

Johann Jacobus Klitz (1710—????)

Anna Gertrud Saelmann (1710-????)



Town Crest of Metelen



Detail of the Ceiling of the Church of Sts. Cornelius and Cyprianus, Metelen



Depiction of the town of Metelen, ca. 1600

Jacobus and Gertrud are the earliest known/confirmed Klitz ancestors.

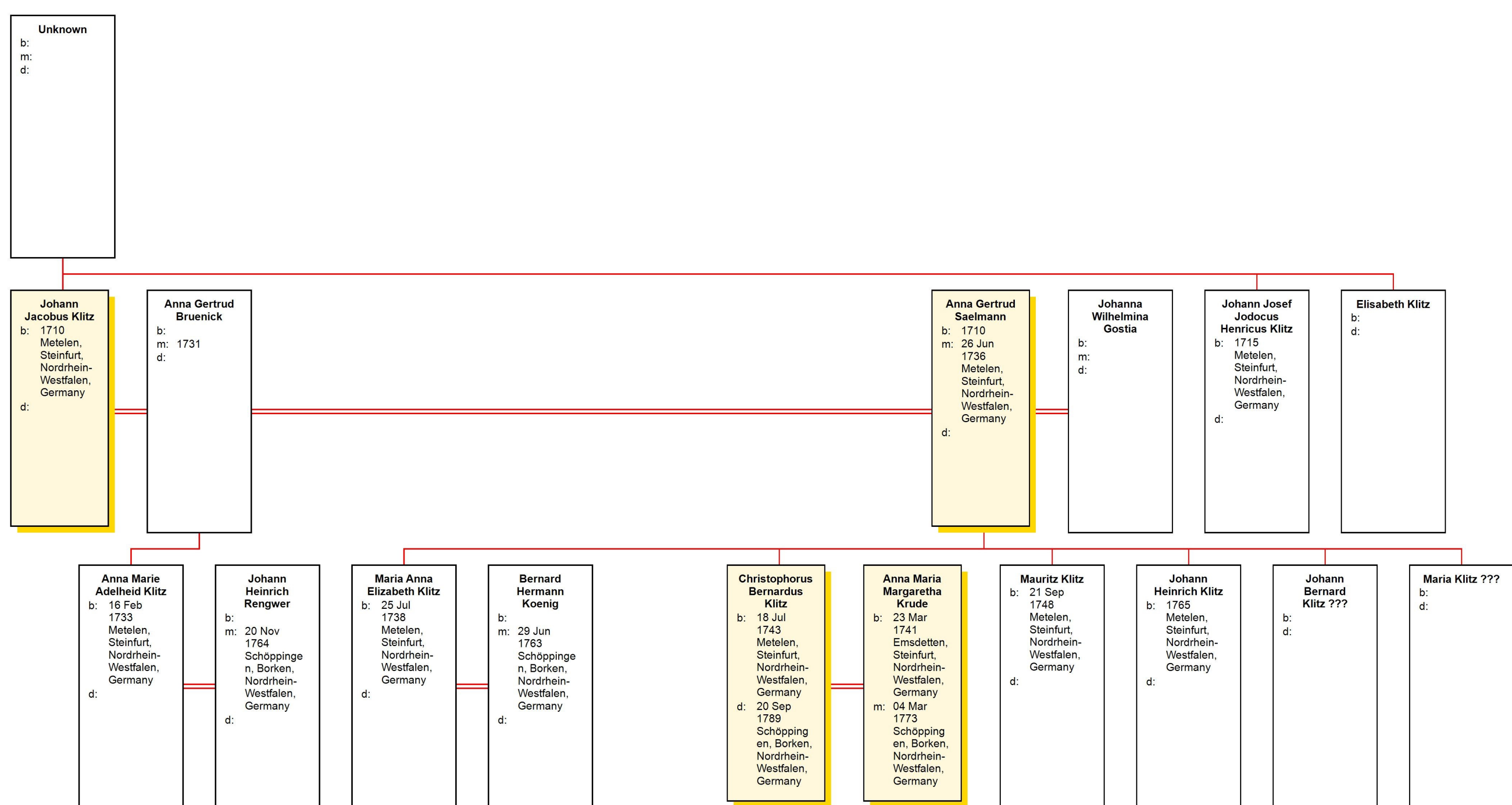
Jacob married his second wife, Gertrud, in 1734, and together, they had at least 3 children (Jacob had one daughter from his first marriage).

It is not presently known where he and Gertrud were born, nor when they died.

As a day laborer, Jacob most likely spent his life working for a large land owner, while tending a small parcel of land for his family's use.

Two of Jacob's daughters - Adelheid (from his first marriage) and Elisabeth - moved from Metelen to the Schoppingen/Eggerode area at a young age, for employment.

Adelheid and Elisabeth were both servant girls on farms in the area. Christophorus, Jacob and Gertrud's eldest son, settled on the Schultze-Sievert farm and worked as a day laborer, like his father.



Family Tree of Jacobus Klitz and Gertrud Saelmann

The town of Metelen developed around a convent of the Augustinian order founded in 889 by King Arnulf. Control of the area around Metelen passed through many local noble families including the Counts von Tecklenberg, Counts von Velen, and the Prince-Bishops of Munster in the following centuries. The Abbesses ruled the convent for nine centuries, ending in 1803.

The town's walls and four protective towers were completed in 1591, and in 1631, the town received its seal, whose design is reflected in the modern day version.

The local economy was based on the textile industry up until the 19th century, when, like much of the rest of Westphalia, international industrialization caused its decline. The last textile factory closed in 1973.



Map of Central Europe, 1710



View of the Interior of the Plagesmann Mill, originally built in the 10th Century