

**The Besse family history is a typical migration story, which happened many times in Europe in the past: Since the 17th century, there have been emigrations from Switzerland to Belgium, Germany, England, Holland and France as well as from the Palatinate to the United States in the 19th century. After the Thirty Years' War, the Swiss Isaac Besse immigrated into the German duchy Palatinate-Zweibrücken in 1682. However, it was not a workman who immigrated, but the son of a Swiss notary from the French-speaking canton Vaud. As the nobly appointed Mayor (Stadtschultheiß), Isaac Besse held a public office in the town of Hornbach near Zweibrücken (Two Bridges/Palatinate). This academic study includes numerous old documents from different archives which provide interesting insight into early modern times. The documents tell of the imposing inheritance from the Governor Francis Best (François Besse) from the Island of Jersey/England, the quarrel over a dowry, French lifestyle and more. On account of the good quality of the documentary material in the Swiss archives, the Besse/Paillard family tree can be traced back over 21 generations until 1397.**



*Thomas Besse, administration graduate, born in Lebach-Dörsdorf in 1958, has worked in the Saarland Ministry of the Interior, Family, Women and Sports for more than 25 years. He is responsible for the organization of European and municipal elections in the Saarland among others. The main focus of his research is on genealogy and regional history. Beyond this he likes photography, web design and sports.*



*Dr. phil. Maria Besse, born in Merzig/Saar in 1958, heads the Research Center „WDW – Dictionary of the German winegrower's language”, a project of the Mainz Academy of Science and Literature. In addition, she is in charge of the “Palatinate Dialect Dictionary” archive in Kaiserslautern. The main focus of her studies is on loanword and interference research (German-Romance languages), onomastics and dialectology.*

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