders, delivered in broken German, appealed to him. The idea of a

promised land far across the sea appealed to him also. So he was soon ready to join the church and come to America.

Christian Reber and his wife evidently felt that if Johannes wished to take the great risks of crossing the ocean and going to a strange land where people did not even speak their language, that was their own business. They were married and on their own, but Sammy was different. He was not of age and he should have no doings with these strangers from America. Evidently there was much bitterness in their opposition, for Sammy left home and got work to earn his passage on the boat. In all his life, he never saw his family again, nor did he ever write to any of them.

Many, many years later when Sammy's son Frank returned to Switzerland on a mission for the Church he visited the old homestead. Only an unmarried brother, Peter, was there; by this time old and bitter. He said that Sammy was dead, killed by Indians or the Mormons in America. He must have been killed or he would certainly have written to his parents or some of his friends. Frank said, "No, he was not killed. He is my own father and is alive and well. He lives in Utah and has a large family, a large farm, and many horses and cattle. At this, Peter became so angry that he ordered him out of the house, slammed the door and locked it behind him.

The other two Reber brothers, Christian and Fredrick, though they did not join the church at the time, were not so antagonistic. Both were married and had families; both were well established in their homes and business so they could see no reason to take the great risk of uprooting themselves and following strange men to strange lands. Fredrick Reber was older than Samuel and younger than Johannes, both of who we have discussed. At the time of their conversion, Fredrick was a young married man with one child, a son, and was well employed in his native land. Fredrick Jr., or Fritz, as he is affectionately called, had this to say of his father:

"Father was a Lutheran before he heard of the Latter-day Saint Church, but when the Elders came from Utah and his brother John was so miraculously healed—he came on crutches and was baptized and went home and his rheumatism was gone—it made an impression. But Father had a good job and was in no hurry to leave it. But when they wrote to us it had an effect...to milk your own cows, farm your own land with your own team was very desirable. This wonderful Gospel not only strengthened the spiritual person, but the temporal as well.

"Father was a good, honest man. A kind father to us in the family. He had a good position when he made up his mind to go to Zion and handed in his resignation. They offered him big pay, but he said, "No, I'm going to Utah in America."

"Father in sweeping the office more than once found coins in the corner, but he placed them in a dish and when the head officer came he told him about it. When I went on my mission, Father gave me a letter to give to this officer, Ren Aberhart, which I did. I knew him and he knew me as soon as we spoke our names, and he said to the men standing around, "Now see, it is not true that when people go into Utah they can't get out any more. Here is the Reber boy that used to bring his father's dinner before he went to Utah." Then, the rumor was that Utah was surrounded by a high wall. I said I hadn't seen such a wall.

We know little of the life of Fredrick Reber while he was still in Switzerland. He probably saw other Mormon Elders in the eleven years between when his brothers left for America and when he came himself. Perhaps it was the letters from Zion, which helped to convert him also. He joined the church in 1872 and brought his wife and six children to Utah in 1873, arriving in Santa Clara in August of that year. Three additional children were born later.

Fredrick Reber and his wife began at once in the trade of adobe making and masonry. When they built their own

home, she worked side by side with him, handling the adobes and acting as helper. She sometimes helped also when he was working for other people. Most of the larger homes in Santa Clara were the work of this man. His own home was later purchased by Ernest Reber, his son, and has been known as the Reber home ever since.

The following was taken from the Family History Journal of John S. Stucki:

200-Year-Old Prophecy: Now after these things it seems to me not unfitting to write here a revelation give by one Lutus Grarent on April 19, 1917 in his "Hope of Zion." This book, printed in 1739 in Basel, Switzerland says, "The old, true gospel and the gifts thereof are lost. False doctrine prevails in every church and in all the land. All we can do is to exhort the people to fear God, shun evil and pray, pray, pray. Prayer of purity may cause an angel to visit a deep and distressed soul. But I tell you

that God, in one hundred years, will again have spoken.

"I see a little band of people led by a prophet and faithful elders. They are persecuted, burned and murdered. But in the valley that lies on the shores of a great lake, there they will grow and make a beautiful land, have a temple of magnificent splendor and also possess the old priesthood, with Apostles, Prophets, Teachers and Deacons.

"From every nation will the believers be gathered by speedy messengers and God Almighty will speak to the disobedient nations with thundering and lightning, and destruction, such as never were heard of before.

G. M. Pickney copied this from the original found in a library in Basel, Switzerland while on a mission in that country.

5 Generation Picture: Front Row: Fredrick Reber, Anna Mary Reber Stucki. Back Row: Mary Elizabeth Stucki Tobler Holding Baby Julia Whitney, Lettie Tobler Whitney (Aprox 1925)



Fredrick Reber

by his son Frederick "Fritz" Reber

My father, Frederick Reber, was born at Rotenbach Co., Bern, Switzerland in 1835. My mother, Anna Maria Lanz, was born at Urtensen Co., Bern, Switzerland in 1837. My father was a day laborer and met mother while working on the Central Railroad. He was a rail switchman. When my father went to see his girl, the boys in her town ducked him in a water trough.

My parents joined the L.D.S. Church in 1872, and in 1873, we came to Santa Clara. My father's brothers, Johannes and Samuel, came to this country in 1860. Johannes met us in Salt Lake and brought us to Santa Clara. The day after we got to Santa Clara, Johannes was killed. His horse threw him on the woodpile.

In Santa Clara, my father and mother made adobes for about half the houses. The children would also help. I had three brothers: Ernest, John, and Orson. I had four sisters: Mary, Lena, Paula, and Freda. Later father got a team and took some land on shares. He rented the Staheli home. Later we moved to the Whitmore house. He planted 1,000 grapevines to pay for the rent. Later on he bought Charlie Hildebrand's place. When father was 89 years old a bull bunted him through a fence and killed him. ■

Family Group Record for Fredrick Reber

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Husband		Fredrick Reber				LDS Ordinance Data		
Born	24 Apr 1835	Schangnau, Bern, Switzerland			B	18 May 1872		
Christened	10 May 1835	Roethenbach, Bern, , Switzerland			E	26 Oct 1874		
Died	3 Jan 1925	Santa Clara, Washington, Utah						
Buried	5 Jan 1925	Santa Clara, Washington, Utah						
Father	Christian Reber (1800-1867)		Mother	Maria Gerber (1803-1855)		SP	2 Nov 1955	ARIZO
Marriage	27 Aug 1858				SS	26 Oct 1874	EHOUS	
Other Spouse	Barbara Stucki (-)				SS			
Wife		Anna Maria Lanz						
Born	22 Jan 1837	Granenstein, Bern, Switzerland			B	2 May 1872		
Christened					E	26 Oct 1874	EHOUS	
Died	31 Jul 1918	Santa Clara, Washington, Utah						
Buried	1 Aug 1918	Santa Clara, Washington, Utah						
Father	Benedickt Lanz (1808-1856)				SP	24 May 1895	SGEOR	
Mother	Anna Maria Schertenleib (1806-1876)							
Children								
1	M	Nicklous Reber						
Born	8 Nov 1858	Urtenen, Bern, , Switzerland			B	Child		
Christened					E	Child		
Died	24 Sep 1861				SP	15 Apr 1886	SGEOR	
Buried								
Spouse					SS			
2	F	Anna Maria Reber						
AKA	Mary							
Born	30 May 1860	Urtenen, Bern, Switzerland			B	2 Apr 1873		
Christened					E	22 Jun 1881		
Died	7 Apr 1946	Hurricane, Washington, Utah			SP	15 Apr 1886	SGEOR	
Buried		Santa Clara, Washington, Utah						
Spouse	Samuel Stucki (1824-1910)		27 Jul 1881 - St. George, Washington, Utah		SS	27 Jun 1881	SGEOR	
Spouse	Jefferson Hunt (-)		17 Apr 1921		SS			
3	M	Fredrick Reber						
Born	14 May 1862	Urtenen, Bern, , Switzerland			B	2 Apr 1873		
Christened					E	31 Mar 1882		
Died	10 Nov 1958	Cedar City, Iron, Utah			SP	15 Apr 1886	SGEOR	
Buried	13 Nov 1958	Santa Clara, Washington, Utah						
Spouse	Mary Frei (-)		2 Oct 1884 - Saint George, Washington, Utah		SS	2 Oct 1884	SGEOR	
4	M	Nicklous Reber						
Born	20 May 1864	Urtenen, Bern, , Switzerland			B	Child		
Christened					E	Child		
Died	3 Oct 1866				SP	15 Apr 1886	SGEOR	
Buried								
Spouse					SS			

Family Group Record for Fredrick Reber

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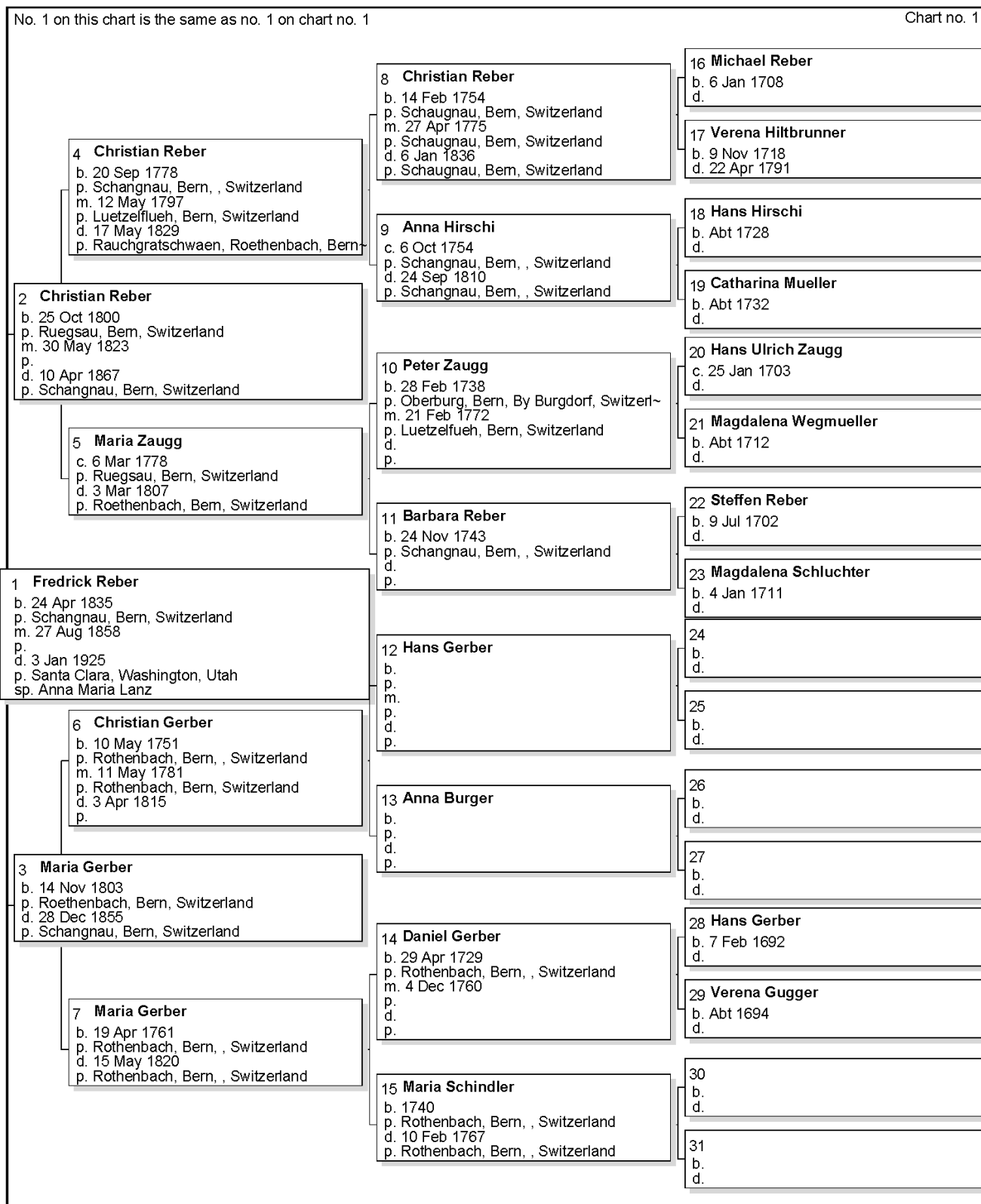
Children (cont.)					
5	M	John Reber			
Born	21 Dec 1867	Ostermundigen, Bern, , Switzerland	B	1876	
Christened			E	15 Apr 1886	
Died	2 Sep 1906		SP	15 Apr 1886	SGEOR
Buried					
Spouse	Otilla Lucy Reber (-)	25 May 1893	SS		
6	F	Lena Reber			
Born	30 Aug 1869	Ostermundigen, Bern, , Switzerland	B	11 Aug 1877	
Christened			E	14 Jan 1891	SGEOR
Died	19 Mar 1949	Santa Clara, Washington, Utah	SP	15 Apr 1886	SGEOR
Buried	22 Mar 1949	Santa Clara, Washington, Utah			
Spouse	John Theodore Ence (-)		SS	5 Feb 1891	SGEOR
Marr. Date	5 Feb 1891 - Saint George, Washington, Utah				
7	M	Orson Reber			
Born	6 Feb 1873	Ostermundigen, Bern, , Switzerland	B	5 May 1881	
Christened			E	26 Feb 1901	
Died	5 Aug 1919		SP	15 Apr 1886	SGEOR
Buried					
Spouse	Emma Josephine Casto (-)	26 Feb 1901	SS		
8	M	Ernest Reber			
Born	6 Feb 1876	Santa Clara, Washington, Utah	B	1 Jun 1884	
Christened			E	23 Dec 1896	
Died	19 Aug 1950		SP	BIC	
Buried					
Spouse	Rosina Staheli (-)	23 Dec 1896	SS		
9	F	Paula W. Reber			
Born	8 Jul 1878	Santa Clara, Washington, Utah	B	7 Apr 1887	
Christened			E	23 Dec 1895	
Died	20 Feb 1968	Saint George, Washington, Utah	SP	BIC	
Buried	24 Feb 1968	Washington, Washington, Utah			
Spouse	Franklin Staheli (-)	17 Sep 1895	SS		
10	F	Freda Lucy Reber			
Born	23 Dec 1880	Santa Clara, Washington, Utah	B	2 May 1889	
Christened			E	29 Nov 1899	
Died	9 Oct 1959	Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, Utah	SP	BIC	
Buried	24 Feb 1968	Washington, Washington, Utah			
Spouse	John Martin Stucki (-)		SS	29 Nov 1899	SGEOR
Marr. Date	29 Nov 1899 - Saint George, Washington, Utah				

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Pedigree Chart for Fredrick Reber

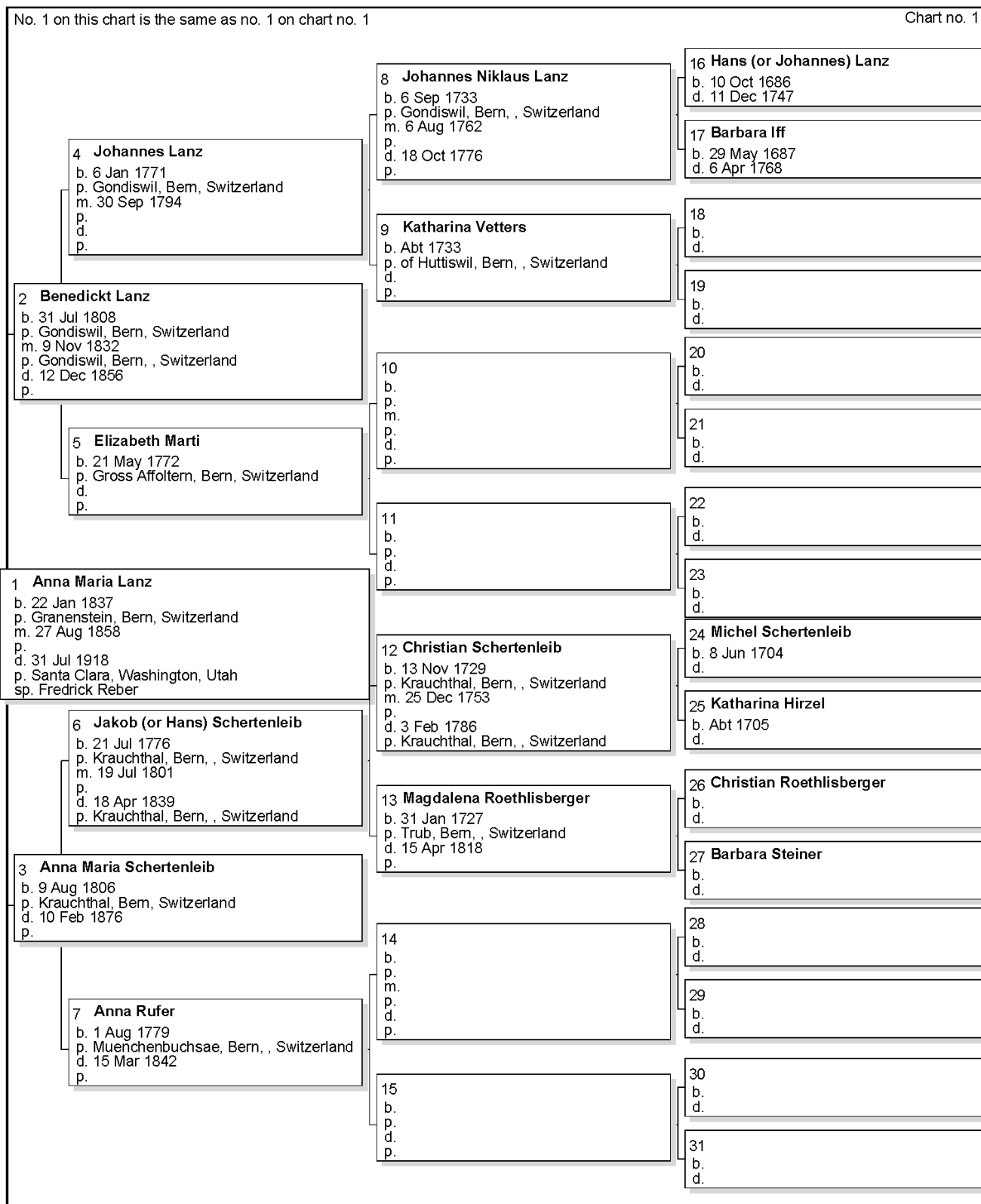
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Pedigree Chart for Anna Maria Lanz

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