A RESEARCH CASE STUDY

From Bertsch to Perche?

A documented family sequence across historical records — and a surname connection that remains to be proved.

FROM LUSTENAU AND FELON TO SAINT-GERMAIN, FRANCE

Four selected historical records show how evidence can build a family sequence step by step. A 1751 baptism, a 1777 marriage and a 1779 baptism support a Bertsch family line. A later French death entry raises a compelling possibility: could David Bertsch and David Perche be the same man?

THE FINDING

The records support a Bertsch sequence through Anna Maria. The identification of David Bertsch with David Perche is plausible, but not established by the supplied extracts.

WHAT THE RECORDS SUPPORT

1751 A Lustenau baptism appears to name David and his father, François Joseph Bertsch. [S2]

1777 A Felon marriage records David Bertsch and Elisabeth Kurtzmann. [S3]

1779 A baptism names Anna Maria as daughter of David Bertsch and Elisabeth Kurtzmann. [S4]

RESEARCH SCOPE

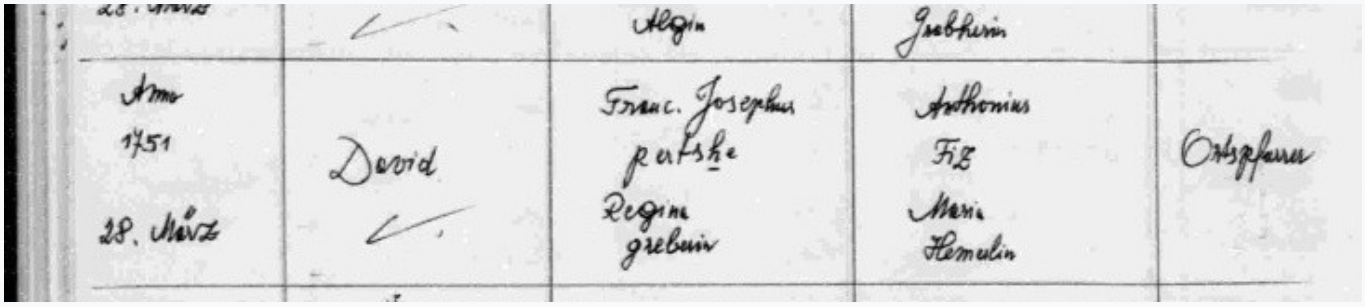
This excerpt compares seven supplied record extracts; four are reproduced here. It is not an exhaustive archival search. Full-page readings and several exact archive locators still require confirmation.

The documented Bertsch sequence

The selected copies below support the family links that are clearest in the supplied records.

S2 28 March 1751 | Lustenau

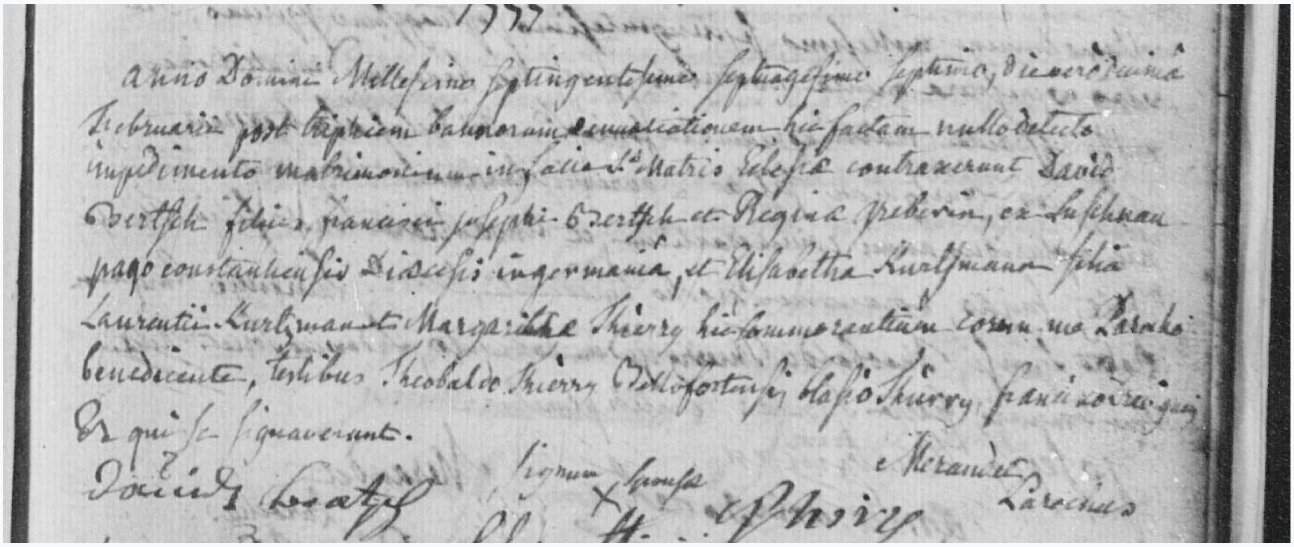
The baptism row identifies David. Its parent column appears to read François Joseph Bertsch and Regina [surname unclear]. The complete entry should be checked before treating every reading as certain.



Selected crop of the supplied parish-register image. The Matricula catalog identifies Lustenau register 413/5, Taufbuch 1741–1773; the cited screenshot shows pg=37. See [S2] on page 4.

S3 10 February 1777 | Felon

The marriage entry names David Bertsch and Elisabeth Kurtzmann. The crop appears to identify David as son of François Joseph Bertsch and Elisabeth as daughter of Laurent Kurtzmann.



Selected crop of the supplied marriage register image. The full transcription and exact register/image number remain to be captured. See [S3] on page 4.

WHAT THESE RECORDS ADD TOGETHER

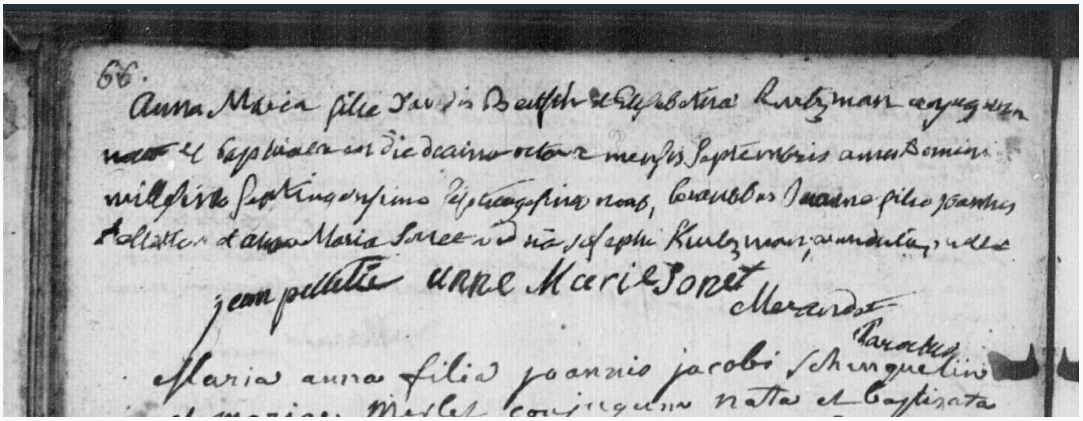
The 1751 baptism places David in Lustenau and appears to name his parents. The 1777 marriage records David Bertsch and Elisabeth Kurtzmann in Felon, and appears to identify both fathers. Together, these entries support a Bertsch family sequence; complete register pages and precise locators are still needed to verify every reading.

A daughter — and an open question

The 1779 baptism strengthens the Bertsch family sequence. The 1803 French record offers a possible, not proven, bridge to Perche.

S4 September 1779 | Parish/register locator to confirm

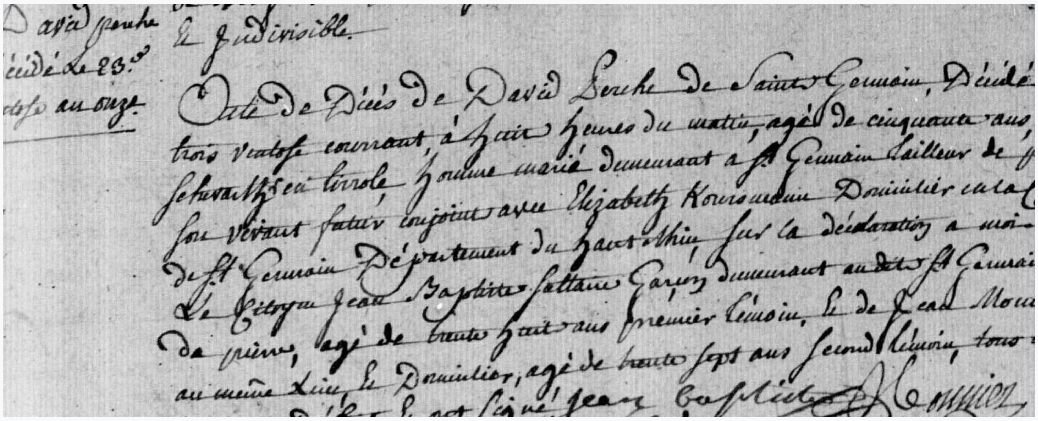
The entry reads: “Anna Maria filia Davidis Bertsch et Elisabetha Kurtzmann conjugum” — Anna Maria, daughter of David Bertsch and Elisabeth Kurtzmann, spouses. The exact day and complete register locator still need confirmation.



Selected crop of the supplied baptism register image. See [S4] on page 4.

S6 14 March 1803 | Saint-Germain

The death entry names David Perche and gives his age as fifty. It appears to describe him as a stonecutter and to name his wife as Elisabeth Kurtzmann. These readings require checking against the complete page.



Selected crop of the supplied civil-register image. The date corresponds to 23 Ventôse, Year XI. The precise register/image reference remains to be captured. See [S6] on page 4.

INTERPRETATION

A likely spouse match and compatible age make David Bertsch = David Perche a reasonable research hypothesis. The extracts do not explicitly connect the surnames. Additional records are needed before presenting the identity as fact.

Sources & reference notes

Source codes in the text point to the supplied records and the catalogues checked for this review.

[S1] Lustenau entry for François Joseph Bertsch, 10 June 1726. Supplied file identifier: “1726 06 10 Naissance François Joseph BERTSCH - Lustenau - Voralberg - Autriche.jpg”. Exact register signature and image number to confirm; Matricula 567/1 is a locator lead, not a confirmed citation.

[S2] Lustenau baptism entry for David, 28 March 1751. Supplied file identifier: “1751 03 28 Baptème David Bertsch - Registres paroissiaux Vorarlberg Eglise Catholique Romaine 413-5.jpg”. Matricula 413/5, Taufbuch 1741–1773; screenshot locator pg=37. Full-page and stable image locator to confirm.

[S3] Felon marriage entry for David Bertsch and Elisabeth Kurtzmann, 10 February 1777. Supplied file identifier: “1777 02 10 Mariage David Bertsch Elisabeth Kurtzmann - Felon - Archives dép Terr de Belfort.jpg”. Exact register reference and image number not captured.

[S4] Baptism entry for Anna Maria, daughter of David Bertsch and Elisabeth Kurtzmann, September 1779. Supplied file identifier: “1779 09 Bapteme Anne Marie Bertsch.jpg”. Parish, exact day and register locator to confirm.

[S5] Saint-Germain death entry for François Joseph Perche, 2 April 1791. Supplied file identifier: “1791 04 02 Décès François Joseph PERCHE - Saint Germain.jpg”. Full-page reading and register reference required; identity with François Joseph Bertsch is not established.

[S6] Saint-Germain death entry for David Perche, 14 March 1803 (23 Ventôse, Year XI). Supplied file identifier: “1803 03 14 Décès David PERCHE - Saint Germain .jpg”. Exact register reference and image number not captured.

[S7] Saint-Germain-le-Châtelet birth entry for Nicolas Perche, 20 March 1808. Supplied file identifier: “1808 03 20 Naissance Nicolas PERCHE - Saint Germain le Châtelet.jpg”. Exact register reference and image number not captured; parentage remains unresolved.

[S8] Matricula Online, Lustenau Catholic parish catalogue. Confirms register 413/5 (1741–1773) and 567/1 (1706–1740). Accessed 1 November 2026. data.matricula-online.eu/en/oesterreich/vorarlberg/lustenau/

[S9] Archives départementales du Territoire de Belfort official portal, consulted for repository context. No precise individual-act catalogue record was captured. archives.territoiredebelfort.fr

HOW THE EVIDENCE IS ASSESSED

- Original parish and civil entries anchor family claims; catalogues help locate records but do not replace the act.
- Names, dates, age, occupation and spouse details are compared across records. A match is a clue to test, not proof on its own.
- Unclear readings, partial extracts and missing archive locators remain visible so the conclusion can be checked.

WHY THE CONCLUSION REMAINS PROVISIONAL

The supplied materials are selected extracts, not complete register pages. Some readings and archive locators still need confirmation. Most importantly, no record directly states that David Bertsch and David Perche are the same person. The possible match rests on a comparison of name, age, occupation and the apparent spouse entry. Next steps: obtain complete pages and stable archive references; verify the 1803 spouse and occupation readings; then look for further records that connect David and Elisabeth across the two locations. The full report also lists [S1], [S5] and [S7] as leads, without treating them as proven links. This excerpt does not claim an exhaustive archive search or on-site research.