

Würths of Württemberg

A four-generation paternal line in Scheppach (OA Weinsberg)

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Introduction

This report describes the research and results of a four-generation paternal inquiry into the family history of Johann Jacob Würth. The client provided details from and reference for his baptism record. Johann Jacob Würth was identified as a child of the first generation of this project, making his father, Hanß Georg Würth, the primary person in this inquiry. Four¹ complete family group sheets, a pedigree chart, a research log, and a documents file accompany this report.

The goal of the research was to not only extend the pedigree line, but to populate four family group sheets as completely and accurately as possible, identifying all spouses and children of each Würth male in the direct line.

For clarity in reading the report, subjects of discussion are referred to by name and RIN (Reference Identification Number). These numbers are assigned by the genealogy software used to produce the accompanying forms. This will hopefully make it easier to cross reference between the forms and the report.

The report also makes specific reference to selected documents. All documents are numerically arranged in the accompanying documents file making it possible to easily locate a document mentioned in the report. Documents are referred to in the report by the number assigned to the document on the research log and in the documents file.

All documents are in German or Latin. The old gothic script is used in all German documents and there are many examples of archaic symbols and abbreviations. Documents are transliterated and translated in the documents file. In instances where there is not a way to accurately express with a typeface the nuances of the handwritten records, brackets [] are used to indicate that the bracketed characters are implied by the symbol or abbreviation written. In some cases, brackets [] have also been used to express the extension of an abbreviation. For example, the Latin abbreviation "Ren" might appear in the record and be expressed in the transliteration as "Ren[atus]" and in the translation as "baptized."

The report does not focus on the many spelling variations of names that occur in the records. It should be understood that these variations are normal and expected when doing this kind of research. It

¹ The generation 4 "family group sheet" is actually a collection of four family group sheets, as Augustin Würth (RIN 32) married four times.

should also be noted that a person with two given names can be recorded either with both names or just the calling name (i.e. the name they went by.)

Generation 1: Hanß Georg Würth (RIN 1)

I first verified the birth and baptism information for Johann Jacob Würth (RIN 9). By locating the baptism record to which the provided information refers, I was able to verify that Johann Jacob Würth was born on 4 July 1714, to Hanß Georg Würth (RIN 1) and Anna Catharina (RIN 2), and was baptized on 5 July 1714.² [See Document 1.]

Children of Hanß Georg Würth of Scheppach

This baptism record is on a microfilm which has been indexed by FamilySearch. That index is a very helpful tool, though there are a few limitations. For example, the index does not specify the town in which the baptism was found. The Waldbach parish records (with the exception of marriages) are separated by the various towns which belonged to the parish: Waldbach, Dimbach, Scheppach, and Rappach. In order to use the baptism index efficiently, I have located the parents' marriage record first, so I know approximately when they began having children. See "Table 1" below. [See also Document 2.]

Table 1:

Jerg Würth and Anna Catharina Kolb³	
marriage	25 May 1700 in Waldbach parish
groom's father	Jerg Würth, deceased mayor of Scheppach
bride's father	Hannß Jerg Kolb of Rappach

FamilySearch Index

When I searched the FamilySearch index for children of this couple, I came up with the following results. See "Table 2" below. [The actual children of Hanß Georg Würth (RIN 1) and Anna Catharina Kolb (RIN 2) of Scheppach are highlighted. Further explanation is forthcoming.]

² Evangelische Kirche Waldbach (OA Weinsberg), Kirchenbuch 1626-1914, (Stuttgart : Hauptstaatsarchiv Stuttgart, [198-]); FHL INTL mfilm no. 1346108, it. 4, Scheppach Taufen 1680-1727, 5 Jul 1714. [Document 1]

³ Evangelische Kirche Waldbach; FHL INTL mfilm no. 1346108, it. 4, Heiraten 1679-1763, 25 May 1700. [Document 2]

Table 2:

Children of Hanß Georg Würth and Anna Catharina Kolb⁴		
NAME	BAPTISM	PARENTS
Anna Margaretha Wuerth	20 Oct 1702	Jerg Wuerth, Anna Catharina
Hanss Jerg Wuerth	29 Apr 1704	Jerg Wuerth, Anna Catharina
Maria Elisabetha Wuerth	14 Nov 1705	Hanss Jerg Wuerth, Catharina
Hanss Jonas Wuerth	10 May 1709	Hanss Jerg Wuerth, Catharina
Hanss Melchior Wuerth	19 Oct 1712	Hanss Georg Wuerth, Catharina
Hanss Michael Wirth	08 Dec 1713	Georg Wirth, Anna Catharina
Johann Jacob Wuerth	05 Jul 1714	Hanss Georg Wuerth, Anna Catharina
Georg Adam Wuerth	29 May 1716	Georg Wuerth, Anna Catharina
Johann Gottlieb Wuerth	14 Feb 1718	Hanss Georg Wuerth, Anna Catharina
Eva Margretha Wuerth	24 Sep 1721	Georg Wuerth, Catharina

Seelenregister

Before going to the Scheppach baptism registers, I consulted the Waldbach communion records to see if the list of children on those records would agree with the list produced by the FamilySearch index. The communion records began in 1731. These "Kommunikanten" (or "Seelenregister") not only give the dates each parishioner took communion, but they organize parishioners into family groups. I located the Hanß Georg Würth (RIN 1) and Anna Catharina Kolb (RIN 2) family seven times during the years 1731-1755.

I have combined those seven records into one list that shows the make-up of the family during these decades. "Table 3" below lists the children of Hanß Georg Würth and Anna Catharina of Scheppach and their approximate ages in various years. "Infant" describes any person between birth and school age, "Catechism" describes any person between school age and first communion, and "Communicant" describes any person who has had their first communion. [See also Document 3, a sample communion record for the Hanß Georg Würth (RIN 1) and Anna Catharina Kolb (RIN 2) family for the years 1731-1733.]

⁴ Deutschland Geburten und Taufen, 1558-1898," Database, *FamilySearch*; FHL INTL mfilm no. 1346108, accessed 24 March 2015.

Table 3:

Hanß Georg Würth and Anna Catharina family, 1731-1755⁵			
NAME	INFANT	CATHECISM	COMMUNICANT
Hanß Jonas			1731-1755
Melchior			1731-1732 ⁶
Hanß Jacob			1731-1737 ⁷
Johann Gottlieb		1731-1732	1732-1755
Maria Barbara	1731-1733	1734-1740	1740-1755

Index Confusion

Clearly, the child list compiled from the communion records is much shorter than the list compiled from the FamilySearch Index. While possible that the children missing from the communion records died before 1731, searches of both the Scheppach baptism and death records revealed nothing regarding the children that are not highlighted on "Table 2." It seems as though there were two couples in Waldbach parish having children during the same years. When searching the communion records, I only saw one such couple in Scheppach.

Fortunately, I discovered early in the research process that it would take longer to sort results from the FamilySearch index than to simply search the microfilm for the appropriate Waldbach church books. In fact, the index entirely missed the baptism of Maria Barbara (RIN 5), the youngest child on the communion records. If not for the communion records, I might never have found Maria Barbara. She was born more than nine years after the previous child and the baptism record was quite faded and difficult to read.^{8 9} [See Document 14.]

It should be understood for the remainder of the report that the FamilySearch index was not used to direct the research, but as a supplementary tool to confirm negative searches and to double check for possible missed events.¹⁰ I will not mention the index again, as it was never instrumental in locating a record.

⁵ Ev. Waldbach; FHL INTL mfilm no. 1346112, it. 3, Kommunikanten 1731-1745, Scheppach 1731-1733, p. 28, Scheppach 1734-1736, Würth; FHL INTL mfilm no. 1346112, it. 4, Kommunikanten 1737-1747, Scheppach 1737-1739, p. 39, Scheppach 1740-1743, p. 120, Scheppach 1744-1747, p. 161; FHL INTL mfilm no. 1346112, it. 5, Kommunikanten 1748-1772, Scheppach 1748-1751, p. 24, Scheppach 1752-1755, p. 86. [Documents 3-9]

⁶ Melchior may have died between 1731 and 1733. There is not a death record for him in the parish, but he does not appear again on the Seelenregister or marriage records. It is possible that both Hanß Jonas and Melchior were soldiers and that Hanß Jonas returned and Melchior did not. Verification on this line of inquiry would require further research.

⁷ Hanß Jacob married in 1737. Ev. Waldbach; FHL INTL mfilm no. 1346112, it. 4, Kommunikanten 1737-1747, Scheppach 1737-1739, p. 39. [Document 5]

⁸ Ev. Waldbach; FHL INTL mfilm no. 1346108, it. 4, Scheppach Taufen 1627-1764, Jun 1727. [Document 14]

⁹ Though outside the parameters of this research project, it should be noted that Maria Barbara may have been a grandchild of Hanß Georg Würth and Anna Catharina Kolb; and a daughter of her supposed sister, Maria Elisabetha, who was 21 when Maria Barbara was born and married the next year.

¹⁰ "Deutschland Geburten und Taufen, 1558-1898," "Deutschland Heiraten, 1558-1929," Databases, FamilySearch; FHL INTL mfilm no. 1346108.

In searching the Scheppach baptism records, I found only one child of Hanß Georg Würth and Anna Catharina Kolb who was not listed in the confirmation records. Maria Elisabetha (RIN 6) was born on 13 November 1705 in Scheppach.¹¹ She married in 1728, explaining why she is not listed with her parents in the communion records.¹²

Additional Generation 1 Findings:

An exhaustive representation of Generation 1 findings and their sources can be found on the Hanß Georg Würth (RIN 1) and Anna Catharina Kolb (RIN 2) family group sheet.

Generation 2: Georg Würth (RIN 4)

Making the Connection

In order to solidify the generational connection between Hanß Georg Würth (RIN 1) and his parents, I located his death record hoping to acquire his age at death from which I could calculate his approximate year of birth. This narrows the requisite search in the baptism records and could help distinguish between two possible baptisms for a “Jerg, son of Jerg Würth of Scheppach,”¹³ which is the description given of Hanß Georg Würth at his marriage to Anna Catharina Kolb (RIN 2). [See Document 2.]

Death Records

I used records already collected to narrow the search for Hanß Georg Würth’s (RIN 1) death record. The latest marriage record I found for a child of Hanß Georg Würth and Anna Catharina Kolb was that of Gottlieb (RIN 8), who married 7 February 1754. According to this record, Hanß Georg Würth was still living,¹⁴ which indicated to me that I could begin my search of the death records in 1754. I located the death record of Hanß Georg Würth in Scheppach in 1759.¹⁵

In order to lend supporting evidence that the 1759 death record is for the right man, I located the death record for his wife, Anna Catharina (RIN 2). Like many German church records, the Waldbach parish death records describe deceased women by giving the name of their father, or if they are married, their husband. If the husband is living they are described as a **wife**, and if the husband is deceased they are described as a **widow**. Anna Catharina was described as the **wife of** Hanß Georg Würth on her 1757

¹¹ Ev. Waldbach; FHL INTL mfilm no. 1346108, it. 4, Scheppach Taufen 1680-1727, 14 Nov 1705. [Document 10]

¹² Ev. Waldbach; FHL INTL mfilm no. 1346108, it. 3, Heiraten 1679-1763, 30 Oct 1753. [Document 16]

¹³ Ev. Waldbach; FHL INTL mfilm no. 1346108, it. 4, Heiraten 1679-1763, 25 May 1700. [Document 2]

¹⁴ Ev. Waldbach; FHL INTL mfilm no. 1346108, it. 3, Heiraten 1679-1763, 4 Feb 1754. [Document 15]

¹⁵ Ev. Waldbach; FHL INTL mfilm no. 1346108, it. 4, Scheppach Tote 1681-1764, 29 Jun 1759. [Document 20]

Scheppach death record.¹⁶ They were both about 76 years old at death. Extremely disparate ages would be evidence against these two records representing a married couple. [See Documents 19-20.]

Age at Death

Age at death can be very inaccurate. The events described on a baptism record typically took place shortly before the record was created and were personally witnessed by individuals present at the baptism. If ages are given in a marriage record, they are typically given by the bride and groom, who probably have a reasonably reliable knowledge of their age, or their parents, who were present at the birth. However, in the case of death records, particularly those of elderly people, the birth was an event in the distant past. The informant could be anyone, and there is a milieu of reasons for the knowledge/memory of the informant to be unreliable.

Hanß Georg Würth's (RIN 1) age at death seems to be one of these cases. According to his death record, he was born about 1683. There are no possible candidates in the Scheppach baptisms of 1680-1685. Also, if Hanß Georg Würth was 76 years old when he died in 1759, then he was only 17 when he married in May of 1700. That would have been very young for a Waldbach man to marry. Typically they married in their mid-20s.¹⁷

Georg and His Brother, Georg

Searching backwards from 1683, the only Scheppach baptism records I found matching the known names for child (Georg) and father (Georg), occurred in 1670 and 1674. Both Georg's were children of the same parents. It was common practice to reuse the name of a deceased child, honoring both the original namesake and the departed child. I found a death record for the elder Georg in 1672. Georg Würth's (RIN 14) baptism and death records and Hanß Georg Würth's (RIN 1) baptism record are represented chronologically in "Table 3," "Table 4" and "Table 5" below. [See also Document 24, the 1674 baptism record for Hanß Georg Würth (RIN 1) of "Table 5."]

Table 3:

Georg Würth¹⁸	
baptism	26 November 1670 in Scheppach
parents	Georg Würth and Maria Barbara

¹⁶ Ev. Waldbach; FHL INTL mfilm no. 1346108, it. 4, Scheppach Tote 1681-1764, 20 Jun 1757. [Document 19]

¹⁷ Ev. Waldbach; FHL INTL mfilm no. 1346108, it. 4, Heiraten 1679-1763.

¹⁸ Ev. Waldbach; FHL INTL mfilm no. 1346108, it. 3, Scheppach Taufen 1626-1679, 1670, p. 104. [Document 26]

Table 4:

Georg Würth¹⁹	
death	6 August 1672 in Scheppach
age at death	1 year, 36 weeks, 2 days
father	"Young" Georg Würth of Scheppach

Table 5:

Georg Würth²⁰	
baptism	13 October 1674 in Scheppach
parents	"Young" Georg Würth and Maria Barbara

Making Sense of Nonsensical Data

It is perhaps possible to account for the discrepancy between Hanß Georg Würth's (RIN 1) age at death and his baptism date. If the pastor was calculating in his head, his math could have been off by one decade. If we assume this was the case, it is then interesting to examine the months and days given. Certainly, the pastor was confused, but instead of entirely discounting the information he recorded, we can try to understand what kind of confusion led to his miscalculations. The following tables ("Table 6" and "Table 7") compare the birth dates you would come up with if you correct for the possible ten year math error, switch the birthdates of Hanß Georg Würth and his wife, Anna Catharina Kolb, and assume that the priest may or may not have been trying to take into account the switch from the Julian to Gregorian calendar which, for protestant Germany, took place in 1700.²¹ Also, bear in mind that there was only a baptism date given for Hanß Georg Würth, so his birth date is approximate.

Table 6:

Hanß Georg Würth, b. 13 October 1674,²² d. 29 June 1759²³			
AGE AT GREGORIAN DEATH	JULIAN BIRTH	GREGORIAN BIRTH	ANNA'S JULIAN BIRTH
1d < 86y & 2m ²⁴	17-18 April 1673	30 April 1673	31 March

Table 7:

Anna Catharina Kolb, b. 31 March 1681,²⁵ d. 20 June 1757²⁶			
AGE AT GREGORIAN DEATH	JULIAN BIRTH	GREGORIAN BIRTH	HANß GEORG'S JULIAN BIRTH
2d < 76y & 8m ²⁷	5-6 October 1680	18 October 1680	13 October

¹⁹ Ev. Waldbach; FHL INTL mfilm no. 1346108, it. 3, Scheppach Tote 1626-1681, 1672, p. 224. [Document 34]

²⁰ Ev. Waldbach; FHL INTL mfilm no. 1346108, it. 3, Scheppach Taufen 1627-1681, 1674, p. 106. [Document 24]

²¹ Dr. H. Grotefend, *Taschenbuch der Zeitrechnung des deutschen Mittelalters und der Neuzeit* (Hannover and Leipzig: Hahn'sche Buchhandlung, 1910), p. 27.

²² Ev. Waldbach; FHL INTL mfilm no. 1346108, it. 3, Scheppach Taufen 1627-1681, 1674, p. 106. [Document 24]

²³ Ev. Waldbach; FHL INTL mfilm no. 1346108, it. 4, Scheppach Tote 1681-1764, 29 Jun 1759. [Document 20]

²⁴ Ev. Waldbach; FHL INTL mfilm no. 1346108, it. 4, Scheppach Tote 1681-1764, 29 Jun 1759. [Document 20]

²⁵ Ev. Waldbach; FHL INTL mfilm no. 1346108, it. 4, Rappach Taufen 1680-1727, 1 Apr 1681. [Document 23]

²⁶ Ev. Waldbach; FHL INTL mfilm no. 1346108, it. 4, Scheppach Tote 1681-1764, 20 Jun 1757. [Document 19]

²⁷ Ev. Waldbach; FHL INTL mfilm no. 1346108, it. 4, Scheppach Tote 1681-1764, 20 Jun 1757. [Document 19]

Georg Würth, Mayor of Scheppach

Fortunately, age at death and “lack of a better option” are not the only ways to verify this generational connection. Hanß Georg Würth’s (RIN 1) marriage record also said that his father was the deceased mayor of Scheppach.²⁸ [See Document 2.] The last child born to Georg Würth (RIN 4) and Maria Barbara (RIN 11) of Scheppach was Maria Magdalena (RIN 21). According to her 1691 baptism record, Georg Würth was the mayor.²⁹ [See Document 33.]

Marriage of Georg and Maria Barbara

According to the baptism record for Hanß Georg Würth (RIN 1), his father was “Jung” Georg Würth. [See Document 24.] By describing Georg Würth as “young,” the pastor is indicating that there was an older Georg Würth living in Scheppach at the time. It does not necessarily imply that the elder Georg Würth was his father, though in this instance, that seems to be the case. There was only one marriage record for a Georg Würth and Maria Barbara in Scheppach during the years preceding the birth of Hanß Georg Würth (RIN 1). The details of the marriage are outlined in “Table 8” below. [See also Document 25.]

Table 8:

Georg Würth and Maria Barbara Ruckenlaib³⁰	
marriage	8 February 1670 in Waldbach parish
groom’s father	Georg Würth, citizen and resident of Scheppach
bride’s father	Georg Ruckenlaib, deceased citizen and resident of Waldbach.

Children of Georg and Maria Barbara

Searching the Scheppach baptisms revealed nine children born to Georg Würth (RIN 4) and Maria Barbara Ruckenlaib (RIN 11). Two of their daughters were named Maria Elisabetha. I was careful to ensure that there was a death record for the elder Maria Elisabetha. The death record serves as evidence for these being daughters of the same parents, and against the possible existence of another Georg Würth and Maria Barbara in Scheppach at the time. A chronology similar to that given for Georg (RIN 14) and Hanß Georg (RIN 1) in Tables 3-5, is given for Maria Elisabetha (RIN 18) and Maria Elisabetha (RIN 20) in “Table 9,” “Table 10,” and Table 11” below.

Table 9:

Maria Elisabetha Würth³¹	
baptism	29 June 1683 in Scheppach
parents	Jerg Würth, lawyer, and Maria Barbara

²⁸ Ev. Waldbach; FHL INTL mfilm no. 1346108, it. 4, Heiraten 1679-1763, 25 May 1700. [Document 2]

²⁹ Ev. Waldbach; FHL INTL mfilm no. 1346108, it. 4, Scheppach Taufen 1680-1727, 8 Jul 1691. [Document 33]

³⁰ Ev. Waldbach; FHL INTL mfilm no. 1346108, it. 3, Heiraten 1626-1681, 1670, p. 310. [Document 25]

³¹ Ev. Waldbach; FHL INTL mfilm no. 1346108, it. 4, Scheppach Taufen 1680-1727, 29 Jun 1683. [Document 30]

Table 10:

Maria Elisabetha Würth³²	
death	23 October 1684 in Scheppach
age at death	1 year, 3 months
father	Jerg Würth, lawyer

Table 11:

Maria Elisabetha Würth³³	
baptism	31 July 1688 in Scheppach
parents	Jerg Würth, lawyer, and Maria Barbara

Additional Generation 2 Findings

An exhaustive representation of Generation 2 findings and their sources can be found on the Georg Würth (RIN 4) and Maria Barbara Ruckenlaib (RIN 11) family group sheet.

Generation 3: Georg Würth (RIN 12)

Making the Connection

From Georg Würth's (RIN 4) marriage record, we know his father was also named Georg Würth. [See Document 25.] But, to be certain that the correct generational connection was made, I located the death records for Georg Würth (RIN 4) and Maria Barbara Ruckenlaib (RIN 11) in order to acquire their respective ages at death.

Death Records

From the records of Georg Würth's (RIN 4) children, I knew he died between 1691 and 1697. The baptism record for his eldest child, Maria Magdalena (RIN 21), in July of 1691, describes him as the mayor,³⁴ and is the last record gathered for the family in which he is not described as "deceased." [See Document 33.] The next family record is the marriage record for his son, Wilhelm (RIN 15), in Aug of 1697. In this record, Georg Würth (RIN 4) is described as "the deceased mayor of Scheppach."³⁵ [See Document 39.]

It was a simple matter to find Georg's (RIN 4) death record in 1693, though I didn't find Maria Barbara's (RIN 11) death record until 1725. [See Documents 36 and 38.] Fortunately for the purposes of the

³² Ev. Waldbach; FHL INTL mfilm no. 1346108, it. 4, Scheppach Tote 1681-1764, 1672, p. 224. [Document 34]

³³ Ev. Waldbach; FHL INTL mfilm no. 1346108, it. 4, Scheppach Taufen 1680-1727, 31 Jul 1688. [Document 32]

³⁴ Ev. Waldbach; FHL INTL mfilm no. 1346108, it. 4, Scheppach Taufen 1680-1727, 8 Jul 1691. [Document 33]

³⁵ Ev. Waldbach; FHL INTL mfilm no. 1346108, it. 3, Heiraten 1679-1763, 24 Aug 1697. [Document 39]

research, despite dying three decades after her husband, Maria Barbara didn't remarry and is described at her death by her relationship to Georg Würth (RIN 4). The data gathered from the death records is outlined in "Table 12" and "Table 13" below.

Table 12:

Jerg Würth³⁶	
death	9 January 1693 in Scheppach
age at death	44 years, 4 months
description	mayor

Table 13:

Maria Barbara [Ruckenlaib] Wirth³⁷	
death	15 Apr 1725 in Scheppach
age at death	76 years, 2 months, 7 days
description	widow of Georg Wirth, deceased mayor

Baptism of Georg Würth (RIN 4)

Georg Würth (RIN 4) was baptized in Scheppach a refreshingly accurate forty-four years, four months, and nine days before his death. [See Document 36.] I searched several years of baptism records and identified only one other Georg Würth, son of Georg Würth. It seems that Georg Würth (RIN 12), like his son, Georg Würth (RIN 4), had to try twice in order to have a son survive to pass on his name. In this case, as with Hanß Georg Würth (RIN 1) of Generation 2, Georg Würth (RIN 4) was the second son and second Georg born to his parents, the first of each having died. The baptism-death-baptism chronology is outlined in "Table 14," "Table 15" and "Table 16" below.

Table 14:

Georg Würth³⁸	
baptism	14 November 1646 in Scheppach
parents	Georg Würth and Anna

Table 15:

Georg Würth³⁹	
death	10 March 1647 in Scheppach
age at death	6 weeks
father	Georg Würth

³⁶ Ev. Waldbach; FHL INTL mfilm no. 1346108, it. 4, Scheppach Tote 1681-1764, 9 Jan 1693. [Document 36]

³⁷ Ev. Waldbach; FHL INTL mfilm no. 1346108, it. 4, Scheppach Tote 1681-1764, 15 Apr 1725. [Document 38]

³⁸ Ev. Waldbach; FHL INTL mfilm no. 1346108, it 3, Scheppach Taufen 1627-1681, 1646, p. 87. [Document 46]

³⁹ Ev. Waldbach; FHL INTL mfilm no. 1346108, it 3, Scheppach Tote 1627-1681, 1647, p. 216. [Document 52]

Table 16:

Georg Wirth ⁴⁰	
baptism	31 August 1648 in Scheppach
parents	Georg Wirth and Anna

Marriage of Georg and Anna

According to his baptism record, Georg Würth (RIN 4) was the son of Georg and Anna. [See Document 44.] There was only one marriage record for a Georg Würth and an Anna in Scheppach during the years preceding the baptism of Georg Würth (RIN 4), which took place nine and a half months before the 1646 baptism of Georg Würth (RIN 26). The data gathered from the marriage record is outlined in “Table 17” below. [See also Document 45.]

Table 17:

Geörg Würth and Anna Frey ⁴¹	
marriage	1 Feb 1646 in Waldbach parish
groom’s father	Augustin Würth, mayor of Scheppach
bride’s father	Michael Frey, deceased citizen and resident of Scheppach

Death of Georg Würth (RIN 12)

I was unable to locate Georg Würth’s (RIN 12) death record in Waldbach parish. I searched the deaths in each town in Waldbach parish and found nothing. It will require an area search of surrounding parishes to locate this record. Unfortunately, this means there is not yet an age at death to verify the connection between Generations 3 and 4 of this study. Still, the range of years during which Georg Würth (RIN 12) died can be narrowed using other family records. This is important, not only for the sake of accuracy on our charts, but also to facilitate any future search for Georg’s death record.

Of Georg Würth (RIN 12) and Anna Frey’s (RIN 23) seven children, only Georg (RIN 4) and Anna (RIN 28) survived to adulthood. Each of the other five children died before the age of four.⁴² The surviving children, Georg and Anna, both married in 1670. According to their marriage records, Georg (RIN 12) was still alive.⁴³ [See Document 25.] Anna Frey’s 1690 death record describes her as, “deceased Jerg Würth’s widow, 71 years old.”⁴⁴ [See Document 58.] These records narrow the search for Georg Würth’s death to 1670-1690.

⁴⁰ Ev. Waldbach; FHL INTL mfilm no. 1346108, it. 3, Scheppach Taufen 1627-1681, 1648, p. 294. [Document 44]

⁴¹ Ev. Waldbach; FHL INTL mfilm no. 1346108, it. 3, Scheppach Taufen 1627-1681, 1646, p. 294. [Document 45]

⁴² See accompanying family group sheets for the baptism and death dates of Georg Würth and Anna Frey’s children, and the references for each of those events.

⁴³ Ev. Waldbach; FHL INTL mfilm no. 1346108, it. 3, Heiraten 1626-1681, 1670, p. 310-311. [Document 25]

⁴⁴ Ev. Waldbach; FHL INTL mfilm no. 1346108, it. 4, Scheppach Tote 1681-1764, 20 Jun 1690. [Document 58]

Back to Generation 2

Since Generation 3 produced few records, I re-examined the records of Generation 2 that mention Georg's (RIN 12) son, Georg (RIN 4). Specifically, I was interested in the baptism and death records of Georg Würth's (RIN 4) children. These records specifically mention only their father, Georg Würth (RIN 4). But, when looked at together, they reveal something interesting about their grandfather, Georg Würth (RIN 12). In "Table 18," these records are organized chronologically so you can see how the description of Georg Würth (RIN 4) changes.

Table 18:

Georg Würth (RIN 4) in the records of his children				
YEAR	RECORD	CHILD	RIN	FATHER
1670	baptism	Georg	RIN 14	Georg Würth ⁴⁵
1672	baptism	Wilhelm	RIN 15	"young" Georg Würth ⁴⁶
1672	death	Georg	RIN 14	"young" Georg Würth ⁴⁷
1674	baptism	Georg	RIN 1	"young" Georg Würth ⁴⁸
1677	baptism	Margaretha	RIN 16	"young" Jerg Würth ⁴⁹
1680	baptism	Hannß	RIN 17	Jerg Würth ⁵⁰
1683	baptism	Maria Elisabetha	RIN 18	Jerg Würth, lawyer ⁵¹
1684	death	Hannß	RIN 17	Jerg Würth, lawyer ⁵²
1684	death	Maria Elisabetha	RIN 18	Jerg Würth, lawyer ⁵³
1685	baptism	Hannß Jacob	RIN 19	Jerg Würth, lawyer ⁵⁴
1688	baptism	Maria Elisabetha	RIN 20	Jerg Würth, lawyer ⁵⁵
1691	baptism	Maria Magdalena	RIN 21	Jerg Würth, mayor ⁵⁶

I cannot state authoritatively that the pastor stopped describing Georg Würth (RIN 4) as "young" not one record before or one record after his father, Georg Würth (RIN 12), died. That would require a similar study of other Waldbach parishioners described in records as "young" during the last half of the 17th century. But, based on these records, we can estimate that Georg Würth died between 1677 and 1680.

⁴⁵ Ev. Waldbach; FHL INTL mfilm no. 1346108, it. 3, Scheppach Taufen 1626-1679, 1670, p. 104. [Document 26]

⁴⁶ Ev. Waldbach; FHL INTL mfilm no. 1346108, it. 3, Scheppach Taufen 1626-1679, 1672, p. 105. [Document 27]

⁴⁷ Ev. Waldbach; FHL INTL mfilm no. 1346108, it. 3, Scheppach Tote 1626-1681, 1672, p. 224. [Document 34]

⁴⁸ Ev. Waldbach; FHL INTL mfilm no. 1346108, it. 3, Scheppach Taufen 1626-1679, 1674, p. 106. [Document 24]

⁴⁹ Ev. Waldbach; FHL INTL mfilm no. 1346108, it. 3, Scheppach Taufen 1626-1679, 1677, p. 107. [Document 28]

⁵⁰ Ev. Waldbach; FHL INTL mfilm no. 1346108, it. 4, Scheppach Taufen 1680-1727, 11 Jun 1680. [Document 29]

⁵¹ Ev. Waldbach; FHL INTL mfilm no. 1346108, it. 4, Scheppach Taufen 1680-1727, 29 Jun 1683. [Document 30]

⁵² Ev. Waldbach; FHL INTL mfilm no. 1346108, it. 4, Scheppach Tote 1681-1764, 21 Oct 1684. [Document 35]

⁵³ Ev. Waldbach; FHL INTL mfilm no. 1346108, it. 4, Scheppach Tote 1681-1764, 23 Oct 1684. [Document 35]

⁵⁴ Ev. Waldbach; FHL INTL mfilm no. 1346108, it. 4, Scheppach Taufen 1680-1727, 24 Sep 1685. [Document 31]

⁵⁵ Ev. Waldbach; FHL INTL mfilm no. 1346108, it. 4, Scheppach Taufen 1680-1727, 31 Jul 1688. [Document 32]

⁵⁶ Ev. Waldbach; FHL INTL mfilm no. 1346108, it. 4, Scheppach Taufen 1680-1727, 8 Jul 1691. [Document 33]

Additional Generation 3 Findings

An exhaustive representation of Generation 3 findings and their sources can be found on the Georg Würth (RIN 12) and Anna Frey (RIN 23) family group sheet.

Generation 4: Augustin Würth (RIN 32)

Pre- Church Record Births

Georg Würth (RIN 12) and Anna Frey (RIN 23) were married in 1646.⁵⁷ The earliest baptism record in Scheppach was from December of 1626.⁵⁸ As it seemed unlikely that Georg Würth would have married at the age of 19; and since his wife, Anna Frey, was 71 years old at her death in 1690 (making her approximate birth year 1619); I didn't search the Scheppach baptisms for Georg Würth (RIN 12), or as he is described in the record of his marriage, "Georg Würth, son of Augustin Würth, mayor of Scheppach."⁵⁹ [See Documents 45 and 58.]

Waldbach Parish Census, 1633

Fortunately, there is a 1633 census of Waldbach parish. Everyone living in the parish is recorded within a family group. Family groups are listed according to their town of residence. What follows is a short list of what, in my estimation, are important points of note regarding the 1633 census.

- The value of this record lies, not only in the amount of raw data it contains, but also in the context it provides for the earliest Waldbach parish baptism, marriage and death records. If the Waldbach church books are a novel, the 1633 census is its prologue.
- The year 1633 was auspicious timing. In 1634, the worst ravages of the Thirty Years' War came to Württemberg, and in 1634 and 1635, over half the population of Scheppach died.
- In order to accurately evaluate the family groups on the census and apply them as evidence to genealogical questions, one must note that children baptized after 1626 are not listed on the census. This is probably because they were recorded in the baptismal register.

According to the census, there was one Augustin Würth family in Scheppach in 1633. Augustin had a son, Jerg, who was born approximately 25 July 1620, a likely match for Georg Würth (RIN 12). [See Document 62.] The census provides a great deal of information about the Augustin Würth household. While exact marriage and birthdates are not given, the dates are estimated. These estimations are expressed either by the current age of an individual or by a feast day that occurred near the time of the event. The census data for the Augustin Würth (RIN 32) household is organized in "Table 19" below.

⁵⁷ Ev. Waldbach; FHL INTL mfilm no. 1346108, it. 3 Heiraten 1626-1681, 1646, p. 294. [Document 45]

⁵⁸ Ev. Waldbach; FHL INTL mfilm no. 1346108, it. 3, Scheppach Taufen 1627-1681, 1626, p. 75.

⁵⁹ Ev. Waldbach; FHL INTL mfilm no. 1346108, it. 3, Heiraten 1626-1681, 1646, p. 294. [Document 58]

Table 19:

Augustinus Wirth family of Scheppach, 1633 ⁶⁰				
RELATIONSHIP	NAME	MARRIAGE	BIRTH	REMARKS
self	Augustinus	abt 2 Feb 1617	abt 25 Dec 1595	listed children are "their children"
former wife	Margretha	abt 2 Feb 1617		
child	Augustinus		abt 25 Dec 1616	
child	Jerg		abt 25 Jul 1620	
child	Katharina		abt 1622	
child	Barbara		abt 11 Nov 1622	
wife [implied]	Barbara Betz		abt 1601	Father=Cläß

Four Marriages, Seventeen Children

Because the census does not describe Augustin Würth as the mayor of Scheppach, and because Augustin appears in the Scheppach records for several years, with multiple wives and multiple names, it was necessary to trace him through all of the Generation 4 records. By gathering all records, including those pertaining to Augustin's subsequent marriages, there is not only more evidence available to evaluate, but the potential for undiscovered negative evidence is minimized. Our purpose is to affirm with as much certainty possible, that there was one Augustin Würth in Scheppach, and that all records collected for this generation pertain to that one man. It does indeed seem that there *was* one Augustin Würth, who was the mayor of Scheppach. Augustin married four times, and fathered at least 17 children. "Table 20" is a chronological list of records naming Augustin Würth. Events in this table are color coded based on the Augustin Würth marriage to which the subject belonged (see base of table).

Table 20:

Augustin Würth in Scheppach records, 1627-1671				
RECORD		SUBJECT		DESCRIPTION OF AUGUSTIN WÜRTH
YEAR	EVENT	NAME	RELATIONSHIP	
1627 (Jan)	death	Margretha	wife	Augustini Wirth ⁶¹
1627 (Jun)	marriage	Barbara Betz	wife	Augustin Würth of Scheppach ⁶²
1628	baptism	Magdalena	daughter	Augustinus Wirth ⁶³
1629	baptism	Michael	son	Augustinus Wirth ⁶⁴
1630	baptism	Nicolaus	son	Augustinus Wirth ⁶⁵
1632	baptism	Anna	daughter	Augustin Wirth ⁶⁶
1633 (Aug)	baptism	Margretha	daughter	Augustinus Wirth ⁶⁷

⁶⁰ Ev. Waldbach; FHL INTL mfilm no. 1346108, it. 3, Waldbach 1633 parish census, Scheppach, p. 361. [Document 62]

⁶¹ Ev. Waldbach; FHL INTL mfilm no. 1346108, it. 3, Scheppach Tote 1626-1681, 1627, p. 209. [Document 63]

⁶² Ev. Waldbach; FHL INTL mfilm no. 1346108, it. 3, Heiraten 1626-1681, 1627, p. 275. [Document 64]

⁶³ Ev. Waldbach; FHL INTL mfilm no. 1346108, it. 3, Scheppach Taufen 1627-1681, 1628, p. 76. [Document 65]

⁶⁴ Ev. Waldbach; FHL INTL mfilm no. 1346108, it. 3, Scheppach Taufen 1627-1681, 1629, p. 76. [Document 66]

⁶⁵ Ev. Waldbach; FHL INTL mfilm no. 1346108, it. 3, Scheppach Taufen 1627-1681, 1630, p. 78. [Document 67]

⁶⁶ Ev. Waldbach; FHL INTL mfilm no. 1346108, it. 3, Scheppach Taufen 1627-1681, 1632, p. 79. [Document 68]

1633 (5 Oct)	death	Anna	daughter	Augustini Wirth ⁶⁸
1633 (9 Oct)	death	Nicolaus	son	Augustini Wirth ⁶⁹
1634	death	Barbara Betz	wife	Steinlin Würth ⁷⁰
1635 (May)	marriage	Appolonia Brem	self/wife	Augustin Wirth, citizen of Scheppach ⁷¹
1635 (Jun)	death	Margretha	daughter	Augustini Wirth ⁷²
1635 (9 Sep)	death	Magdalena	daughter	Steinlin Wirth ⁷³
1635 (27 Sep)	death	Appolonia Brem	wife	Steinlin Wirth ⁷⁴
1635 (Nov)	death	Michel	son	Augustini Wirth ⁷⁵
1636	marriage	Appolonia Fad	self/wife	Augustinus Wirth, mayor of Scheppach ⁷⁶
1637 (Jan)	baptism	Nicolas (Claß)	son	Augustini Wirth, of Scheppach ⁷⁷
1637 (Apr)	death	Claß	son	Augustin Wirth, mayor ⁷⁸
1642 (13 Dec)	baptism	Maria	daughter	Augustin Wirth, mayor ⁷⁹
1642 (15 Dec)	death	Maria	daughter	Augustin Wirth, mayor ⁸⁰
1644	baptism	Hannß	son	Augustin Wirth, mayor ⁸¹
1646	marriage	Georg	son	Augustin Wirth, mayor of Scheppach ⁸²
1647	marriage	Catharina	daughter	Augustin Wirth, mayor of Scheppach ⁸³
1649 (9 Jun)	baptism	Augustinus	son	Augustin Wirth, mayor ⁸⁴
1649 (5 Oct)	death	Augustinus	son	Augustini Wirth, mayor ⁸⁵
1652	baptism	Anna Maria	daughter	Augustin Würth, mayor ⁸⁶
1655	baptism	Margaretha	daughter	Augustin Würth ⁸⁷
1657 (21 Feb)	death	Anna Maria	daughter	Augustin Würth, former mayor ⁸⁸
1657 (19 May)	death	self	self	honorable Augustin Würth, deceased former long-time mayor of Scheppach, age 60 years ⁸⁹

⁶⁷ Ev. Waldbach; FHL INTL mfilm no. 1346108, it. 3, Scheppach Taufen 1627-1681, 1633, p. 80. [Document 69]

⁶⁸ Ev. Waldbach; FHL INTL mfilm no. 1346108, it. 3, Scheppach Tote 1626-1681, 1633, p. 210. [Document 80]

⁶⁹ Ev. Waldbach; FHL INTL mfilm no. 1346108, it. 3, Scheppach Tote 1626-1681, 1633, p. 210. [Document 80]

⁷⁰ Ev. Waldbach; FHL INTL mfilm no. 1346108, it. 3, Scheppach Tote 1627-1681, 1634, p. 211. [Document 71]

⁷¹ Ev. Waldbach; FHL INTL mfilm no. 1346108, it. 3, Heiraten 1626-1681, 1635, p. 284. [Document 72]

⁷² Ev. Waldbach; FHL INTL mfilm no. 1346108, it. 3, Scheppach Tote 1626-1681, 1635, p. 211. [Document 81]

⁷³ Ev. Waldbach; FHL INTL mfilm no. 1346108, it. 3, Scheppach Tote 1626-1681, 1635, p. 212. [Document 82]

⁷⁴ Ev. Waldbach; FHL INTL mfilm no. 1346108, it. 3, Scheppach Tote 1626-1681, 1635, p. 213. [Document 74]

⁷⁵ Ev. Waldbach; FHL INTL mfilm no. 1346108, it. 3, Scheppach Tote 1626-1681, 1635, p. 213. [Document 83]

⁷⁶ Ev. Waldbach; FHL INTL mfilm no. 1346108, it. 3, Heiraten 1626-1681, 1636, p. 287. [Document 73]

⁷⁷ Evangelische Kirche Unterheimbach (OA. Weinsberg), Kirchenbuch, 1564-1981 (Stuttgart : Hauptstaatsarchiv Stuttgart, [198-]); FHL INTL mfilm no. 1346101, Taufen 1564-1658, 26 Jan 1637. [Document 95]

⁷⁸ Ev. Waldbach; FHL INTL mfilm no. 1346108, it. 3, Scheppach Tote 1626-1681, 1637, p. 215. [Document 84]

⁷⁹ Ev. Waldbach; FHL INTL mfilm no. 1346108, it. 3, Scheppach Taufen 1627-1681, 1642, p. 84. [Document 70]

⁸⁰ Ev. Waldbach; FHL INTL mfilm no. 1346108, it. 3, Scheppach Tote 1626-1681, 1642, p. 215. [Document 85]

⁸¹ Ev. Waldbach; FHL INTL mfilm no. 1346108, it. 3, Scheppach Taufen 1626-1679, 1644, p. 85. [Document 75]

⁸² Ev. Waldbach; FHL INTL mfilm no. 1346108, it. 3, Heiraten 1626-1681, 1646, p. 294. [Document 45]

⁸³ Ev. Waldbach; FHL INTL mfilm no. 1346108, it. 3, Heiraten 1627-1679, 1647, p. 295. [Document 91]

⁸⁴ Ev. Waldbach; FHL INTL mfilm no. 1346108, it. 3, Scheppach Taufen 1626-1679, 1649, p. 90. [Document 76]

⁸⁵ Ev. Waldbach; FHL INTL mfilm no. 1346108, it. 3, Scheppach Tote 1626-1681, 1649, p. 217. [Document 86]

⁸⁶ Ev. Waldbach; FHL INTL mfilm no. 1346108, it. 3, Scheppach Taufen 1626-1679, 1652, p. 96. [Document 77]

⁸⁷ Ev. Waldbach; FHL INTL mfilm no. 1346108, it. 3, Scheppach Taufen 1626-1679, 1655, p. 98. [Document 78]

⁸⁸ Ev. Waldbach; FHL INTL mfilm no. 1346108, it. 3, Scheppach Tote 1626-1681, 1657, p. 219. [Document 87]

⁸⁹ Ev. Waldbach; FHL INTL mfilm no. 1346108, it. 3, Scheppach Tote 1626-1681, 1657, p. 220. [Document 90]

1657 (2 Jul)	baptism	Augustinus	son	deceased Augustinus Würth ⁹⁰
1658	death	Margaretha	daughter	deceased Augustin Würth ⁹¹
1664	death	Augustin	son	deceased Augustin Würth, former mayor of Scheppach ⁹²
1671	marriage	Philipp	son	deceased Augustini Würth, mayor of Scheppach ⁹³
FIRST MARRIAGE		SECOND MARRIAGE		THIRD MARRIAGE
				FOURTH MARRIAGE

Regarding the information in Tables 19 and 20, the following are critical observations:

- Each of Augustin Würth's wives dies just prior to his marriage to the subsequent wife. Therefore, there are no chronology issues to suggest that there was another Augustin Würth.
- The 1646 and 1647 marriages describe Augustin as the mayor. [See Document 45.] The subjects of these marriage records, Georg (RIN 12) and Catharina (RIN 39), are almost certainly Jerg and Katharina of the 1633 census. [See Document 62.] There are no death or baptism records between 1633 and 1647 that describe a Georg or Catharina, child of Augustin Würth, which suggests the survival of these two of his children. According to the census, Jerg (RIN 12) would have been 26 years old when he married in 1646, and Katharina (RIN 39) would have been 25 years old when she married in 1627. According to what I have observed, the average 17th century resident of Scheppach was in their mid-20s at the time of their first marriage.
- The 1657 death record of Augustin Würth says he was 60 years old, making his approximate year of birth 1597. The record also describes him as the long-time mayor of Scheppach. [See Document 90.] Augustin Würth, head of household on the 1633 census, was born about Christmas of 1595. [See Document 62.] Both of these records are approximating Augustin Würth's year of birth. Neither record was created at or near the time of the birth nor with the input of someone with a memory of the birth. Therefore, when considered in conjunction with the marriage records described above, Augustin Würth's death record serves as additional evidence that the Augustin Würth of the 1633 census was, in fact, Augustin Würth, who later became mayor of Scheppach.
- The only other Augustin Würths, of which there is evidence in the Scheppach records, are the various thusly named sons of Augustin Würth (RIN 32). The only son whose identity could conceivably be confused with his father's, is the eldest. The only time this Augustin Würth (RIN 38) is mentioned in the Waldbach parish records is on the 1633 census. [See Document 62.]
- Though Barbara Betz is not explicitly named as the wife of Augustin Würth on the 1633 census, this is implied by the use of the phrase "former wife" to describe Margretha. [See Document 62.] According to my observation of other census entries, if Barbara had been the wife of young Augustin Würth (RIN 38), the son, she would have been listed with him, rather than on her own

⁹⁰ Ev. Waldbach; FHL INTL mfilm no. 1346108, it. 3, Scheppach Taufen 1626-1679, 1657, p. 99. [Document 79]

⁹¹ Ev. Waldbach; FHL INTL mfilm no. 1346108, it. 3, Scheppach Tote 1626-1681, 1658, p. 220. [Document 88]

⁹² Ev. Waldbach; FHL INTL mfilm no. 1346108, it. 3, Scheppach Tote 1626-1681, 1664, p. 221. [Document 89]

⁹³ Ev. Waldbach; FHL INTL mfilm no. 1346108, it. 3, Heiraten 1627-1679, 1671, p. 312. [Document 92]

line at the end of the list of Augustin Würth's (RIN 32) household members. All this is somewhat irrelevant if we consider that she married Augustin Würth in 1627, at which point young Augustin was only 10 years old.

- Potential father/son confusion is more likely in the case of Augustin Würth's (RIN 32) third wife, Appolonia Brem (RIN 51). However, this is still unlikely, not to mention genealogically insignificant. There were no children born to the marriage and the associated records do not affect any conclusions drawn regarding Augustin Würth's (RIN 32) identity. That said, note that young Augustin (RIN 38) was only 18 years old at the time of the Augustin Würth-Appolonia Brem marriage. Appolonia (RIN 51) was 25 years old, a more traditional marriage age. Also, the same diminutive form of the name Augustin (Steinlin) was used to describe Augustin Würth (RIN 32) at the death of his second wife Barbara (RIN 33) in 1634, the death of he and Barbara's daughter Magdalena (RIN 41) in 1635, and the death of Appolonia Brem (RIN 51) in 1635. [See Documents 71, 82, and 74.] In fact, the records of Magdalena and Appolonia's deaths were written in the same month, and yet there is no distinction whatsoever between the descriptions of Magdalena's father and Appolonia's husband.

Steinlin: Diminutives and Dialects

Regarding the diminutive described above, I was unable to find a secondary source claiming that "Steinlin" is a diminutive form of Augustin. However, it makes sense when you consider that Augustin (or Augustine) is not a German name. Some known diminutives are Austen, Stinnes, and Stienen. And some German forms of the name are Augst, Augstien, and *Augstein*.⁹⁴ You must also consider the possibility that formation of the diminutive was influenced by the rather distinct Swabian dialect. Waldbach parish is in northern Swabia. In this part of Swabia, the short *i* (Augustine or chEEse) was often pronounced/expressed as the diphthong *ei* (AugstEIn or whIne).⁹⁵ Also, the common regional diminutive form is *-le*, but *-lin* is a known Swabian variation of this form. In fact, "Steinlin" would likely have been pronounced "Steinle."⁹⁶

In terms of our ability to accept Steinlin as a diminutive form of Augustin, it is fortunate that Augustin Würth was not the only Augustin in Scheppach to go by Steinlin. I looked for a Steinlin on the 1633 census in Scheppach and found that Anna Frey's (RIN 23) older sister, Katharina, was married to Steinlin Späth in 1633.⁹⁷ [See Document 61.] From what I have observed of the Scheppach records, diminutives were rarely used to describe the primary subject of a record, such as a groom. Therefore, I located the marriage record of Steinlin Späth and Katharina Frey, expecting Steinlin to be described on that record by his Christian name, Augustin. On 19 June 1631, Katharina Frey, daughter of Michel Frey (RIN 24) of

⁹⁴ Hans Bahlow, *Dictionary of Germany Names* (Madison, WI: Make Kade Institute for German-American Studies, 2002), pp. 21, 491.

⁹⁵ Hermann Fischer, *Geographie der schwäbischen Mundart* (Tübingen: Verlag der H. Laupp'schen Buchhandlung, 1895), pp. 36-37.

⁹⁶ Hermann Fischer, *Geographie der schwäbischen Mundart*, p. 73.

⁹⁷ Ev. Waldbach; FHL INTL mfilm no. 1346108, it. 3, Waldbach 1633 parish census, Scheppach, p. 357. [Document 61]

Scheppach, married Augustinus Späth, son of Hans Späth, mayor of Scheppach.^{98 99} [See Document 96.] In “Image 1” below, you can see Anna (RIN 23) and Katharina Frey listed on the 1633 census in the household of their parents, Michel (RIN 24) and Christina Frey (RIN 25). On the line next to Katharina’s name, it says she was married to Steinlin Späth. In “Image 2” below, you can see that Katharina, daughter of Michel Frey (RIN 24), married Augustinus Späth.

Image 1:

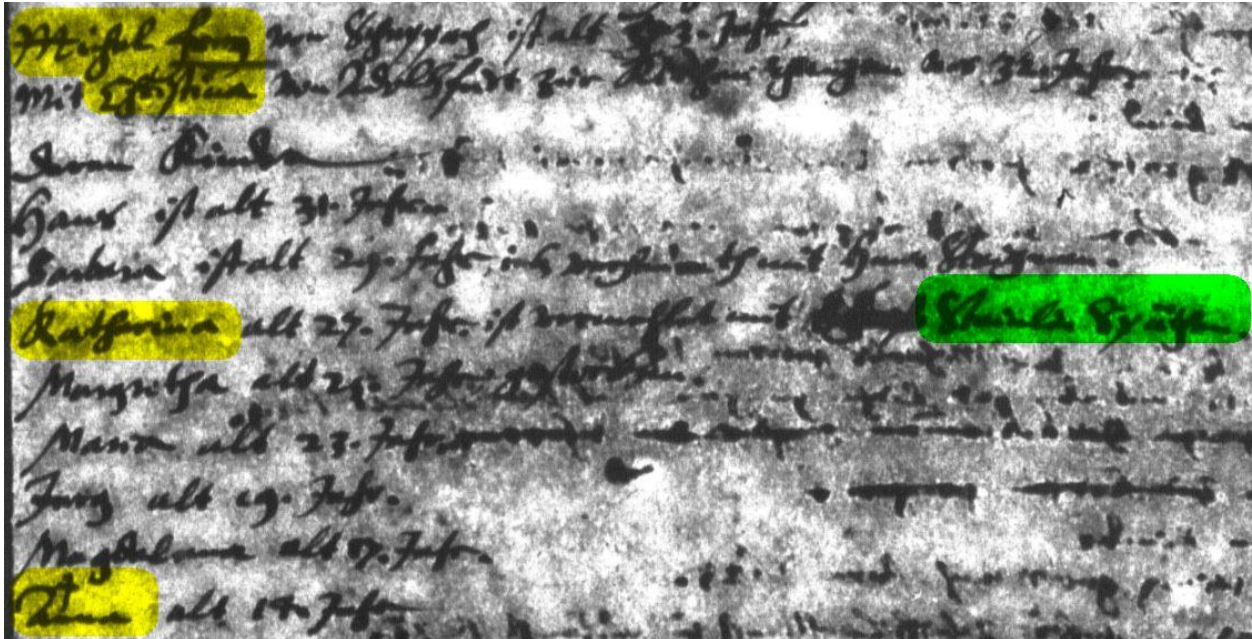
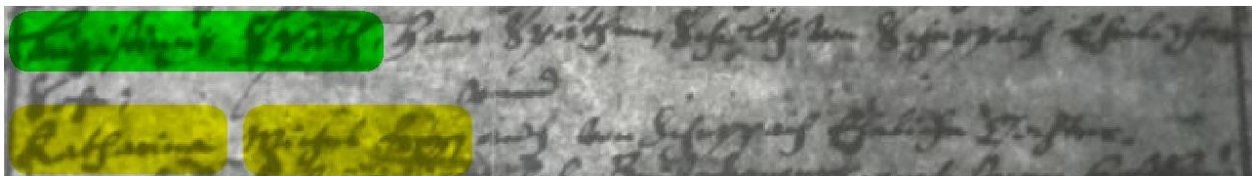


Image 2:



⁹⁸ Ev. Waldbach; FHL INTL mfilm no. 1346108, it. 3, Heiraten 1627-1679, 1631, p. 281. [Document 96]

⁹⁹ The term “Schultheiß” is the word used in the Waldbach parish records that I have translated as “mayor.” In his book, German English Genealogical Dictionary, Ernest Thode explains, “A **Schultheiß** is a village mayor, appointed rather than elected. The term comes from **heißen** and **Schuld**, meaning ‘announce’ and ‘tax.’ The **Schultheiß** was originally the official who announced the amount of tax owed” (Thode 1992, ix). Whenever officials are appointed, there is a strong indication that family strategy and positioning is occurring among the wealthiest families of the town. The inquiry into the name “Steinlin” inadvertently provides us with a tangible example of this. The sponsors at the baptisms of all of Augustin Würth and Barbara Betz’s children were either Michel Frey, or his wife Christina. Michel and Christina Frey’s daughter Katharina Frey married the son of the mayor, Hans Späth. After Augustin Würth became mayor, his son Georg married another of Michel and Christina Frey’s daughters, Anna. Stated in another way, sisters Katharina and Anna Frey both married the sons of the mayor of Scheppach.

Summary of Generation 4 Findings

An exhaustive representation of Generation 4 findings and their sources can be found on the Augustin Würth (RIN 32) family group sheets:

- Augustin Würth and Margretha (RIN 37)
- Augustin Würth and Barbara Betz (RIN 33)
- Augustin Würth and Appolonia Brem (RIN 51)
- Augustin Würth and Appolonia Fad (RIN 35)

Conclusion: A Chronological Summary

The families described in this summary lived in Scheppach, a small town in the Lutheran parish of Waldbach, Oberamt Weinsberg, Neckarkreis, Kingdom of Württemberg, in Germany. Of course, these were the German Empire (1871-1918) jurisdictions, which are generally used as the genealogical standard for German locality expression. Though, during the lives of these families, the Oberamt of Weinsberg belonged to the Duchy of Württemberg in the Swabian Circle of the Holy Roman Empire.

Generation 4: Augustin Würth and Margretha

Augustin Würth was born about 1595 to unknown parents. Württemberg had been a vassal state since 1520, paying taxes to the Austrian government. In 1599, Prince Frederick I of Württemberg succeeded in convincing Emperor Rudolph II to restore Württemberg's status as a duchy in the Holy Roman Empire.

In 1559, an enduring new system of government called the "Grosse Kirchenordnung" (great church order), was introduced in Württemberg. Basically, it was an official marriage between church and state.¹⁰⁰ This system of government would have affected Augustin throughout his life as a devout Lutheran, a wealthy citizen, and a civil servant.

Augustin Würth's first child was born at Christmastime in 1616 and he married his first wife, Margretha, in early 1617.¹⁰¹ The following year marked the beginning of the Thirty Years' War. While the war did not immediately impact Augustin's everyday life, the beginning of the war was an event of poetic foreshadowing in his life. He was from an influential, established, and wealthy family. He grew up during a relatively peaceful and prosperous time. The Reformation was complete, and Württemberg was free from the oppression of Austrian rule. However, everything would change for Augustin as the war progressed. Württemberg was a central battlefield throughout the war, but it wasn't until Duke

¹⁰⁰ Wikipedia contributors, "Duchy of Württemberg," Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Duchy_of_Württemberg (Accessed 27 Jun 2015).

¹⁰¹ Ev. Waldbach; FHL INTL mfilm no. 1346108, it. 3, Waldbach 1633 parish census, Scheppach, p. 361. [Document 62]

Johann Frederick died in 1628, that things really began to unravel. His successor, Duke Eberhard III entered the war as an ally of Imperial enemies. The Duke was exiled in 1634, following the Imperial victory at Nordlingen. After that, Spanish and Bavarian troops occupied Württemberg.

Margretha died in 1627, leaving Augustin with four children.¹⁰² A few months later, he married Barbara Betz. Barbara and the five children she bore Augustin all died before 1636. He was married to a third wife, Appolonia Brem, for four months during 1635, but she died as well. In the years 1634 and 1635, more than half the residents of Scheppach died, including the mayor. Consequently, prior to his fourth marriage (to Appolonia Fad on 23 February 1636), Augustin Würth was appointed the new mayor of Scheppach.¹⁰³ Augustin served as the mayor for 22 years, during what was arguably the most difficult time in the history of the town. He fathered at least 17 children and was widowed three times. Of his 17 children, at most six survived to adulthood. So far, we only have records proving the survival of four children.

Augustin Würth died, or as his death record states, was “blessedly released from his burdensome illness,” on 19 May 1657. His death record describes him as “der Ersams Augustin Würth, gewesener viel iähriger Schultheiß,” or the honorable Augustin Würth, former long-time mayor.¹⁰⁴

Generation 3: Georg Würth and Anna Frey

Georg Würth was born around 25 July 1620.¹⁰⁵ He was the second son of Augustin Würth and Margretha. His mother died when he was about seven years old. Only a few months later, his father married Barbara Betz, who raised him until she died in September of 1634. Though the Empire was already in the throes of the Thirty Years’ War when Georg was born, his home was relatively unaffected until 1634 when the Spanish and Bavarian troops occupied Württemberg.¹⁰⁶ Georg became well-acquainted with death at a very early age. Between the ages of seven and 16, Georg lost his mother, two step-mothers, and five half-siblings; his father married a fourth time and became the mayor of Scheppach; and over half of his community died. Georg’s third step-mother survived and had eight children. However, only two of these additional half-siblings survived to adulthood.

Anna Frey was born about 1620 in Scheppach.¹⁰⁷ She lost her father and mother during the early years of the Spanish-Bavarian occupation leaving her an orphan at the age of 15. Being the same age, Anna and Georg probably knew each other very well during childhood. Before their deaths, her parents were the baptismal sponsors for Georg’s half-siblings born to his father and first step-mother, Barbara Betz.

¹⁰² Ev. Waldbach; FHL INTL mfilm no. 1346108, it. 3, Scheppach Tote 1626-1681, 1627, p. 209. [Document 63]

¹⁰³ Ev. Waldbach; FHL INTL mfilm no. 1346108, it. 3, Heiraten 1626-1681, 1636, p. 287. [Document 73]

¹⁰⁴ Ev. Waldbach; FHL INTL mfilm no. 1346108, it. 3, Scheppach Tote 1626-1681, 1657, p. 220. [Document 90]

¹⁰⁵ Ev. Waldbach; FHL INTL mfilm no. 1346108, it. 3, Waldbach 1633 parish census, Scheppach, p. 361. [Document 62]

¹⁰⁶ Uncapher, *Lands of the German Empire and Before*, p. 69.

¹⁰⁷ Ev. Waldbach; FHL INTL mfilm no. 1346108, it. 3, Waldbach 1633 parish census, Scheppach, p. 357. [Document 61]

This indicates a close connection between the families. Ironically, Anna's parents, and the five Würth children they sponsored, all died before the end of 1635.

Georg Würth and Anna Frey married on 1 February 1646.¹⁰⁸ They had seven children. Their first child, who was born before the end of the Thirty Years' War, lived only a few months. Children were uncommon during the war, and of those who were born, many died in their early years. Most women were malnourished and diseased. In order for a child to be born, a woman had to survive *and* be healthy enough to conceive. Then both she and the child had to survive the pregnancy *and* delivery. All of Georg and Anna's subsequent children were born during repopulation years, and only their second and fourth children survived. In fact, little Georg was born the year after his older brother died and would have been the one constant comfort to his parents as they buried four more children.

When Anna died on 20 June 1690, she was a widow.¹⁰⁹ It is believed that Georg died between 1677 and 1680, though his death date is unknown.

Generation 2: Georg Würth and Maria Barbara Ruckenlaib

Georg Würth was baptized on 31 August 1648 in Scheppach.¹¹⁰ This was just a couple months before the signing of the Peace of Westphalia in October of 1648, which ended the Thirty Years' War. Maria Barbara Ruckenlaib was born a few months later in Closter Lichtenstern, about 11 kilometers south of Scheppach. Her 7 February 1649 Waldbach baptism record indicates that they were in Lichtenstern "in the flight from the French march."¹¹¹

The months following the Peace were not at all peaceful in Waldbach parish. Following the signing of the Peace of Westphalia in October, the French armies would have been marching through Württemberg on their return to France from the frontier. It makes sense that people would have fled to Closter Lichtenstern. It was a fortified city, and the French army was reeking what havoc it could in more exposed areas. Lichtenstern was originally a pre-Reformation Catholic convent, and would have been re-catholicized in 1630 with the Edict of Restitution. That said, Protestants were allowed to re-inhabit such Württemberg convents during the winter following the Peace of Westphalia.¹¹² ¹¹³ [See a 1792 artistic rendering of Closter Lichtenstern here:

<https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lichtenstern#/media/File:Lichtenstern1792.jpg>]

Georg Würth and Maria Barbara Ruckenlaib were born at the end of a great war and grew up during a time of economic recovery, rebuilding, and repopulation. They were married on 8 February 1670. They

¹⁰⁸ Ev. Waldbach; FHL INTL mfilm no. 1346108, it. 3, Scheppach Taufen 1627-1681, 1646, p. 294. [Document 45]

¹⁰⁹ Ev. Waldbach; FHL INTL mfilm no. 1346108, it. 4, Scheppach Tote 1681-1764, 20 Jun 1690. [Document 58]

¹¹⁰ Ev. Waldbach; FHL INTL mfilm no. 1346108, it. 3, Scheppach Taufen 1627-1681, 1648, p. 89. [Document 44]

¹¹¹ Ev. Waldbach; FHL INTL mfilm no. 1346108, it. 3, Waldbach Taufen 1626-1681, 1649, p. 24. [Document 43]

¹¹² Wikipedia contributors, "Lichtenstern," Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia, <https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lichtenstern> (Accessed 27 Jun 2015).

¹¹³ Geoffrey Parker, *The Thirty Years' War* (Routledge, 2006), p. 168.

had nine children, of whom six survived to adulthood. The other three died between the ages of one and five. By the age of 35 (1683), Georg had become a lawyer. He died on 9 January 1693.¹¹⁴

Georg was only 44 years old when he died, but he lived to see another great war (the Nine Years' War) and to inherit the legacy of his grandfather: wartime service as mayor of Scheppach. Georg Würth was born into the chaos that was the final days of the Thirty Years' War, and he died during the chaos that was the final days of the Nine Years' War. He was the mayor of Scheppach during that final chaos, and his grandfather, Augustin Würth was the mayor of Scheppach during the first.

When he died, Maria Barbara was left with 6 unmarried children between the ages of 18 months and 20 years. She was a widow for 30 years before her death in 1725.¹¹⁵

Generation 1: Hanß Georg Würth and Anna Catharina Kolb

Hanß Georg Würth was baptized on 13 October 1674, in Scheppach.¹¹⁶ Hanß Georg was a child during the Nine Years' War (or the War of the Grand Alliance). Any conflict between the Emperor and France made life uneasy in Swabia. Hanß Georg grew up knowing only a world at war. From 1688-1693, Württemberg was occupied by the French,¹¹⁷ and in 1692, when Hanß Georg was 18 years old, the Duc de Lorge and his French army began a devastating march, terrorizing the Swabian and Franconian frontiers.¹¹⁸ His father, Georg Würth, was the mayor of Scheppach for a short time in the early 1690s and died on 9 January 1693.¹¹⁹

Anna Catharina Kolb was born on 31 March 1681 in Rappach,¹²⁰ another town in the Lutheran parish of Waldbach. Hanß Georg Würth and Anna Catharina Kolb were married on 25 May 1700. Anna Catharina's father, Hanß Jerg Kolb, also died before they married.¹²¹ They had six children. All of their children survived to adulthood. Hanß Georg and Anna Catharina lived long lives. Anna Catharina died on 20 Jun 1757.¹²² Hanß Georg managed to survive for two more years without his wife. He died on 29 June 1759.¹²³

¹¹⁴ Ev. Waldbach; FHL INTL mfilm no. 1346108, it. 4, Scheppach Tote 1681-1764, 9 Jan 1693. [Document 36]

¹¹⁵ Ev. Waldbach; FHL INTL mfilm no. 1346108, it. 4, Scheppach Tote 1681-1764, 15 Apr 1725. [Document 38]

¹¹⁶ Ev. Waldbach; FHL INTL mfilm no. 1346108, it. 3, Scheppach Taufen 1627-1681, 1674, p. 106. [Document 24]

¹¹⁷ Wendy K. Uncapher, *Lands of the German Empire and Before* (Columbus, OH, USA: Augenschaer Publishing Company, 2004), p. 69.

¹¹⁸ Wikipedia contributors, "Nine Years' War," Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nine_Years'_War (Accessed 27 Jun 2015).

¹¹⁹ Ev. Waldbach; FHL INTL mfilm no. 1346108, it. 4, Scheppach Tote 1681-1764, 9 Jan 1693. [Document 36]

¹²⁰ Ev. Waldbach; FHL INTL mfilm no. 1346108, it. 4, Rappach Taufen 1680-1727, 1 Apr 1681. [Document 23]

¹²¹ Ev. Waldbach; FHL INTL mfilm no. 1346108, it. 4, Heiraten 1679-1763, 25 May 1700. [Document 2]

¹²² Ev. Waldbach; FHL INTL mfilm no. 1346108, it. 4, Scheppach Tote 1681-1764, 20 June 1757. [Document 19]

¹²³ Ev. Waldbach; FHL INTL mfilm no. 1346108, it. 4, Scheppach Tote 1681-1764, 29 June 1759. [Document 20]

Future Research

- The Würth family line cannot be traced any further using the Waldbach parish records. Because of the family's social importance, however, it is possible that additional generations could be traced using the earliest Waldbach parish records in conjunction with the early Württemberg records available at the Hauptstaatsarchiv in Stuttgart. For example, the Lutheran visitation records for Waldbach and sixteenth century tax lists for Scheppach may shed light on the earlier generations of Würths in Scheppach. The tax lists, which are available digitally on the archive's website, list the names of Würth men or their widows. However, the tax lists are too early to be of value unless other records can be used to bridge a generational gap.
- Many family lines branch off from this linear study that could be traced. Many lines can probably be traced within Waldbach parish. Of particular interest might be the paternal lines of each of the Würth wives: Kolb, Frey, Ruckenlaib, and potentially even that of Margretha of Generation 4. Her parentage presents another possible inquiry, which may or may not be possible to resolve using the readily available parish registers.
- The following is quoted from footnote 6. For the sake of brevity, please refer back to this footnote for context: "Melchior may have died between 1731 and 1733. There is not a death record for him in the parish, but he does not appear again on the Seelenregister or marriage records. It is possible that both Hanß Jonas and Melchior were soldiers and that Hanß Jonas returned and Melchior did not. Verification on this line of inquiry would require further research."
- The following is quoted from footnote 9. For the sake of brevity, please refer back to this footnote for context: "Though outside the parameters of this research project, it should be noted that Maria Barbara may have been a grandchild of Hanß Georg Würth and Anna Catharina Kolb; and a daughter of her supposed sister, Maria Elisabetha, who was 21 when Maria Barbara was born and who married the next year."
- There are a few records I was unable to locate in any of the Waldbach towns. A search of surrounding parishes may reveal these. For example, Nicolaus Würth (RIN 63) was only identified as a son of Augustin Würth and Appolonia Fad by his death record. His baptism was not located in Waldbach parish, but in Unterheimbach, Appolonia's home parish. The missing records are the baptism of Philipp Würth (RIN 71), the death of Georg Würth (RIN 12), and marriage and/or death records for Augustinus Würth (RIN 38) and Barbara Würth (RIN 40). Please note that Philipp Würth (RIN 71) was not baptized in Unterheimbach, as was his slightly older brother Nicolaus (RIN 63). It is possible that he was baptized in Scheppach in 1639 when no events were recorded in the parish of Waldbach.