BAMBERGER circumcisions

In the collection of Hebrew manuscripts belonging to the Séminaire Israëlite de France (or École Rabbinique de France) in Paris, I have found in June 2006 a small volume under call-number ER 141 composed of:

1. A printed booklet under title זכרה הברית (Zokher ha-Berit). It is an in-12°, constituted of 16 folios, 8 in Hebrew and 8 in אשכנז לשון (Leshon Ashkenaz). It has been published in Amsterdam in 1714 by Solomon-Zalman LONDON and never re-printed.

2. A handwritten register of circumcisions containing 687 acts; the Mohel, whom I have identified, Ascher BLUMENTHAL, lives in Altenschönbach, Low Franconia, Bavaria, between Würzburg-am-Main and Fürth; this village is situated today in Landkreis Kitzingen. His activity begins Tuesday, 31st October 1797 and ends Thursday, 21st June 1855. This Mohelbuch contains 56 folios; wrong bounded. It begins at folio 4r, unto folio 41v (circumcision N° 504). Afterwards, from folio 2r (there is no folio 1!) unto folio 3v (N° 505 to 529), and finally from folio 42r unto 55v (N° 530 to 687).
   - 95 x 150 mm.
   - Paper with watermark.
   - 7 articles of circumcision by page on average.
   - Dates of circumcision in square Hebrew writing, the rest of the text in ashkenazic cursive, XVIIIth-XIXth century.
   - The flyleaf of this volume bears, by the same hand, receipts for stopping the blood of the Milah to flow, written in jüdisch-deutsch.

3. A bifolio in parchment (95 x 140 mm), fol. 56-57, containing Ne 9.8-11 (from וברית，则 זכרת), then Ex 14.10-15.18, then Ps 22.29, then Ob 1.21, then Za 14.9 and Dt 6.4 (cf. Shacharit, Siddur ashkenaz).

1 - Act of circumcision N° 56, folio 8r:

The 6th day, eve of the Holy Sabbath, 2nd day of Rosh-Chodesh Adar II [562]³, I have circumcised Kalonymos-Tsevi, son of His Honour the rabbi Simcha, of Wiesenbronn. Let YHWH him grow for the Torah, the Chuppah and the good deeds, Amen.

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² At the act of circumcision N° 501, he doesn’t write תק א, but אשר, his first name, which is the same gematria.
³ Friday, 5th March 1802. If so, he is born Friday, 26th February 1802.
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2 - Act of circumcision N° 78, folio 9v :

The 4th day, 13th Ellul [563]4, I have circumcised the foreskin of Jacob, son of His Honour the Rabbi Simcha, of Wiesenbronn. Let YHWH him grow for the Torah, the Chuppah and the good deeds, Amen.

3 - Act of circumcision N° 122, folio 13r :

The 3rd day, 1st day of Rosh ha-Shana 5665, I have circumcised the foreskin of Joseph, son of His Honour the Rabbi Simcha, of Wiesenbronn. Let YHWH him grow for the Torah, the Chuppah and the good deeds, Amen.

4 - Act of circumcision N° 144, folio 14v :

The 6th day, eve of the Holy Sabbath, 12 Mar'heshvan [568]6, I have circumcised the foreskin of Isaac-Dov, nicknamed Seligmann-Ber, son of His Honour the Rabbi Simcha, of Wiesenbronn. Let YHWH him grow for the Torah, the Chuppah and the good deeds, Amen.

4 Wednesday, 31st August 1803. If so, he is born in Wiesenbronn, Wednesday, 24th August 1803. Brother of the previous.
5 Tuesday, 24th September 1805. If so, he is born in Wiesenbronn, Tuesday, 17th September 1805. Brother of the previous.
The 2nd day, Yom Kippur [571], I have circumcised the foreskin of Moses-Aryeh, son of His Honour the Rabbi Simcha, of Wiesenbronn. Let YHWH him grow for the Torah, the Chuppah and the good deeds, Amen.

The 5th day, 28th Tammuz [592], I have circumcised the foreskin of Simcha, son of our Master, the Rav Rabbi Isaac-Dov Segal, nicknamed Seligmann-Behr, of Wiesenbronn. Let YHWH him grow for the Torah, the Chuppah and the good deeds, Amen.

The 6th day, eve of the Holy Sabbath, 9th Iyyar [595], I have circumcised the foreskin of Solomon, nicknamed Zalman, son of our Master, the Rav Rabbi Isaac-Dov Ha-Levi, nicknamed Seligmann-Behr, of Wiesenbronn. Let YHWH him grow for the Torah, the Chuppah and the good deeds, Amen.

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7 Monday, 8th October 1810. If so, he is born in Wiesenbronn, Monday, 1st October 1810. Brother of the previous.
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8 - Act of circumcision N° 531, folio 42r :

The 5th day, 25th Nissan [598]10, I have circumcised the foreskin of Moses-Aryeh, son of our Master, the Rav Rabbi Isaac-Dov, nicknamed Seligmann-Behr, of Wiesenbronn. Let YHWH him grow for the Torah, the Chuppah and the good deeds, Amen.

9 - Act of circumcision N° 558, folio 44r :

The 2nd day, 29th Tishri [600]11, I have circumcised the foreskin of Isaac, nicknamed Zeckel, son of our Master, the Rav Rabbi Isaac-Dov, nicknamed Seligmann-Behr, of Wiesenbronn. Let YHWH him grow for the Torah, the Chuppah and the good deeds, Amen.

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11 Monday, 7th October 1839. Brother of the previous; circumcision act of Isaac-Zeckel BAMBERGER, born in Wiesenbronn, Monday, 30th September 1839.