

# Christophorus Bernardus Klitz (1743–1789)

## Anna Maria Margaretha Krude (1741–????)



Town Crest of Schöppingen



The plot of land the Klitz family lived on for five generations

The tenant farmers of pre-industrial Prussia had few options at their disposal in terms of livelihood and employment. Much like the rest of society, first-born sons could “inherit” the plot of land their parents had worked. (The land still was owned by the upper classes, but tenant farming could pass from generation to generation.)

The other children in a family had little option, but to leave the home and build a life elsewhere. They often left at a young age to work as maid-servants or farmhands of other farms in the area.

Abelheid, Elisabeth, and Christopher Klitz all moved to the area of Schöppingen and Eggerode and planted familial roots at an early age.

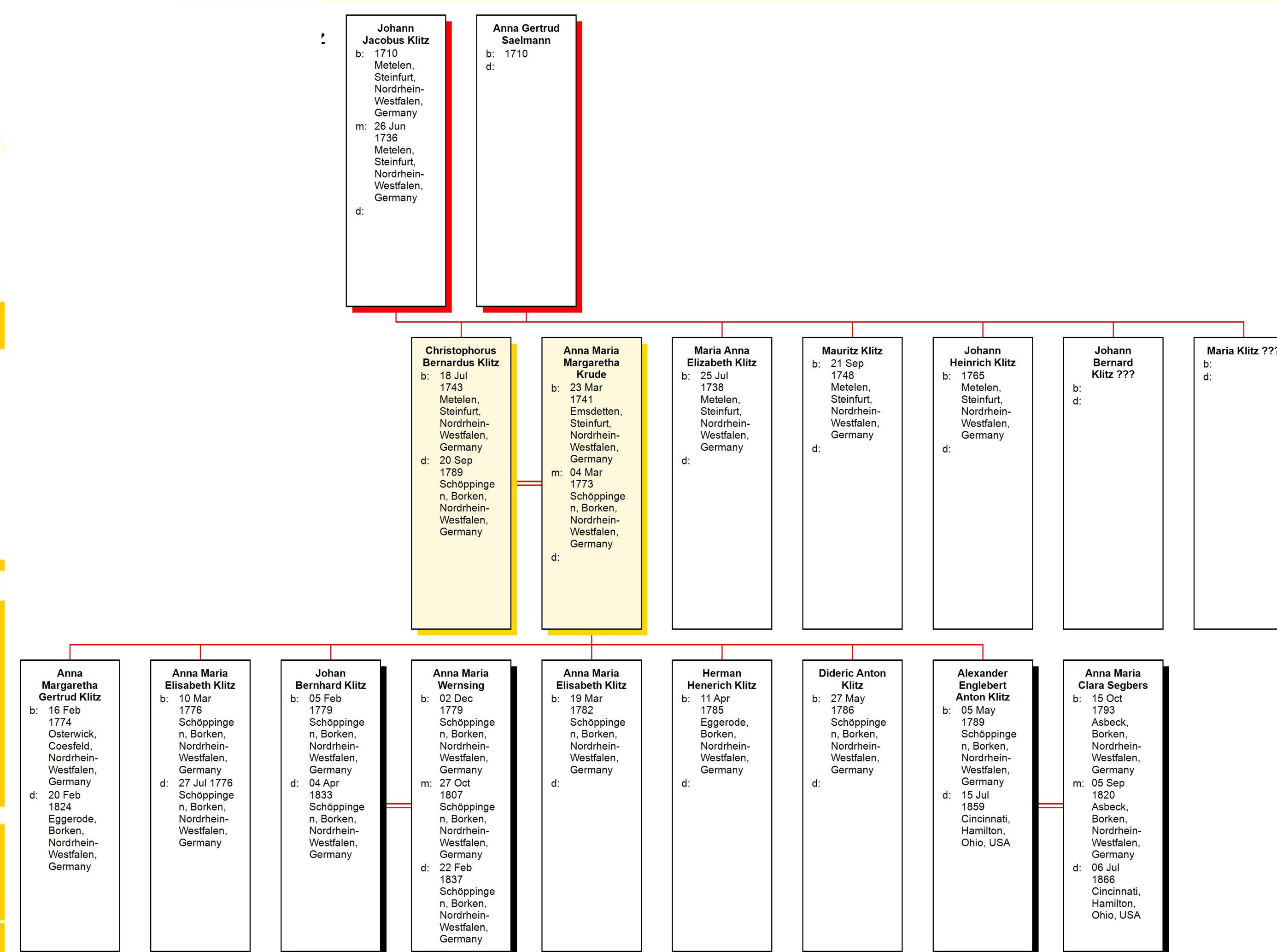
Christopher and Margaret settled in the Schöppingen area on the Schultze-Sievert farm around 1775. The next five generations of Klitzes lived on and farmed the land.

They raised seven children on the farm until Christopher passed away in 1789, three and a half months after his youngest child, Engelbert, was born.

Life for the Klitz family would have involved working their portion of land near their small cottage and working the land managed and owned by the Schultze-Sievert family.

The Klitzes also would have supplemented their subsistence farming with tailoring and other work in textiles.

After the death of Christopher, Margaret married Henerich Schilds and they had two children.



Family Tree of Christopher Klitz and Margaret Krude

Elisabeth Klitz, eldest child of Jacob and Gertrud, moved to the Göecke farmstead just outside of the town of Schöppingen when she was just ten years old. There she worked as a maid-servant, tending the house. While working for the Göecke family, Elisabeth met Bernard Hermann König, whose family farm was adjacent to the Göecke's farm. The two wed in 1763 and had at least seven children.

More than 250 years later, Elisabeth and Hermann descendants still live on the König farm.



Map of Central Europe, 1743



Wooden beam found in the walls of a barn on the König farm. It mentions Elisabeth Klitz König.

150

Schöppingen to Dodge  
A Celebration for the Ages