

Zivinade 2014 - Paris

From phone books to Zivinades

G rard Zivy – May 2014

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Early 1970's – French army call order

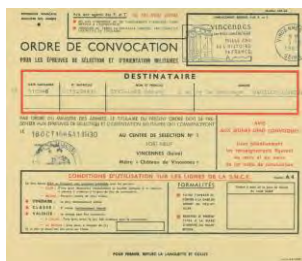
- I became interested in genealogy the day I discovered I had an homonym in Paris, hard to expect with a name like mine
- In 1972, I received an order to join the French army at my address, 32 Boulevard Flandrin in Paris.
- The problem was, I had already served and been freed from any further army duty a few years earlier
- Looking again at the order, I realised it had been misdirected by the postman as it was addressed to 82 Bd Flandrin
- I took the [phone book](#) and found indeed some other Zivy's at that address and I called them
- I ended up talking to the mother of another Gerard Zivy; she was too happy to recover the army order, otherwise her son might have gone to jail for failing to report

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Early 1970's – French army call order



82 Boulevard Flandrin

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Mid 1970's – A second wedding?

- A few years later, I arrived at the office and found my colleagues chuckling and looking at me funny
- When I asked what this was about, someone finally said "why are you so secretive, you could have told us you were getting married!"
- When I denied it, they showed me a paper clipping with a wedding ad in my name, but again, it was not me, and I had a lot of difficulty convincing them there could be another G rard Zivy in Paris
- This is when I started my research, curious to find if this guy was some kind of remote cousin
- Later on, I received royal treatment at a golf course where they put me on the championship course although I was a beginner; they had mistaken me for the other Gerard Zivy who had an excellent handicap...!

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Mid 1970's – A second wedding?

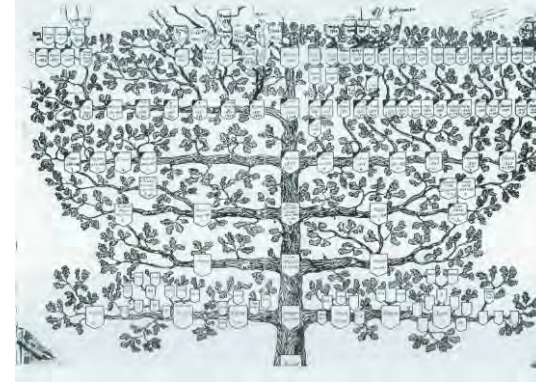


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70's – Old trees



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Late 70's – Phone books

- In 1975, I started traveling extensively for my job, often to the USA as I was in the IT and Oil-Gas business
- Mostly to attend conventions, client or partner meetings, trade shows and conferences
- The first thing I did when moving into a new hotel room was to open – not the bible but – the phone book to find out if there was anyone named like me listed in the area
- And for years, with a name like mine (Zivy), there never was any hit
- In the late 70's, I moved to Connecticut, then back to France and UK, and finally to Texas in 1985

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Late 70's – Phone books



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1985 – California bingo

- After 10 years of phone book searching, it finally happened in San Francisco, there was a Joan Zivi listed there, so I called her
- She was at first doubtful about the reality of my call, but eventually she accepted to meet for drinks
- She said I was lucky to have found her because she was getting married a few weeks later and would no longer be listed as a Zivi in the next phone book edition...!
- In the end, she had not much interest tracing genealogy, but referred me to her father Sam who lived in Los Angeles and had done some genealogy research

1985 – California bingo



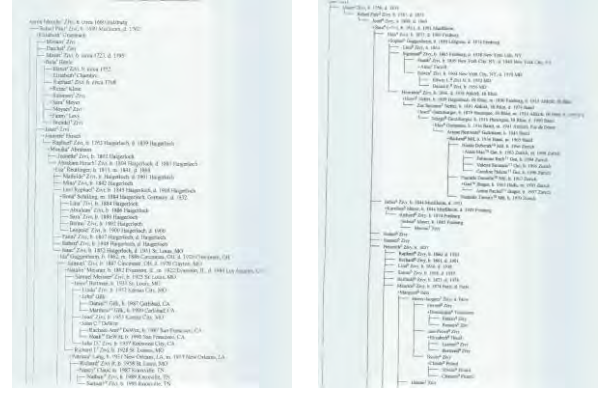
1986 – Sam

- I soon made contact with Sam Zivi and we agreed to share findings on our ancestry
- This was the early days of corporate emails, there was no internet, so we exchanged data on paper using ad hoc structured format
- Only to find out that, although our name is unusual, there was no common ancestors known to us
- Annoying as it was, not much progress was made at the time

1986 – Sam



Late 80's – Initial computer trees



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90's – Nicole & Ariane

- Back to France, I started some more serious research together with my sister Nicole Zivy who was strongly motivated
- We followed the classic approach of researching family archives, questioning the oldies in the family, visiting cemeteries and examining town hall records
- A family tree of our branch was computerised with a primitive Mac organiser software and grew to several hundred members
- Sam continued his research but we kind of lost contact, although he tried to locate me without success
- Meanwhile, Ariane Mil was working on her own records, and so were many others, unknown to us at the time

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Early 90's – Nicole & Ariane



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1990's – Slow progress

- Moving to Switzerland and quite busy launching a new company, I had little time to work on my genealogy project
- My sister Nicole visited several cemeteries in Alsace and on the German side of the Rhine valley and made strong progress on our own branch
- The next steps may seem fortuitous to my story, but you will soon see that it did matter
- Incidentally, as a passionate skier, I regularly practised off-piste skiing in Val d'Isère, a great French resort, with two brothers as group guides
- Later on, one of the brothers retired from professional skiing and opened a hotel in Strasbourg

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Late 1990's – Val d'Isère



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Late 1990's – Sam again

- Nicole and I made some progress with IT technology becoming a revolution in genealogy research
- One day I received a letter from Sam Zivi inquiring if I was indeed the same Gerard Zivy he had last known as living in Houston
- He had recently travelled to West Germany to visit his ancestor's root place in Haigerloch, and overnigheted in the Du Dragon hotel in Strasbourg
- As he was checking in the hotel, the owner told him "strangely enough, I know another Zivy who skis with me every winter" ...!
- And that's the way Sam finally traced me again and renewed contact

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Late 1990's – Haigerloch Synagogue



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Late 1990's – Strasbourg hotel du Dragon



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Late 1990's – Sam again



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Early 2000's – The link

- Nicole went to Müllheim and made fantastic progress as this turned out to be the real birth place of our oldest known ancestors; a windfall of new data ensued
- Nicole, Sam, Ariane Mil (a Swiss cousin) and I started exchanging genealogy information on a regular basis
- Other family members became interested and got involved
- This went on until Sam had a breakthrough and managed to link two disjoint trees from the Zivi and Zivy families descending from our eldest known ancestor, Aaron Mosche

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Early 2000's – The link



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May 2004 – Santa Monica

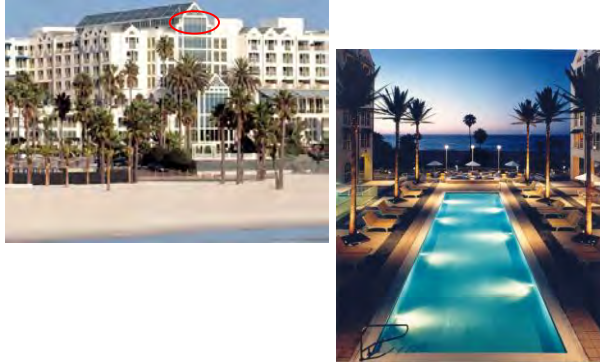
- In 2004, I was to teach a course in Santa Monica, where Sam lives with his wife Irene
- We agreed to meet at my hotel, there was a bar on the top floor with a stunning view of the Pacific ocean
- After a pleasant and informative discussion, it was time to leave and as we made our way to the elevator, we met my local client, a US sales vice president for a Swiss company
- He said hello, looked at Sam and me and then said these amazing words I will never forget: "you two look like each other, you must be family" ...!
- It is amazing when you know that our first common ancestor goes back 8 generations, so much for DNA

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May 2004 – Santa Monica



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Sam and me



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October 2004 – Zürich gathering

- Back in 2003, the idea of a wide “family” meeting took shape, initiated by Gunter Boll, Nicole Zivy and Ariane Mil in a Müllheim café
- The first Zivi-Zivy reunion project was kicked-off during a small gathering at Ariane’s place in Zurich in the fall of 2004
- From there on, it was a steady organisation led by Ariane and Nicole which culminated in the first “cousinade” in Müllheim in 2005
- A group of local German researchers with strong interest in Jewish history contributed significantly to the organisation, notably Gunter Boll, Christiane Walesch and Rolf Schuhbauer

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October 2004 – Zurich gathering



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May 2005 – Müllheim – 1st Zivinade

- 45 descendants of the Zivi-Zivy families met in Müllheim in May 2005, coming from France, Switzerland, Germany, US, UK, Mexico and Israel
- Mostly under heavy rain, we visited famous Jewish landmarks in such places as Müllheim, Sulzburg and Breisach. A special conference on “Stolpersteine” was given by a Müllheim official at the town hall
- Fascinating conferences alternated with happy meals, networking and multilateral exchanges of family stories, historical photos and genealogy trees which most delegates had brought along
- Louis Zivi showed us his native house in Müllheim and told us of his amazing escape to Alsace as a young boy in the late 30's
- After the reunion, we created the family website to record the many documents and photos from all participants, and the extended family tree took shape

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May 2005 – 1st Zivinade Müllheim – 45 participants



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Müllheim farewell lunch



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Müllheim cemetery



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Müllheim stolperstein



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Müllheim – Raphaël (Paul) Zivi's house



2005

Ca. 1800

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Ralph and Louis Zivi – Gunter Boll



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May 2008 – Breisach – 2nd Zivinade

- After this success, a decision was taken to repeat the (so called) "Zivinade" 3 years later
- Still led by Ariane Mil and a wider group of dedicated cousins, the second reunion took place in Breisach in May 2008, with great support from the Blue House team around Christiane Walesch
- Professor Freddy Raphaël delivered a fascinating conference on "Our great Alsatian Ancestors"
- The visits took 40 delegates to Biesheim, Durmenach, Müllheim again, and ended with a guided tour of Breisach and a musical conference at the Blue House
- The preparation was handled through our web site and the outcome duly recorded for all delegates to share. The family tree now reached over 3000 names

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May 2008 – 2nd Zivinade Breisach – 44 participants



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Breisach – Blue house



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Freddy Raphaël & Christiane Walesch

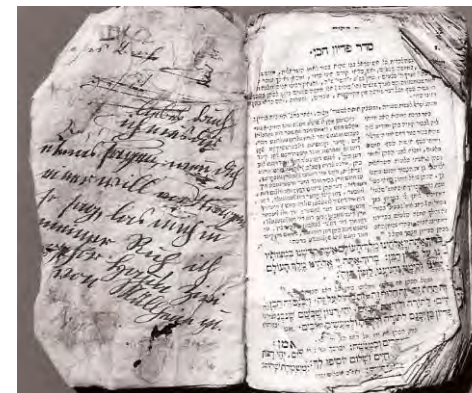


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François's great great grandmother prayer book



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Working on the family trees



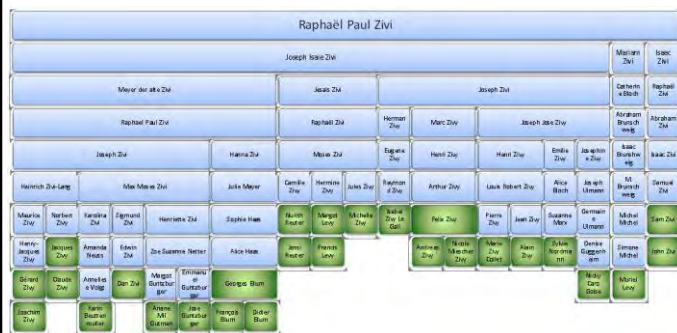
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Eldest (95) and youngest (7) participants



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Breisach – Participants tree



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June 2011 – Freiburg - 3rd Zivinade (1)

- Thereafter, François Blum and myself took the lead in planning the 3rd Zivinade in Freiburg, another ancestry birthplace, with support from Ruben Frankenstein and Sybille Hoeschele
- Again, some 40 delegates came from Europe, America and Middle East countries, some of them faithful participants and again some new ones
- We visited Freiburg historic landmarks and the old city archives with a conference on “The forming of the Freiburg Jewish community” by Hans Schadek
- Followed a dinner with a fascinating “Retrospective on Gurs” by François Blum and a conference on “Mandatory School for Jewish Children between 1936 and 1938” by Marco Nardo (on behalf of Rosita Dienst-Demuth)

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June 2011 – 3rd Zivinade
Freiburg – 40 participants



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Freiburg – Old synagogue memorial



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Hans Schadek shows the city archives

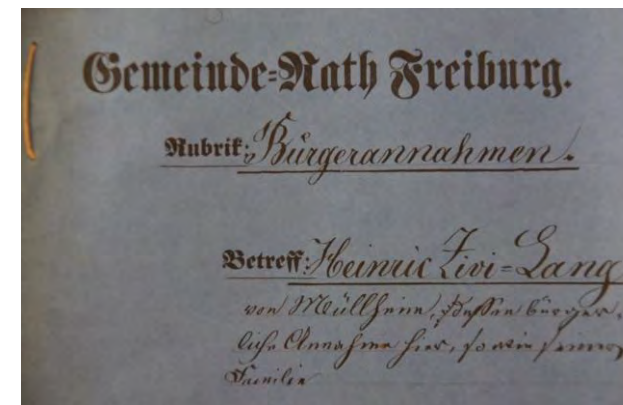


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Freiburg archives - Heinrich Zivy-Lang



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June 2011 – Freiburg - 3rd Zivinade (2)

- The next day started with an emotional visit of the old Freiburg Jewish cemetery where many of our close ancestors found their last rest
- Followed a trip to the Jewish micro museum in Emmendingen with Carola Grasse, followed by a farm lunch
- Then we visited the Schmieheim cemetery and Kippenheim synagogue, with amazing stories told by Juergen Stude
- A dinner at the Schlossberg concluded the day with much networking and genealogy data exchange
- The next morning, we took a final tour of Freiburg, including homes formerly inhabited by our local ancestors, family "Stolpersteine" and a luncheon at the new synagogue hosted by Irina Katz, head of the local Jewish community
- The itinerary had been researched by Sybille Hoeschele and was commented by Ruben Frankenstein

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June 2011 – Freiburg – Old cemetery



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Ruben Frankenstein and Sybille Hoeschele



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Emmendingen museum - Carola Grasse



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The Schmieheim cemetery



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Juergen Stude at the Kippenheim synagogue



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Heinrich Zivi-Lang's house in Freiburg

*Messieurs, Monsieur Henri Zivy Lang
est l'honneur de vous faire part du mariage
de Monsieur Maurice Zivy, son fils aîné
Mademoiselle Marguerite Weiss.*

*Et vous prie d'assister à la cérémonie nuptiale
qui aura lieu le dimanche 14 Mars 1911, à
10 heures 1/2 précises au Temple, à Freiburg.*

Heinrich Zivi-Lang, son père

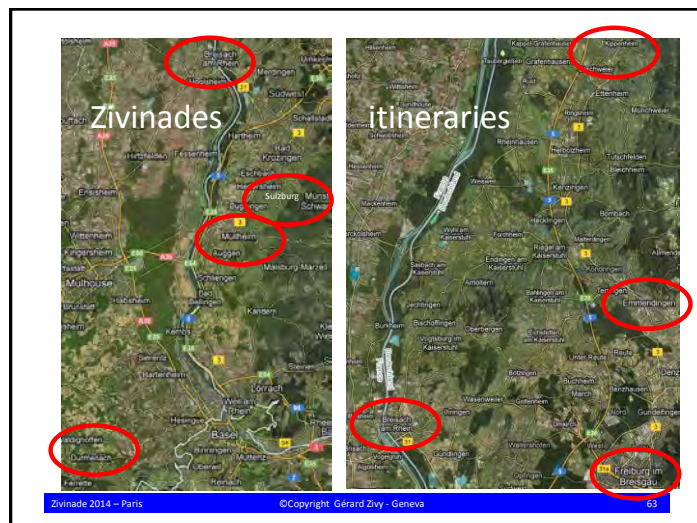
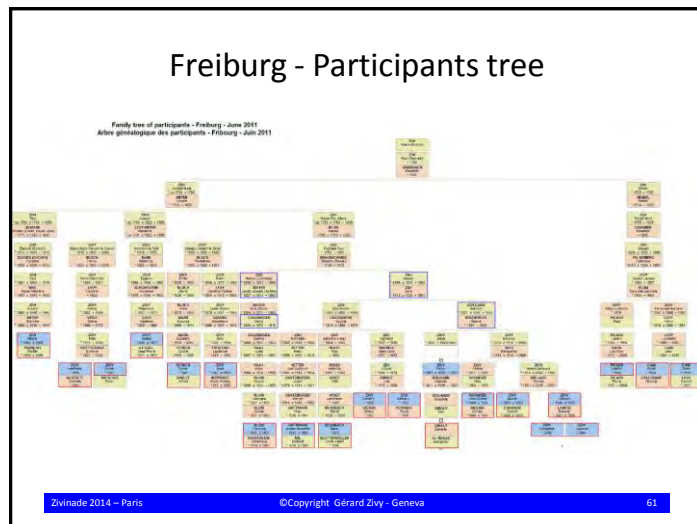


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June 2011 - Freiburg - New synagogue



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