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# The German-American Family of Johann Klesen (1857–1933)



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Maria Besse/Nathalie Besse/Thomas Besse/Johannes Naumann:  
The German-American Family of Johann Klesen (1857–1933)



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# Contents

	Page
Foreword .....	6
<b>1 Introduction</b> .....	<b>7</b>
Family origin in Binsfeld (Weiswampach, Canton Diekirch, Luxembourg) .....	7
Paternal Ancestral Chart of the Paternal Ancestors .....	9
Interpretation of the Family Name KLESEN .....	12
<b>2 Generation 1 in Binsfeld (Luxemburg) and Scheuern (Saarland)</b> .....	<b>15</b>
2.1 Sheppard Adam CLESEN in Binsfeld (Generation 1) .....	15
2.2 CLESEN Houses in Binsfeld .....	22
2.3 Cartwright and Mayor Tillmann HOFFMANN in Scheuern (Generation 1) .....	26
<b>3 Tholey-Scheuern (Germany, Saarland)</b> .....	<b>29</b>
3.1 Carpenter and Mayor Jacob CLESEN in Scheuern (Generation 2) .....	29
3.2 Children of Jacob CLESEN and Agnes HOFFMANN (Generation 3) .....	50
3.3 Blacksmith and Miner Johannes KLESEN in Scheuern (Generation 3) .....	67
3.4 Children of Johannes KLESEN (Generation 4) .....	81
3.5 Tailor and Farmer Kasimir KLESEN in Scheuern (Generation 4) .....	100
3.6 Shoemaker and Linen Weaver Michael KLESEN in Scheuern (Generation 5) ...	110
<b>4 Lebach-Dörsdorf (Germany, Saarland)</b> .....	<b>115</b>
4.1 Shoemaker Matthias KLESEN in Dörsdorf (Generation 5) .....	115
4.2 Coal Miner Josef KLESEN in Dörsdorf (Generation 6) .....	121
<b>5 Immigration to America</b> .....	<b>126</b>
5.1 Johann KLESEN and Anna SCHMITT in Chicago, Illinois, USA .....	126
5.2 Catharina KLESEN and Peter PUHL in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvanian, USA ...	130
5.3 Jacob and Nikolas AMES in Potosi, Wisconsin, USA .....	131
5.4 Angela KLESEN in Picada Café, Brazil .....	136
<b>6 Abstract</b> .....	<b>137</b>
<b>7 Directories and Registers</b> .....	<b>138</b>
Abbreviations .....	138
Sources .....	139
Literature .....	140
Register of Names of People.....	143
Register of Names of Places .....	146
Illustration Credits and Sources .....	148

## Foreword

The tracing of family named and the search for ancestors has always been a very popular pastime. Already in the Middle Ages, aristocrats tried to organize family tree charts of their ancestors. Unfortunately, in Germany genealogical research fell into disrepute during the Third Reich of the National Socialism (Nazi) regime. Only recently can be seen an increasing interest in literary studies on genealogy and the research of ancestors. The growing number of members in genealogical associations and historical societies illustrates this.

The authors have scrutinized their own family history and its many historical themes several times. This family history book focuses on the surname Klesen, which is especially common in the German Saarland region. Our research into the carpenter Jacob KLESEN and his parents, all from Binsfeld in Luxembourg, found that the first documented instance of this surname occurred in Scheuern in the Saarland. A study about the baroque altars ascribed to his craftsmanship will be published separately.

We want to thank Günter KLESEN, Lebach-Dörsdorf, deceased, and Herbert KLESEN, Sulzbach, who had already researched much of the Klesen genealogical tree. The results of their research have been included into this study.

We also want to thank the Tholey historical association for their publishing of the German version of this study and the Bohnental historical society for helping to locate the Klesen houses in Scheuern and in the Bohnental area as well as for having clarified numerous questions about the family.

We wish to thank Dr. phil. Nathalie Katharina Besse, Saarland/Germany, and Jim Carpenter, California/USA, for their help in translating this family chronicle.

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Dr. Nathalie Besse,  
Thomas Besse,  
Riegelsberg/Germany  
2017

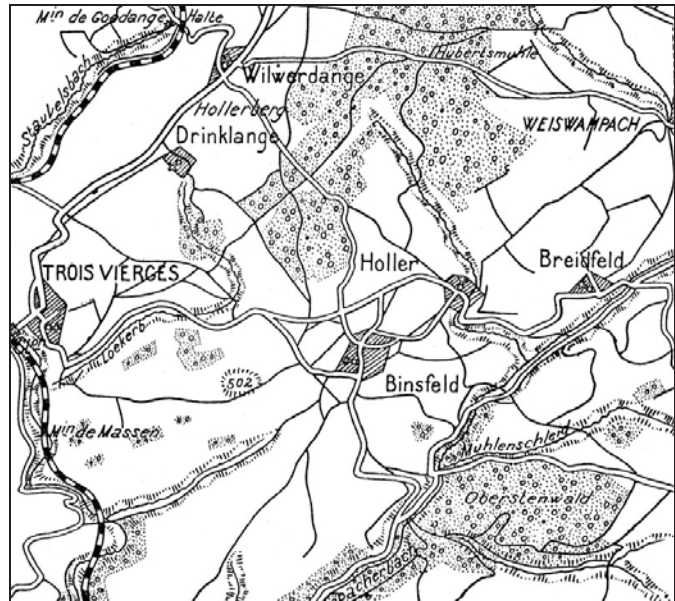
Johannes Naumann,  
Frater Wendelinus, Benedictine abbey  
Tholey/Germany



## 1 Introduction

### Family origin in Binsfeld (Weiswampach, canton Diekirch, Luxembourg)

The name KLESEN is originally a Luxembourgian family name from the village of Binsfeld (see figures 1 and 2) in the commune of Weiswampach, canton Diekirch, which is located in the Luxembourg Ardennes and is about 87 miles away from the Saarland village Tholey-Scheuern, where many of the KLESEN families live today. The region is also called the "Ösling" (Oesling). The "Ösling" region is in the north of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, and covers about 33% of the land area. It includes the cantons Diekirch, Clerf, Diekirch, Redingen, Vianden and Wiltz. The



**Figure 1.** Binsfeld, twon of Weiswampach, Luxembourg

first documentation of Binsfeld, called Bënzelt in the local dialect, dates back to 770 in the Latin language: It was named "Benutzfelt", situated between the regions "centina Belslango" and "vasta Ardinna". Charlemagne (Charles the Great), King of the Franks, gave back a forest in Binsfeld to the palsgrave Chrodoin and his descendants. In this document two variant names appear: Benezvelt and Benutzfelt. The variant *Binuzfelt* was mentioned in another document in 844. The place name can be derived from the Old High German word binuz for the plant rush,<sup>1</sup> called in the Ösling dialect Jinken<sup>2</sup>. Today, this plant is still found in the meadows surrounding the village.<sup>3</sup>



**Figure 2.** Binsfeld (*Bënzelt*), Weiswampach, Luxembourg, village entrance, main road

<sup>1</sup> See Meyers p. 73 noting that lots of field names with the same linguistic stem exist in Luxembourg.

<sup>2</sup> See *Jenk* (WDW-DVD 4).

<sup>3</sup> See BIHOB 1981, p. 30.



The census of fireplaces in 1531, which was created as a tax list, made mention of 14 households in Binsfeld, including the following households that can be traced to the surname KLESEN: *Metzen Claisz*, *Elsen Claisz* and *Claisen Johann*.<sup>1</sup> According to the census of fireplaces in 1541, there were the Klesen-related names of *Claesenn Claus*, *Elsen Claus*, *Cluß Johann* and *Titzen Claus* in *Binszffelt*.<sup>2</sup>



**Figure 3.** Baroque high altar in the church of Holler

The parish register of the church in Holler (see figure 3 with Baroque altars) also notes the name CLESEN in Binsfeld in 1702. In 1742, Nicolaus CLESEN is mentioned as a Catholic priest who reads the early mass (Primissarius) in Binsfeld and can be connected to *Elsen Nicolas*.<sup>3</sup> Nicolaus CLESEN, vicar in *binseldt*, personally signed the last will of Friedrich *Elsen* as witness.<sup>4</sup>

The Ösling (see figure 4) was largely spared from the Thirty Years' War (1618–1648), since soldiers only moved into winter quarters in the town of Marnach. The country did not suffer under the long war as did the present Saarland. Therefore, the resettlement of the north Saarland area after the war was primarily undertaken by craftsmen, teachers and priests from Luxembourg.

It was assumed previously that Jacob KLESEN had emigrated from Binsfeld in the Eifel District (zip code 54518) between Bitburg and Wittlich—an area that had belonged to the Duchy of Luxembourg in the past. The assumption was supported by the fact that a Scheuern priest was born in this village.



**Figure 4.** The Ösling (Luxembourgian *Éislek*) is in the north of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg where the National Parks Obersauer and Our are located.

<sup>1</sup> See BIHOB 1981, p. 34.

<sup>2</sup> State Archive Lux. A.XIII.2 (884–894) and BIHOB 1981, p. 45.

<sup>3</sup> See BIHOB 1981, pp. 34 and 52.

<sup>4</sup> National archive Luxembourg, Notary FRANCK, from 7 Jun 1742.

## Ancestral Chart of the Paternal Ancestors

The ancestral chart for the Klesen family begins with Adam Klesen (*Klessen, Clesen*), first mentioned in 1703 as the father of Jacob Clesen. Adam was listed in the register of the parish of Holler (situated next to Binsfeld) as patriarch of the household name *Klessen de Binsfeldt* which was recorded by the local priest. The following chart includes a total of 10 generations up through those living today.

### Generation 1

Number	1024
First name	Adam
Birth name	Klesen ( <i>Klessen, Clesen</i> )
Birth date	before 1680
Residence	Binsfeld, Luxembourg

Number	1025
First name	Anna Margaretha
Birth name	Unknown
Birth date	before 1690
Residence	Binsfeld, Luxembourg

### Generation 2

Number	512
First name	Jacob
Birth name	<i>Clesen</i>
Birth date	28 May 1708
Birth place	Binsfeld, Luxembourg
Wedding date	about 1740
Wedding location	Scheuern, Tholey, Germany
Profession	specialty carpenter, farmer
Date of death	16 Sep 1782, Scheuern

Number	513
First name	Agnes
Birth name	Hoffmann ( <i>Hoffman</i> )
Birth date	25 Apr 1717
Birth place	Niederhofen, Tholey
Wedding date	about 1740
Wedding location	Scheuern, Tholey, Germany
Profession	homemaker
Date of death	24 Nov 1776

### Generation 3

Number	256
First name	Johannes
Birth name	Klesen
Birth date	25 Jan 1742
Birth place	Scheuern, Tholey
Wedding date	23 Feb 1775 (2nd marriage)
Wedding location	Scheuern, Tholey
Profession	farmer, miner
Date of death	11 Dec 1831 Scheuern

Number	257
First name	Angela
Birth name	Riehm
Birth date	21 Aug 1753
Birth place	Lebach, Saarland, Germany
Wedding date	23 Feb 1775 (2nd marriage)
Wedding location	Scheuern, Tholey
Profession	homemaker
Date of death	7 Oct 1842 Scheuern

## Generation 4

Number	64
First name	Johannes 2nd
Birth name	Klesen, named Scholl
Birth date	8 Apr 1796
Birth place	Scheuern, Tholey
Wedding date	31 Jan 1815
Wedding location	Scheuern
Profession	farmer
Date of death	9 Jan 1853, Scheuern

Number	65
First name	Maria Katharina
Birth name	Conrad
Birth date	2 Mar 1798
Birth place	Scheuern, Tholey
Wedding date	31 Jan 1815
Wedding location	Scheuern
Profession	homemaker
Date of death	3 Feb 1843, Scheuern

## Generation 5

Number	32
First name	Michel
Birth name	Klesen named Schohl
Birth date	19 Jul 1825
Birth place	Scheuern, Tholey
Wedding date	1 Feb 1853
Wedding location	Tholey
Profession	farmer
Date of death	23 Aug 1870, Scheuern

Number	33
First name	Margaretha
Birth name	Blug
Birth date	21 Dec 1825
Birth place	Scheuern, Tholey
Wedding date	1 Feb 1853
Wedding location	Tholey
Profession	homemaker
Date of death	1 May 1893, Scheuern

## Generation 6

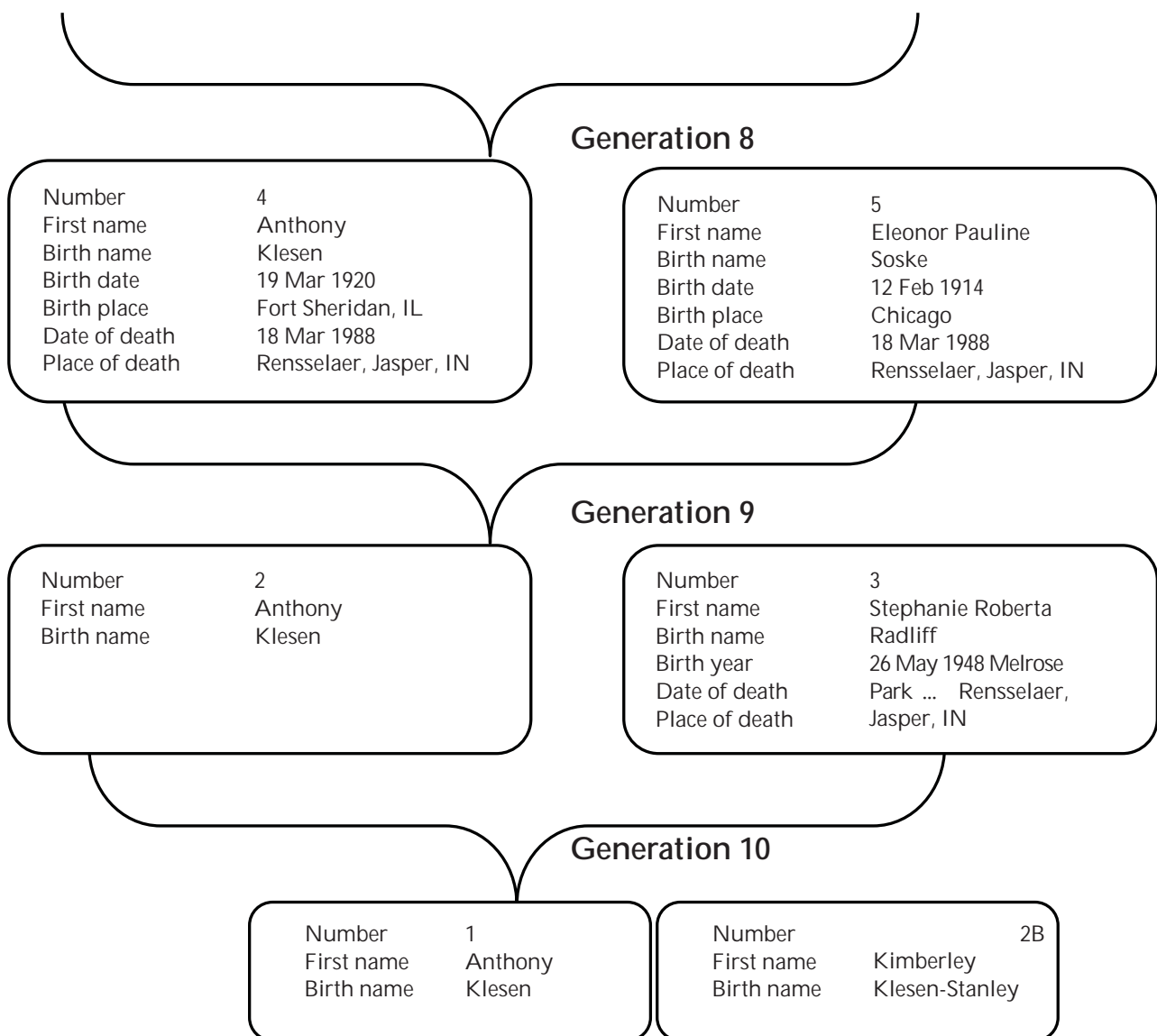
Number	16
First name	Johann
Birth name	Klesen
Birth date	20 Mar 1857
Birth place	Scheuern
Wedding date	17 Nov 1881
Wedding location	Chicago
Profession	steelworker, laborer
Date of death	11 Apr 1933 Northfield, IL

Number	17
First name	Anna
Birth name	Schmitt
Birth date	8 Sep 1876
Birth place	Germany
Wedding date	17 Nov 1881
Wedding location	Chicago
Profession	homemaker
Date of death	19 Nov 1923, Chicago

## Generation 7

Number	8
First name	Joseph J
Birth name	Klesen
Birth date	1899
Birth place	Illinois
Wedding date	
Wedding location	
Profession	
Date of death	6 Dec 1956, Cook Co, IL

Number	9
First name	Pearl Eve
Birth name	Kross
Birth date	17 Apr 1899
Birth place	Petersburgh, PA
Wedding date	
Wedding location	
Profession	homemaker
Date of death	3 Nov 1920, Chicago



The above paternal ancestral chart for Kim and Anthony KLESEN, both residents of the USA, extends back 10 generations to the carpenter Adam KLESEN (1708–1782), a resident of Scheuern, Germany. This chart will be useful to all branches of the KLESEN family that have a known ancestor in common with this particular branch. Many of the American descendants of the first ancestors in this branch to immigrate to America, Johann KLESEN and his wife Anna SCHMITT (generation 6), are listed in chapter 5. In that chapter, their known descendants are listed through generation 10 to aid researchers looking for possible connections to this branch. The members of generations 11 and 12 are still being born in some branches of the family (see for example 4.2).

## Interpretation of the Family Name KLESEN

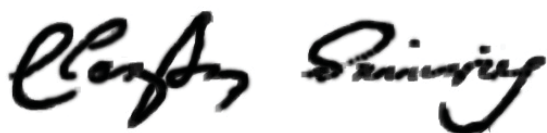
The surnames *Cleß*, *Clees*, *Clesius*, *Kleß*, *Kless* or *Klesen* all derive from the name Nicolas.<sup>1</sup> When family names began being used, Nicolas was the second most common first name (after Johannes).<sup>2</sup> Hence a variety of surnames, based on Nicolas, were derived over the years, including the family name CLESEN (see 1.1). This surname is found in the area with the spelling KLESEN.

In 2002, 176 KLESEN phone connections were listed in Germany (telephone CD-ROM) and 158 of those households were found in the Saarland, an exceedingly high percentage (89.7%).<sup>3</sup> Therefore, we can say that the surname KLESEN (like the common surname BACKES which means baker—3,058 telephone connections with about 8.154 people in all households with a high concentration in Saarland) is a typical Saarland family name.


On the German website <http://www.verwandt.de>, 172 KLESEN telephone connections (with about 459 people in all households) are listed for this name in 2016. They are living in 20 towns and regions, mostly concentrated in the Saarland. Most connections (50) can be found in St. Wendel. We can also find 63 households with the family name CLESEN in the Luxembourg phone book (see the website <http://www.luxweb.com>) in the Duchy of Luxembourg. The search on this website for the spelling *Klesen* did not bring any results.

The spelling of surnames was subject to constant change in earlier centuries. The family name CLESEN or KLESEN was also written in different forms in German and Luxembourgian documents, appendices, margin notes or registries of people. In Lorraine times, the initial letter of the name was written in Latin script with <C> in Luxembourg and in the Saar region. The letters <K> and <G>: *Cleassen*, *Clæßen*, *Cleaß*, *Cleesen*, *Cleiß*, *Clesen*, *Clësen*, *Clésen*, *Cleß*, *Clessen*, *Cleuß*, *Cleußen*, *Clæsen*, *Cloob*, *Klasen*, *Kleasen*, *Kleesen*, *Klesen*, *Klësen*, *Klessen*, *Kleßen*, *Kleusen*, *Glesen*, *Glessen*, and *Gleßen* were used at the beginning of the 18th century.

The following examples demonstrate the spelling variations of the name; the name was frequently written with the Latin initial <C> and with a medial sound <s> or *f*.



Debitor Heinrich KLESEN (*Clæßen*) from Binsfeld, brother of Adam KLESEN, in a notarial contract in 1699



Latin spelling of the family name KLESEN (*Ex Adamo et Anna Margaretha Klessen*) on the baptism certificate of daughter Anna Margareta, born on 19 December 1703, in the register of the parish church in Holler

<sup>1</sup> See Brechenmacher p. 60; Steffens pp. 68ff; Kohlheim/Kohlheim 2008, p. 438.

<sup>2</sup> See Kunze pp. 80f.

<sup>3</sup> See Brachmann p. 98.






Signature of vicar *Nicolaus Clesen* on the testament of Friedrich ELSÉN from Binsfeld in 1742



Signature of Mayor and court juryman *Jacob Clesen* in Scheuern on a French deed of sale when he purchased his first house in 1749



In this contract, Jacob was indicated in his functions as Mayor (*maire*) and juryman (*haut justitier*).



Spelling of the name *Klæsen* with ligature <æ> on a contract, dated 22 April 1778 before Notary GIRAUD



Signature of *Wendalinus Kleser*, hermit in the Saint Blaise chapel in Tholey-Bergweiler, on a deed in 1782



French spelling of the name *Jacob Clésen* *maire* with accents on a French notarial contract on 9 June 1782, before Notary GIRAUD



Signature of *Johanes Kleser* on the barter agreement no. 94 of the contract protocols in the notary's office Schaumburg in 1787



Margin note to Jacob CLESEN, who was referred to posthumously as *Jaques Clesen*. The note was added from the registry of the Duchy Palatine-Zweibruecken on a purchase deed in 1749.



Spelling of the name of Johannes KLESEN with the ligature <ee> (*Kleesen*) on a contract in 1787



Margin note to Peter KLESEN from Tholey-Überroth (*Pierre Klésen de Rodt*) on a contract concerning the purchase of landed property in 1784



Spelling of the name of the cooper (*Kiefler*) Mathias KLESEN (*Glesen*) with the initial <G> on a notarial contract, before Notary RETIENE in 1818



Signature of Casimir (*Casimirus*) KLESEN as witness at an auction in 1819



Signature of Joseph KLESEN as estimator when a notarial inventory was carried out in 1830



Signature of Johann KLESEN 2nd with the addition *Scholl* at a free public auction in 1841



Signature of Johannes KLESEN 3rd on the sales deed of his house in 1852



Signature of Michel KLESEN on his marriage license in 1861



Signature of Johann and Anna KLESEN on the power of attorney by Notary SCHMITZ in Chicago, USA in 1884



Signature of Maria KLESEN from Scheuern on her notarial testament, before Notary SCHÄFER in 1884



Signature of the shoemaker Mathias KLESEN from Dörsdorf on the marriage license at his marriage to Karoline SCHOMMER in 1897



## 2 Generation 1 in Binsfeld (Luxembourg) and Scheuern (Saarland)

### 2.1 Shepherd Adam CLESEN in Binsfeld (Generation 1)

Jacob KLESEN's forbear Adam CLESEN also came from the village of Binsfeld, which is located in the today commune of Weiswampach, Luxembourg, in the northern Ardennes in the region called Oesling. Jacob's birth entry is not available in the parish register of the Holler church (parish Weiswampach, deanery Stavelot), where the births and baptisms of the Binsfeld inhabitants were recorded in those days. But fortunately, the vicar Johannes RENTMEISTER of the parish Holler in the former diocese Liège issued a certificate of baptism on 26

May 1738. He confirmed that Jacob KLESEN was born on 28 May 1708 as son of Adam and Anna Margaretha KLESEN and was baptized by Jakob KETMAN, the former vicar in Holler. According to the parish register, Jacob received the sacrament of Confirmation from the Treves Suffragan Bishop. In the parish register of the Holler church, two other notes on Jacob KLESEN could be found: *Jacobus Clesen* was named in the baptism register on 10 May 1725 as godfather of the child Unkown LEYSEN. Also, *Jacobus KLESEN* was recorded in a list of candidates for confirmation on 1 July 1730 as the sponsor of Dominicus KLEFFERS and Carolus KLEFFERS. Concerning the house name *Klessen de Binsfeldt*, there were notations in Latin script above the supposed shepherd Adam *Klessen* and his wife Anna Margaretha's names in the register of the Holler parish (1695–1726), where the following children of the couple *Klessen* were baptized on the day of their birth between 1703 and 1711.

1. Anna Margareta was baptized on 9 December 1703. Sponsors were Hubertus WELTIS from Sassel, Anna STEMPELS from Asselborn and Margareta *Klessen*.
2. Johannes Heinrich (*Joannis Henricus*) was baptized on 18 December 1705. Sponsors were *Johannes Henricus Klesse* and Susanna LUSCHERTZ, both from Binsfeld. He died before 1734, as he was not named in the testament of his sponsor Heinrich KLESEN.
3. Jacob was born on 28 May 1708 and baptized by Jakob KETMAN. Sponsors were Jacob SASSEL, residing in Holler and juryman of the court Heinerscheid, and Katharina KESSELSCH from Uiflingen, confirmation sponsor was his uncle Heinrich KLESEN.<sup>1</sup>

The Shepherd



Figure 5. Shepherd in about 1475 with stick and bag watching the weather

<sup>1</sup> Jacob KLESEN's baptism certificate of 26 May 1738, issued by Johannes RENTMEISTER, vicar in Holler.

4. Maria Ursula was baptized on 28 November 1711. Sponsors were Cornelius SCHMITZ, Maria *Klese* and Ursula WILMES.

Adam's daughter Maria married Heinrich SCHMIT from Ourthe, Belgium in 1724.

Adam (b. before 1680, d. before 25 Sep 1734—generation no. 1) had four siblings:

- a) Heinrich (d. after 26 May 1738)
- b) Maria (d. after 7 Jan 1734), married to Nicolas HOURS from Hüpperdingen
- c) Margaretha (d. before 7 Jan 1730, single)
- d) a brother not known by name (d. before 4 Jul 1726), who was the father of Johannes Nicolaus CLESEN (*Schefferclas*).

To no. 1: Anna Margareta (b. 9 Dec 1703, d. 10 Feb 1782 in Binsfeld) married Leonard RAUSCH from Drinckler (b. 16 Feb 1758). They had six children:

- a) Anna Catharina (b. 8 Jan 1732). Sponsors were Johannes *Henricus* CLESEN from Binsfeld and Maria Catharina RAUSCH from Drinckler. She married Mathias SCHILTGES or SCHILZ(EN) (b. in about 1737, d. 27 Dec 1767) from Goedingen on 17 Dec 1759 and in a second marriage Peter CREIS from Holler (b. 5 Feb 1735, d. 18 Aug 1807) on 15 Aug 1769.
- b) Maria Ursula (b. 17 Feb 1733). Sponsors were Johannes Cornelius FELTEN from Sassel and Maria Ursula KLESEN from Binsfeld.
- c) Nicolas (b. 28 May 1735). Sponsors were Maria Magaretha WILMES and Nicolas KLESEN from Binsfeld.
- d) Karl (b. 7 Mar 1740). Sponsors were Karl KALBERS and Margaretha CLESEN (*Cleus*) from Binsfeld.
- e) Peter (b. 1 Oct 1743). Sponsors were Catharina RAUSCH from Drinckler and Petrus SCHMITZ from Binsfeld.
- f) Maria Magdalena (b. 7 Aug 1746). Sponsors were Henricus CREMERS and Maria Magdalena EVERS from Binsfeld.

The members of the Clesen family from Binsfeld were mentioned frequently in the notarial files of the notaries of that region<sup>1</sup>: In 1699, Adam's brother Heinrich CLESEN (*Claeßen*) was the first family member to appear in the files of the notary Henri DUPONT, residing in Oberbesslingen (Hautbellain), when he borrowed money. On 18 July 1699, the bachelor Heinrich appeared in the notary's room and declared that he was in difficulties and had received 7 thaler in cash from the honest Johannes CREIS (*Creyß*) from Holler. Each thaler counted 30 "Brabant Stuber".<sup>2</sup> By mortgaging all of his movable and immovable property, Heinrich promised to pay the money

<sup>1</sup> See National Archive Luxembourg, notaries DUPONT, DECLAYE and FRANCK.

<sup>2</sup> *Stuber* "old German coin".

back as soon as the lender would require it. As special witnesses were present Johannes MATTHIEU and Johannes MANDERSCHIEDT, both from Oberbesslingen. The notary read, reviewed and explained the terms of the contract to Heinrich's satisfaction and they signed the document with the notary and the debtor *Clesen* made his signature mark.

Adam CLESEN (*Cloesen*) was mentioned in a contract written in the French language in 1706, when all members of the court Holler, sovereignty Reuland, authorized the Binsfeld residents Michel KALBERS and Jacob OELEN to protest, and if necessary to bring legal action, against the forced delivery of 3,500 units of foods and animal feed to the military camp in Thommen, Belgium. This authorization was issued to the abovementioned persons by a notarial contract, dated 30 October 1706, in Holler in the presence of the witnesses Johann LUCA, nobly appointed mayor of rights of the sovereignty Reuland and Johannes ALBERTY, Mayor of the Court Asselborn, Luxembourg.



One year later, Adam CLESEN (*Claeßen*) made his usual mark on a notarial power of attorney: On 29 June 1707, notary DUPONT, residing in Oberbesslingen, went to Holler, where all inhabitants of the district of the Court Holler assembled. They provided absolute power and authority to Peter SCHMITZ and Gilles LOSCHERS from Binsfeld as well as to Peter KURTZEN from Holler and Johann WAHLLERS from Breidfeld to file lawsuits, which the community wanted to conduct at the Ducal Courts in the Reuland country concerning their forestry rights in the area where Reuland had sovereignty. They also empowered Peter KURTZEN to bring an action to the Courts concerning their fishing rights. All representatives were sworn to uphold and defend the Holler Court in the legal proceedings against the Reuland Court. Witness of the act was Carolus WELTER, Mayor of the Holler Court.



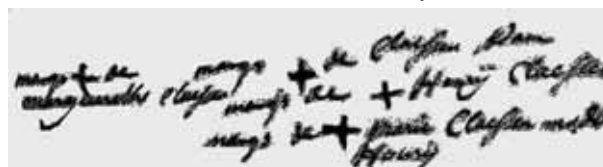
Adam CLESEN (*Cleußen*) and his brother Heinrich CLESEN (*Cleuß*) placed their signature mark on a notarial contract, when all inhabitants of Binsfeld appeared before the notary on 29 April 1713. The village had borrowed 100 thaler of old Spanish coins (equivalent to 5 Schillings in Speyer currency) from the vicar Johannes Stephan WILLMES from Elsenborn, Belgium. The interest was to be paid yearly on St. Catherine's day, the 25th of November. One month later, all Binsfeld inhabitants appeared again at the notary and declared that they had borrowed 150 thaler of old Spanish coins from the vicar WILLMES to meet French demands for tribute, which were ordered by the Mayor Paul DE LA FONTAINE. The inhabitants of the village mortgaged all their properties to secure the borrowed money. Witnesses were the tailor Johannes LENGLER and Heinz SONDERCK, both from the village Massen, Luxembourg, and Michel WILLMES from the village Bracht (Wallonia).

The CLESEN (*Cleaß*) family was named as an adjacent owner with their meadows in a contract, dated 14 January 1718, when Nelis QUENGERS from Binsfeld pledged a

meadow, situated in the *Wampach*, to the heirs of Michel DIEDRICH, because he had borrowed 16 Reichsthaler<sup>1</sup> from his late father, a former jurymen of the Holler Court.

Adam KLESEN (*Kloesen*) and Heinrich CLESEN (probably misspelled as *Schleus*) were present together with other Binsfeld people, when they had to give a new power of attorney to Sieur de HAUTPEZ, accredited procurator of the Grand Court in Mechelen (*Malines*) in Brabant, Belgium due to a lawsuit against the inhabitants of the town Weiswampach, which started at this court in 1704.

In the following notarial act written in the French language from 1726, we get to know more about the KLESEN family of the first generation: On 4 July, Adam CLESEN (*Claessen*), his brother Heinrich, his unmarried sister Margarethe and his sister Maria married to Nikolaus HOURY met in the office of the notary DUPONT in neighboring Besslingen (*Bellain*). They declared that the goods of the KLESEN inheritance from Binsfeld (see chronicle of the Binsfeld houses no. 11) were divided among them with the agreement of the village's former nobleman. Now the property would go to their niece, Adam's daughter Marie Catharine CLESEN (1703–1782, died in Binsfeld). Adam declared that he had managed the KLESEN house and the landed properties for 24 years, since the death of his parents in 1702. He had done it all himself like a man of honor. *It would be proper for an uncle to do that without requiring his niece's assistance*, as notary DUPONT writes down the reason. The other aunts and uncles present confirmed that all this was correctly. The contract was signed by Gille DOEMER and Jean SCHMITZ, both single and from Besslingen, who were called to be witnesses.



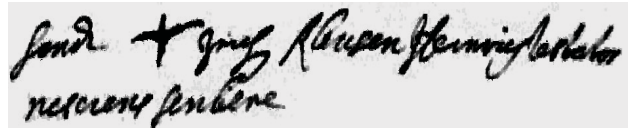
Concerning this family group, there must have been another brother who had died before 1726, since his son Nikolaus CLESEN (*Claeb*) appeared with his wife Maria Claudia before the notary DUPONT in Oberbesslingen on 28 September 1729. Nikolaus declared that he had assigned and transferred his fifth part of the CLESEN house and the CLESEN inheritance, which belonged to him, to his uncles and their children. The transfer from Nikolaus to Adam was done under the condition that it included everything, the commodities (furniture/movables) in the KLESEN house of which he had received nothing, as well as the landed properties belonging to the house (immovable property), regardless of where they were situated and what name they had. Adam accepted the terms, thus binding the agreement. Witnesses were Jacob SASSEL, jurymen of the yard Heinerscheid, living in Binsfeld, and Peter LEISSEN from Binsfeld.

Adam's brother Heinrich CLESEN (*Kleusen*) went to the office of notary DUPONT in Oberbesslingen on 7 January 1730 to make a notarial testament: The notary attested to Heinrich's being of sound mind and body. Heinrich had recognized that all humans were mortal and subject to death, although the hour would be unknown and secret. Before he should leave this world he would like to bequeath his property, which God the Almighty had given him. First, he commended his immortal soul to

<sup>1</sup> The reichsthaler was an "old German silver coin being divided into 60 kreutzer".



*the gracious mercifulness of our Savior, Jesus Christ, the Holy Virgin Mary and all beloved saints.* Heinrich thanked God the Almighty that he had given him the grace to live and die in his Holy, Roman, Apostolic and Catholic Church. He appointed his brother Adam and his children as sole heirs of his movable goods and immovable landed property on the condition that they should be obligated to arrange him an *honest* burial and funeral and for seven priests to pray for his soul for three days following his death. In addition, he bequeathed to his sister Maria, who was married to Nikolaus HOURY in Ourth, Belgium, as recognition, a half Malter<sup>1</sup> of oats and grain, a half Reichsthaler coin, and six sheep (four ewes, a yearling and a lamb), if any would be left over after his death. Otherwise, she would receive six Reichsthaler. But if she should die before him or during the three years after his death, her husband should receive nothing then. If she was not satisfied with this donation, she should be disinherited. Incidentally, Heinrich gave as sponsor to his confirmand Jacob CLESEN (b. 1708) six sheep and to his sister Maria Ursula (b. 1711), named ÖSTGEN, three sheep. Witnesses were juryman Philipp GARIANS and Ägidius DOEMER, both from Oberbesslingen, who signed with the notary, while Heinrich made his usual signature mark because he could not write. Since testator Heinrich bequeathed numerous sheep by testament, it may be assumed that he earned his living as a shepherd.



Heinrich Cleesen  
notary

Adam's nephew Johannes Nikolaus CLESEN was married to Maria Claudia from Courtil in Wallonia in Belgium. On 12 January 1731, Maria Claudia CLESEN (*Cleß*) appeared in the office of notary DUPONT in Oberbesslingen and made her last will and testament. She enjoyed a good physical and mental health and had recognized that all humans were mortal and subject to death although the hour would be unknown and secret. Therefore, she decided to bequeath all her movable and immovable goods. Because she and her husband apparently led a harmonious marriage (*due to the good correspondence and affection, which her beloved husband Joannes Nicolai always gave her during their marriage*), she appointed her husband Johannes Nikolaus as her sole heir, since she had neither own children nor siblings. However, she expressed the hope that the harmonious marriage would continue until the end of their lives. After her death, her husband should be bound to provide her with a fair burial, funeral and anniversary as well as to pray for her soul as a consolation. The witnesses of this last will were Philipp GARIANS, juryman of the freedom Oberbesslingen, and Ägidius DOEMER from Oberbesslingen.

In 1732, Nikolaus could have constructed the gabled house attached to his sheep farm building, since he borrowed 24 thaler at 35 stuber from the Binsfeld chapel on 16 January: The notary Jean Paul FRANCK, residing in Besslingen (*Bellain*), came to Binsfeld where he met Johannes CALBERS, Adam HOFFMANN and Friedrich FRIDEN as representatives of the Binsfeld chapel and to write down the declaration of Nikolaus and his wife Maria Claudia about the borrowed money. Twenty percent interest

<sup>1</sup> Malter "old German measure of cereals", in Prussia 1 Malter = 12 Scheffel = 659.54 liters.

would be paid yearly. The married couple mortgaged their undivided parts of a field situated in the "Heimbach" that they possessed together with SCHMITZ, WILMES and CLESEN and a meadow that they had together with WILMES and CLESEN, situated in "Brühl". The honorable Mr. Andreas ALDENBORREN, priest vicar in Holler, and Johannes SCHAUSSELS, vicar in Lieler, signed as requested witnesses beside the notary, while Nikolaus and his wife made their marks because they had not learned to write after the act was explained to them.

On 10 February 1734, Nikolaus from Binsfeld was a witness with Nilus MÜLLERS from Holler, when Johannes KALBERS from Binsfeld attested notarially that Nils SCHMITZ, juryman of the Court Holler, had lent him 22½ reichsthaler to 56 stuber. He mortgaged his meadow, situated "on the Wiltz" between the field of the family ELEN from Binsfeld and FLEMMER'S meadow from Sassel which reached to the field of WILMES from Ulflingen.

On 25 September 1734, bachelor Heinrich KLESEN (*Kleusen*) from Binsfeld appeared in the office of notary Jean Henri FRANCK in Niederbesslingen in order to make a new testament. First, he wanted his body to be buried beneath the consecrated earth of the churchyard of the Holler parish church. Second, he cancelled all his former testaments and beneficences. He gave his goddaughter Maria Catharina RAUSCH (1732–1800, died in Binsfeld) a meadow, situated in the area named "Pesch" between "MÜLLER'S garden" and the church meadow next to the field of Löschers from Binsfeld. Third, he chose his beloved cousin Leonard RAUSCH and his wife Anna Margarethe born CLESEN (*Kleusen*), his niece, as his sole heirs, but they had to promise to bury him and to have seven priests praying for his soul for three days following his death. Finally, he bequeathed to his sister Maria HOURY in Ourthe half a Malter of grain and oats, half a Reichsthaler coin and six sheep (four ewes, a yearling and a lamb), if any would be left over after his death. Otherwise she would receive five thaler. But if his sister died before him, then her husband should receive nothing at all. If she was not satisfied with this donation, she should be disinherited completely. Incidentally, Heinrich gave his confir-

mand Jacob CLESEN (b. 1708) and his sister Maria Ursula (b. 1711), named Maria ÖST-

Handwritten Latin text from a document, likely a testament or legal record. The text is written in a cursive script and includes the following lines: "Jand + gniefy Hennerici Kleusen testator et s.", "Jand + gniefy Huberti millepeters gniefy et s.", "Jand + gniefy Huberti rutters gniefy et s.", and "Et Jand + gniefy P. Franck nots." The text is written on a light-colored background and is somewhat faded.

GEN, each a cow and a young cow as well as half a Malter of grain and oats, as soon as they would get married. Witnesses were Hubert MILLEPETERS and Hubert RUTTERS, both from Niederbesslingen, who made their marks under the document just as Heinrich did. It is not clear why Jacob's brother Johann Heinrich who was born in 1705 did not receive a donation from his godfather. He could have already been dead before that time.

On 2 January 1749, Johannes Nicolaus CLESEN from Binsfeld and his second wife Maria KOST, born in Hüpperdingen, appeared before notary FRANCK in Oberbess-

lingen in order to declare that Maria was satisfied with regard to her paternal and maternal inheritance of the KOST house and the goods in Hüpperdingen and that her beloved brother-in-law Johannes Michael SCHMITZ from Hüpperdingen paid for the inheritance. Witnesses were Philipp GARIANS, vice Mayor of Oberbesslingen, and Johannes Peter SCHMITZ, juryman of the Court Holler, as personally signing witnesses, whereas Maria and Johannes Nicolas CLESEN made their usual signature mark. On the same day, Johannes Nicolas (d. 2 Sep 1754 Binsfeld), here called by his first name NICOLAI as family name, appeared before the notary with his second wife Maria, married on 15 December 1748. He declared that they would like to inherit each other's property. Also would be included the property, which Nicolas had inherited from his first wife Maria Claudia CLESEN (*Cläß*), deceased on 10 October 1748, by the testament of 12 January 1731. This act was made under the condition that the surviving spouse would be obliged to bury the deceased according to the Christian Catholic custom (a proper and respectable burial, funeral and anniversary). Witnesses of the act in the notary's room were Peter SCHMITZ, juryman of the Holler Court, residing in Binsfeld, as well as Philipp GARIANS, vice mayor of Besslingen.

On 1 February 1749, there was only one family member present, Leonard RAUSCH from the KLESEN house, who was mentioned with the house name CLESEN, beside Nicolaus' wife Marie CLESEN (*Cleiß*), when all inhabitants of the Court Holler met with notary FRANCK to give powers of attorney to Joseph KIRTZEN, Carolus HOUSCHET and Jacob CALBUS from Holler as well as to Friedrich EVERTS, Adam FRIDEN and Peter SCHMITZ from Binsfeld. They were enjoined to defend the rights of the Holler Court regarding the common greenery of the village, named court forest, and to defend and guarantee the old rights of the court people in this forest as the rights had been established by their fathers (i.e. signed by their fathers' hand). Witnesses were Michael MEYERS from Asselborn and Leonard FRANCK from Niederbesslingen. The following people signed or made their mark: *testator Nicolaus Hinderscheidt, Petri Schweverst, Quengers Matze, Franck Fredrig, Jungers Theiß, Marei cleiß* [Maria Clesen], *Calbers Jans, Nicolaus Kleffer, Michel Kammer, Hoffmans Michel, Jois Diederichs, Martinus Willmes, Leißen Jacob, Leonardi Cleesen* [Rausch], *Leisen Nicolaus, Löschertz Heinderich, Joannes Welles, Beres Lux, Beres Joanna, Eweis Joannis, Mullers Philippi, Backes Nicolaus, Läßges Jois, Rinnen Leonard, Michel Heinen, Wallers Caspar, Jois Prietz and Jois Hanßen*.<sup>1</sup>



The 1766 census mentioned the following people in the household of P. CLASSEN (Pierre THEVES) in Binsfeld: *Ma. Kost, Françoise Clesen, J. Clesen, Rose Clesen, Claude Clesen and Ma.-Cath. Clesen*. 95 entries with the name CLESEN were found in the Luxembourg census of 1930, but only one entry in the village of Holler and not a single CLESEN in Binsfeld.

<sup>1</sup> See also Besse/Besse/Meyers-Kaysen/Meyers. In: BIHOB no. 1, 2011, pp. 13–19.



## 2.2 The CLESEN houses in Binsfeld

According to the history of the houses in Binsfeld, house no. 11 (see figure 6) on the road to Ulflingen is one of the oldest houses in Binsfeld, and was already associated with the *Clesen*, *Claisen* or *Klesen* household in the 1541 census of fireplaces; it is the ancestral house of the family CLESEN.<sup>1</sup> Since 2011 the owners are Jean ZAUNZ and Anna DENGLER.



**Fig. 6.** The ancestral house of the family CLESEN in Binsfeld is located at no. 11 *Elwenterstrooss* (entrance to town on the street to Ulflingen) and is named *At Zaunz* today.

It can be assumed that the entries in the Holler parish register from 1680 regarding the household name *Klessen de Binsfeldt* refer to this house in which the couple Adam and Anna Margaretha CLESEN and their children—also Jacob CLESEN—lived, as well as Adam's siblings Heinrich CLESEN, his unmarried sister Margarethe and his sister Maria until her marriage to Nicolaus HOURS. After that, Adam's oldest daughter Anna Margarethe (9 Dec 1703–10 Feb 1782), who was married to Leonard RAUSCH (d. 16 Feb 1758) from Drinckler, and the six children of this marriage lived in this house (see page 16 to no. 1). Their oldest daughter Anna Catherina (b. 8 Jan 1732) married Mathias SCHILTGES (about 1737–27 Dec 1767) from Goedingen on 17 December 1759. They had five children and she had another three with Pierre CREIS in a second marriage on 15 August 1769. The household name changed from CLESEN to the family name THEIS due to the marriage of Anne Marie SCHILTGES to Martin THEIS from Eisenbach on 5 May 1788. The CLESEN ancestral house was occupied by Nicolas GLESENER and Anne Elisabeth THEIS according to the 1861 census. As the ownership changed in the 19th and 20th centuries (Pierre EICHER and Mathias ZAUNZ) the name of the house was changed as well. Today it is called *At Zaunz*.

<sup>1</sup> See Meyers, chronicle of the Binsfeld houses no. 46, in: *БІНОВ* 1, 2009, pp. 1–5.

The second CLESEN house, called KLESEN house or *Schiewesch* (see figure 7), is located at no. 1 village street in Binsfeld.



**Figure 7.** The house of Nikolaus CLESEN located at no. 1 village street (*Duarefstrooss*) in Binsfeld is called “at the shepherd’s”. It is a folklore museum today.

The *Schefferclas*, Johannes Nicolaus CLESEN lived here. He was the nephew of Adam KLESEN (see generation no. 1). The dialect names *Scheffer*, *Schéifer* and *Schiffer* describe the shepherd in Luxembourg; the dialect forms *Schéifesch* and *Schiffesch* are also common as a household name. The name *Scheffers* or *from Scheffers* was mentioned in the Holler parish register in 1748. Nicolaus CLESEN from Binsfeld was named as a sponsor in 1730 and as a godfather on 28 May 1735. Nicolaus married Maria Claudia from Courtil, Belgium, in his first marriage. On 10 October 1748, his wife *Scheffers* Maria Claudia died. In a second marriage, he married Maria KOST from Hüpperdingen on 15 December 1748 (two months after the death of his first wife) according to the entry in the marriage register of the parish Holler and Hüpperdingen. On 2 January 1749, he bequeathed his wife as sole heir by a notarial testament. They had the children *Scheffer* CLAS (or CLESEN), Marie Françoise (b. 8 Jun 1750) and Susanna Rosa (b. 22 Oct 1752). Their father *Schefferclas* died on 9 February 1754 in Binsfeld. His widow Maria KOST married Pierre THEVES on 31 March 1754. They had the following children according to the birth register of the parish Holler: *Scheffers* (CLESEN) Maria Claudia (b. 3 Jun 1755 in Binsfeld)—she married Johann Wilhelm SCHNEIDERS from Hollerath—and *Scheffers* or CLESEN Jean (b. 5 Aug 1758 in Binsfeld) and *Scheffers* (CLESEN) Marie Catherine (19 Oct 1761–10 Jun 1807).

It is presumed that the house a *Schiewesch* was built as a barn with a sheep pen underneath the barn in the 15th century. Those buildings were called *Schéifrécht* or *Schiefricht* i.e. “at the shepherd’s” in the Luxembourg dialect. Op der Schiefricht is

known in Binsfeld as a field name, but it is not registered on the survey map of 1820. The crossroad with the fork leading to the main street is named "on the linden" today.<sup>1</sup>



Figure 8. A sheep farm in the district *Op de Schiefrecht* around 1600.



Figure 9. A sheep farm with gabled house, called a *Schiewesch* in the local dialect, around 1730.

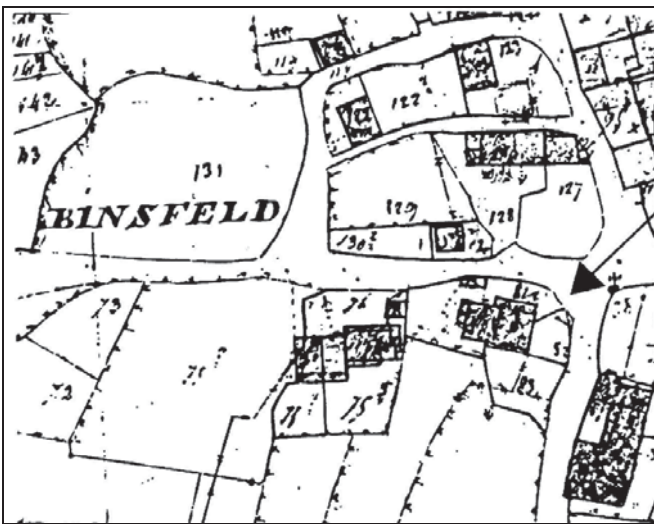


Figure 10. The land register map of 1820 indicates the location of the house (see arrow) in those days.

the ancient rural life and the cultural development of the Ardennes region after 1700. The museum's 13 rooms contain numerous old agricultural machines with a total of

Around the year 1600, an occupant of the CLESEN house in the street *Élwenterstrooss* could have built a barn for his sheep (see figure 8). His house or barn was then named after his profession a *Schiewesch*, i.e. "at the shepherd's". Today, this is the name of the house located at no. 1 in the street *Duarefstrooss*.

It is presumed that Nicolaus CLESEN built the gabled house (see figure 9) in 1732, since he borrowed 24 thaler from the Binsfeld chapel on 16 January 1732. At that time, people frequently borrowed money from the church to build a house. It is also documented that Nicolaus was a witness when someone else borrowed money: On 10 January 1734, Johannes KALBERS from Binsfeld borrowed 22½ reichsthaler from *Nillussen* SCHMITZ, juryman of the Holler Court.<sup>2</sup>

If Nicolaus CLESEN was not the builder of the gabled house, it might have been Pierre THEVES (*P. Classen*) in the middle of the 18th century. The land register plan shows the property in 1820 (see arrow in figure 10). Today, a folklore museum occupies the 300-year-old shepherd's house called *A Schiewesch* and presents artifacts regarding the an-

<sup>1</sup> See LuxWB tome 4, p. 120; Meyers, chronicle of the houses no. 1, in: BIHOB 4, 2008, pp. 5–9.

<sup>2</sup> See National Archive Luxembourg, notary Franck, no. 43, 1732 and notary Declaye, no. 5, 1734.



1,200 exhibits. There is an exhibition of lager machines like an equipment suite from a village dairy and of a carpenter's workshop as well as rooms like kitchen, living room, bedroom, shoemaker's and weaver's workshops. The visitor gains a deep insight into the culture and way of life of the rural population.<sup>1</sup>

Besides the above mentioned *Schiewesch* house two other CLESEN houses in Binsfeld were recorded in the 1861 census. The couple Nicolas GLESENER and Anne Elisabeth THEIS were living in the original CLESEN paternal house in the *Elwenterstrooss* 11 (house chronicle no. 46—see above). In 1861, the third CLESEN house (see figure 11) was rented by the widow THEIS-HAMUS and the couple Gaspard EICHER and Anne Marie THEIS (see house chronicle no. 47, *At Glaesener*, formerly *At Eicher*).<sup>2</sup> It is situated opposite to the Clesen ancestral house across the street behind the museum *A Schiewesch*. The house was probably built after 1842, since the family Charles THEIS lived there according to the 1843 census and it was on a parcel of the CLESEN ancestral house on the survey map. The house changed names after the marriage of Anne-Marie THEIS with Gaspard EICHER to the house name *At Eicher* by the 1864 census. According to an exchange contract, the couple Nicolas GLESENER and Barbara KOENER became owners of this house on 9 August 1909 (after having lived in the opposite CLESEN ancestral house). Henceforth, the house was called *At Glaesener*.

In 1989, the Binsfeld-Holler-Breidfeld association of interests purchased the grounds and renovated the buildings. Today the annex to the museum contains two holiday apartments and one hostel.



**Figure 11.** The 3rd CLESEN house is situated on a parcel that belonged to the property of the CLESEN ancestral house in the street to Ulflingen behind the museum.



**Fig. 12.** The CLESEN ancestral house (on the left no. 1), the museum *A Schiewesch* (on the right no. 2) and behind on the street *Elwenterstrooss* no. 8, the 3rd CLESEN house (no. 3)

<sup>1</sup> See the folklore museum *A Schiewesch* online at <http://www.museebinsfeld.lu>.

<sup>2</sup> See Meyer, chronicle of the Binsfeld houses no. 1, in: BIHOB no. 2, 1996, pp. 8–11.

## 2.3 Cartwright and Mayor Tillmann HOFFMANN in Scheuern (Generation 1)

This subsection will examine the lineage of Jacob CLESEN's wife, Agnes HOFFMANN. The first generation of the HOFFMANN lineage was recorded in a list in 1790, where the heirs of the Thalexweiler district were registered:

1. Nikolaus HOFFMANN
2. Eva HOFFMANN, married to Johannes LAUCK
3. Barbara HOFFMANN, married to Peter WILHELM
4. Eva HOFFMANN, married to Matthias SCHMITT
5. Maria HOFFMANN, married first to Johannes ANDRES, married in a second marriage to Nickel HOFFMANN and
6. Maria HOFFMANN, married to Adam SCHERER, all siblings and brothers-in-law or sisters-in-law

Tillmann HOFFMANN (11 Nov 1697–11 Feb 1768) married Maria MOLTER (b. 1 Mar 1698 in Gehweiler, d. 11 Feb 1768), daughter of Tobias MOLTER and Margaretha HEINTZ, about 1716 and belonged together with Nickel,

Maria, Agnes, Anna and Margaretha HOFFMANN to the generation no. 2 of the above list. Tillmann was mentioned as godfather of Kunigunde JOHANN on 8 April 1737. The following children were born to Tillmann and Maria (generation no. 3):

1. Agnes (b. 25 Apr 1717 in Niederhofen, d. 24 Nov 1776 in Scheuern), married to Jacob CLESEN from Binsfeld, Luxembourg in about 1738
2. Johannes (b. 1720 in Scheuern, d. 7 Nov 1788), married to Christiana MEYER on 22 Jan 1752
3. Anna Katharina (b. 6 May 1728), married to Peter CASPAR from Überroth
4. Margaretha (12 Apr 1730–12 Mar 1796), married to Johann Adam JUNKER on 9 Feb 1750
5. Peter (1732–22 Oct 1791, died in Neipel), married to Margaretha GROSS on 29 Jan 1754

### The Cartwright



Fig. 13. Cartwright in 1425 (from the house books of the Nuremberg Twelve Brothers Foundation)

6. Nicolaus (15 Apr 1735–10 Feb 1768, died in Neipel), married to Catharine JOHANN from Scheuern. He sold his house to Jacob CLESEN in 1749 and lived in Bettingen in 1768.<sup>1</sup>

Tillmann (*Thiel*) worked as a cartwright and had his own workshop in Scheuern. In the Schaumburg notarial files he appeared as Thiel HOFFMANN and was first mentioned in a notarial agreement in 1730, when a bond was discharged. The master tailor Michel LATZ from Kastel (Amt Schamburg) as heir of the so-called Peter SCHU<sup>2</sup> heritage in the Dörsdorf district and the honorable farmer Thiel HOFFMANN from Scheuern appeared before Notary SEYLER to discharge the bond on a property, which was mortgaged by Johannes ESCH from Kastel to the Dörsdorf farmer Johannes HOFFMANN in a contract on 13 May 1724.<sup>3</sup> Maria SCHERER, widow of Hans Niclas WEILER, and Catharine JOST, both from Kastel, gave a verbal mandate to Michel LATZ to reverse this mortgage. In the meantime, Johannes HOFFMANN had ceded the right of the mortgaged inheritance to Thiel HOFFMANN and his wife Maria, born MOLTER. The inherited property came from Angelica SCHERER, the grandmother of Anna Catharine ESCH (daughter or sister of Johannes ESCH) and consisted of a farmstead (building lot), [various] arboretums, meadows, fields, hedges and waste land. In the meantime Peter GASPARD had constructed a building on this farmstead, which should be retained. It was agreed that the inheritance would revert to Anna Catharine ESCH, when the couple Thiel HOFFMANN would receive the rental sum on St. Gertrud's Day<sup>4</sup>, namely 42 thaler 35½ sols<sup>5</sup> in Lorraine currency. In Treves currency, the thaler valued at 54 *Petermännchen* (little Peterman).<sup>6</sup> The rental amount was based on the rent previously charged by Johannes HOFFMANN from Dörsdorf, the former proprietor of the mortgage. Witnesses of the document were the tax collector Johannes PAULUS and the master shoemaker Johannes SCHNEBERGER, both from Tholey, who signed after explanation by the notary. The proprietor of the mortgage, who did not have a lot of experience in writing, made his usual mark. Marks and signatures: + = mark of *Thiel Hoffman* (proprietor of the mortgage), *Michel Latz*, *Matheus Linig* from *Costenbach*, *Johannes Schneberg testis*, *T* = mark from *Jean Pierre Weiller*, *J. Fondeur*, *J. H. Seyler*, *Paulus*, + = mark from *Paulus Boulgie*, + = mark from *P. Biel*, *Mattheiß Kirsch*. The contract was controlled by *Paulus*.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>1</sup> See Storb/Naumann/Naumann pp. 368 and 1448, completed with dates from notarial files and others.

<sup>2</sup> SCHU Peter, farmer, Dörsdorf (about 1650–10 Apr 1716, died in Dörsdorf), married to Maria PHILIPPI (b. about 1660) (see Storb/Naumann/Naumann p. 931).

<sup>3</sup> HOFFMANN, Johann, Dör (b. about 1700) married before 1724 DITTGEN, Barbara, Dör (b. about 1700), 1st child: Peter (b. March 1724, in Dörsdorf) (see Storb/Naumann/Naumann p. 369).

<sup>4</sup> Saint Gertrud's Day, the 17th March, is the date on which the planting season began according to the farmers' almanac (see Grotefend p. 60).

<sup>5</sup> Sol (Lat. solidus) "old French coin"; one *Sol* is 12 *Deniers* or a twentieth of a *Livre*.

<sup>6</sup> *Petermännchen* (little Peterman) "old German and Treves coin" of the 17th century bearing the figure of St. Peter.

<sup>7</sup> StA Sbr, notary's office Schaumburg tome 2, pp. 54–57, 17 Mar 1730 (or.); see Schmidt p. 61f.



Eight years later, a notarial deed between Tillmann HOFFMANN and Mathias BESCH was recorded in the Schaumburg notarial files of 1738: Thiel Hoffmann from *Scheuren*<sup>1</sup> and the bachelor Mathis BESCH from Hasborn appeared before the Notary SEYLER to close a deal. The legal proceedings arose from inherited property which BESCH claimed but HOFFMANN possessed. Since large expenses could result from a legal dispute, they agreed that the heirs of the late Peter HOFFMANN could use the property in the current year 1738. After that year, the HOFFMANN heirs would withdraw from the property, which Mathis BESCH claimed in the Scheuern and Hölzershausen district and which came from Mathis BESCH's late mother. The parties also agreed that every person had to pay his own part of the legal costs. Witnesses of this notarial contract were Nicklas GROSS from Neipel and Mathis STURM from Scheuern. Marks and signatures: + = mark of *Thiel Hoffman*, *Matthis Besch*, *c* = mark of *Niclas Hoffman*, *ll* = mark of *Mathis Sturm*, *Niclas Größ*, *JH Seyler*. On 30 May 1738, the act was executed by L. L'HOSTE, who noted down that *Thiel* had paid his notary's fees.<sup>2</sup>



From time to time, Tillmann HOFFMANN was mentioned in notarial contracts concerning his brother Johannes HOFFMANN from Dörsdorf. However, it is surprising that the Scheuern Mayor and presumably one of the richest local framers did not acquire more landed property. It seems that he was concerned with keeping his estates intact and deriving the livelihood of his family from agriculture and giving a dowry of the property, when his children married.

<sup>1</sup> The village name *Scheuren*, which was used in the 18th and 19th centuries, was written here as *Scheuern*.

<sup>2</sup> StA Sbr, notary's office Schaumburg tome 2, pp. 64–66, 30 May 1738, German (or.).



### 3 Tholey-Scheuern, Bohnental (Germany, Saarland)

#### 3.1 Carpenter and Mayor Jacob CLESEN in Scheuern (Generation 2)

Jacob CLESEN (28 May 1708–16 Sep 1782) is the first mentioned Saarland ancestor of the KLESEN family in Tholey-Scheuern. While living in Scheuern in 1738 and presumably building the altar in the local church, the 30-year-old Master carpenter Jacob married Tillmann HOFFMANN'S oldest daughter Agnes, about aged 21 years (25 Apr 1717–24 Nov 1776) (see 2.3). Unfortunately, the exact wedding date is unknown. But since the Holler vicar in Luxembourg issued Jacob's baptism certificate in 1738, it can be supposed that he married Agnes between 1738 and 1740 in Scheuern. This data cannot be verified with the Scheuern church registers in the Tholey town archive, because those were not started until 1748. During the first half of the last century, a family researcher still had access to the Scheuern church book from 1690 to 1747. Today, we can only obtain more information about that period from secondary sources, for example, the chronicle of the village Scheuern written by Jakob SCHNUR in 1932.<sup>1</sup> Jacob CLESEN'S birth date, 28 May 1708, given in his baptism certificate, is not accurate since he died on 16 September 1782 at the age of 72 years. Or his death record might not be correct. Jacob and Agnes had the following children, all born in Scheuern:

1. Johannes (25 Jan 1742–11 Dec 1831, died in Scheuern) (see 3.3)
2. Peter (b. 19 Oct 1744–4 Jan 1820, died in Überroth), married to Barbara WILHELM (abt. 1750–before 1820, died in Überroth) in Hasborn on 7 February 1770 (see 3.2)
3. Margaretha (17 Sep 1746–16 Aug 1836, died in Scheuern), married to Matthias JAECKEL (abt. 1739 in Hasborn–7 Dec 1799, died in Scheuern), farmer, son of

#### *The Carpenter*



**Figure 14.** Carpenter in 1444 (from the house books of the Nuremberg Twelve Brothers Foundation)

<sup>1</sup> See Scholl, *St. Katharina* p. 64.

- Peter JAECKEL and Gertrud CLEMANN from Hasborn, on 18 Feb 1775 in Hasborn (see 3.2)
4. Maria (11 Apr 1749–2 Nov 1833, died in Dörsdorf), married in Scheuern, on 16 Feb 1769, to Peter JOHANN (b. 23 Oct 1740–26 May 1805, died in Dörsdorf), farmer and member of the synod, son of Peter JOHANN and Barbara SCHUE (8 Feb 1715–25 Nov 1771, died in Dörsdorf, marriage on 6 Feb 1736 in Thalexweiler) (see 3.2)
  5. Elisabeth (12 Oct 1754–15 Nov 1831, died in Steinbach), married Wilhelm KUHN (1735–6 Jan 1805, born and died in Steinbach), son of Mathias KUHN (b. 1729 in Dautweiler, d. 13 Jan 1813 in Steinbach) and Anna Maria KIRSCH, in Scheuern on 12 Jan 1782 (see 3.2)
  6. Mathias (8 Oct 1755–2 Jan 1821, died in Tholey), cooper, married to Susanna L'HOSTE (b. 16 Apr 1759, d. 3 May 1842, died in Tholey), daughter of the teacher Ludwig L'HOSTE and Susanna HANDELE, in Tholey on 10 Feb 1803 at the age of 47 years (see 3.2)
  7. Barbara (b. 29 Mar 1758)<sup>1</sup>

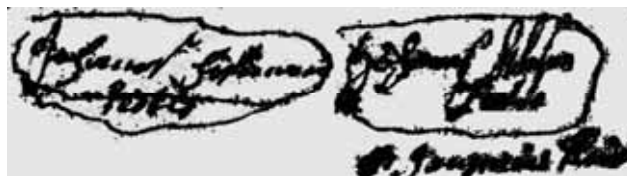
With regard to these birth records, it should be noted that the church register of the Scheuern church with entries before 1747 has not been preserved. Therefore, the birth records of Jacob's sons Johannes and Peter as well as of his daughter Margaretha are not available. It is assumed that Agnes' brother Johannes (b. 1720) is the godfather of Johannes (no. 1) born on 25 January 1742, since the name of the godfather was given as a baptismal name, as was the usual practice in those days. The Tholey prior P. W. HARRICH baptized Jacob's daughter Maria on 11 April 1749 and registered her godfather as Michael ROBBEN from Munshausen in the former Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, which is situated only 13 kilometers away from Binsfeld. Maria's godmother was Maria HOFFMANN from Scheuern. The Limbach priest Johannes ROBBEN, mentioned in 1734, was the son of the above mentioned Michael ROBBEN and also came from Munshausen in Luxembourg.<sup>2</sup> He might have worked with Jacob CLESEN as a carpenter and altar builder. Johann HOFFMANN and Elisabetha SCHERER from Scheuern were described as godparents of Jacob's daughter Elisabetha (no. 5). Jacob CLESEN was named as carpenter in a Latin entry by the prior HARRICH. In the absence of the responsible priest on 9 October 1755, Father Franciscus FRANCK baptized Mathias CLESEN (no. 6), who was born the day before at five o'clock, in the presence of the godparents Mathias BIEL from Limbach and Eva Elisabetha CONRADT from Scheuern. Father Exuperius FLANDER baptized Barbara CLESEN (no. 7) with the assistance of her godparents Nikolaus HOFFMANN and Barbara BOST from Scheuern.

<sup>1</sup> Data from the Scheuern church book 1746–1787, Storb/Naumann/Naumann no. 1069, p. 406 and Fuhr/Reinhard/Riedel, p. 541.

<sup>2</sup> StA Sbr, notary's office Schaumburg tome 2, p. 398 and tome 5, pp. 751–755.

On 24 September 1776 at about nine o'clock in the evening, Jacob's wife Agnes passed away at the age of 59 years. She received the Sacraments of Penance, Holy Communion and Extreme Unction and was buried in the cemetery of the Scheuern church on 26 September 1776. The following witnesses were present: Johannes HOFFMANN, brother of the deceased and a farmer in Scheuern, as well as Mathias BIEL, nephew of the deceased and a "simple" inhabitant in Limbach. The widower Jacob CLESEN was named by priest Exuperius FLANDER in the aforementioned Latin record as farmer, carpenter and Mayor in Scheuern.

Almost six years later, on 16 September 1782, late in the evening approximately at ten o'clock, Jacob CLESEN, the widower of Agnes HOFFMANN, Mayor and by profession a carpenter (*Schriniarius* [sic]<sup>1</sup>), died at the age of 72 years. He had also received the Sacraments of Penance, Holy Communion and Extreme Unction. Pastor FLANDER buried him on 18 September in the cemetery next to the Scheuern church. Witnesses of the burial were Johannes HOFFMANN, widower of the deceased Christina MEYER and brother-in-law of Jacob CLESEN and a farmer in Scheuern, as well as Johannes KLESEN, husband of Angela RIEM, son of the deceased, a farmer in Scheuern, who signed the death record.<sup>2</sup>



In addition to the above mentioned church registers, the 21 tomes of notarial files from the Schaumburg notary's office in Tholey, which have been preserved in the Saarland State Archive in Saarbrücken and which we have examined systematically, are another valuable source to get information about Jacob CLESEN, his living conditions and his descendants. Notarial contracts are a significant source of information about the financial position of a person. With regard to Jacob's carpenter's workshop, his income primarily depended on the number of orders he received. A similar case concerns the revenue of the sculptor Eberhard HENNES from Prüm in the Neuerburg area, who had built the altars in Holler, Luxembourg, near Binsfeld in the middle of the 18th century. With the orders HENNES got each year as altar carpenter, he could barely feed his family. Therefore he did not possess any worldly riches, but only some gardens and an arboretum. Other artisans usually asked for an advance payment of the agreed sum at the beginning of the order to be able to buy the work materials. For example the sculptor SCHOLTUS received 35 of 120 thaler in advance.<sup>3</sup>

However, the Tholey notarial files show quite a different situation: Jacob CLESEN was mentioned in numerous contracts of the Tholey notaries as purchaser and money lender. He bought two homes and took every opportunity to purchase land property, which would presumably benefit him in retirement. It is known from the Neuerburg altar carpenters that they had concluded notarial contracts before starting

<sup>1</sup> Latin *scriniarius*, *scrinarius* "carpenter" (Lampe 2, p. 23), see also Kluge p. 826.

<sup>2</sup> See Scheuern church register of from 1746–1787.

<sup>3</sup> See Erschens-Schmitt p. 27.

to fabricate a new altar. Traditionally, the town Mayor, the parish representatives and the carpenter jointly concluded a contract to build a new altar. A similar agreement to build a new High Altar in the Scheuern church in 1738 was found in the church archive as a copy from the year 1835 or 1836.<sup>1</sup>

We can assume that Jacob CLESEN started apprenticeship training in a carpenter's shop in a local town in the Ösling area when he was 15 years old. There were some carpenter's shops in Bastogne,<sup>2</sup> situated about 30 kilometers from Binsfeld in Belgium. But it is more likely that he traveled east to the Neuerburg artisanal workshops, maybe in Vianden, Luxembourg or in Berscheid, Germany.

After completing their apprenticeship of 3 or 4 years, craftspeople as well as young carpenters had to "take to the road". Concerning Jacob, there is no mention of where he went or in which workshops he improved his knowledge and skills nor where he was influenced by new stylistic trends.

He might also have spent some years as a journeyman in Scheuern at his later father-in-law Tillmann HOFFMANN's shop, who apparently worked there as a cartwright or a wheelwright. When the craftsmen wanted to settle down permanently in a town, they had to pay the registration fees. For example in the town of Hornbach next to Zweibrücken in Palatine, this fee amounted to 2 guilders in 1575 and 6 guilders in 1699. Only half of the amount had to be paid if the craftsman got married to a townswoman.<sup>3</sup> The groom thereby acquired all of the rights of his wife. Jacob chose this more favorable way, when he married the daughter of the Scheuern Mayor Tillmann HOFFMANN between 1738 and 1740 (see 2.3). He was recorded in the earliest existing church registry, when his daughter Maria was born on 11 April 1749. Her godfather was Michael ROBBER from Munshausen, Luxembourg, which is situated not far from Binsfeld in Ösling.

In the State archive in Saarbrücken, the notarial files from the Schaumburg region from the beginning of the 18th century are preserved, but many of them were written in the French language, particularly in the middle of the 18th century, so that the names of people and the names of places appear in the French notation. We can find Jacob CLESEN in numerous notarial files from 1749 until his death in 1782.<sup>4</sup>

In fact, in less than 10 years in Scheuern, Jacob CLESEN, noted as Mayor and jurymen at the Scheuern high court, had the necessary money to purchase his own house for his young family. On 29 Mar 1749, he bought from his brother-in-law Nikolaus HOFFMANN a house in Scheuern, which Nikolaus had inherited. The sellers were extremely satisfied with the purchase price, since Jacob was quite generous, also giv-

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<sup>1</sup> See Scholl, *St. Katharina* p. 75f.

<sup>2</sup> German "Bastenach", see Besse, *Namenpaare* no. 239.

<sup>3</sup> See Besse/Besse/Gölzer 2009, p. 5 and Besse/Besse/Gölzer 2002, p. 150.

<sup>4</sup> The names of people, places and fields from those French contracts cited in this book are consistently written in the original spelling and predominantly in italic script in the German version.



ing a scarf <sup>1</sup> to his sister-in-law and giving three thaler for the traditional wine toast (*vin ordinaire*)<sup>2</sup> so that the present parties should always remember the conclusion of this contract.



**Figure 15.** Jacob KLESEN's first house was presumably situated opposite of the parish church next to the houses of Michael BAUS and Peter DINÉ (*Old Post*) (see arrow). He bought it from Nikolaus HOFFMANN in 1749.

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<sup>1</sup> See TLF tome 11, col. 1136b; see also 1781 *with a scarf for the lady as tip* (Besse/Besse/Gölzer 2003, p. 309).

<sup>2</sup> See Besse/Besse/Gölzer 2003, p. 19.

The following is the reproduced sales contract, translated from the French original document:

*Copy nine*

*Scheuren selling No. 59*

*In favor to*

*Jaques †Clesen by*

*Nicolas Hofmann*

*Aforesaid village<sup>1</sup>*



*Today on 29th March 1749 before me, the signed Notary of the Duchy Lorraine, residing in Tholey, Schaumburg county office and in the presence of the witnesses named at the end were present: The farmer Nicolas HOFFMANN, residing in Scheuern (Schairen<sup>2</sup>), and his wife Catharine HOFFMANN, born JOHANN. Her husband was authorized to represent her interests. She agreed and accepted this power of representation.*

*The married couple HOFFMANN declared that they had sold, ceded and transferred all their rights on inherited property, i.e. they sell irrevocably their house, in which they were living, situated in Scheuern between the Scheuern parish church and the house of Michel BAUS with all attachments, including the barn, the stables and a little garden in front of the house, all without exception just as they had possessed it. Furthermore, they sell all their property, situated in the Scheuern district, consisting of meadows, farmland, gardens, hedges and bushes. They are frank and free of all debts and mortgages. The property includes three "pieds" of fields in the "Holtzer" district towards the Tholey abbey. All of this had been sold for the sum of 103 reichsguilders, valued at 54 Petermännchen<sup>3</sup> per guilder, to Jacob CLAISEN, Mayor and juryman of the high court and his wife Agnes CLESEN born HOFFMANN, residing in aforesaid Scheuren, who all were present and have mutually agreed.*

*With regard to the aforesaid selling price, the purchaser declared that he had paid one guilder for a scarf for the wife of the seller [his sister-in-law Katharina HOFFMANN] and three guilders for the traditional wine toast. The seller stated that he had received the selling price in cash. They were satisfied. With this price the purchaser and his wife would not get into debts. The seller said that they had reached agreement, because it was then when the purchaser [his brother-in-law Jacob] had agreed the day before and had told him the selling price.*

<sup>1</sup> Incidental remark, presumably added by the county clerk ZAHN from the county office Schaumburg (after 1787).

<sup>2</sup> Today still common and dialectal pronunciation of Scheuern with unrounding form /eu/ > /ei/: Schaire.

<sup>3</sup> Petermännchen (Little Peterman) was a Treves coin in the 17th and 18th century, see Schneider, Petermännchen pp. 59–66.

*In view of the sum of 103 guilders, the parties had agreed that all property consisting of meadows, gardens, hedges and bushes and the fruit trees were included in this sales price.*

*The contracting parties agreed the possibility of a repurchase within the following 15 years starting on the date of the appropriation of the property in accordance with the current sales contract. In this case, the sellers would have to refund the aforesaid 30 guilders and the proportional contract fees, while the purchaser would have to return the property—except the house, the barn, the stables with attachments and the little garden.*

*In the case that the seller had not received the 30 guilders in the next 15 years, then the repurchase right would be taken by the sellers at this point. The above mentioned property as the aforesaid house, the barn and the stables with attachments would then go to the purchaser as was agreed in this contract.*

*Everything would be transferred to the purchaser that the seller, his wife and their family members had inherited or will inherit. The purchaser would possess the free and undisturbed property of the house. They promised to keep the contract, the purchaser guaranteed this to the seller and the seller will sell the property to the aforesaid purchaser as was agreed. All this happened in good faith and without willful deceit.*

*So occurred in Tholay in my notary's office, on the year and day as above mentioned in the presence of the called witnesses Paul HEYSEN and Conrad MATHIS, both court recorders in this county office, residing in Tholay. After having held an explanation they all signed together with me, the Notary, and the purchasers. The seller declared his inability to write and he made his usual signature mark. The purchaser also signed in a designated part of the document.*

*In addition, the seller declared that if the heirs from Exweiler<sup>1</sup> required their portion of the inheritance, then the purchaser would have to refund their inherited portion of the purchased property.*

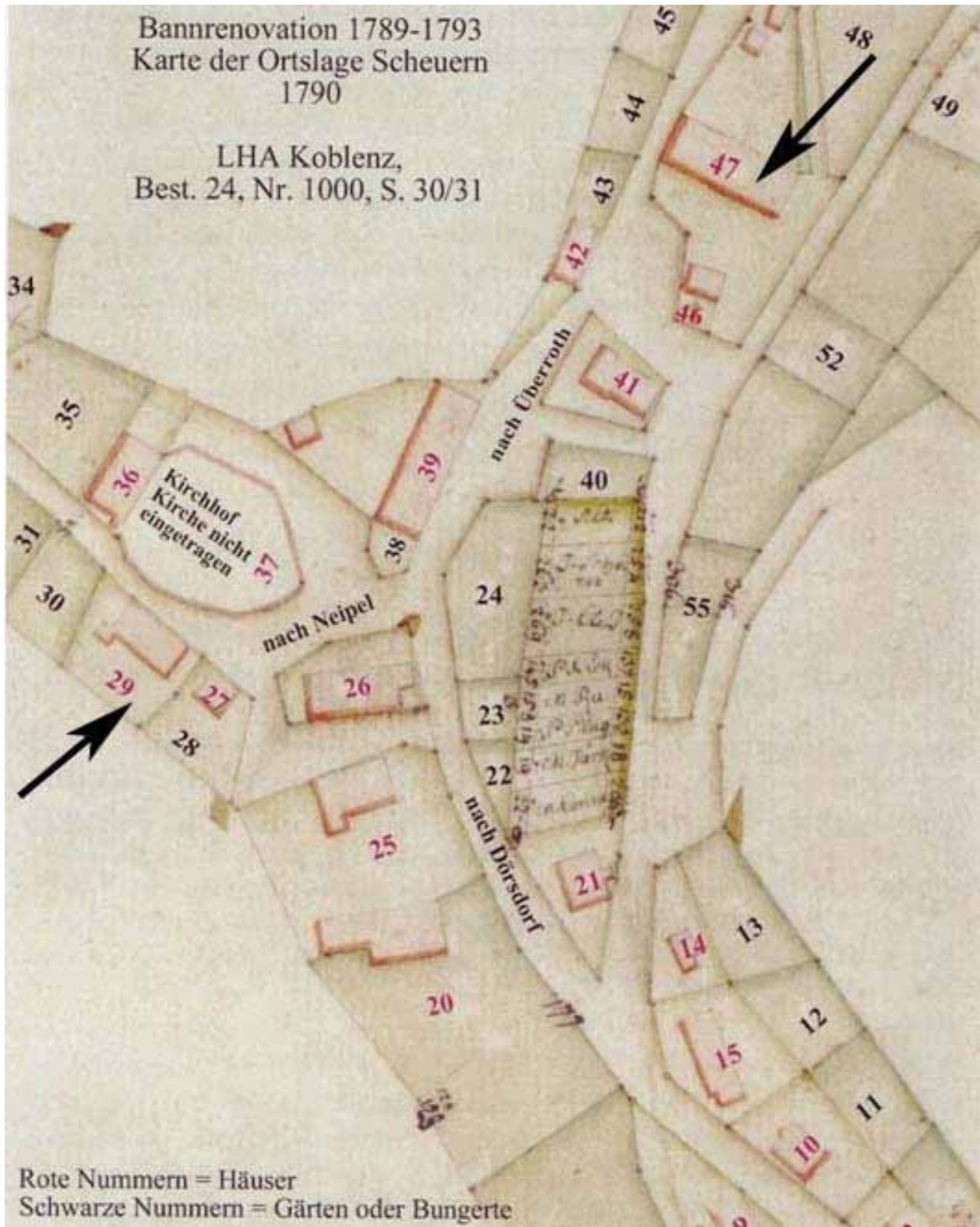
mark of	Jacob Clesen
nicolas C hoffman	
seller (Vendeur)	P. Heyßen
C. Mathis	
mark of	M. Seyler
Catherine + johan	Notary
	(Tabellion)

The image shows several handwritten signatures in black ink. At the top left, there is a signature that appears to be 'marguerite'. Below it, a signature reads 'nicolas C hoffman' with 'Vendeurs' written underneath. To the right of these, there is a signature 'Jacob Clesen'. Below the 'nicolas C hoffman' signature, there is a signature 'C. Mathis'. At the bottom left, there is a signature 'M. Seyler'. To the right of this, there is a signature 'Catherine + johan'. At the bottom right, there is a signature 'P. Heyßen'.

(Source: StA Sbr, notary's office Schaumburg, Notary SEYLER tome 6, pp. 176–179, 29 Mar 1749, Or., French)

<sup>1</sup> Thalexweiler (Lebach, Saarland).





**Figure 16.** The house purchased by Jacob CLESEN in 1749 probably was the building no. 29. According to the survey of the Scheuern territory of 1789–1793, it was situated next to the house of Peter BAUS (no. 27), which belonged to Peter NIKOLAY at that time. In 1768, Jacob bought the house of his wife’s parents from the heirs of Tillmann HOFFMANN, which the couple CLESEN sold and bequeathed to their son Johannes by the marriage contract, dated 17 February 1775. In 1789–1793, Johannes CLÄBEN was the owner of house no. 47 (see arrows), according to the aforesaid survey by the county office Palatine-Zweibrücken.

Jacob's signature can be found on a contract of 12 April 1752, when the master carpenter Mathis ALLERCHEN<sup>1</sup> from Steinbach appeared before the Tholey Notary RISCH. Mathis declared that he owed debts of 15 reichsthaler to the so-called "church factory" of the Scheuern parish church St. Catherine, represented by the collector Michael SCHERER from Neipel. Guarantor was the master tanner Johann ALLERCHEN. This declaration was given in Tholey in the presence of the witnesses Johann CONRAD, schoolmaster from Scheuern, and the farmer Johann HOFFMANN from Scheuern, who signed as follows: // = mark of *Michel Scherer, Jacob Clesen, Johann Conrad, Johann Hoffman*, royal Notary RISCH.

On the morning of 12 August 1754, Notary RISCH came to Scheuern, where Jacob—presumably as a juryman for the local church—was present to sign a notarial bond issued to Katharina JOHANN by the Scheuern church: Katharina JOHANN, widow of Franz BOUL from Neipel, had borrowed 13 reichsthaler from the factory of the Scheuern parish church, represented by the collector Michael SCHERER from Neipel, which had been paid to her in cash, before the contract was concluded. Witnesses were the farmer Mathis NICOLAY from Dörsdorf and the farmer Jacob SCHERER von Neipel. Marks and signatures: *P. Exuperius Flander, Michel Scherer, Jacob Clesen, Hanß Jacob Scherer*, Notary RISCH. The contract was reviewed by C. MATHIS in Tholey on 14 August 1754.<sup>2</sup>



In 1758, Jacob appeared again before the Tholey Notary RISCH to purchase landed property via a pledging contract. In that period, the purchased parcels of land were pledged, not sold, to avoid the land transfer tax<sup>3</sup>: Also present on 20 May 1758 was the farmer Peter HENCKES from Krettnich who pledged one half of the immovable property, which had belonged to Michael BAUS from Scheuern, situated in the district of Scheuern and Hölzershausen, consisting of gardens, meadows, farmland and cleared woodland, hedges and bushes, to the Mayor Jacob CLESEN, his wife Agnes HOFFMANN, and their heirs and legal successors for the price of 30 reichsthaler. The present owner Peter BAUS had purchased the landed property through auctions with other associates from Gronig. Witnesses were the farmer Michael ANDRES from Limbach and the master tanner Peter HERMANN from Gresaubach. Marks and signatures: \ \ \ \ = mark of *pierre henckes, Jacob clesen, petter Herman, michel Andreß*, Notary RISCH. The contract was reviewed by TASSIN on 27 May 1758.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> ALLERGEN, Mathias (b. about 1700 in Lindscheid, d. before 22 Aug 1766 in Steinbach), master carpenter (see Storb/Naumann/Naumann p. 53).

<sup>2</sup> StA Sbr, notary's office Schaumburg tome 7, p. 101 f., 12 Aug 1754, French original.

<sup>3</sup> The pledging was only a hidden sale, since the purchaser wanted to save the 30 percent property transfer tax which was to be delivered to the Duke. After the pledging contract was finalized, the "purchaser" worked the property as if he was the owner.

<sup>4</sup> StA Sbr, notary's office Schaumburg tome 7, p. 117 f., 20 May 1758, French original.

Half a year later, in the afternoon of 13 January 1759, the farmer Johann *CLESE* from Neipel pledged to Jacob *CLÉSEN* and his wife Agnes landed property, situated on properties in the Abbey district and in the territory of the village Neipel, which Johann had inherited from his father Johann *CLESE*, consisting of gardens, meadows and farmland, to the price of 25 reichsthaler including fees. Witnesses were the tailor Ludwig *JUNGBLUT* and the innkeeper Johann *WETZEL*, both from Tholey. Marks and signatures: \ \ = mark of *Johan Clese, Jacob Clesen, L. jungblut, Johannes wetzell, RISCH* Royal Notary. C. *MATHIS* checked the contract on 20 January in Tholey.<sup>1</sup> It may be assumed that the surname of *Johan CLESE* and his father *Jean CLESE* is rather the name *KLOS*, which we can find in Limbach and Tholey later on.

On 13 March 1761, Jacob *CLESEN* represented his mother-in-law Maria *HOFFMANN* at the pledging of property in favor of Michael *ANDRES*: Before the notary the Steinbach farmer Nikolaus *MERFELD* appeared as guardian of the minor children of the late Elisabeth *WALFARTH*, the deceased wife of the shepherd Johann Bernard *KOUTSCH* from Sotzweiler, and declared that the married couple Johann *WALFARTH* and Maria Katharina *WILHELM* as the parents of Elisabeth *WALFARTH* had pledged landed property in the district and territory of Dörsdorf to the deceased Johann *HOFFMANN* from Dörsdorf for 40 thaler, without fees of the contract. The property is the 7th part of the landed property named "SCHOU Peter Stock"<sup>2</sup> in the district of Dörsdorf, in addition to the 7th part of inherited landed property in the district of Lindscheid in the so-called "WILHELM Stock", which were pledged to Johann *BOSCHT* and Maria *HOFFMANN* from Scheuern to the sum of 20 reichsthaler. The transaction was concluded at a price of 64 reichsthaler. Jacob was involved as providing legal assistance to his mother-in-law Maria *HOFFMANN*. Marks and signatures: + = mark of *Jean Boscht*, + = mark of *Nicolas Merfeld*, + = mark of *Michel andres, Jacob Clesen, mathias Hoffman, L. jungblut, Tassin*, Notary *RISCH*. The act was reviewed by Johann Baptiste *TASSIN*.<sup>3</sup>

In the morning on the same day, Jacob was in Kastel with the Notary *RISCH* of the county office in Schaumburg, presumably in the house of the blacksmith Mathias *LENNIG* and his wife Katharina *ESCH*, where the following persons were present: The shoemaker Peter *SCHNEIDER* and his wife Barbara *JOST*, both from Kastel, the farmer Nicolas *ECKER* from Kastel, the farmer Friedrich *JOSTE* from Kostembach, the farmer Adam *LATZ* from Buweiler, the farmer Didier *WISEN* from Bardenbach as stepfather of the minor children of his wife Frau Anne Marie *JOSTE*, the farmer Peter *MORSTROFF* and



<sup>1</sup> StA Sbr, notary's office Schaumburg tome. 7, pp. 123f., 13 Jan 1759, French original.

<sup>2</sup> "SCHOU Peter Stock" means all landed property of Peter SCHOU and his family situated in the district and village of Dörsdorf (see also *WILHEM Stock, Stock Niederhoven, PIERRE BECKER Stock* etc.).

<sup>3</sup> StA Sbr, notary's office Schaumburg tome 7, pp. 191–194, 13 Mar 1761, French original.



his wife Barbe JOSTE from Kastel, all brothers and sisters, brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law. The last named people pledged to the Mayor Jacob CLESEN and his wife Agnes HOFFMAN from Scheuern landed property in the so-called "Stock Niederhofen", which they had inherited from their grandmother, consisting of gardens, meadows, farmland, cleared woodland, hedges and bushes, for 15 reichsthaler at 54 Petermännchen, which was paid for in cash. Witnesses were the farmers Johann SCHERER and Johann SCHNEIDER from Kastel. After having held an explanation, they put their marks or signed: *Matheis liny, nicolaus Ecker*, + = mark of *catherine Esch*, + = mark of *adam Latz*, I = mark of *friederich Joste*, X = mark of *Didier Wisen*, + = mark of *Marguerite Schneider*, ++ = mark of *pierre Schneider, Jacob Clesen, Peter mehrstorff, Johannes Schneider, Johanneß scherer*, Notary RISCH. The document was reviewed by apprentice Notary TASSIN on 30 June 1761.<sup>1</sup>

On January of 1762, Jacob went to the notary in Tholey to assert the rights of his mother-in-law Maria HOFFMANN. Peter ORNAU from Kastel, Johann HOFFMANN, Niclas PLUECH and Niclas AMBOS (all from Scheuern and Überroth) also appeared. Peter ORNAU declared to be hypothecated by the abovementioned persons. There were several pieces of land situated in the Abbey district in Scheuern, and more pieces in the district Hölzershausen in the so-called "Stock humesse", consisting of gardens, meadows, farmland and cleaned woodland, hedges and bushes. The properties, which were inherited from their late mother Margarete HOFFMANN were pledged by old encumbrances but otherwise free and clear. They were assigned without exception and nothing was withheld. This transaction was made for a sum of 35 reichsthaler, the thaler at 54 little Peterman. Witnesses were the tailor Louis JUNGBLUT and Henry GLAS. Marks and signatures: + = mark of *pierre Orneau, Jacob Clesen, L. jungblut, Henrich Klab*, Notary RISCH. The act was reviewed by apprentice Notary TASSIN.<sup>2</sup>

On 17 February 1764, Jacob purchased further properties in Kastel by pledging from Wendel SCHUMERT, Franz SCHEID, Wendel SCHEID, Katherina GUEREND, widow of Johann SCHEID, Etienne SCHEID, Jacob SCHEID and the deceased Anne Maria KONNAU [?], from Peter and Niclas BECKER, Mathis SCHNEIDER and his wife Margareta SCHEID, Eva SCHEID, widow of Peter BÄCKER, and from Margareta SCHNEIDER, from Guidesweiler, Gronig, Steinberg and Wolfersweiler. They pledged to him and his wife Agnes HOFFMANN all immovable properties which came from Maria BAUER, their late mother, mother-in-law and grandmother, situated in the district Scheuern and Hölzershausen for the price of 60 reichsthaler in cash. Witnesses were *Jean Francois GIRAUD* and the official in the notary's office Johann Franz RHODEN, both from Tholey. Marks and signatures: + = mark of *Wendel Schumert, Peter Scheitt, ...[?], Peter Becker*,

<sup>1</sup> StA Sbr, notary's Schaumburg tome 7, pp. 199–201, 24 Jun 1761, French original.

<sup>2</sup> StA Sbr, notary's Schaumburg tome 7, pp. 212–214, 9 Jan 1762, French original.

*Jacob Scheitt*, X = mark of *Nicolaus becker*, + = mark of *francois Scheidt*, *Matheiß Schneider*, *Jacob clesen*, \* = mark of *Catherine Guerend*, + = mark of *Eve Becker*, *Giraud*, *Rhoden*, Notary TASSIN.<sup>1</sup>

In 1749, Nikolaus HOFFMANN sold his inherited home in Scheuern along with its orchard to his brother-in-law Jacob CLESEN. 16 years later he, the farmer, residing in Bettingen, sold off another inherited or purchased landed property in Scheuern: On 26 February 1765, he sold to the Mayor Jacob CLESEN all his properties in the district and territory of Scheuern for 40 reichsthaler at 54 albus which he received in cash prior to signing the contract. Legal witnesses were the bailiff Conrad NIEKEL and the cavalier Jean MONARD. Signatures: *Niclaß Hofman*, *Jacob Clesen*, *J. Monard*, *C. Niekel* and Notary TASSIN. On 21 February 1765, the contract was reviewed by Mr. GIRAUD.<sup>2</sup>

Jacob seems to have occasionally received witness fees at the notary's office, presumably since he was present in the office at those times and he was asked by a friend to contribute to the conclusion of a transaction: On 12 May 1765, Peter MAYER from Güdesweiler pledged a part of a parcel of land in the district of Kastel to the tax collector Valentin MAYER for 114 reichsthaler. Witnesses were Mayor Jacob CLESEN from Scheuern and Mayor Mathias JOST from Kastel. Marks and signatures: *Jacob Clesen*, *Matheis Jost*, A = marks of *pierre Mayer*, Notary TASSIN.<sup>3</sup>

On 27 June 1767, Jacob, named as Mayor and juryman, was again a contracting party for a purchase of land when the farmer Peter HENCKES from the village Krett-nich, sovereignty Dagstuhl, sold to him and his brothers-in-law, the farmers Johann HOFFMANN from Scheuern and Nikolaus HOFFMANN from Bettingen, his properties in the Abbey district in Scheuern and the property in the district and territory of Hölzershausen which he had inherited from Eva BAUS, his late mother, for 40 reichsthaler in cash. Witnesses were the servant Nikolaus KILBURGER and the cooper *Mathis* LEHNE from the Tholey abbey. Marks and signatures: IIII = mark of *pierre henckes*, *Johanes Hoffman*, *jacob clesen*, *nicolas Kilburger*, *Matthiaß Lehne*, Notary RISCH. The act was reviewed by Mr. GIRAUD on 30 June 1767.<sup>4</sup> It should be noted that Tholey abbey had their own cooper who was a witness in this contract.

<sup>1</sup> StA Sbr, notary's Schaumburg tome 7, pp. 278–291, 17 Feb 1764, French original.

<sup>2</sup> StA Sbr, notary's Schaumburg Bd. 7, pp. 312f., 26 Feb 1765, French original.

<sup>3</sup> StA Sbr, notary's Schaumburg Bd. 26, pp. 380f., 12 May 1765, French original

<sup>4</sup> StA Sbr, notary's office Schaumburg tome 7, pp. 386f., 27 June 1767, French original.

In 1749 (see above), Jacob purchased his first home from his brother-in-law Nikolaus HOFFMANN, in which he presumably lived with his young family of three children. Nineteen years later, his family had increased to seven children so that the primary home had become too small. Thus, Jacob bought his wife's parental house in Scheuern from the heirs of Tillman HOFFMANN. The selling of the house was regulated in the following sales contract by the cession of 22 September 1768. This original French contract, which was concluded by the Royal Notary RISCH in the Scheuern house, is reproduced below in English translation:

*Scheüren, 22nd November 1768.*

*Cession in favor to*

*Jacob CLESEN from Scheüren*

*by jean HOFFMAN, Nicolas*

*HOFFMAN, pierre HOFFMANN*

*and their wives from [Überr]oth,*

*betting X<sup>ée1</sup> 1st copy*



3. 103.

N<sup>o</sup>. 50[ ?]

*Today, on 22nd November 1768, before the signed Royal Notary and Tabellion of the county office Schaumburg residing in Tholayé and in the presence of the witnesses named at the end of the contact were present: Jean HOFFMAN, farmer, residing in Scheuren, Pierre CASPARD, farmer, residing in Rodt, sovereignty Dagstoul, and his wife Anne HOFFMAN, Adam JUNCKER, farmer, residing in Niderhoffen, and his wife Margueritte HOFFMAN, Pierre HOFFMAN, farmer, residing in Neyppel, and Nicolas HOFFMAN, farmer, residing in Betting, all brothers and sisters or brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law. The husbands were authorized to represent the interests of their wives. The wives agreed and accepted this power of representation.*

*They all declared expressly that they had assigned and transferred irrevocably today and forever all their property rights to Jacob CLESEN, Mayor and juryman, residing in Scheuren. They accepted him and his wife Agnes HOFFMAN, the surviving spouse and their descendents and legal successors namely each of them concerning the sixth part and portion as a child of the house, the barn, the stables, the yard with all attachments as well as a corresponding part of the barn attached to the entrance of the aforesaid house and also the vegetable garden opposite the way, situated below the gable of the barn at the end of the township of aforesaid Scheuren in the direction of "Hölzershausen". The building with all attachments reaches in front to the old house and the well, behind to the garden of the assignee, with one side to the gardens of the heirs and the other side to the vegetable garden and on the other side of the street to the meadows, named premises, which were inherited by Thilmann HOFFMAN, their deceased father and father-in-law. Everybody transferred to him by cession the sixth part of the property with all of the old charges which is incidentally free and clear to the present Jacob CLESEN and his wife Agnes Hoffman.*

<sup>1</sup> Addition presumably by the registry of the later Duchy Palatine Zweibrücken.



*The present cession is made for the sum of about 158 reichsthaler and 18 little Peterman. The thaler values normally at 58 little Peterman. The fees and expenses should be paid by the assignee [Jacob CLESEN]. Concerning the house price each transferor confirmed to have received his part before the conclusion of the contract and to be satisfied. Each portion amounts to 31 thaler and 36 little Peterman in the money of the empire. According to the deliverance of this sum, they are all content and unbelievably well paid. Therefore, they are now disinherited; they have abandoned and assigned all their inherited rights. The rights, the possession and the usufruct are transferred to the assignors, their brother-in-law and his family. They have ceded all their rights with the promise to guarantee the present cession with regard to each. The transferee is jointly and severally liable in respect of obligations to their movable goods and immovable property now and in future. All this happened in good faith and without willful deceit.*

*So occurred in Scheuern in the house of Jacob CLESEN, in the year and on the day as above in the presence of Jean Francois GIRAUD, trainee, and Johann Franz RODEN, bailiff, both residing in Tholay. Those witnesses are known to the notary as well as the contracting parties, who had signed. One party had signed but another party had made signs due to their inability to write, according to the order and after having held a reading and explanation.*

Mark of anne + Hoffman

Mark of + Margarite Hoffman

Mark of + Pierre Hoffman

Mark of + Pierre Gaspard

Mark of adam + Juncker

Nicolaß Hofman Johanes Hofman

Jacob Clesen Mayor

Mark of

+

agnès Hoffman

Rhoden mp

Giraud

Risch mp Royal Notary and Tab.

(StA Sbr, notary's office Schaumburg tome 7, pp. 404–407, 22 September 1768, French original).

The carefully handwritten document (without a single strikethrough part) was reviewed by Mr. Giraud (a later notary) in Tholey on 24 November 1768. For this, four reichsthaler five pfennigs were charged.

Between 1760 and 1771, Jacob was mentioned several times as being present at the auction of the Hölzershausen Tenth Penny Grain Tax. Since 1752, the baron Johann Ernst Philipp Hartmann VON BUSECK had owned the grain tax rights from his properties in Hölzershausen next to Scheuern and from the local Holy Peter chapel. Those

revenues were collected for the baron Franz Armand VON BUSECK, a member of the higher nobility monasteries in Würzburg and Bamberg on 30 September 1761.<sup>1</sup> The grain tax was auctioned off by Konrad MATHIS, an officer of the town of Eppelborn, on behalf of the Reverend Baron on 17 July 1760. For the year 1760, Mathis estimated the expected income from the wheat as 8 Malter and from the oats as 16 Malter in the measure of the county Nassau-Saarbrücken in the district of Hölzershausen. The public auction took place "by light". After 24 biddings (each bid consisting of one barrel of wheat and two barrels of oats) the honest Mayor Jacob CLESEN from Scheuern bought the grain tax as the highest bidder. Jacob was thus committed to deliver the Tenth Penny of 11 Malter of wheat and 22 Malter of oats to the ducal storehouse in Calmesweiler on the day of the Immaculate Conception on 8 December 1760. Johannes HOFFMANN from Scheuern was designated as guarantor in order to secure the winning bid. The contract was concluded in the Hölzershausen hermitage and signed after having held a reading as follows: *C. Mathis, Jacob clesen, Johannes Hofman.*



**Fig. 17.** This house, which Jacob CLESEN purchased from the heirs of Mayor Tillmann HOFFMANN in 1768, was situated in Scheuern in what is today Hölzer Street 10 and was noted as the house of the Mayer in 1775. Edwin WARKEN painted the KLESEN house under thatch which was typical for the 18th century, according to old cadastral maps.

<sup>1</sup> See Naumann, Eppelborn p. 116 and pp. 125f.

One year later, on 11 July 1761, Mayor Jacob was present at the auction when the Tenth Grain Tax of baron BUSECK was again auctioned off in Hölzershausen. The Tenth Penny of 11 Malter of wheat and 16 Malter of oats in the Nassau Saarbrücken measure was auctioned after 18 biddings to 4 barrels of half wheat and half oats to the farmer Johannes FINCKLER from the village of Überroth. He promised to personally deliver 15 Malter 4 barrels of wheat and 20 Malter 4 barrels of oats to the ducal storehouse in Calmesweiler on the day of the Immaculate Conception on 8 December. Nicklaus SCHERER from Niederhofen guaranteed for it. In the hermitage in Hölzershausen signed: *J. B. Winckell, Pastor of Limbach as witness, C. Mathis*, official of the sovereignty Eppelborn, *Jacob clesen* Mayor.

In 1770, the BUSECK grain tax in Hölzershausen was auctioned by Peter WILHELM residing in the village Überroth situated in the town of Dagstuhl which was governed by Duke ÖTTINGER, namely 3 Malter of rye and 27½ Malter of oats in the Saarbrücken measure. Each bidding was 4 barrels of oats. Since the rye fell short of expectations and the grain was damaged, they expected to lose money. The auctioning of 3 Malter of rye and 14 Malter of oats was finished after 25 biddings when the candle expired (i.e. when the auction finished). On 8 December 1770, the delivery to Calmesweiler was carried out by the successful bidder at his own cost and under the guarantee of Nicolaus FINCKLER from Niederhofen. The French language auction document was signed by the following people: *Peter wilhelm, C. Mathis, Tassin*, witness, *Jacob clesen*.

On 22 July 1771, the Tenth Penny Grain Tax of Baron VON BUSECK was again auctioned off. Mayor Jacob CLESEN from Scheuern reported to the Eppelborn administrator Conrad MATHIS that the grain from the Hölzershausen district would have foreseeable damages from hail, which could not be estimated by the experts, so that they should expect a lower profit. As a consequence, he and Johannes HOFFMAN from Scheuern did not have to pay the rye Tenth. On the other hand, they were taxed for the oats and other grain without exception. They had to harvest the grain, to thresh and store them, as well as deliver them to Calmesweiler at their own expense on 8 December. Furthermore, they had to pay for the traditional wine toast to celebrate the auction after signing the contract. But they were allowed to keep the straw left from the harvest. After having held a reading the agreement written in French language was signed in Tholey by *Jacob Clesen, Johannes Hoffman* and *C. Mathis*. The amount of the Tenth Penny goods that were to be delivered was listed on a receipt attached to the contract and issued in Scheuern by Jacob on 27 December 1771. The receipt attested to Conrad MATTIS from Tholey that Jacob CLESEN and Johannes HOFFMANN had witnessed the measuring of the oats as nine *Malter* minus a half barrel (see below).

Hereby I inform Mister Mattis  
 from Dholey concerning the  
 oats that he and Johans Hofman  
 have measured the oats  
 nine malter minus one half  
 barrel in my presence  
 scheiren the 27th december  
 jacob clesen 1771  
 Johannes hofman

hier mit dem ich dem farnen malter  
 dass Gallij für einfar den wengand  
 der haben wir das geseins geseins  
 die haben richtig gemessen fast  
 neun malter weniger für full  
 fast in geseins wengand malter  
 geseins den 27. december  
 jacob clesen 1771  
 Johannes Hofman

(Source: 4 original documents about the auctioning of the Tenth Penny in Hölzershausen in favor of Baron VON BUSECK, 1760–1771, from: private archive Johannes Naumann).

On 15 February 1773, Jacob was again present before the notary, when he met Notary TASSIN in Kastel in a house which belonged to the Tholey abbey. Also were present: the farmer Nicolas JOSTE Sr. as agent of his also present wife Barbe VEYLER from Kastel, then Jacob VEYLER Sr. and Jacob VEYLER Jr. as well as Michael VEYLER as guardian of the minor children of the late Nicolas VEYLER, also Jacob KOSTNER as guardian of his wife and daughter of Nicolas VEYLER and finally Anne BOULGÉ, widow of the late Johann Schwartz. TASSIN named the sellers as follows: Michael BOULGÉ from Eyselsbach, Marie BOULGÉ, wife of Johann MÖSEN from Morscholtz, Catherinne BOULGÉ, wife of Johann GOBIN in Austria—this last person was represented by Mathis KIRSCH— and Johann ORNAU, guardian of Peter and Michael Veyler, the minor children of the late Paul VEYLER, Matties VIESEN, as guardian of his child and represented by Mattis KIRSCH, his guardian, and Anne Marie VEYLER, his late wife, residing in Kastel. They sold to Jacob and his wife the following inherited property: a part of a parcel situated in the district of Lindscheid in Lorraine, another part of a parcel in the district of the village of Niederhofen and in the district of the village of Überroth which were situated in the German Empire. The last item was inherited by Johann Peter HOLTZ from Überroth. They received 15 thaler in cash for the property in the district of Lindscheid, 17 thaler and 36 albus for the property in Niederhofen and 44 reichsthaler of the Treves currency, the thaler to 54 albus, for the property in Überroth, all together the sum of 76 thaler 36 albus. It was agreed that there would be the possibility of a repurchase. Witnesses were the bailiff Nicolas HOLTZ and the apprentice Mathias TESPERT from Tholey. Marks and signatures: *Michall Weiller, Jacob Weiler, Jacob weiller*, (∧) = mark of *mathis Kirsch*, + = mark of *Barbe Veyler*, + = mark of *anne Boulgé, Nicolauß Joost, Johann Kostner, Jacob Clesen, Tespert, Holz, Notary TASSIN*.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> StA Sbr, notary's office Schaumburg tome 7, pp. 459–462, 15 Feb 1773, French original.





Only a few months later, on 2 May 1773, Jacob purchased further property from a Brigadier at the court of the King, Nicolas GRISEL, residing in Tholey, and from the farmer Michael PETER from Gronig on behalf of François PETER from Reichenbach-Steegen in Palatine, Johann PETER from Neunkirchen, Maria PETER, widow of the late Peter GROSSE from Bierfeld, Friderich PETER, Nicolas MÜLLER and his wife Anne, Margueritte PETER from Selbach, Mathis BIGEL and his wife Anne PETER from Eiweiler. They all mortgaged to Jacob and to the farmer Johann BOSTE from Überrodt, Sovereignty Dagstuhl—who appeared together with his brother-in-law farmer Nicolas AMES from Überroth—a part of a parcel of land in the district of Scheuern and Hölzershausen for 55 reichsthaler at 54 Petermännchen, which they received in cash. Jacob and Johann each purchased half of the property. The mortgage contract from 10 May 1726, which was concluded by Friedrich PETER from Sotzweiler in favor to Peter HOFFMANN, the former Mayor in Scheuern, and Johann BORST before Tabellion BLANDIN, was cancelled. Witnesses were innkeeper Peter BESCH and tailor Franz L'HOSTE, both from Tholey. Signatures: *Grisel, michel petter, jacob clesen*, II = mark of *Nicolas Ames, francois Lhoste, petter besch*, Notary RISCH.<sup>1</sup>

One year later, on 8 March 1774, Jacob was financially able to function as a guarantor of a loan in the Tholey office of the Royal Lorraine Notary TASSIN: Present were the farmer Niclas BLUCH and his wife Anne Marie SCHNEIDER from Scheuern as well as Conrad MATTIS, the administrative officer of the town of Eppelborn under Baron BUSECK's jurisdiction. The couple BLUCH loaned from MATTHIS the sum of 24 reichsthaler, for which the farmer and Mayor Jacob CLESEN and his wife Agnes HOFFMANN from Scheuern guaranteed to the lender. Witnesses were the feudal Mayor Augustin SCHNEBERG and Nicolas BARBEL, cavalier of the local police from Tholey. Marks and signatures: II = mark of *Nicolas pluch*, + = mark of *agnes Hoffman*, + = mark of *anne marie Schneider, Jacob clesen, Barbel, C. Mathis, A. Schneberge*, Notary TASSIN.<sup>2</sup>

When Jacob's daughter-in-law Margarethe SCHERER died on 26 August 1774 and her widower Johannes married Angela RIEHM in a second marriage, Jacob and Agnes bequeathed him their home, the so-called Mayor's house. The house was located in Scheuern and included a barn, forge, stables and yard, and a vegetable garden across the street. Jacob and his wife were granted a permanent and lifelong right of residence in the house and its maintenance by their children: Jacob and Agnes specified in the contract that their children should be respectful to their parents and that they had to faithfully perform all the housework and field work as a field hand would do.

<sup>1</sup> StA Sbr, notary's office Schaumburg tome 7, pp. 474–477, 2 May 1773, French original.

<sup>2</sup> StA Sbr, notary's office Schaumburg tome 7, pp. 505f., 8 Mar 1774, French original.



They shall do all that to the advantages and benefits of the couple CLESEN. The value of the building was established to 250 reichsthaler for that portion of the inheritance and the flat of the couple had a value of 4 reichsthaler per annum.<sup>1</sup>

On 22 April 1778, Jacob CLESEN (*Klæsen*) participated in the removal of a pledging. He and the farmer Johann BOST from Überrodt on behalf of their late mother-in-law Marie HOFFMAN declared that the Mayor and court juryman Herman VILHEME from Hasborn and Suzanne VILHELME, widow of the late Johann Adam PERGER, earlier residing in Steinbach, had bonded their property inherited by maternal and paternal succession for 22 thaler to both parties. The property was situated in the district of Scheuern and Neipel. Witnesses were Michael LAUX from Tholey and the farmer Peter SCHMITT from Namborn. Marks and signatures: + = mark of *Jean Bost, Jacob Clesen, Johanneß Wilhelm, Michel Laux, Peter Schmitt, Notary RISCH*.<sup>2</sup>

On 11 May 1778, the farmer Johann BOST from Überroth and Mayor Jacob CLESEN from Scheuern again appeared before the Royal Notary RISCH to remove a pledging. They declared that Johann CHRISTE, at that time living in Neunkirchen, and his wife Margueritte VILHELME had mortgaged their property, jointly with Mathis VILHELME from *Berviler*, their late brother-in-law. The property was inherited by paternal succession from Niclas VILHELME, their father and father-in-law who had resided in Überroth earlier. The property was situated in the district of Scheuern and Neipel and was mortgaged for 20 reichsthaler. In addition, fees and contract costs were accrued in the amount of 6 livres and 10 French sols by the contract signed before the Schaumburg Tabellion SEYLER and 4 Florin by the contract of the property of Johann CHRISTE and Johann VILHELME Sr. from Überroth. The contract was concluded in the presence of the witnesses Mathis AMES, farmer, and Louis JUNGBLUT, tailor, both from Tholey. Marks and signatures: \* = mark of *Jean boste, Jacob Clesen, Johanneß Wilhelm, L. jungblut, matheis ames, Notary RISCH*; reviewed by GIRAUD.<sup>3</sup>

In the years before his death Jacob was often supported by his oldest son Johannes: At a surety bond on 6 April 1779, both of them guaranteed for Jacob's son-in-law the farmer Mathis JECKEL from Scheuern, who had borrowed from Conrard MATHIS from Saarlouis (at that time a consultant for the Saarlouis police in the town hall) the sum of 150 reichsthaler by an obligation, dated 27 January 1774. The guarantee was needed because MATHIS had threatened JECKEL with legal proceedings. Jacob and Johannes increased the amount of the deposit, so that they were the principal payers as well as debtors. In addition, a bond of thalers was agreed upon. The signing witnesses were the Tholey Mayor SCHNEBERGER and Johann George HOMAYER, sergeant of the Tholey abbey, both from Tholey. After explanation and having a reading by the

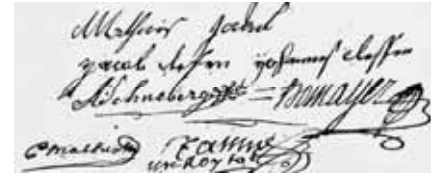
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<sup>1</sup> StA Sbr, notary's office Schaumburg tome 18, pp. 284–288, 17 Feb 1775, French original; the complete marriage contract see 3.3.

<sup>2</sup> StA Sbr, notary's office Schaumburg tome 7, pp. 621–623, 22 Apr 1778, French original.

<sup>3</sup> StA Sbr, notary's office Schaumburg tome 7, pp. 629–630, 11 May 1778, French original.

notary signed *Jacob CLESEN* (age-related scrawled with trembling hand), *C. Mathis, Johannes Clessen, Mathis Jeckel, Schneberger, Homayer* and Notary *TASSIN*.<sup>1</sup>



Five months before Jacob passed away on 16 September 1782, he was represented by his son Johannes when he purchased property in Hölzershausen. The following parties appeared before the notary on 6 April 1782: (1) Wendel SCHOUMER for himself. (2) The farmer Steffen RAÜSCHE with his wife Catherine SCHOUMER from Gronig. (3) Peter BACKES for his minor children from the marriage to his late wife Elisabeth SCHOUMER. (4) Peter OLMAN from Gronig on behalf of his wife Katharina SCHÜTZ. (5) the Marpingen inhabitant Peter SHAYET with his wife Marguerithe SCHOUMER. (6) Peter TRAUSCH from Winterbach Gronig on behalf of his wife Marguerithe RECKTENWALD. (7) Wendel SCHAID from Gronig for himself. (8) Nicolas RAUSCH Gronig on behalf of his wife Marie SCHAID. (9) His brother-in-law Jacob SCHAID for himself. (10) From the "3rd Peter BECKER Stock" from Steinberg, Zweibrücken land, in his name and in the name of the children of his late brother Niclas BECKER from Reitscheid (district St. Wendel) with the authority of Marguerithe BECKER, widow of Mathis SCHAID from Gronig. (11) From the "4th Peter SCHAID Stock", son of Catherine GEIEREND, widow of Johann SCHAID, in the name of the children. (12) Catherine SCHAÏER, widow of Steffen SCHAID in the name of her minor children and Peter SCHAID in the name of the heirs of Wendel SCHAID as well as Nicolas SCHOMMER on behalf of his wife Catherine LANGENDÖRFLER, acting in the name of the heirs of Johann LANGENDÖRFLER and Marguerithe SCHAID, all from Gronig, "5th Stock" of the late Eva SCHEID in Linden. They all mortgaged the landed property consisting of farmland, meadows, gardens etc. and situated in the district and territory of Scheuern and Hölzershausen, to the Scheuern Mayor and high court juryman Jacob CLËSEN. The sellers received 60 reichsthaler in cash and additionally the fees and contract costs of 9 livres, Lorraine currency. Jacob was represented by his son Johannes (*Jean Clesen*). Marks and signatures: *Wendel Schumer, peter schaeitt, Pete Beker, Peter hans, Petter olman*, + = mark of *Vendel Schaid*, x = mark of *Marie Schaid*, VR = mark of *N.<sup>as</sup> Rausche*, + = mark of *Margthe Schoumer*, x = mark of *Margethe Becker*, x = mark of *Steffen Raüsch*, + = mark of *Catherine Schoumer*, + = mark of *Pierre Backes*, \* = mark of *Nat. Schoümer, Johannes Klessen*, witnesses: *mattis SCHMIT, Johannes DIELL*, Notary *GIRAUD*.<sup>2</sup>

On 9 May 1782, Jacob again purchased property by a notarial contract before Notary GIRAUD: Jacob and George BACKES, two brothers and farmers from Linden and Ossenbach, represented their brothers and sisters, the children of the late Johann BACKES from Linden. Jacob BACKES from Güdesweiler was acting in his own name and in the name of the coheirs of their late father Jacob BACKES. Also present were Johann BACKES of Ossenbach in the name of his father Wendel BACKES and Didier

<sup>1</sup> StA Sbr, notary's office Schaumburg tome 7, pp. 661–664, 6 Apr 1779, French original.

<sup>2</sup> StA Sbr, notary's office Schaumburg tome 7, pp. 748–750, 6 Apr 1782, French original.

RECH, a young tailor from Bliesen, for himself and his sister Catherine RECH. Both were also acting for their late mother Catherine BACKES. Finally, Marie RECKTENWALD appeared, the widow of the late Peter BACKES, for her father, all acting as co-heirs of the late Eve SCHEID. Concerning the contract of 17 February 1764, before Notary TASSIN Jacob CLÉSEN had mortgaged by Wendel SCHOUVERT, François SCHAID and his associates from Gronig property in the district of Scheuern and Hölzershäusen for 60 reichsthaler and 9 livres 16 sous Lorraine currency as fees. Present as witnesses were the tailor Johann DILLE and the young farmer and citizen *Etiene* SCHOU from Tholey. They signed with the exception of Didier RECH and the widow RECKTENWALD who made their marks. Marks and signatures: *Jacob Clesen, Jacob Backes, Jörg Backeß, Johannes Backes, + = mark of Didier Rech, \* = mark of widow Recktenwald, Johannes Diell, Steffen schu*, Notary GIRAUD. The notary expressly stated that 36 kreutzer were paid for a traditional wine toast.<sup>1</sup>

Jacob was recorded as being a carpenter in the church book in Latin script on 12 October 1751 at the birth of his daughter Elisabeth. This profession was also added by the Scheuern priest in the Latin entry of Jacob's death on 16 September 1782. Yet we do not find this profession listed in the Schaumburg files of the notaries where Jacob was recorded as a farmer in the contracts written in French. But he also had other roles: Since 1749, he was Mayor in Scheuern and also a High Court juryman. He was often named in the notarial files as having one of these professions. In 1754, Jacob was first recorded as a juryman, when he was acting for the church in Scheuern. His successor as Mayor was Johann SCHERER in 1782, who immigrated to America some years later.

Regardless, we know that Jacob worked as a carpenter in building altars and was acting for the Tholey abbey. Concerning this part of Jacob's life, the authors have conducted a further investigation of local altars and are currently preparing a study with the title "The baroque altars of Jacob Clesen made for the Benedictine Abbey Tholey in the 18th century".



**Figure 18.** Former high altar in the St. Willibrordus church in Schmelz-Limbach, now in Isenburg, Germany

1 StA Sbr, notary's office Schaumburg tome 7, pp. 770–773, 9 Jun 1782, French original.



### 3.2 Children of Jacob CLESEN and Agnes HOFFMANN (Generation 3)

To 3.1, no. 2: Jacob's second oldest son, the farmer Peter KLESEN (*Clesen*) (19 Oct 1744–4 Jan 1820, died in Überroth), was living in Überroth until his death. He married Barbara WILHELM (b. about 1750 in Überroth, d. before 1820 in Überroth) on 7 Feb 1770 and they had the following children born in Überroth:

- a) Margarethe (about 1771–12 Mar 1814), married to Casimir Wendel CONRAD (12 Feb 1755–27 Nov 1832, died in Scheuern), son of the teacher Johann CONRAD (b. about 1715 in Wadern, d. 27 Mar 1783 in Scheuern) and Eva Elisabeth BREININGER from Zeltingen (marriage on 21 Oct 1743 in Wadern), on 20 Feb 1792 in Scheuern
- b) Anna (7 Jul 1775–28 Feb 1850, died in Tholey), married to Johann KIRSCH on 20 Feb 1808 (see below)
- c) Elisabeth (b. 11 Jun 1777 in Überroth)
- d) Barbara (b. 7 Apr 1781), married to Joseph SCHWARZ, peddler and shepherd (widower of Barbara FALK), son of the "vagabond" and pipe maker Johann SCHWARZ and his wife Margaretha SCHU, on 22 Jan 1812 in Scheuern (see below)
- e) Peter (28 Jul 1784–22 Apr 1806, died in Neunkirchen/Nahe)

On 9 May 1784, Peter KLESEN (*Clesen*) appeared before the Tholey Notary GIRAUD to sell landed property: The tailor Peter THIES from Wadern, in the sovereignty



Dagstuhl, sold—with power of authority—for his brother, the wagon-maker Nicolas THIES from Saarhölzbach, in the Treves territory, and for his mother Eve SCHMITT, who was married in a 2nd marriage to Guillaume PRIME from Wadern, these properties, which were inherited from Peter's and Niclas' late aunt Adile HOFFMANN. They consisted of some meadows and gardens in the Scheuern district and a part of a parcel in the Hölzershausen district. Buyers were the honest farmer Peter KLÄSEN from Überroth, sovereignty Dagstuhl, and his wife Barbe WILHELME for 19 thaler, who were paid in cash upon conclusion of the contract. Witnesses were Edmont Pierre BEAUMONT, a clerk in the county office Schaumburg, and Johannes LESCH, an innkeeper and farmer, both from Tholey. Signatures: *petter tis, peter Clesen, Johannes lösch, Beaumont, Notary GIRAUD.*<sup>1</sup>



To no. 2a: In 1805, Peter's daughter Margarethe CLESEN (b. about 1771) was mentioned in a notarial property purchase, which she and her husband Casimir CONRAD concluded with the couple Heinrich RUFF and Barbe NICOLAS, originally from Scheuern: On the morning of 27 March 1805, Heinrich RUFF, master locksmith, then residing in

<sup>1</sup> StA Sbr, notary's office Schaumburg tome 7, pp. 843–846, no. 20, 5/13/1784, French original.

St. Wendel, and his wife appeared before Pierre GIRAUD, Public Notary of the canton Tholey (French department Mosel). They sold to the schoolmaster Casimir CONRAD, residing in Scheuern, and his wife Margret CLESEN their farmland, meadows, gardens and hedges which they had inherited from Casimir's parents Peter NICOLAS and Elisabeth MALDENER, situated in the district of Scheuern and Heisterberg. The sales price was 420 French francs. Witnesses were the court recorder at the Tholey civil court Peter BAUER and the blacksmith Peter WILHELM, both from Tholey. Signatures: *Casimir Conrad, barbara nicola[s], Heinrich Ruff, Bauer, Peter wilhelm, Notary GIRAUD.*<sup>1</sup>

On 30 March 1811, Margarethe's husband Casimir CONRAD purchased from his brother, the innkeeper Franz CONRAD, residing in Mettnich (Canton Wadern, Saar Department), for himself and his wife Margarethe CLÉSEN, the following property situated in the district of Scheuern and Hölzershausen: (1)  $\frac{1}{3}$  of a house, which was named the "Schoolmaster's" and was situated in Scheuern between the village road and the fruit garden, named "Glosgarten". Casimir had inherited it from his late parents. (2)  $\frac{1}{3}$  of property (consisting of farmland, meadows, gardens, cleaned woodland) in the Scheuern district and in the district of Hölzershausen. They had inherited those properties from Mathis HAUPERT of Lockweiler. (3) One piece of farmland situated on the "Gallows Hill", named "Shepherd's Field", in the Scheuern district. It was listed under number 849 of the survey map and was about 5 acres, 88 hundredth large. (4)  $\frac{1}{3}$  of three parts of the child's inherited portion which belonged to Casimir (the seller) and Angelika FALK as well as to the coheirs—the other two parts belonged to Michel CONRAD. His part consisted of a fruit and vegetable garden, situated in the Scheuern district named "Leitersthal". (5)  $\frac{1}{3}$  of a quarter of the garden purchased by himself—in front of the properties of his aforesaid brothers—from the seller Elisabeth FALK. (6)  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the half belonging to Casimir (the seller), consisting of a parcel of farmland, situated in the area named "Calves Hill" in the Scheuern district between the heirs of Mathis JECKEL and the purchaser and his associates, also from a meadow field in the area named "Doves Valley". The neighbors were on the one hand Johann CLESEN, on the other Johann SCHERER; also a garden field in the area named "Leitersthal" next to Michel SCHMIT from Niederhofen and Johann SCHERER. (7) One third belonging to Casimir, which consisted of three parts of farmland and one part of a garden in the areas named "Weidenholz", "Gallows Hill", "Rothenberg" and "Leitersthal", all in the Scheuern district. (8) Finally, a third of a field belonging to him in the area on the "Gallows Hill" situated between the heirs of Mathis JECKEL, the purchaser and his brother Michel. The sale was made for a sum of 680 French francs at the then current rate. The seller confirmed that he had received this amount in cash before the conclusion of the contract. The contract was made in the notary's office in Tholey with the called witnesses Peter JUNGBLUT and Johann LAUX, a bailiff at the Tholey civil court, who



<sup>1</sup> StA Sbr, notary's office Tholey, Notary Giraud, 1805, no. 219, French original.



signed with the notary and the contracting parties after having a reading and interpretation: *Franz conrad, Casimir Conrad, Jungblut, j. Laux* and Notary GIRAUD.<sup>1</sup>

To no. 2b: Peter's daughter Anna CLESEN (b. 7 Jul 1775) concluded a notarial contract before her marriage to the widower Johann KIRSCH: On the morning of 20 February 1808 appeared before Peter GIRAUD, the Royal Notary of the Canton Tholey (*Second Arrondissement of the Department Moselle*), on the one hand Johann KIRSCH, widower of the late Katharina FLECK, residing in Tholey, accompanied by his father, the farmer Peter KIRSCH from Tholey, and on the other hand Anna Maria CLESEN, of age and with full rights, residing in Überroth, canton Wadern (Department Saar), accompanied by her father Peter CLÉSEN, former farmer and residing in Überroth. They wanted to get married and they mutually agreed on the following conditions: (1) The bride and groom would have common ownership of all furniture and real estate acquired during their marriage without any exception. (2) If the groom died first, the bride would have *usufruct right* of the mother's inheritance, the late Elisabeth RAUBER, consisting of meadows, farmland, gardens, hedges and wells in the district of Tholey and Sotzweiler. (3) Concerning the aforesaid Peter KIRSCH and also in case that his son should die before the aforesaid bride, they agreed lifelong use of two fields in the Tholey district, named "Schlimfeld". Those were situated between "Martin's slope" and the property of Peter GÜLLEN and between "Martin's slope" and the property of Johann BOURGER. The value was estimated to 72 French francs. After having a reading by the notary, the contract was signed in the presence of the witnesses Peter BAUER, a court recorder, and Peter JUNGBLOUT, a bailiff of the Tholey civil court, except for the bride who made her mark: *Johannes Kirsch, Peter Kirsch, Peter Clesen, + = mark of Anne Clésen, Bauer, Jungblut, Notary Giraud.*<sup>2</sup>

To no. 2d: Peter's daughter Barbara (*Barbe*) (b. 1781) from Überroth married at the age of 30 years the merchant Joseph SCHWARTZ, residing in Scheuern and born in Walsweiler on 22 January 1812. He had been married first to Barbara FALK, who had died on 8 December 1811.<sup>3</sup> As legal witnesses were present Michel CONRAD (56 years old), Jacob KLEIN (35 years old), Casimir CONRAD (54 years old) and Hans BLUCH (50 years old), the same people who had signed the marriage contract of Anna Maria CLESEN (daughter of Johannes KLESEN) and Matthias JUNG in 1809 (see 3.3).



<sup>1</sup> StA Sbr, notary's office Tholey, Notary Giraud, 1811, no. 117, French.

<sup>2</sup> StA Sbr, notary's office Tholey, Notary Giraud, 1808, no. 51.

<sup>3</sup> Archive of the town Tholey, marriage registry Scheuern 1811.

Before the marriage, Joseph SCHWARTZ sold his house and property, which presumably came from his first marriage, to his brother-in-law, the wood turner

### *The Wood Turner*

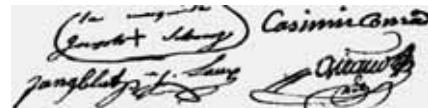


**Figure 19.** Wood Turner in 1587 (from the house books of the Nuremberg Twelve Brothers Foundation)

Casimir CONRAD from Scheuern: On 14 January 1811, the contracting parties agreed before the notary the following sale: (1) The half of a cottage, barn, stables, vegetable garden with attachments situated in Scheuern, which belonged to him and came from his sister-in-law Maria FALK. The other half belonged to their minor children. The property was situated between the house of Johann CLESEN on the one side and the "Glossgarten", the territory of the village and the tip of the barn next to the town street on the other side. It was attached to the house of Nicolaus GRAFF. Joseph SCHWARZ had purchased his half at his marriage to his late wife Barbara FALK, for which contract fees of 7 French francs and 48 French *centimes* had been paid at the notary on 8 July 1807. (2) He also sold half of a garden parcel in the area

named "Lohbitzen" between Johann WILHELM Sr. from Überroth and Johann SCHÉRER, consisting of about 16 acres in the Scheuern district, which came from Michel NICOLAS from Lindscheid. (3) The half of a parcel of farmland of about 10 acres, situated in the district of Scheuern, in the "Leitersdahl", between Johann CLESEN and Johann SCHÉRER. (4) The half of a parcel of farmland of about 10½ acres in the district of Scheuern, in the "Leitersland" and situated between Michel CONRAD, the purchaser, and Johann KLEIN, which came from Johann PLOUCH. (5) The half of a parcel of farmland, situated in the district of Scheuern and Neipel named "Heisterberg", which came from the farmer Johann ALT and his daughter of age Barbara ALT from Dörsdorf. (6) The half of a parcel of farmland situated in the Scheuern district in the area near "Stautwiesen" which reached with the end to the property of Michel ROUSCHEL, consisting of 10 acres. (7) The half of a garden parcel in "Leitersdahl" in the Scheuern district, situated between Johann Adam WEYRICH and Johann SCHERER, consisting of about 3 acres, as well as the half of a piece of garden in the "Leitersdahl" district between Jacob KLEIN and Johann SCHERER, which came from Johann, Peter and Barbara ALT from Dörsdorf. (8) Finally, the half of a parcel of farmland in the Scheuern district of "Leitersdahl", between Johann CLESEN and Johann SCHERER, consisting of about 14 acres. This sale was made for the sum of 380 French francs in the presence of Peter JUNGBLUT and Johann LAUX, a bailiff of the local civil court. Marks and signa-

tures: + = mark of *Joseph Schwarz, Casimir Conrad, Jungblut, j. Laux*, Notary GIRAUD.<sup>1</sup>



On 3 November 1813, Joseph SCHWARZ and his wife Barbara purchased from Michel ROUCHEL from Scheuern a parcel of farmland of 12 acres in the Scheuern district, between the purchaser and Matheis JECKEL, for 58 French francs. The purchase contract was made in Thalexweiler in the presence of the witnesses the court recorder Claude MERTES and Mayor Pierre THEVES from Thalexweiler. Marks and signatures: + = mark of *Joseph Schwartz, x = mark of Michel Rouchel, Peter Thewes, Klaudius Mertes* and Notary RETIENE. On the same day in Thalexweiler, the couple Joseph and Barbara SCHWARZ purchased a parcel of farmland in the Niederhofen district, consisting of about 12 acres, between Michel ROUCHEL and Mathias JECKEL from Jean ALT from Dörsdorf for 46 francs. Marks and signatures: + = mark of *Joseph Schwartz, Johannes alt, Peter Thewes, Klaudius Mertes*, Notary *Retiene*.<sup>2</sup>

On 4 April 1837, Johann SCHWARTZ and Barbara KLESEN from Scheuern, former widow of Josef SCHWARTZ, Theley, auctioned off two parcels of farmland in the Neipel district to the farmer Peter SCHERER from Neipel for 92 thaler 25 groschen, from which the second parcel of farmland was situated between the parcels of Casimir KLESEN and Johann SCHERER.<sup>3</sup>

To 3.1, no. 3: Jacob's daughter Margaretha JÄCKEL born CLESEN (17 Sep 1746–16 Aug 1836, died in Scheuern) sold her home to her son-in-law Jacob KLEIN in 1810: On the evening of 17 February, Peter GIRAUD, Imperial Notary of the canton Tholey, Department Moselle, went to Scheuern, where Margret declared that she had sold the half of her house to her son-in-law, the farmer Jacob KLEIN, residing in Scheuern, and to his wife Maria Catherina JECKEL. Margaretha's husband had been a farmer until his death in 1799. The house in Scheuern, which was usually called "New SCHERER House" and which reached with the gable to the barn, included a barn, stables, lumberyards, a dunghill and a vegetable garden as well as some parcels of land. The sale was made for the sum of 250 reichsthaler (538 French francs 72 French centimes). Witnesses were the bailiff of the local civil court Peter JUNGBLOUT and Johann LAUX from Tholey. Marks and signatures: I = mark of *Margueritte Clesen, Jacob Klein, Jungblut, j. Laux*, Notary GIRAUD.<sup>4</sup>



On 26 April 1834, the widow Margaretha KLESEN (from Scheuern) approved the marriage of her son Peter JAECKEL, border survivor in Forbach, residing in the Kingdom of France, to the woman that he loved. Witnesses were the shoemaker

<sup>1</sup> StA Sbr, notary's office Tholey, Notary Giraud, 1811, no. 6, French original.

<sup>2</sup> StA Sbr, notary's office Tholey, Notary Retiene, 1813, no. 225 and 226.

<sup>3</sup> StA Sbr, notary's office Tholey, Notary Bochkoltz 1837, no. 229–331.

<sup>4</sup> StA Sbr, notary's office Tholey, Notary Giraud 1810, no. 51, French original.

Peter SENZ and the carpenter Johann LESCH, both from Tholey. Peter married Maria KRÄMER from Cassel near Mainz.<sup>1</sup>

To chap. 3.1, no. 4: Jacob's daughter Maria CLESEN (b. 11 Apr 1749 in Scheuern, d. 2 Nov 1833 in Dörsdorf) married the farmer and synod member Peter JOHANN (b. 23 Oct 1740 in Dörsdorf, d. 26 May 1805 in Dörsdorf), son of Peter JOHANN and Barbara SCHUE from Dörsdorf, on 16 February 1769 in Scheuern. Seven children born in Dörsdorf were mentioned with the godparents:

1. Elisabeth (4 Jul 1770–11 Mar 1837, died in Dörsdorf). Godparents were Johann JOHANN from Dörsdorf and Elisabeth KLESEN from Scheuern.
2. Maria (4 Feb 1773–18 Nov 1821, died in Berschweiler), married to Peter BRONDER on 23 Jan 1798 in Urexweiler. Godparents were Maria SCHU from Dörsdorf and Matthias KLESEN from Scheuern.
3. Peter (9 Jun 1776–14 Jan 1821, died in Dörsdorf), married to Maria Catharina ALT from Eppelborn on 12 Feb 1802 in Thalexweiler. Peter's godparents were Peter ZIMMER from Dörsdorf and Angela RIEHM from Scheuern.
4. Angela Maria (2 Oct 1779–29 Mar 1862, died in Dörsdorf), married to Peter BESCH on 24 Jan 1804 in Hasborn. Godparents were Matthias JADILL [?] from Scheuern and Angela JOHANN from Dörsdorf.
5. Wendelin (15 Oct 1783–26 Oct 1784, died in Dörsdorf). Godparents were Wendalinus JOHANN from Dörsdorf and Barbara KLESEN from Scheuern.
6. Anna (9 Aug 1785–1 Nov 1850, died in Dörsdorf), married to Matthias WILHELM from Überroth on 2 Feb 1809 in Dörsdorf. Anna's godparents were Mathias JUNKER from Niederhofen and Anna REIET from Dörsdorf.
7. Johann (b. 3 May 1789). Godparents were Johann FUCHS from Marpingen and Maria KLESEN from Überroth.<sup>2</sup>

Maria and Peter were first mentioned in the notarial files in 1785 at a hypothecation of property when the farmer Peter JOHANN from Dörsdorf and his wife Maria CLESEN mortgaged, i.e. sold, a piece of inherited property in the district of Scheuern to Michel CONRAD, of age and Scheuern schoolmaster for 22 reichsthaler. Witnesses were the miller Michel MÜLLER from Sotzweiler and the farmer Nicolas SCHEOURÜTZ from Guidesweiler. Marks and signatures: + = mark of *Marie Clésen*, *petter Johan*, *michell Conradt*, *Nicolas scheourütz*, *michel müller*, Notary GIRAUD.<sup>3</sup>



From time to time, Peter was accompanied by his brother-in-law Johannes KLESEN at auctions, for example when Peter guaranteed for Johannes, in Steinbach in

<sup>1</sup> StA Sbr, notary's office Tholey, Notary Bochkoltz 1834, no. 212; see Fuhr/Reinhard/Riegel p. 420.

<sup>2</sup> See Storb/Naumann/Naumann p. 406.

<sup>3</sup> StA Sbr, notary's office Schaumburg tome 7, pp. 894f., 19 Jun 1785, French original.



1786. This indicates a good relationship between both families. Moreover, Johannes' wife Angela born RIEHM was a sponsor at the baptism of his son Peter, born on 9 June 1776.

On 16 September 1789, Peter was recorded at a gift *inter vivos* of Johann JOHANN of about 200 guilders: His brother of age Johann JO-

HANN, who was residing with Peter's family, was of advanced age and bequeathed him and his wife Maria all his property in the district of Dörsdorf, Steinbach, Neipel, Niederhofen, Überroth and Bergweiler. The act was signed by the Tholey notary together with the following people: *Johannes Johan, Petter Johan, Johannes Handele, Petter Handele* and Notary GIRAUD.<sup>1</sup>

On 15 November 1786, the Duchy Palatine Zweibrücken passed border regulation and ceded the territories south of the "Lauter River" to France. Hereby, the county office of Schaumburg became a Zweibrücken territory.

The contract protocols of the Zweibrücken administration included an exchange contract of Maria CLESEN: On 21 April 1788, Maria and her husband Peter JOHANN exchanged to her brother Johannes CLESEN and his brother-in-law Mathias JAECKEL some parcels in the Dörsdorf district with Maria's inherited properties in the Scheuern district. She received 80 reichsthaler from the Scheuern part as compensation and indemnity for the exchanged inherited parcels of land. The exchange contract written in old German script is reproduced as follows:



*Notice is hereby given that today the following parties have concluded the following exchange contract concerning inherited properties – sincere and irrevocable. The contract was made according to the general Law and Statutes of this state as follows:*

Johannes CLESEN and Mathias JAECKEL, both Scheuern parishioners, leave and cede as their heritage and property four *Schu*<sup>2</sup> of properties which they had sold to the heirs of Hanß Peter WEILERS from Castell on 27 July 1787. The parcels of land are situated in the Dörsdorf village district and the aforesaid heirs had paid 80 Reichsthaler for it to Peter JOHANN, parishioner of Dörsdorf and his wife Maria CLESEN. This property was Maria's inherited portion in the Scheuern district.

Then they paid twenty reichsthaler as their heritage and property to the mentioned Johannes CLESEN and Matheiß JÄKEL.

Concerning this exchange, the contracting parties try to guarantee each other at all times, so that now the closed exchange is permanent and unbreakable and may not be appealed. Finally the contracting parties renounce all legal exceptions and privileges, what-

<sup>1</sup> StA Sbr, notary's office Schaumburg tome 24, pp. 1003ff., tome 18, p. 495, no. 91.


<sup>2</sup> *Schu* or *Schuh* is an "old German square measure" (similar to foot).



ever they may be called, in particular the exceptions of fraud, fear, daylight robbery, re-establishing the rights, or that the contract has not been agreed like here written down. All this was agreed after declaration and interpretation.

The current exchange contract was issued as a real certificate and it was agreed by both contracting parties that Peter JOHANN would pay the fees of the exchange contract and also that each party should send an attested copy for their legitimization. Then this contract was signed by both parties beside the women's assistance after having a reading. Happened in Tholey on 21 April 1788.

Johaneß Klesen Matheis Jäkel  
Petter Johan



(Source: StA Sbr, inventory Pfalz-Zweibrücken, Amtsbuch Pf-ZW 2, contract 94).

To 3.1, no. 5: Jacob's daughter Elisabeth CLESEN (12 Oct 1754–15 Nov 1831) married the farmer Wilhelm KUHN (b. 1753 in Steinbach, d. 6 Jan 1805 in Steinbach), son of the farmer Mathias KUHN and his wife Anna Maria KIRSCH, on 12 January 1782 in Scheuern. The following children were born in Steinbach:

1. Elisabeth (1 Aug 1784–20 May 1786, died in Steinbach). Godparents were Adam KUHN from Steinbach and Elisabeth JOHANN from Dörsdorf.
2. Angela (13 Apr 1787–24 Oct 1853, died in Gresaubach). Godparents were Peter SCHUH from Steinbach and Angela RIEHM from Lebach, married in Thalexweiler to the farmer Nikolaus SCHWEITZER (5 Jun 1777–27 Feb 1848, died in Steinbach) on 1 February 1803.
3. Margaretha (31 Jan 1790–25 Apr 1871, died in Steinbach). Godparents were Nikolaus KUHN from Steinbach and Margaretha JÄCKEL from Scheuern, married to the farmer Nikolaus GROSS (11 Jun 1785–28 Aug 1852, died in Steinbach) on 11 January 1810 in Thalexweiler.
4. Barbara (17 Jun 1792–10 Jun 1804, died in Steinbach). Godparents were Johann ZIMMER from Aschbach and the unmarried Barbara KIRSCH from Steinbach.<sup>1</sup>

Before the marriage on 12 January, father-in-law Mathis KUHN transferred his home in Steinbach to the bridal couple Elisabeth CLESEN and Wilhelm KUHN: On 6 January 1782, before the Notary GIRAUD, Mathis handed over his house with barn, stables and garden, situated next to the municipal path, at the back next to the house of Mathis KIRSCH and on the other side next to the so-called "Lennenhäuser" (see figure 20), to his son Wilhelm KUHN from Steinbach and Elisabeth CLESEN from Scheuern, daughter of the Mayor and juryman Jacob CLESEN from Scheuern, both of age. The price of 80 reichsthaler at 54 Petermännchen was paid in cash before the conclusion of

<sup>1</sup> See Storb/Naumann/Naumann pp. 308, 515f. and 993.

the contract. This contract was only executable under the condition that the marriage was to take place on 12 January 1782. Witnesses were the citizen Jean ZARTE from Tholey and the bailiff at the abbey Jean George HOMAYER. Marks and signatures: *mathis Kouin*, + = mark of *elisabethe Clésen*, *Wilhelm Coüne*, *Johanes Zahrd*, *Homayer*, Notary GIRAUD.<sup>1</sup>

One year later, on 17 February 1783, the married couple purchased property in the Steinbach district from Elisabeth LAUCK, the widow

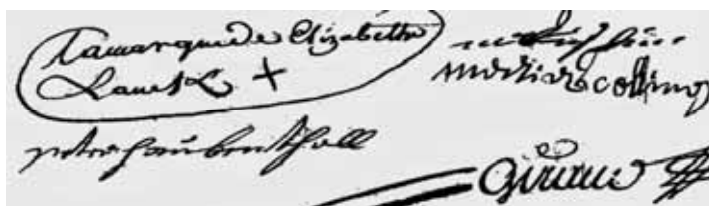


of Mathis KIRSCH from Steinbach. For 5 reichsthaler she sold a piece of a parcel of land to the farmer

Wilhelm KUHN and his wife Elisabeth CLESEN with the agreement of Wilhelm's father, the farmer Mathis KUHN, who signed the contract. Witnesses were the farmer Mathis COLLING from Buweiler and the farmer Pierre HAUPENDAHL from Braunshausen. Marks and signatures: + = mark of *Elisabeth Lauck*, *mathis Kun*, *mathis colling*, *peter haubenthall*, Notary GIRAUD.<sup>2</sup>



Figure 20. In 1782, Mathis KUHN's house was situated between the Lennenhäuser (see arrow) and the home of Mathias KIRSCH.



Some years before, Elisabeth's father-in-law Mathias KUHN had been mentioned in the following notarial contract: On 18 November 1777, he borrowed 50 thaler from the Tholey church. At that time, he was a farmer living in Steinbach. The notarial contract was signed by him and Michel KIRSCH as well as the witnesses Conrad BLANDIN, the Notary apprentice Mathis TESPERT and the Notary TASSIN.<sup>3</sup>

To 3.1, no. 6: Jacob's son Mathias CLESEN (b. 8 Oct 1755 in Scheuern, d. 2 Jan 1821 in Tholey) was living as a hermit on "Blasius Hill" before the French Revolution. His religious name was Wendalinus. The three altars in the Blasius chapel in Tholey-Bergweiler (see cover and figure 21) could have been constructed by him or his father Jacob CLESEN. On 25 August 1785, the hermits Wendalinus KLESEN and Wilhelm FRANK were questioned during a visit to their hermitage.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> StA Sbr, notary's office Schaumburg tome 21, p. 271–274, no. 60, 6 Jan 1782, French, 1st copy.

<sup>2</sup> StA Sbr, notary's office Schaumburg tome 21, pp. 327f., no. 69, 17 Feb 1783, French., 1st copy.

<sup>3</sup> StA Sbr, notary's office Schaumburg tome 21, pp. 357–359, no. 101.

<sup>4</sup> See also Naumann, Blasiuskapelle pp. 68–70.



Figure 21. High and side altars in the Blasius chapel near Tholey-Bergweiler

In the summer of 1782 after the death of his father Jacob, Mathias was mentioned in a notarial contract, in which he renounced his paternal inheritance: On 20 September 1782, the hermit Wendel CLESEN, first brother in the hermitage of "Blasius Hill" in Tholey-Bergweiler, appeared in the office of the Tholey Notary GIRAUD and declared that his father Jacob CLESEN had passed away on the preceding Monday. Wendel declared the renunciation of his inherited property, because his status as hermit forbade him to possess those properties. He left it to his siblings, brother-in-law and sister-in-law Jean CLESEN, Pierre CLESEN, Mathis JAECKEL and Marguerithe CLESEN, Pierre JOHANN and Marie CLESEN, Guillaume COUN and Elisabeth CLESEN. The renunciation also included his part of the parental house that his brother Johannes (*Jean CLESEN*) owned according to the contract of 17 February 1775. His siblings would pay him an annual pension of 7 guilders every year on 1 January, the first one on 1 January 1783. Witnesses in the same location were the farmer Mathis BAST from Reimsbach and the Tholey farmer Nicolas AMES. Marks and signatures: *Wennelinus Klesen, johanes Klesen, peter clesen, Matheis Jeckel*, I = mark of *Marguerithe Clesen*, + = mark of *pierre Johan*, + = mark of *Marie Clesen*, + = mark of *guillaume Coun*, + = mark of *Elisabethe Clesen*, *Mathias Bast, Nicklas Ames* and Notary *RISCH*. The contract was reviewed by Notary GIRAUD.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> StA Sbr, notary's office Schaumburg tome 7, pp. 774–776, 20 Sep 1782, French, 1. copy (or.).



Presumably, Wendalinus did not leave the “Blasius Hill” hermitage at the beginning of the French Revolution, when the first French troops marched through the Saar region in 1790, since he was mentioned at the funeral of his 63 years old aunt Margareta HOFFMANN from Niederhofen on 12 March 1796. He signed his aunt’s death certificate as cousin Wendalinus CLESEN from Scheuern and Brother on the Saint Blasius Hill beside Father Mathias DIXIUS. On 27 January 1802, at the marriage of Jacob KLEIN and Maria Catharina JÄCKEL, daughter of Mathias JÄCKEL and Margaretha CLESEN, he was named by Pastor MINDEN on the Latin certificate as hermit on the “Blasius Hill” and uncle of the bride. However, he did not sign with his religious name Wendalinus, but again with his Christian name Mathias KLESEN.<sup>1</sup>

According to the heirs list of the district of the village Thalexweiler from 1790, Mathias CLESEN (*Cloob*) was mentioned in the first “HOFFMANN stock, generation no. 4” : he was said to be living in Hungary at that time.<sup>2</sup> The Bailiff MOSER intentionally noted the hermit’s immigration to Hungary so that he did not need to indicate his ownership of those inherited properties within three months.

On 10 February 1803, Mathias KLESEN married Susanna, daughter of the schoolmaster Louis L’HOSTE, at his advanced age of 48 years in Tholey. One and half years later, on 22 August 1805 in the morning, Mathias was present in the notary’s office of Pierre GIRAUD, the Notary Imperial of the canton Tholey in the department Mosel. Also present were the schoolmaster Franz L’HOSTE residing in Castel, the schoolmaster Etienne L’HOSTE from Tholey and the daughter of age Anne Marie L’HOSTE assigned with all rights, who was residing at the house of the Parish administrator in Oberthal, and also Nicolas WEISSE, inhabitant of Tholey, with his wife Louise L’HOSTE. They first sold the half of a garden, which they had inherited from their deceased mother Susanne HANDELÉ, and which was situated in the area named “Bungert” in the Tholey town district between the property of Niclas CREUZ and Adam SCHMITT, to the master cooper<sup>3</sup> Mathias KLESEN, residing in Tholey, their brother and brother-in-law, and to his wife Susanne L’HOSTE. Then they sold a house, popularly called “Birthel’s House”, with barn and attachment, situated between the plot of the heirs of Louis JUNGBLUT and the parcels of Antoine TEGES and Louis L’HOSTE. This sale was made for the sum of 760 francs. Witnesses were



Figure 22. A Franciscan hermit (habit) on a copperplate in the 18th century

<sup>1</sup> Birth, marriage and death registries II of Scheuern 1786–1807.

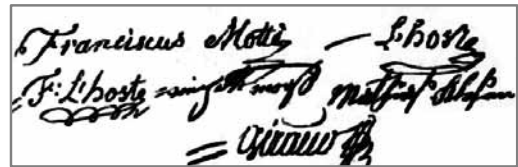
<sup>2</sup> StA Koblenz, Abt. 24 no. 1790; see also Storb/Naumann/Naumann p. 1450.

<sup>3</sup> Mathias learned the profession of a carpenter or cooper from his father Jacob CLESEN.



the court recorder of the local civil court Peter BAUER and the merchant Charles STAHL from Tholey. Marks and signatures: *L'hoste, L'hoste, Niclaub weiß, Mathias Klesen, + =* mark of *Louise L'hoste, Bauer, anna maria L'hoste, Stahl* and Notary GIRAUD.<sup>1</sup>

On 21 December 1808, Franciscus MOTTÈ, former Benedictine monk of the Tholey Abbey, made his testament, which was signed by Mathias, named as cooper by occupation, as one of the four obligatory witnesses, who were present at the Notary Pierre GIRAUD in the house of the former Tholey Father, where MOTTÈ was living. MOTTÈ was of advanced age and often got *disease attacks in the head*, however he was of sound mind and body, when he dictated his last will and testament. Signatures: *Franciscus Mottè, L'hoste, F. L'hoste, Michel Mauß, Mathias Klesen, Giraud.*<sup>2</sup>



Mathias, who was often named as cooper by occupation, appeared regularly in the notary's office, when he purchased

landed property in the following years: On 23 March 1817, he went to Notary Johann RETIENE to purchase for himself and his wife in equal parts a piece of farmland, situated in the Tholey district next to Ludwig L'HOSTE, for 15 thaler 18 groschen Prussian currency (60 francs). Witnesses were the court messenger Peter JUNGBLUTH and field guard Hugo SCHWAAN. Mark and signatures: *Johannes ameb, Matheiß Kleßen* and *+ =* mark of *Margarethe AMES*. On 29 July 1818, the farmer Nicolaus WEISS and his wife Louisa LOTH from Sotzweiler sold to the cooper Matthias GLESEN and his wife Susanne LOTH a piece of farmland, situated in the valley called "Haaßwies", in the Tholey district, for 60 thaler 13 groschen 18 pfennigs. On 8 August 1818, Nicolas and Louisa sold again to Mathias KLESEN, a master cooper, their brother-in-law and brother respectively,  $\frac{1}{4}$  acre of farmland in the area "Leimesacht", Tholey

### The Cooper



Figure 23. Cooper in 1518 (from the house books of the Nuremberg Twelve Brothers Foundation)

1 StA Sbr, notary's office Giraud, 1805, no. 396.

2 StA Sbr, notary's office GIRAUD, 1808, no. 254.

district, which was situated between the parcels of Johann SCHMITT and Mathias FLESINGER, for 40 francs or 10 thaler 12 groschen Prussian currency. The contract was concluded in Sotzweiler in the house of the seller in the presence of the witnesses the mason Niclas SCHMITT and the farmer Mathias BACKES, both from Sotzweiler, in the presence of the Notary RETIENE.

In 1820, master cooper Mathias KLESEN signed a deed as witness, when the inventory of Nicklaus SCHU, widower of Elisabeth HANDLE, was taken in Tholey. It amounted to 500 thaler 4 groschen 4 pfennigs. Similarly, Mathias KLESEN (*Gleßen*) signed as witness at a sale of a quarter of a house situated between himself and Jacob GLAB.

On 28 October 1820, the Notary RETIENE went to the apartment of the 65-year-old Mathias and his wife Susanne where they wanted to dictate their last testament to him:<sup>1</sup>

28 October 1820 No. 177



Today on 28 October 1820 before Johann RETIENE Royal Prussian Notary, residing in Tholay, the same canton, region Ottweiler and in the hereafter named witnesses, appeared the master cooper Mathias KLESEN, residing in Tholay, who dictates his testament to me, the notary, which I have written as he had dictated his last will and testament. I bequeath to my wife Susanna L'HOSTE as her inheritance and property all that I will leave after my death in landed property, furnishings, cash, obligations, and contracts, without exception, without reservation. I also bequeath, that she can do what she wants to do with her own property. All that happened and was written in Tholay in the apartment of the testator on the day, month and year as stated above in the presence of Wilhelm HOFFMAN, a blue-dyer, Peter BÖHM, a farmer, Peter KREUTZ also a farmer and Jacob JUNGBLUT, a master cooper, all residing in the town of Tholay. These witnesses signed with me, the notary, after having a reading and explanation of the contract. Then the testator declares that the current testament contains his own and free will and signs also.

Signatures: Mathias Kleßen, Wilhelm Hoffmann, Peter creutz, Boehm, Jacob jungblut, Retiene Notary.

(Source: StA Sbr, notary's office Tholey, Notary RETIENE, 1820, no. 177)

<sup>1</sup> StA Sbr, notary's office Tholey, Notary RETIENE, 1817, no. 103; 1818, no. 162; 1818, no. 180; 1820, no. 83; 1820, no. 84; 1820, no. 177f.

On 2 January 1821, Mathias passed away childless in Tholey. Therefore his siblings reclaimed his portion of the Jacob CLESEN inheritance from his widow. On 7 May 1821, Susanne L'HOSTE (LOTH), named as the widow of Mathias KLESEN (*Glessen*), auctioned off the following parcels of farmland owned by herself and a garden parcel in the Tholey town district for 67 thaler 7 groschen 7 pfennigs: (1) The half of a parcel of farmland on the "Gallows Hill" between the parcels of Johann LESCH which went for 5 thaler to Anna Maria BÖHM. (2) A parcel of farmland on the "Hohm" between Johannes LESCH and Johan SCHMIT's heirs which went to the mason Michäl NONNENGART from Tholey for 14 thaler 4 groschen. (3) A parcel of farmland on the "Mohrborn" between Johann HANDELE and Peter SEYLER and one parcel before "Reisenhöl" between Johan LESCH and Anton DÄGENSEN's heirs which went to Peter GILLEN from Tholey for 24 thaler 21 groschen 9 pfennigs. (4) A garden parcel, situated on the "Schamberg" between Notary GIRAUD and Johann SCHMIT that went to Georg JUNCK from Tholey for 2 guilders 18 groschen 9 pfennigs. (5) A parcel of farmland in "Viehburgen" between Stephan KOSMANN and Stephan KREUTZ which went to Paul BECKER for 5 thaler. (6) A parcel of farmland before "Frejwäldgen" between Johann LAUX and Johann ECKERT was purchased by Peter ECKERT for 6 thaler 7 groschen 2 pfennigs. (7) A parcel of farmland behind the "Frejwäldgen" between Leonard DIDAS and Jacob FLESSINGER was sold to Nicolas BACKES from Tholey for 4 thaler 10 groschen 8 pfennigs. (8) A piece of farmland on the "Wenzelwieß" between Michäl DÄGES and Nicolas KREUZ Jr. was bought by Augustin SCHNEBERGER for 4 thaler 17 groschen 7 pfennigs.

Some months later on 22 August 1821, Susanne, named as widow of the late Mathias GLESSEN and without occupation, residing in Tholey, auctioned off—by order of the L'HOSTE heirs from Tholey, Kastel and Imweiler and with private power of attorney by Anna-Maria L'HOSTE—properties situated in the Tholey town district for 33 thaler 17 groschen.<sup>1</sup> She presumably did that, since she had to reimburse a part of the inheritance of her late husband to his siblings. Since Mathias died childless, his siblings demanded of his widow and sister-in-law Mathias' parental inheritance and had litigated with her for that reason. Susanne was ordered to reimburse 150 guilders to them by the decision of the District Court of Treves from 31 July 1821, which unfortunately has not been preserved. Thus, the inherited portion of the children of Jacob CLESEN was determined judicially by the Supreme Court.

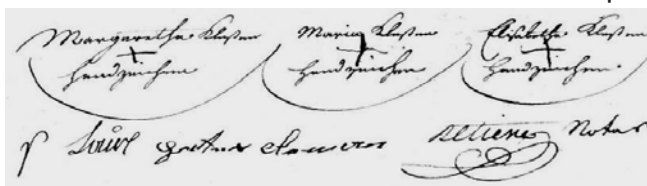
On 23 March 1822, the following people met with the Notary RETIENE to hand-over the money: (1) Johann KLESEN, farmer from Scheuern, (2) Margaretha KLESEN, widow of Mathias JÄCKEL, from Scheuern, (3) Maria KLESEN, widow of Peter JOHANN, farmer from Dörsdorf, and (4) Elisabetha KLESEN, widow of Wilhelm KUHN, farmer from Steinbach. They reported to the notary that they had litigated against the widow Susanne L'HOSTE in terms of the inheritance of their late brother Mathias KLESEN. By aforementioned decision of the District Court of Treves from



<sup>1</sup> StA Sbr, notary's office Tholey, Notary RETIENE, 1821, no. 74 and no.132.

31 July 1821, this inheritance was adjudged in their favor. As a result of a later discussion, Susanne had decided that it would be more advantageous to pay out the aforesaid inheritance which only had a small value. Thus, they agreed verbally that the siblings should receive a sum of 150 guilders or 83 thaler 8 groschen of Prussian currency of her husband's inheritance. Then, Susanne paid 100 guilders in the presence of the signed notary and the witnesses whereof the contracting parties got a receipt. In addition, they renounced Mathias KLESEN's inheritance assigned to them concerning the movable and the immovable property. All this took place in the presence of the witnesses the master carpenter Peter LAUX and the farmer Peter CLEMANN from Tholey.<sup>1</sup>

On 21 February 1823, the KLESEN siblings made out a receipt with the Notary RETIENE that they had received the rest of the inheritance from their sister-in-law Susanne. They declared that Susanne gave them 29 thaler 33 silver groschen 4 pfennigs or 50 francs, whereof they also made out a general receipt in the presence of the witnesses the master carpenter Peter LAUX and the farmer Peter CLEMANN, both from Tholey. After having a reading, they all signed with the exception of Margaretha, Maria and Elisabetha KLESEN who made their marks due to their inexperience in writing: + = mark of Margaretha Kleßen, += mark of Maria Kleßen, + = mark of Elisabetha Kleßen, P Laux, Peter cleman, Retiene Notary.<sup>2</sup>



On 1 April 1821, Johan Stephan L'HOSTE made a notarial testament in favor of Anna Maria LAUX, widow of Franz Ludwig L'HOSTE.<sup>3</sup> When the former Tholey teacher Stephan L'HOSTE passed away in 1828, an inventory of his inheritance was taken in the presence of his surviving spouse Clara PASS and the other heirs at the request of Susanne L'HOSTE, widow of the late Mathias KLESEN, without occupation and residing in Tholey, on 28 and 29 March 1828. The sums of 877 thaler and 172 thaler as liabilities were recorded on the positive side. In the same year, Susanne L'HOSTE was mentioned in a sales contract as widow of Mathias KIEFER (i.e. Cooper).<sup>4</sup>

On 26 June 1833, Susanna went to the office of the Tholey Notary Jacob BOCHKOLTZ. She was old and weak, but otherwise of sound mind and body so that she expressed her last will in case of her death. She bequeathed her entire fortune to her brother and her sister and their children. The KLESEN relatives received nothing. The testament, which was written down by the notary, cost 5 guilders 20 silver groschen.



<sup>1</sup> StA Sbr, notary's office Tholey, Notary Retiene, 23 Mar 1822, no. 45.

<sup>2</sup> StA Sbr, notary's office Tholey, Notary Retiene, 21 Feb 1823, no. 24.

<sup>3</sup> StA Sbr, notary's office Tholey, Notary Retiene, 1821, no. 60.

<sup>4</sup> StA Sbr, notary's office Tholey, Notary BOCHKOLTZ 1828, no.101; 1828, no.137 and 14 Oct 1828, no. 236.



*Before the signed Jacob BOCHKOLTZ, Royal Notary of the district court for the area Treves, residing in Tholey, and in the presence of the following signed persons: (1) Peter BAUER, a retired court recorder, (2) Albert WEYDENBAUER, a district doctor, (3) Johann Adam GROS, a teacher, and (4) Franz HANNY, an innkeeper, all residing in Tholey which were the called witnesses having the required characteristics by law and declaring not to be related to the following parties.*

*Susanna born LHOSTE, widow of Mathias KLESEN, without occupation residing in Tholey is present: She is old and weak, but otherwise of sound mind and body so that she tells her last will in case of her death to the signed notary. The notary writes it down personally in the presence of the aforementioned witnesses, as the testator has dictated:*

*I bequeath to the three children of my brother Johan Adam LHOSTE, a teacher in Urexweiler, Anna Maria L'HOSTE and Lucia LHOSTE, both residing in Brintzkastel, to the same portions as inheritance and property the following two parcels situated in the Tholey town district, namely a piece of garden on "Schweighauß", behind the "Tanner's House" which I had inherited together with my sisters Anna Maria and Louise LHOSTE, and a meadow situated in the "Geiswieß", between the heirs of Peter GILLEN and Johann Nickel PETRY.*

*Then, I bequeath to Maria Josepha SCHUH, oldest daughter of Johann SCHUH and Catharina LHOSTE, who is living in my house showing a very special love and adherence to her children the following goods: my whole bed with all attachments as it will be after my death, furthermore a golden cross and a golden ring. Also, the child Maria Josepha SCHUH and her brother Johann Adam SCHUH, of whom I am the godmother, shall inherit jointly the following parcels of land situated in the Tholey district, namely a piece of garden in the "Bungert", beside the widow of Peter GILLEN and Andreas BAAL, and also a meadow in the "Schlechtwiese", between Wittib GILLEN and the heirs of Peter GIRAUD.*

*Then, I bequeath my total other immovable and movable inheritance, without any exception, to the children of the aforementioned married couple Johann SCHUH, a night watchman, and Catharina LHOSTE, who are living in my house, as sole heirs. However, their parents Johann SCHUH and Catharina LHOSTE shall have usufruct until their death because I appreciate their diligence and honesty. When one of the couple dies, the survivor shall have the usufruct, but only if he does not remarry. If the survivor marries again, then he shall have the usufruct until the children will be married or of full age and each of them can receive their portion of their late mother or their late father.*

*Concerning the couple Johann SCHUH and Catharina LHOSTE, I bequeath that due to the fact that my house here on the market place is really small, the married couple will be allowed to construct, sell or exchange it with a greater and more comfortable house because the children will be the owners of the house, but only under the condition that the children will receive the money for selling my house from this house in the future.*

*Finally, I decide that the children of the couple SCHUH shall inherit all this without debts. Therefore I want that the couple pays the costs of the testament, of the funeral and of the inventory and others. Then, the couple SCHUH also has to establish a foundation to my souls' salvation at the local parish church in Tholey.*

*This last will was dictated by the testator to the signed notary in the presence of the four witnesses. The notary has read and explained the testament.*

*The present contract was made in Tholey in the office of the signed notary on 26 June 1833 in the presence of the witnesses who were present continuously from the beginning until the end and it was signed by the testator who is well known to the notary after having a reading, whereupon the notary has also signed with the also known witnesses.*

Susanna Lhoste Bauer A. Weydenbauer  
Grosst F. Hannj Bochkoltz

The image shows six handwritten signatures in cursive script, arranged in two rows of three. The top row contains three signatures, and the bottom row contains three signatures. The signatures are written in dark ink on a light background.

(Source: StA Sbr, notary's office Tholey, Notary Bochkoltz, 1833, no. 302).

The notarial inventory of the inheritance of Susanne L'HOSTE, widow of Mathias KLESEN, was made on 6 June 1842.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> StA Sbr, notary's office Tholey, Notary BOCHKOLTZ 1842, no. 284. The original of the inventory contract is not available, only the advice in the repertoire.

### 3.3 Blacksmith and Miner Johannes KLESEN in Scheuern (Generation 3)

Jacob's oldest son Johannes (25 Jan 1742–11 Dec 1831, died in Scheuern, see 3.1, no. 1) married on 5 February 1765 in Scheuern Magdalena SCHERER (26 Mar 1742–26 Aug 1774, died in Scheuern), daughter of Johann SCHERER (b. 1705, d. 1750) and Christina MAIER (b. 1715). According to the Latin church register, *Joannes Clessen* was recorded as an *honest youth* and Magdalena as an *honest virgin*. Witnesses of the wedding were Johannes SCHERER and Christina MAYER. The following children

#### *The Blacksmith*



Figure 24. Blacksmith in 1504 (from the house books of the Nuremberg Twelve Brothers Foundation)

were born from the first marriage in Scheuern:

1. Margaretha (b. 18 Oct 1766)
2. Margaretha (20 Feb 1768–30 Dec 1845, died in Büschfeld), married to Johann BECKER from Büschfeld on 11 February 1792 in Nunkirchen, immigrated to Russian Poland in 1817.
3. Barbara (6 Feb 1771–7 Oct 1842), married to Matthias HOLZ (25 years old), son of the late Johannes HOLZ and Anna Maria LAUCK from Hasborn on 3 March 1794 in the Scheuern parish church. Witnesses were the Büschfeld farmer Johannes HOFFMANN and the teacher Michael CONRAD and Casimir CONRAD.

In his second marriage, Johannes married Angela RIEHM from Lebach (b. 21 Aug 1753 in Lebach, d. 7 Oct 1842 in Scheuern), daughter of Johannes RIEHM (1722–1803) and Katharina SCHÄFER (b. 1720) from Lebach, on 23 February 1775 in Scheuern. Angela had first married to Peter GROSS from Jabach on 12 January 1773 in Lebach. The daughter Angela (19 Dec 1773–27 Feb 1774, died in Lebach) was from this marriage. Johannes and Angela had the following children born in Scheuern:

4. Anna Maria (26 Nov 1775–13 May 1814, died in Selbach), married to the farmer and carpenter Matthias JUNG (b. 14 Jul 1776), son of Hans Adam JUNG and Maria STASS, all from Selbach, before the Scheuern civil official Pierre BLUCH on 4 July 1809. Witnesses were Michel CONRAD (56 years old), Casimir CONRAD (54 years old), Jacob KLEIN (35 years old) and Jean PLUCH (50 years old).
5. Elisabeth (b. 2 Jan 1778), married to the farmer Johannes JÄCKEL (b. 4 Feb 1774 in Tholey), son of Johannes JÄCKEL and Catharina THOME, on 21 February 1805 in Kastel (see 3.4)

6. Johannes (14 Mar 1780–23 Dec 1861, died in Scheuern), farmer and wood turner, married to Margaretha FINKLER (b. 18 Sept 1783 in Überroth, d. 5 Apr 1860 in Scheuern), daughter of Johann FINKLER and Catharina ENDRES on 21 January 1806 in the parish church in Scheuern. The witnesses of the wedding were Johann KLESEN, Johann SCHERER, teacher Michel CONRAD and Casimir CONRAD (see 3.4).
7. Peter (26 Sep 1781–14 Mar 1863, died in Dorf), married to Anna Maria JOHANN (1 Aug 1787–18 Jan 1832, died in Dorf), daughter of Philipp JOHANN and Anna Maria BOMMER, on 25 February 1813 in Dorf (see 3.4)
8. Josef (19 Jun 1783–2 May 1857, died in Lindscheid), married first to Angela WILHELM (2 Nov 1785–7 Jun 1817, died in Lindscheid), daughter of Mathias WILHELM from Lindscheid and Angela HEINTZ, on 21 January 1806. One of the witnesses was Michael CONRAD, teacher in Scheuern. Josef married in a 2nd marriage Elisabeth LUDWIG from Bardenbach (b. 30 Aug 1791 in Biel, d. 21 Dec 1844, died in Lindscheid), daughter of Thillmann LUDWIG and Anna Maria WAGNER, on 27 and 30 September 1817 in Tholey/Scheuern (see 3.4).
9. Katharina (b. 8 Apr 1786, d. 18 May 1840 in Scheuern), married Matthias SCHERER (b. 18 Apr 1785 in Neipel, d. 20 Feb 1814 in Neipel), farmer and day laborer, son of Adam SCHERER and Elisabeth HOFFMANN, on 28 February 1812 in Scheuern.
10. Matthias Johann (21 Nov 1787–5 Jan 1861, died in Neipel), married to Maria Johann (19 Jul 1799 in Dorf–7 Mar 1866, died in Scheuern), daughter of Philipp JOHANN and Anna Maria BOMMER, on 25 and 28 February 1813 in Limbach/Scheuern. Godfather was Mathias PLUG, single, from Scheuern, a third cousin of the father, the godmother was Elisabetha RIEM from Lebach, unmarried sister of the mother. They had the following child: Nikolaus<sup>1</sup> (7 Dec 1813–9 Nov 1901), married first to Maria GROS; they had a) the daughter Angela, who emigrated to Brazil (see 5.2.4) and b) the son Peter (1 Aug 1844–10 Mar 1922), married to Barbara STAUB, daughter of Johann Nikolaus STAUB and Anna Maria WAGNER, on 28 and 31 May 1883 (see 3.4).
11. Casimir (14 Aug 1789–30 Nov 1879 Scheuern), married to Katharina JOHANN (19 Jul 1799 in Dorf–7 March 1866, died in Scheuern), daughter of Philipp JOHANN and Anna Maria BOMMER, on 27 February 1816 in Scheuern (see 3.5)
12. Nikolaus (18 May 1791–6 Jul 1868, died in Eppelborn), married to Barbara BRILL (b. 11 Jan 1785 in Eppelborn, d. 26 Apr 1852 in Eppelborn), daughter of Peter BRILL and Margaretha GROß, on 3 May 1817 in Tholey (see 5.1). Godfa-

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<sup>1</sup> On 15 April 1853, the farmer Nicolaus KLESEN from Neipel auctioned, inter alia, a meadow in the "Krendwies" of 47 ruthen and 7 feet for 38 thaler 10 groschen at an auction of Niclas GROS. Guarantee was Michel GROS (StA Sbr, notary' office Tholey, Notary BOCHKOLTZ 1853, see also Schmidt, Schriftstücke pp. 71–74).



ther was Nicolaus HOFFMANN from Neipel, godmother was the cousin of Johannes CLESEN, Margaretha CLESEN, unmarried, from Überroth (parish Hasborn).

13. Michael (27 May 1794–27 Jan 1881, died in Büschfeld), married to Barbara (also-called Anna Maria) LUDWIG (b. 9 Nov 1788 in Büschfeld, d. 15 Dec 1847 in Büschfeld), daughter of Jacob LUDWIG and Anna HAUPERT from Büschfeld, on 17 February 1816 in Büschfeld (see 5.1)
14. Johannes “Second”, named SCHOLL<sup>1</sup> (8 Apr 1796–9 Jan 1853, died in Scheuern), farmer, married to Maria Katharina CONRAD (2 Mar 1798–3 Feb 1843, died in Scheuern), daughter of the farmer and wood turner Casimir Wendel CONRAD (b. 12 Feb 1755 in Scheuern) and Margaretha CLESEN from Roth, daughter of Peter CLESEN and Barbara WILHELM, on 31 January 1815 in the Scheuern church (see 3.4)

In 1790, Johannes—named as Johannes CLOOSS—was first mentioned in the list of the heirs of the Thalexweiler district together with his siblings and their married partners: The first *HOFFMANNs stock as generation no. 4*. Johannes appears not only in the church register entries but also in numerous Schaumburg and Tholey notarial files, so that we obtain a clear image of him and his family. On 28 January 1774, Johannes KLESEN signed in Bardenbach the inheritance contract of the children of the late Johannes HOFFMANN, which was deposited later at the notary. The children of Johannes HOFFMANN and his late wife Christina MEIERS from Scheuern had made a contract to deposit the inherited house, which they sold to Matheis JECKEL and his wife Maria SCHERER for 221 thaler 12 albus, Treves currencies. The sum was paid cash to the children. Marks and signatures: *hans matheis putzer, Johanes Lehnen, Johannes Scherrer, Johannes clessen, Matheis Jeckel*, + = mark of *madlena Scherrer*, without mark of *Elisabeta Scherer*, + = mark of *anna Hoffman*, Johannes CONRAD as witness, Peter NICOLAS as witness. The marks and signatures were confirmed by Mattheis JECKEL and the contract was taken to the notarial files in Tholey under the cognizance of GIRAUD on 16 December 1774.<sup>2</sup>

On 26 August 1774, Johannes CLESEN’s first wife Magdalena SCHERER died. According to the church register, dated 23 February 1775, Johannes needed a dispensation in order to marry the widow Angela RIEHM in a 2nd marriage, since he and his bride were fourth cousins. Beside Johannes CLESSEN and Jacob CLESEN, Johannes HOFMANN, Johannes RIEM and Johannes CONRAD also signed. Prior to the marriage on 17 February before Notary RISCH, a notarial marriage contract was concluded to secure the children’s inheritance rights of the first marriage. The English translation of the contract is reproduced as follows:

<sup>1</sup> His surname SCHOLL was the name of his wife’s home.

<sup>2</sup> StA Sbr, Notary’s office Schaumburg tome 7, p. 523.

*Scheuren marriage contract*

*between Johannes Clesen  
and Angela Rim  
from Lebach  
1st copy*



No. 47.

*Today on the afternoon of 17 February 1775 before me, the signed Royal and Tabellion of the Bailliage de Schambourg with residence in Tholey and in the presence of the witnesses named at the end were present: on the one side the Scheuern farmer Johannes CLESEN, widower of Magdalena SCHERER, accompanied by his parents residing in Scheüren, the Mayor and juryman Jacob CLESEN and his wife Agnes HOFFMAN, the last named was orderly represented by her husband. On the other side was present the farmer Johann RIM, residing in Lebach, who agreed for his daughter Angela RIM the present contract and gave his agreement. In the presence of their parents and acting on their advice, the contracting parties have agreed voluntary to conclude a marriage contract as follows:*

*The aforesaid Johannes CLESEN and Angela RIM promise before the law and to our Holy Mother Church to wish to celebrate a wedding as soon as possible. The wedding ceremony can be arranged by themselves and their parents. According to our Lorraine customary law the future bride and groom will have common ownership of all furniture and real estate acquired in their marriage, with exception of the present debts and those which were incurred before the future wedding celebration.*

*In favor of this future marriage, Jacob CLESEN and his wife Agnes HOFFMAN transfer forever and irrevocably to the future bride and groom their house, barn, forge, stables, yard with all attachments and a vegetable garden across the street opposite the top of the stables—all situated in aforesaid Scheüren—where they currently reside together and which is called the "House of the Mayor".*

*For themselves they have reserved a part of the home with space and fodder for the cattle. The future bride and groom will enjoy all support and livelihood together with their present and future children and they will obey as it is expected from the children towards their parents and they have to do all the housework and field work as a farm-hand, all to the advantages and benefits of the couple Jacob CLESEN and Agnes HOFFMAN.*

*The present quitclaim deed was made for the sum of 250 reichsthaler, Treves currency (valued at 54 Petermännchen per Ecu). The future bride and groom have to pay the aforesaid sum to their coheirs after the death Jacob of CLESEN and Agnes HOFFMAN.*

*Since the aforesaid bride has inherited from her late mother Catharina SCHEFFER about 350 reichsthaler in the form of real estate in the jurisdiction of Lebach, Johann*





**Figure 25.** The house of Jacob and Johannes CLESEN in Scheuern (Hölzer Street 10) on a photo from the last century. In the middle of the 19th century, Anna Maria KLESEN (b.1806) and her husband Johann ENDRES (b. 1803) lived there. They sold it to their son Johann ENDRES and his wife Margaretha BRACHMANN in 1863. The building was demolished in the 20th century.

On 8 May 1779, the farmer Peter (*Pierre*) HOFFMANN from Neipel mortgaged for 10 years inherited parcels of land in the Scheuern district and territory to Johannes (*Jean CLESEN*) and his wife Angélique for 72 guilders 30 kreutzer, the guilder to 50 kreutzer, which they received in cash. Witnesses were the Mayor Augustin SCHNEBERG and the citizen G. LAMBERT, both residing in Tholey. Mark and signatures: + = mark of *Pierre Hoffman, johanneß Clessen, Lambert, Schneberger*, Notary TASSIN and placed into the cognizance of GIRAUD on 14 May. On 2 April 1792, the Tholey county clerk noted on the margin that this hypothecation would be dismissed by the heirs of Peter HOFFMANN, but Johannes KLESEN had not given back the bond certificate until then.<sup>1</sup>



On 12 June 1779, in the office of the Notary TASSIN, the innkeeper Pierre BESCH from Tholey appeared for himself and on authority of Jean, Nicolas and Adam les BESCH, the of age daughter Susanne BESCH, Jean LUCESIG [?] and his wife Marie BESCH, of age daughter from Hasborn, Treves county. In reference to a private mortgage contract, dated 12 September 1778, between Jean BESCH and Jean Adam SCHOU and Jean SCHOU from Steinbach and Dörsdorf, they mortgaged, i.e. sold, all their in-

<sup>1</sup> StA Sbr, notary's office Schaumburg tome 7, pp. 672–675, no. 161, 8.5.1779, French original.



herited property, consisting of  $\frac{6}{7}$  of inherited property from their late father Mathis BESCH and their late mother Marguerite JECKEL to the farmer Jean CLÉSEN and his wife Angelique RIEM from Scheuern for the sum of 120 reichsthaler to 90 kreutzer. The parcels of land were situated (1) in the Scheuern district, (2) in the Hölzershausen district and (3) in the Lindscheid district. Witnesses were the bailiff Francois RHODEN and the linen weaver Jean KIFFER, both residing in Tholey. *petter besch, johannes clessen, Rhoden, Johannes Kiffer*, and Notary TASSIN signed the contract.<sup>1</sup>

On 22 March 1780, Johannes was mentioned at a rescission of a sales contract of Nikolaus HERMAN towards Johann BERNARDING: Before Notary RISCH appeared the farmer Jean BERNARDING from Golbach and the farmer Jean CLESEN from Scheuern. They were holders of a sales contract, dated 22 March 1779, issued by Pierre SCHOLTUS, former collector and recorder of the water management and forest authority of Bouzonville. The contract mentioned the property of Mathis LEIBFRIED, his wife Catharine LENHOFF and his brother Nicolas LEIBFRIED from Gresaubach, situated in the district and territory of Neipel and Hölzershausen and its size was recorded in several contracts concluded before Notary TASSIN. These parcels of land were sold for the sum of 133 Livres. Jean BERNARDING had to pay fees and expenses of about 42 Livres. In addition to the purchase price Jean CLESEN also had to pay fees: 28 Livres, 4 Livres of notarial costs and 11 Livres 1 sols 6 deniers of contract costs, all together 43 Livres 1 sols 6 deniers. The purchaser declared that the farmer Nicolas HERMAN from Aussen was present for his wife Marie LEIBFRIED, daughter of Mathis LEIBFRIED and Catharine LENHOFF. 54 Livres 8 sol 7 deniers would have to be paid to Jean BERNARDING and 11 Livres 1 sol 6 deniers of this sum to Johannes CLESEN, the purchaser, because according to the contract of 25 February 1760 the property of the late Margueritte ANDRES from Neipel was mortgaged for 43 reichsthaler 8 Livres and 12 Lorraine sols of fees and contract costs which remained for their heirs. Witnesses were the bailiff Jean Francois RHODEN and the merchant Sebastian HANY from Tholey. Mark and signatures: *Johannes Bernarding, johannes Clessen, Nicolaus Herman*, + = mark of *marie Leibfried, Roden, Sebastian Hany*, witness, Notary *RISCH*. The contract costs amounted to 11 thaler 9 sols 10 deniers.<sup>2</sup>

On 13 March 1783, Johannes KLESEN sold property, which belonged to Johannes HOFFMAN from Gresaubach and was situated in the Scheuern district, for 24 reichsthaler. The contract, made in Scheuern in the KLESEN house, was signed by the witnesses schoolmaster *Johannes Conrad*, his of age son Franz and the parties:

<sup>1</sup> StA Sbr, notary's office Schaumburg tome 7, pp. 636–638, no. 153, 12.6.1779, French original.

<sup>2</sup> StA Sbr, notary's office Schaumburg tome 7, pp. 688–691, 22.3.1780, French original.

+ = mark of *Jean Hoffman, Johannes Klesen, Johannes conradt, Franciscus conradt, Notary GIRAUD.*<sup>1</sup>

On 20 October 1783, the farmer Pierre GASPARD and his wife Anne Marie KIRSCH mortgaged some parcels of land in the Scheuern district of Castel and Niederhofen, which Pierre had inherited from his late mother Anne LEBERGER, to Johannes for 31 guilders at 36 Petermännchen and moreover 30 kreutzer for a hairpin for his wife. Witnesses were the mason Jean Adam KAPPES from Alzweiler and the farmer Wendel JUNGBLOUT from Winterbach. Marks and signatures: + = mark of *d'anne Marie Kirsch, x = mark of pierre Gaspard, Johann adam Kapes, Johannes Clesen, Wendel Jungblut, Notary GIRAUD.*<sup>2</sup>



On 5 May 1784, Johannes was mentioned when his cousin Johannes HOFFMAN donated to him his property of 120 guilders through a notarial donation: On this day, the Tholey Notary GIRAUD was called explicitly to Scheuern to Johannes HOFFMAN. Johannes was not married, was very old and lived in the house of the late Mayor Jacob CLESEN. After Jacob's death, Johannes HOFFMANN lived with Johannes CLESEN and his wife Angelique (born RIME) and he intended to spend his retirement with them and to use all their services until his death. By donating, he wanted to thank the couple KLESEN and their children for their love and care. He bequeathed to them all his furniture and real estate, situated in the Scheuern and Hölzershausen district, consisting of farmland, meadows und gardens with all attachments, which he had inherited from his late parents Peter HOFFMAN and Susanne SCHMID. The donation amounted to 120 guilders at 54 Petermännchen, which was enough for him to live until his death and pay for his funeral. As witnesses present were the police assistant Augustin SCHNEBERGER from Tholey and the slater Michel WOLTER from Osburg, Treves territory. They signed together with *Johannes Clesen*, his wife and the donor as follows: + = mark of *Jean Hoffman*, + = mark of *angelique Rimme, ASchneberg, johannes klesen, michel wolter, Giraud.*<sup>3</sup>

Only one day later, Johannes purchased further property together with Johannes BESCH, when the blacksmith from Hasborn, who was present in Linden in the house of Michel RAUBERS, declared before the Notary GIRAUD the following sale: BESCH sold to the Scheuern farmer Johannes KLESEN and his wife Angelika all his entailed estates in the Scheuern and Hölzershausen district, which he had inherited from his father Mathis BESCHE for the sum of 28 guilders. Witnesses were the blacksmith Pierre RECH

<sup>1</sup> StA Sbr, notary's office Schaumburg tome 10, pp. 272–276, French original.

<sup>2</sup> StA Sbr, notary's office Schaumburg tome 7, pp. 827–830, no. 199, French original.

<sup>3</sup> StA Sbr, notary's office Schaumburg tome 18, pp. 423–425, no. 75, French original.

and the farmer Pierre WAYAND, both residing in Linden. Signatures: *Johannes besch, johanneß Klesen, peter rech, peter wejant, Giraud.*<sup>1</sup>

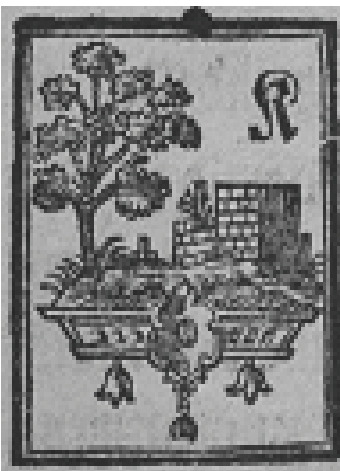


On 16 December 1785, early in the morning at 8 o'clock, furniture was auctioned off in Sotzweiler by Mayor Antoine BRÜCK. At this auction, carried out by the Notary GIRAUD, were present as witnesses Pierre NEISE from Sotzweiler and Pierre PERIUS from Steinbach. The farmer Johannes CLÉSEN from Scheuern purchased one padded horse chain and another chain for about 44 batzen, all together 3 thaler 96 batzen, under the sponsorship of Peter JOHANN from Dörsdorf. Both signed.<sup>2</sup>

On 1 February 1786, at 8 o'clock in the morning, the heirs of the late couple Jean SCHMID and Margarethe CONERARD auctioned off furnishings in Steinbach at the request of Pierre PERIUS and his wife Catherine SCHMID, and also at the request of Pierre SCHMID, Jean ATZ and his wife Barbe SCHMID, Jean SCHMID and Marguerithe SCHMID. Johannes (named as the farmer Jean CLÉSEN from Scheuern) purchased one great frying pan for 23 batzen and signed with his name *Johannes KLESEN.*<sup>3</sup>

In 1786, the Lorraine period in Scheuern came to an end because France exchanged the Tholey region with territories south of the Lauter to the Duchy Palatine-Zweibrücken (border regulation treaty of 15 November 1786). Tholey then became Zweibrücken territory. The Zweibrücken officials mentioned Johannes KLEESSEN in a protocol at the purchase of entailed estates on 15 April 1788. The following sales contract was issued in Tholey on the same day and signed by the clerk ZAHN.

81



*Let all men know that the following sincere and irrevocable purchase and sale was issued today on the date communicated at the end:*

*Anna FALK, widow of the late Peter KOCH from Bischfeld, sold with the assistance of both sons-in-law Philipp FRIEB and Niclaus WEYAND, inherited property, consisting of the half of 2 Schu and 10 Zoll in the Scheuren district and 9 Zoll in the Hilscherhäusern district, which were her own property and free of charges except the ordinary and extraordinary ducal charges, to Johannes KLEESSEN from Scheuren and his wife Angela RIEHM for the sum of 29 reichsthaler and three new thaler as gratuity, paid cash immediately.*

1 StA Sbr, notary's office Schaumburg tome 7, pp. 848–851, no. 161, French original.

2 StA Sbr, notary's office Schaumburg tome 24, pp. 1003ff. (1018), no. 38, French original.

3 StA Sbr, notary's office Schaumburg tome 24, pp. 1077ff. (1083), no. 40, French original.

The sale of the aforementioned estate is transferred as their true property for the future. They guarantee each other at all times, so that now the closed exchange will be permanent and unbreakable and may not be appealed. Finally, the contracting parties renounce all legal exceptions and privileges, whatever they may be, in particular the exceptions of fraud, fear, daylight robbery, "restitutio in integrum" (re-establishing the rights), or that the contract has not been agreed like here written down. All this was agreed after clear declaration and interpretation.

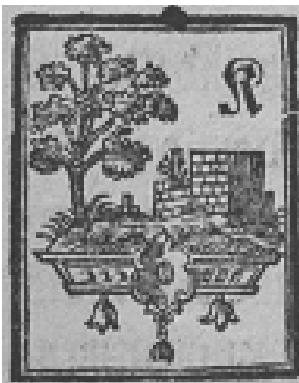
The current exchange contract was issued as a real certificate and it was signed by both contracting parties after reading and explanation.

So occurred in Tholey, on 15 April 1788

mark of	Philipp Frieß
Anna + Falck	Niclas Weyandt
	Johannes Kleesen

(Source: StA Sbr, stock Palatinate-Zweibrücken, official book Pf-ZW 2, 1788, no. 81)

On the same day, Johannes was a witness or assisted some women at the following sale of a house of Mathias KUHN from Dörsdorf: The Dörsdorf inhabitant Mathias KUHN and his wife Catarina BIEGEL sold their house with barn and stable as well as their part of common property to Anton IMLER from Maßweiler and his wife Ottilia WINGERT for the sum of 166 gulden. They received 100 guilders immediately, the rest on the following Michaelmas Day (29 September). On 15 April 1788, the following people made their marks or signed in Tholey: + = mark of Anton Imler, + = mark of Ottilia Wingert, Matheiß Kuhn, and Johannes Klesen.<sup>1</sup>



In the Palatine-Zweibrücken period, Johannes and his brother-in-law Metz JÄCKEL are mentioned in the protocols of Justice of the county office in Schaumburg, when on 14 April 1792, they were acting in the name of the Scheuern township towards Johannes SCHERER in the following case: On the previous Michaelmas day, the members of the Scheuern township had agreed that everyone who wanted to keep sheep in the fields in the spring had to contribute to the maintenance of the shepherd and to the feeding of the sheep depending on the number of their own livestock. The defendant Johannes SCHERER from Scheuern had kept only two sheep in the winter, but in the spring he had purchased

<sup>1</sup> StA Sbr, stock Palatinate-Zweibrücken, official book Pf-ZW 2, 1788, no. 85.



30 sheep which had grazed on the meadows. But despite the large number of animals he was not involved in the maintenance of the shepherd and the feeding of his sheep. Thus, he was about to be condemned judicially to remove animals from the fields. Johannes SCHERER declared that he had contributed to the maintenance of the common shepherd and the feeding of the livestock and that he had not kept more animals due to the so-called *Porpel* epidemic among sheep in Scheuern. Therefore, there should have been no cause for complaint. Furthermore, he emphasized that he was entitled to keep sheep there, because the main grazing land was situated in the township of Neipel in the Hilschershausen district which had not declared a similar rule. Therefore, he requested to dismiss the complaint. The plaintiffs Johannes CLESEN and Metz JÄCKEL wanted to pursue the legal dispute in their capacity as deputies of the township because they insisted that the defendant had not contributed to the maintenance of the shepherd in proportion to his livestock in the wintertime. They said they could also deliver evidence that the number of animals was more than allowed. Johann SCHERER denied that. A judgment could only be rendered by the members of the township as a legal authority, but it is not known how this legal dispute was resolved.<sup>2</sup>

On 19 May 1788, the harvested wood in the ducal Catharina forest was sold by a public auction to the highest bidder. For sale were 133½ cords of beech wood, 11¾ cords of oak and 19¼ cords of ash. The bidding unit was per cord or 100 pieces of logs at 1 guilder 12 kreutzer. Each bidder had to provide surety. A foreign bidder needed to have a national guarantor. Also, forest fees would incur: 4 kreutzer per cord of wood and 5 kreutzer per 100 pieces of logs as well as a charge of 24 kreutzer, which had to be paid to the ducal treasury on the Michaelmas day. The wood would have to be removed from the forest before the end of June. Peter JOHANN from Dörsdorf, brother-in-law of Johannes KLESEN, auctioned 100 pieces of logs for 1 guilder and 32 kreutzer under guarantee of Mathias HOFFMANN from Dörsdorf. Johannes also purchased wood which he needed for his forge.<sup>3</sup>

In 1792, the members of the Scheuern township needed firewood for the 16 farmsteads in the town area. They wanted to have two cords of wood per house in 1793. The request was signed by Johannes SCHERER and Mathias JÄCKEL. Johannes BLUCH removed from the community forest different types of wood like beams, wall-slats, roof purlins and roof truss posts etc., in order to build a new residence. Michael CONRAD from Scheuern also received different types of wood for a new extension, which should serve as a barn and stable. The bills were signed by the county clerk MOSER, Johannes SCHERER, Johannes KLESEN and other Scheuern citizens on 14 November 1792. In the land surveying of the years 1789 to 1792 in the Scheuern district and territory, Johannes was mentioned as owner of a house with yard and gardens in

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<sup>1</sup> *Porpel* "pox disease in sheep", a. 1535: *Item 10 albus to veltin weyßgerber to acquire information concerning the sheep in Dellfeld who was suffering from pox (purpel)* (PfalzWB 1, pp. 1374f.).

<sup>2</sup> StA Sbr, stock Palatinate-Zweibrücken, no. 1, pp. 228–236.

<sup>3</sup> StA Kob, stock 24, county office Schaumburg, no. 917, pp. 73 and 77.

front and at the back of the house and in the "Leitersthal", with numerous meadows and pieces of farmland or as adjacent owner of different places. However, Johannes disputed the division of the landed property made by the surveying and did not sign expressly the attestation created on 7 June 1791 in Scheuern.<sup>1</sup>

With the fall of the duchy Palatine-Zweibrücken as a result of the French Revolution, the sales protocols written by the Zweibrücken administration were discontinued. Those documents ended in 1795. The notarial files of the new French government began with Notary Mathias TESPERT in 1797. In the 13th year of the French Republic, in 1804, Pierre GIRAUD, who had controlled the Schaumburg files since 1775 (see above), started as Notary Public in Tholey. He himself was working as a notary in Tholey between about 1783 and 1786. The contracts written in the French language ended in 1817. Johannes KLESEN and especially his children and relatives were recorded in numerous notarial acts between 1797 and 1817 (see below). After the Paris peace agreement in 1814 and 1815, the family KLESEN was mentioned in the files of the Notary Jean RETIENE from 1818 to 1822.

Johannes, named as the Senior, was active at an auction of movable property (furnishings, tools and objects) on 2 March 1819 in Scheuern: At request of the farmer Michäl ROUSCHEL from Scheuern, the Tholey Notary RETIENE (canton Tholey, district Ottweiler) in Scheuern carried out the auction at which the bidder had to pay the purchase price at the next Michelmas Day (11th November). Peter KLESEN (*gleßen*) from Dorf auctioned a *Kummet*<sup>2</sup> for 16 groschen 2 pfennigs and Johann KLESEN (*Gleßen*) Sr. from Scheuern, a barrier chain for 1 thaler 3 groschen 10 pfennigs. The farmers Casimir KLESEN and Michel CONRAD from Scheuern signed as witnesses. In 1823, Johannes signed together with his son Johannes the inventory of the widower Johannes WILHELM, farmer in Scheuern.<sup>3</sup>



At the beginning of 1826, Notary BOCHKOLTZ recorded the notarial files in Tholey, in the district of the civil court Ottweiler. Johannes KLESEN Sr. appeared again in different notarial contracts. On 7 March 1826, for example, the farmer Peter WILHELM and his wife Maria ZOBEL from Scheuern auctioned off furnishings. At this auction some members of the KLESEN family purchased tools, cattle or parcels of farmland as follows:



<sup>1</sup> StA Kob, stock 24, county office Schaumburg, no. 1000, pp. 1, 5, 7, 45 and 54.

<sup>2</sup> *Kummet* "padded hanger around the neck of draft animals" (Duden p. 582).

<sup>3</sup> StA Sbr, notary's office Tholey, Notary RETIENE, 1819, no. 43 and 1823, no. 70.

[...]	Th.	Gr.
12. Johann KLESEN, farmer from Scheuern, a cow .....	8	10
14. Mathias KLESEN, farmer from Scheuern, a Millier <sup>1</sup> of hay .....	8	15
15. Peter KLESEN, from Dorff, a half Millier of hay .....	4	10
78. Johann KLESEN SCHOLL, from Scheuren, a scale .....	--	8
119. Johann KLESEN SCHOLL, a field with seed on the "Gallows Hill" .....	1	22
127. Johann KLESEN SCHOLL aforementioned, item as the previous .....	2	2
131. Mathias KLESEN, farmer from Scheuern, the same for two years .....	2	12
133. Johann KLESEN SCHOLL, the same .....	2	--

The auction of altogether 147 items amounted to 253 thaler 6 groschen. Peter WILHELM and as witness Johann KLESEN Jr. as well as Casimir CONRAD, both farmers in Scheuern, signed the document; Maria ZOBEL made her mark.<sup>2</sup> The married couple WILHELM presumably emigrated to America with the proceeds from this auction.

On 8 March 1829, landed property in the Scheuern district was leased at the instigation of Johanna WILHELM, wife of the farmer Johann KAUFMANN, both from Buweiler, and of Maria WILHELM, unmarried and of age. The following people of the family KLESEN were present and purchased parcels of land as follows:

2. a piece of farmland situated on the "Weidenholzgruben" next to Peter SCHERER goes for the same time [one year] to Mathias KLESEN, farmer from Scheuern, for 24 groschen ...
4. a garden in "Taubenthal" situated next to Johann KLESEN goes to Johann SCHWARZ aforementioned for 18 groschen
5. a garden in "Brückwiese" situated between Joh. Adam BERNARDING and Peter SCHERER from Neipel goes for one year to Johann KLESEN SCHOLL, farmer, residing in Scheuern, for 22 Groschen cash.

In those notarial contracts Johannes was often mentioned as farmer. Since he owned a forge in Scheuern, it can be assumed that he also worked as a blacksmith mining ore for his forge. He could have been one of the ore miners in the Homesmühle area, in Greinhof or Gresaubach. The ore was maybe processed in one of the iron foundries situated in the today community of Schmelz. The iron-smelting, also named *Bettinger Schmelz*, was founded in the 18th century, but a smelter in Bettingen was already mentioned in the early 16th century.<sup>3</sup> Since 1720, the French charcoal burner in the Dörsdorf forest delivered the necessary charcoal to the smelter.<sup>4</sup> Possibly, manganese ore was dug in an area next to the villages of Altland (*Langheck*) and Lockweiler.

<sup>1</sup> *Millier* (French), former French weight of 489.5 kg, determined at 1.000 kg by decree of 4 November 1800 (see Meyers Großes Konversationslexikon tome 6, column 843).

<sup>2</sup> StA Sbr, notary's office Tholey, Notary BOCHKOLTZ, 1826, no. 64.

<sup>3</sup> See Even, Schmelz 1973, pp. 124–138.

<sup>4</sup> See also Besse/Besse 2012, p. 92–121.

In 1791, the Zweibrücken bailiff MOSER recorded in his description of the county of Schaumburg and the district of Scheuern the following minerals:

*In the district of Scheuern we can find agate, jasper, chalcedony<sup>1</sup>, chalk and some other veins of metals as per our observations, but it must be rechecked. The abbey of Tholey and the convent had ceded the third part of jasper, chalcedony and other minerals to the Duke of Lorraine in the court of Scheuern. Therefore the abbey received a document from the aforesaid duke on the Monday after St. Mauritius day in 1503. There is an expert assessment from 1621 made in Marpingen, which was called "Rennel report." Therein the mineral jasper in Scheuern was described as follows: "There is a very beautiful Jasper mine."<sup>2</sup>*

(Source: See StA Speyer inventory 24, no. 6401, pp. 92–94 to the parish Scheuern)

### *The Ore Miner*



Figure 26. The ore miner with cradle

In 1840, the Royal senior overman August HEINS mined the chalk situated under the farmland and meadows of the Scheuern, Dörsdorf and Bergweiler citizenry (see 3.5).

<sup>1</sup> Middle high German *calcedôn* "a gem stone, achates chalcedonius" (Lexer tome 1, col. 1495).

<sup>2</sup> "qu'il s'y trouve de la fort belle mine de Jaspe."



### 3.4 Children of Johannes KLESEN (Generation 4)



To 3.3, no. 5: Johannes' daughter Elisabeth (b. 1778) was mentioned in a notarial sale contract: On 22 May 1816, Johannes JECKEL and his wife Elisabeth KLESEN (*Gleßen*), daughter of the farmer Johannes KLESEN from Scheuern, appeared before the Notary RETIENE and sold their residence with yard in Hasborn, situated between the property of Johannes MALDENER and Johannes HECKMANN, to Nicklas FOLLMAN and Anna Maria ZILL, married couple and farmer from Hasborn, for the sum of 200 francs in cash. The contract was concluded and signed in Thalexweiler in the presence of the witnesses the farmers Philipp DIER from Thalexweiler and Matz RECH from Macherbach. On 19 January 1857, Elisabeth, then living in Überroth, made her last will and testament.<sup>1</sup>



To 3.3, no. 6: Johannes' son Johannes (14 Mar 1780–23 Dec 1861, died in Scheuern), farmer and wood turner, married Margaretha FINKLER (b. 18 Sep 1783 in Überroth, d. 5 Apr 1860 in Scheuern), daughter of Johannes FINKLER and Catharina ENDRES on 21 January 1806. They had the following children born in Scheuern (generation 5):

- a) Anna Maria (2 Aug 1806–21 Jan 1881, died in Lindscheid), married to the farmer Johann ENDRES (b. 14 Mar 1803 in Lindscheid, d. 11 Dec 1874 in Scheuern), son of Michel ENDRES and Barbara BRILL on 14 and 18 February 1831 in Tholey and Scheuern<sup>2</sup>
- b) Barbara (20 Feb 1808–23 Jan 1884, died in Scheuern), married on 9 February 1832 in Tholey to the blacksmith Michel AMES (b. 7 Jul 1809 in Bergweiler, d. 28 Feb 1877 in Scheuern), son of Johann Adam AMES (b. 14 Oct 1767 in Bergweiler, d. 1821) and Magdalena PUHL. They had 11 children born in Scheuern (see 5.2.2).
- c) Catharina (13 Jun 1809–before 1900, died in America), married on 23 January 1833 in Scheuern to the farmer Peter PUHL (b. 6 Jun 1804 in Theley, d. before 1870 in America), son of Mathias PUHL (b. 6 Jan 1770 in Bergweiler) and Catharina BACKES (see 5.2.2)
- d) Margaretha (7 Jan 1811–27 May 1869), married to Johann NIEHREN (3 Mar 1809–22 Dec 1876), son of Nikolaus NIEHREN and Barbara BLUG on 7 January 1836 in Scheuern

<sup>1</sup> StA Sbr, notary's office Tholey, Notary RETIENE, 1816, no. 66 (German), Notary BOCHKOLTZ, 1857, no. 21; see also the contract from 11 Dec 1868, Notary HESS, no. 1039.

<sup>2</sup> On 16 January 1863, Johann ENDRES and Anna Maria KLESEN were mentioned at the sale of their parts of the house called "Althennen haus" and of three meadows (a meadow with trees in "Hennenbungert") to Johann ENDRES and Margaretha BRACHMANN for about 200 thaler in Scheuern (StA Sbr, notary's office Tholey, Notary BOCHKOLTZ, 1863, no. 1206). The couple had eight children born in Scheuern (see Fuhr/Rheinhard/Riedel p. 253), the ENDRES family lived in the "Althennenhaus".

- e) Maria (3 Mar 1812), married to Peter DINÉ (b. 2 Feb 1787 in Otzenhausen, d. 30 Nov 1848 in Scheuern), teacher, on 12 and 16 January 1838 in Tholey and Scheuern (see below)
- f) Elisabeth (5 Aug 1815–26 Sep 1868), married on 26 and 29 October 1839 in Tholey and Scheuern to Johann JOHANN (b. 25 Nov 1813 in Limbach, d. 14 Mar 1870 in Scheuern), son of Michel JOHANN and Barbara DIENER. They had the daughters Margaretha and Barbara.<sup>1</sup>
- g) Johann (2 Apr 1819–before 2 Sep 1891), farmer, married on 17 February 1852 in Scheuern to Anna Maria MARX (b. 15 Aug 1824 in Urweiler, d. 10 Dec 1892 in Scheuern), daughter of Wendel MARX and Catharina HAHN. They had the following children born in Scheuern (generation no. 6):
- aa) Wendalinus (1854–1855), bb) Johann (1856–1875), cc) Katharina (25 Nov 1859–6 Feb 1924), married to Mathias KIRSCH, dd) Maria (15 Dec 1862–6 Apr 1945), married to Johann WILHELM, ee) Kasimir (11 Aug 1861–8 Feb 1939), married to Margaretha JOHANN, who had the unmarried daughters Maria (1892–1978) and Gertrud (1894–1951) (more see below), ff) Maria Anna (11 Aug 1869–3 May 1956), married on 28 January 1893 to Joseph SCHNUR and gg) Gertrud (15 Aug 1874–21 May 1954), married to Jakob BACKES from Limbach.

To letters ee: Kasimir KLESEN (b. 1861), married (2nd marriage) on 1 Feb 1896 in Limbach to Katharina FEIT (b. 20 Feb 1867 in Hasborn, d. 20 Apr 1938 in Scheuern), daughter of Mathias FEIT and Gertrud DENZER. They had the following children:<sup>2</sup> a) Aloysius (28 Feb 1897–after 1942), married to Katharina WARKEN, b) Joseph (10 Feb 1900–12 Sep 1974), married to Maria BLUG, c) Peter (25 Apr 1902–10 Nov 1982), married to Maria SCHEDLER from Dörsdorf and d) Mathias (12 Feb 1904–29 Aug 1998, died in Geislautern), teacher, married to Josefa Klara TAUSCH (b. 27 May 1904 in Scheuern).

To no. 6b: On 7 October 1852, Barbara (b. 1808) and her husband, the Scheuern forger Michel AMES, sold their house with barn, stable, yard and all attachments, beside the house of Johann JOHANN, situated in the area 2, no. 91, consisting of 104 ruthen and 80 *Fuß*, as well as two gardens in "Kloßgarten" to Johann KLESEN 3rd, and his wife Anna Maria MARX for 210 thaler. As early as on 23 August, the of age, single Katharina DINÉ sold her house, situated next to the Scheuern church between the houses of Johann KIRSCH and Mathias SCHERER (area 2, no. 237) to Michel and Barbara. Katharina had inherited a quarter of the house from her late mother and purchased a quarter from her brother Johann Peter DINÉ and a half part from her late father Peter DINÉ at a compulsory auction at the Tholey civil court. She had also reserved a small dance hall as apartment until her wedding. Maria KLESEN, the widow of Peter DINÉ, only rented a room until her son, then an apprentice carpenter, would be a self-employed, so she could move into his house with him. Maria KLESEN and the seller also

<sup>1</sup> They had 11 children born in Scheuern (see Fuhr/Reinhard/Riedel p. 671f).

<sup>2</sup> Additional information about the descendants of Kasimir KLESEN and Katharina FEIT see 5.1.7.

reserved the right to keep their livestock in the barn and to store fodder and potatoes in the house. The sale price was 142 thaler, of which Katharina had to pay 50 thaler in cash. The rest of the 92 thaler would be paid to the merchants HAYMANN and KANTOR in Kreuznach. Witnesses were Johann HAUSBERGER, prison guard, and Ferdinand LORD, guard of arms, both residing in Tholey. Signatures: *Katharina Diné, Michel Ames, Barbara Klesen, Fred Lord, J. Hausberger* and Notary *Bochkoltz*.



**Figure 27.** The house of Peter DINÉ and Maria KLESEN was situated between the house of the couple Mathias SCHERER and Katharina KLESEN (left) and that of the couple Jacob KIRSCH and Barbara NICOLA (right).



**Figure 28.** The house of Johann KLESEN 3rd and Anna Maria MARX on the left of "Hennebungert" (see arrow), "Althennenhaus" and "Hennenhaus"

In the same year, Johann and Anna Maria issued a written obligation of 250 thaler to the doctor J. H. KLAUCK. In July 1862, they borrowed 159 thaler and 5 groschen from the widow KALCK in Saarbrücken. Johann and Anna Maria sold their house to the coal miner Johann WEYAND and his wife Elisabeth AMES for 500 thaler on 14 January 1864.<sup>1</sup>

To no. 6d: Margarethe (b. 1811) and her husband,

the cartwright Johann NIEHREN, auctioned off together with Angela NIEHREN, single, Conrad NIEHREN, servant in Mettnich, and Barbara NIEHREN with her husband Nicolaus SCHERER, mason, their real estate in Scheuern for 215 gulden and 20 groschen in June 1845. In the same month, Margaretha held a public auction in Scheuern and received 14 thaler.<sup>2</sup>

To no. 6e: Maria (b. 1812), the minor and 21-year-old daughter of Johann KLESEN and Margarethe FINKLER, who had lived unmarried and without occupation in

Scheuern, married (Johann) Peter DINÉ, innkeeper in Scheuern, widower of Maria Catharina PETRY, in 1838. They set up the following marriage contract: Article no. 1: They agree to a legal community of property. Article no. 2: The groom bequeaths to

<sup>1</sup> StA Sbr, notary's office Tholey, Notary BOCHKOLTZ, 1852, nos. 337, 322, 354, 1862, no. 1120, 1864, no. 1429.

<sup>2</sup> StA Sbr, notary's office Tholey, Notary BOCHKOLTZ, 1845, nos. 307 and 308.

the bride half of his residential house with barn, stables, yard and garden situated between the property of Mathias SCHERER and Peter NICOLA. The other half would be inherited by his children of the first marriage. Article no. 3: The bride pays 150 thaler (as a dowry). Witnesses were Peter BESSE<sup>1</sup> and Nicolaus JUNGBLUT, both shoemakers. Signature and mark: *Diné*, + = mark of *Maria Klesen*. In 1840, Peter and Maria loaned 40 thaler from the Scheuern church and mortgaged their real estate. In 1844, Maria *CLEASEN* was mentioned as wife of Peter, innkeeper and pensioner in Scheuern, and as debtor of her husband when the trading house PÖLLHOF & LAIST from Kreuznach loaned 213 thaler and 26 groschen to the couple. The loan document was also signed by Johannes KLESEN (*Kleasen*). At an auction of furnishings in 1845, Peter raised money of 41 thaler and subsequently at a public auction of him and his wife the amount of 24 thaler and 25 groschen. Witness was Johann KLESEN SCHOLL, owner of a sold parcel. On 22 November 1846, pensioner Peter was mentioned at an auction of the farmer Mathias SCHERER (income of 58 thaler and 15 groschen) in Scheuern, when he purchased a tablecloth. On 12 January 1848, Peter and Maria held an auction with the revenue of 157 thaler. In 1852, Catharina DINÉ sold her house near the church to the forger Michel AMES and his wife Barbara KLESEN for 142 thaler. In 1867, Peter DINÉ from Fischbach held a free public auction in Scheuern, where Johann KLESEN was listed as the sponsor for Johann JOHANN and farmer Casimir KLESEN-SCHOLL. On 10 March 1867, Maria KLESEN, without occupation, widow DINÉ, issued an authority to the innkeeper Wilhelm Schneider from Tholey.<sup>2</sup>

To no. 6g: On 2 September 1891, the Tholey Notary SCHULT opened the procedure to divide the inheritance of the late farmer Johann KLESEN (b. 1819) from Scheuern. Before the notary were present the widow Anna Maria born MARX, also as warden of her daughter Gertrude, the couple of the coal miner Johann WILHELM and his wife Maria KLESEN from Überroth, Maria KLESEN Jr., without occupation living in Scheuern, the Scheuern coal miner Kasimir KLESEN and Mathias KIRSCH, retired coal miner, as well as Katharina KLESEN, residing in Scheuern.<sup>3</sup>

Johannes (b. 1780) was recorded in numerous notarial documents of the Tholey notary's office of Notary BOCHKOLTZ. The documents have been partially allocated to him based on wording in his siblings' contracts. The contracts related to him are reproduced hereafter. It is sometimes unclear whether he or his younger brother Johannes (Johannes II) (b. 1796) is referred to. Helpful hints are the mentioning of his wife Margaretha FINKLER and the use of his house name Johannes KLESEN SCHOLL.

<sup>1</sup> Concerning the Tholey branch of the Hornbach town mayor's family BESSE see Besse/Besse, chap. 5, the shoemaker Peter BESSE see in particular chap. 5.6.

<sup>2</sup> StA Sbr, notary's office Tholey, Notary BOCHKOLTZ, 1838, no. 24, 1840, no. 304, 1844, no. 322, 1845, no. 420, 1845, no. 421, 1846, no. 517, 1848, no. 26, 1852, no. 322; Notary HESS, 1867, nos. 102 and 103, 1867, no. 220.

<sup>3</sup> StA Sbr, notary's office Tholey, Notary SCHULT, 1891, no. 936 (with a subdivision of the real estate by lots and the extract of the map of property taxes).



Presumably, Johannes, born in 1780 (not his father who died in 1831) was acting as a witness when the holographic testament was written down by the priest Anton MINDEN on 23 November 1829 in Scheuern:

*To letter A: Anton MINDEN, pastor in Scheuren, named by his monastery name Joannes NEPOMUCENUS, bequeaths herewith 30 Prussian thaler for an annual "singing anniversary", which the parish church in Tholey has to celebrate on Saint Johannes NEPOMUCENUS feast day for him after death. That this would be his first will he testifies with his own signature in the presence of two witnesses. Antonius MINDEN, Nickulaus NICKOLA, witness, Johann KLESEN, witness Scheuren, 23 November 1829*

On 19 December 1829, the priest MINDEN added to his testament an additional message on the page with the letter B with further explanations of his last will and testament:

*To letter B: Anton MINDEN, pastor in Scheuren, declares as his last will that his housekeeper Miss Anna Francisca MALLCK from Bisingen shall receive after his death the bed wherein she had slept. Furthermore, she will get the straw mattress, two other mattresses, a woolen and a stitched coverlet, two covers of white linen for the pillows and six sheets of her choice.*

*Equally, Elisabetha WEBER from Bisingen, until now maidservant of the aforementioned Mister, shall have the bed wherein she had slept, a straw mattress, a feather under blanket, two pillows of feathers, one good sewed coverlet, six covers of white linen for the pillows and six sheets.*

*Furthermore, both shall have six chairs and each three tablecloths of which two are embroidered with pictures, and from the better ones four are smoothed.*

*That this is the true will of Anton MINDEN, he certifies with his own signature and two witnesses.*

*Antonius Minden, Nickulaus Nickula, witness, Johann Klesen, witness*

The Royal Justice of the Peace Theodor SCHRAM from Tholey handed over the testament and the filed items to Notary BOCHKOLTZ, who enclosed them in a new document on 26 March 1830 and filed them in the notary's office. The court recorder SITTEL later discovered the documents in the estate of the priest who died in Scheuern.

In 1838, Johann was mentioned as a neighbor: Michel CONRAD from Scheuern sold a piece of meadow in the "Brückwiese" (no. 213), situated between the parcels of Adam BERNADI and Johann CLESEN, to Peter SCHERER for 84 thaler in the presence of the witnesses Peter BESSE and Nicolaus JUNGBLUT.<sup>1</sup>

From time to time, the living conditions and the social status of the KLESEN family were described in requests to the office of the Mayor in Tholey. In the article

<sup>1</sup> StA Sbr, notary's office Tholey, Notary BOCHKOLTZ, 1830, no. 124, 1838, no. 25.

"Thatched roofs in Bohnental"<sup>1</sup> it was explained that thatched roofs had to be re-



**Figure 29.** "Bäwelshaus", the last house with a thatched roof in Scheuern, about 1920

placed by refractory brick or slate roofs on account of the fire decree of the Treves government from June 1837, because at that period the houses built of wood and clay in timber frame style with thatched roofs could be quickly destroyed by flames. However, a thatched roof could not be easily replaced by a tiled roof due to the unsuitability of the masonry and the roof construction. Thus, when it became necessary to fix the thatched roof, the owners often asked the Tholey Mayor for a certificate of exemption concerning the requirement to have a tiled roof. Such a request to repair the thatch of his house was proposed by Johann KLESEN from Scheuern in 1839. The Mayor gave him the following permission:

*Tholey, 5 July 1839*

*Report on the request from the 2 July 1839 of Johann KLESEN from Scheuern, concerning the permission to repair the thatch on his residence.*

*According to the esteemed degree and after insight into the aforesaid request of Johann KLESEN from Scheuern, the signed mayor reports submissively that the building of the supplicant really is one of the oldest houses in the township, which is built in timber frame style according to the old ways and customs and cannot carry a tiled roof.*

*As KLESEN is taxed at 6 thaler 6 silver groschen 9 pfennigs as property tax and at 3 thaler as classes tax per 1839, he is not in good financial circumstances and does not have the money to construct a tiled roof. The signed Mayor takes the view that according to the request of the supplicant the permission will kindly be granted to repair his thatched roof.*

*The Mayor*

(Source: Raßier/Saar/Schmidt p. 50)

The answer of the Mayor discloses that Johann was residing in one of the oldest Scheuern timbered houses built by brick earth with thatch, which could not carry a tiled roof. It probably was the house of his father Johannes and his grandfather Jacob KLESEN (see above). The argument that he *was not in good financial circumstances* was presumably used to support his argument, since – compared to the Lindscheid citizens who wanted to repair their thatched roofs – none of those citizens paid higher property and classes taxes as Johannes.<sup>2</sup> At that time, the amount of the property tax

<sup>1</sup> See Raßier/Saar/Schmidt pp. 43-51.

<sup>2</sup> See Raßier/Saar/Schmidt p. 51.

was determined by the citizen's land holdings and the amount of the classes tax by his social status and revenues.

On 27 June 1840, Johann CLESEN Jr. from the "Hennenhaus", farmer in Scheuern, appeared before the notary and in the presence of the calculator Michel ANDRES, farmer in Lindscheid, to declare that he had borrowed the amount of 45 thaler from the Scheuern church. Johann CLESEN mortgaged three of his fields as guarantee. In December 1842, Johann *KLAESEN*, named the younger, and his wife Margaretha FINCKLER, both farmers, sold half of their house in Scheuern—called "Hennenhaus"—with

barn, stable, yard and garden to their daughter Elisabeth KLAESEN and her husband Johann JOHANN, both farmers in Scheuern, for 200 thaler 13 groschen 1 pfennig.<sup>1</sup>

To chap. 3.3, no. 7: Johannes' son Peter (26 Sep 1781–14 Mar 1863 in Dorf), farmer, married to Anna Maria JOHANN (1 Aug 1787–19 Jan 1832 in Dorf) on 25 February 1813 in Limbach. They had the following children born in Dorf (generation no. 5):

- a) Angela (b. 2 Dec 1813 in Scheuern, d. 3 Jan 1864 in Dorf), married first on 27 January 1837 in Bettingen to Michel SCHMITT from Neipel, 2nd marriage on 4 February 1851 in Bettingen to Jakob KLESER from Mitlosheim (see below)
- b) Michael (b. 8 Mar 1819 in Dorf, d. 17 Nov 1879 in Steinbach), married first on 15 January 1853 in Eppelborn to Margaretha PAULUS (10 Mar 1825–24 Aug 1862 in Steinbach), daughter of Jacob PAULUS and Magdalena LERMEN, 2nd marriage on 23 May 1863 in Eppelborn to Maria KIRSCH (b. 23 Dec 1834 in Scheuern, d. 30 May 1905 in Steinbach) (see below)
- c) Peter (b. 8 Mar 1819–4 Apr 1887 in Dorf), married on 11 Feb 1852 in Limbach to Barbara JUNG (b. 8 Dec 1821 in Eppelborn, d. 1 Jan 1893 in Dorf), daughter of Mathias JUNG and Anna NAUMANN (see below). They had 5 children (generation no. 6): aa) Mathias (b. 25 Sept 1853 in Dorf), tailor, married first on 22 Feb 1886 to Barbara FALK (b. 15 Jul 1861 in Neipel, d. 20 Oct 1887 in Dorf), 2nd marriage on 25 Jan 1890 to Anna Maria BURGER (b. 6 Sep 1861 in Vogelsbüsch).



**Figure 30.** The house of Johann KLESEN and Margaretha FINKLER, called "Hennenhaus", which was sold to Johann JOHANN and his wife Elisabeth KLESEN in 1842 (drawing by Edwin Warken).

<sup>1</sup> StA Sbr, notary's office Tholey, Notary BOCHKOLTZ, 1840, no. 321, 1842, no. 416.

bb) Peter (23 Oct 1855–23 Jan 1856 in Dorf), cc) Elisabeth (19 Jan 1857–1898, died in Rappweiler), married to Mathias ADAMS, dd) Michel (9 Jan 1860–1883 in Püttlingen, had an accident in the mine), ee) Katharina (1863–1878, died in Dorf).<sup>1</sup>

d) Anna Maria (b. 27 Jan 1822 in Dorf, d. 2 Jan 1864 in Steinbach), married to the stonemason Michael PAULUS (b. 12 Feb 1818 in Steinbach, d. 22 Mar 1884), son of Jacob PAULUS and Magdalena LERMEN on 20 August 1849 in Eppelborn (see below)

e) Maria Katharina (b. 17 Mar 1824 in Dorf, d. 1905), married on 7 February 1850 in Weiskirchen to Christoph BIERBRAUER (b. 13 Jul 1825 in Weiskirchen, d. 23 May 1871), son of Nicolaus BIERBRAUER and Catharina SCHERER

f) Katharina (b. 8 Jun 1826 in Dorf, d. 11 Apr 1871 in Limbach), married on 5 November 1850 in Bettingen to Nikolaus STRASS from Limbach.

g) Maria<sup>2</sup> (b. 22 Oct 1830 in Dorf), married on 12 Feb 1852 in Limbach to Mathias JUNG (b. 21 Mar 1824 in Eppelborn), son of Mathias JOHN/JUNG and Anna NAUMANN<sup>3</sup>

To no. 7a: In January 1861, Angela KLESEN (b. 1813), widow of Michel SCHMITT, later wife of Jacob KLESER, forger in Dorf, agreed to the marriage of her daughter Maria SCHMITT with Mathias KASPAR, farmer in Bardenbach. In March 1862, they borrowed 150 thaler from Dr. med. Johann Heinrich KALCK from Saarbrücken and they paid 482 thaler to Jacob BÄHR in Tholey. They auctioned off parcels of land for 255 thaler and later again for 244 thaler.<sup>4</sup>



To no. 7b: Michael (b. 1819), linen weaver in Steinbach, was mentioned at an auction in Dorf in 1853. In March 1854, he auctioned off his property in Lindscheid together with Catharina KLESEN and her husband Nicolas STRASS from Limbach for 202 thaler. On 22 February 1858, the farmers Michel and Margaretha from Steinbach borrowed 110 thaler from the Thalexweiler church. After the death of his wife Margarethe, Michel signed a notarial marriage contract before marrying Maria KIRSCH on 6 May 1863.<sup>5</sup>

To no. 7c: Barbara, born JOHANN, wife of Peter KLESEN (b. 1819), raised the amount of 31 thaler at a free public auction in Dorf in 1853.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup> See Storb, Bettingen pp. 768f.

<sup>2</sup> In January 1864, Maria KLESEN and her husband Mathias JOHN, farmer in Eppelborn, auctioned off their real estate in Dorf for 40 thaler (StA Sbr, notary's office Tholey, Notary BOCHKOLTZ, 1864, no. 1449).

<sup>3</sup> See Storb/Naumann/Naumann, Thalexweiler no. 1921, p. 695, Storb, Bettingen no. 2669, p. 771.

<sup>4</sup> StA Sbr, notary's office Tholey, Notary BOCHKOLTZ, 1861, no. 666 and 1862, no. 975, 976, 1036, 1042.

<sup>5</sup> StA Sbr, notary's office Tholey, Notary BOCHKOLTZ, 1853, no. 53, 1854, nos. 130, 1858, no. 68, 1863, no. 1340.

<sup>6</sup> StA Sbr, notary's office Tholey, Notary BOCHKOLTZ, 1853, nos. 104 and 194.



To no. 7d: Anna Maria (b. 1822) signed a marriage contract before her marriage on 20 August 1849. In 1852, she raised the amount of 166.15 thaler at an auction together with her husband, the mason Michael PAULUS, both residing in Steinbach.<sup>1</sup>



The farmer Peter KLESEN (b. 1781) from Dorf, the father of those children, received the witness fee at an auction on 15 January 1829. On 20 January 1837, he sold half of his house with attachments and two gardens situated in Dorf for 166 thaler 20 groschen to his son-in-law the farmer Michel SCHMIT from Neipel and his wife, who was Peter's oldest daughter Angela residing in his house (no. 7a). In 1846, Peter raised the amount of 99 thaler 18 groschen at an auction of goods in Dorf initiated by him. On the same day at another auction, he received 122 thaler 15 groschen. When the mason Michael PAULUS from Steinbach signed a notarial marriage contract on 20 August 1849 with Anna Maria (see above), Peter and his mother Anna Maria were present. On 12 March 1852, Peter, named as the Senior, held an auction in Dorf with revenues of 136 thaler together with his son Peter KLESEN Jr. (no. 7c), his siblings, and his brother-in-law Jacob KLÄSENER, forger in Dorf. Also present were his wife Angela KLESEN, the farmer Michel KLESEN, Michel PAULUS, mason in Steinbach, with his wife Anna Maria KLESEN, Christoph BIERBRAUER, linen weaver in Weiskirchen, with his wife Catharina KLESEN as well as Mathias JOHN, farmer in Eppelborn, and Maria KLESEN. In the following year 1853, Barbara, born JOHANN, the wife of Peter KLESEN (no. 7c), was mentioned at a public auction with revenues of 31 thaler. On 26 July 1856, a notarial bond of 75 thaler was recorded in favor of the Scheuern church by Peter KLESEN Jr., also named JOHN, and his wife Barbara, both farmers from Dorf.<sup>2</sup>

To chap. 3.3, no. 8: Johannes' son Joseph (b. 1783), farmer, married first on 21 January 1806, in Lindscheid, Angela WILHELM (b. 2 Nov 1785 in Lindscheid, d. 7 Jun 1817 in Lindscheid), daughter of the farmer and tailor Mathias WILHELM and Angela HEINTZ. They had the son Johann (1807–1834). On 27 September 1817, he married in a 2nd marriage Elisabeth LUDWIG (b. 30 Aug 1791 in Bardenbach-Biel, d. 21 Oct 1824 in Lindscheid) and they had the following children, born in Lindscheid:

- a) Susanna (1819–1847), married to Johann SCHNEIDER. They resided in the "Allergenhaus". Child Mathias (b. 1847, died in Selbach) married Katharina JUNG on 4 Feb 1875.
- b) Mathias (1820–1896 in Limbach), married to Anna Maria Katharina HOLZ(ER); children: aa) Johann (1852–1918), bb) Nikolaus (1857–1937), cc) Mathias (1861–1925), dd) Peter (1864–1864) (see 5.1.3)

<sup>1</sup> StA Sbr, notary's office Tholey, Notary BOCHKOLTZ, 1849, no. 220, 1852, no. 176.

<sup>2</sup> StA Sbr, notary's office Tholey, Notary BOCHKOLTZ, 1829, no. 21, 1837, no. 55, 1846, no. 430 and 431, 1849, no. 220, 1852, no. 153, 1853, no. 104 and 194, 1856, no. 206 (German).

- c) Helena (1823–1882), married to Johann SCHNEIDER
- d) Barbara (1824–1873), married to Mathias JOHANN, child Mathias Peter
- e) Elisabeth (b. 1826), married to Nikolaus SCHNEIDER<sup>1</sup>
- f) Joseph (23 Nov 1828–28 Aug 1907 in Dorf), married to Barbara KLEIN. In a 2nd marriage Joseph married Barbara JÄCKEL (b. 18 Feb 1829 in Dorf, d. 9 Oct 1901 in Dorf), daughter of Mathias JÄCKEL and Anna ALTMAYER, on 21 and 23 February 1857 in Bettingen and Limbach (see 5.1.5).



Joseph (b. 1783) was first mentioned in a notarial contract in 1815: On 26 January 1815, he appeared before Johannes RETIENE, Notary in his residence of Eppelborn, canton Tholey, region Ottweiler, Saar department. Also present were Catharina WILHELM, wife of Johannes WILHELM, farmer residing in Scheuern, who authorized his wife, and the farmer Johannes WILHELM from Niederhofen. They agreed to sell to Joseph KLESEN (*Gleßen*), farmer in Lindscheid, and to his

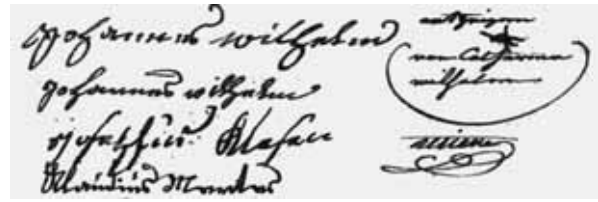
wife Angela WILHELM the following house: a residential house, barn, stable, yard and another garden towards the gable, situated in the township of Lindscheid, just as he had inherited it from his parents. The purchaser received it immediately. The sale was concluded free of debts and mortgages for the sum of 270 francs 50 centimes or 139 guilders, which had to be paid with interest within one year beginning on the day of the contract. If the purchaser did not pay the sum to the seller by that date, the interest would be charged from 22 February until the whole amount would be paid. The contract was signed (after explanation by the notary) in Thalexweiler on 27 February 1815 in the presence of the witnesses the legal adviser Klaudius MERTES and the farmer Peter THEVES, both residing in Thalexweiler. The wife of the purchas-



**Figure 31.** Joseph KLESEN and his wife Angela WILHELM sold the “Allergen” or “Allershaus” in Lindscheid in 1815. The couple Joseph SCHNEIDER and Maria Katharina KLESEN with their daughter Maria (white apron) are in front of this house (photo about 1915).

<sup>1</sup> On March 1859, Elisabeth KLESEN and her husband Nicolaus SCHNEIDER auctioned off their goods in Hasborn to the Ottweiler landowner Jacob COBLENTZ (StA Sbr, notary’s office Tholey, Notary BOCHKOLTZ, 1850, no. 100).

er made her mark: + = mark of *Catharina wilhelm, Johannes wilhelm, Johannes wilhelm, Josephus Klesen, Klaudius Mertes, Retiene, Peter thewes*.<sup>1</sup>



On 27 September 1817 before Notary RETIENE, Joseph concluded the following marriage contract with Elisabetha LUDWIG; his first wife had died at the beginning of June in the same year:

No. 309 1 gr. 7.pf. Today, on the 27th of September 1817 in the morning, before me the signing Johann RETIENE, Royal Notary in the canton Tholey, region Ottweiler, residing in Tholey, and in the presence of the witnesses mentioned at the end were present: On the one hand, Joseph CLESEN, farmer, residing in Linscheid, widower of the late Angela WILHELM, on the other hand Elisabetha LUDWIG, unmarried, without occupation, residing in Barrenbach, accompanied by her father Thielman LUDWIG, farmer in Barrenbach, residing in the canton. The parties declare (1) that both, the first mentioned Joseph CLESEN and Elisabetha LUDWIG, have recently promised to be married in accordance with the Civil rights. (2) If the groom dies before the bride, she will have lifelong usufruct of half of his residence in Lindscheid as well as of half of the barn, stables and the garden in front of the house. If she does not marry again and dies as a widow, she will have the usufruct of all his property inherited from his parents, situated in the district of Scheuern and Hölzershausen. (3) If the bride dies before the groom she will bequeath him the usufruct of all her estate which she will inherit from her parents. [Incidental remark: paid 15 francs] (4) The father of the bride bequeaths to the future married couple the usufruct of half of his property situated in the Barrenbach district until the future division of his estate with her siblings.

Occurred in the office of the notary in Tholey, day, month and year as above, in the presence of Peter JUNGBLUT, court courier of the local civil court and Hugo SCHWAN, carrier of the Mayor's office, both residing here as called witnesses who after reading signed with me, the notary, and the contracting parties, except the bride, who has no experience in writing.

Joseph Klesen mark of  
Thielman Ludwig Elisabetha + Ludwig

Jungblut, Schwan, Retiene, notary

(Source: StA Sbr, notary's office Tholey, Notary RETIENE, 1817, no. 309).

Joseph was mentioned as an estimator when an inventory was made on 21 April 1830: The farmer Johann WILHELM from Niederhofen and his wife, who had died the previous November, lived in a legal community of property, and still had minor children: 1. Johann (14 years old), 2. Catharina (11), 3. Helena (8), 4. Peter (3) and 5. Johann WILHELM (¾ year old). The farmer Michel SCHMITT from Niederhofen was named as guardian. When an inventory was made to establish his children's rights, the farmer

<sup>1</sup> StA Sbr, notary's office Tholey, Notary RETIENE, 1815, No. 30 (German).

Joseph KLESEN from Lindscheid had to estimate the value of the goods to be auctioned off. He was present to do all this as the legal sworn estimator who promised to estimate the value of the goods to *the best of his knowledge and to the current true value* without respect to a future higher or lower value of the goods. The inventory was finished at 12 o'clock noon.<sup>1</sup>

To 3.3, no. 10: Matthias KLESEN's (b. 1787) son Nikolaus (7 Dec 1813–9 Nov 1901 in Neipel), married first on 6 and 11 February 1840 in Tholey and Scheuern to Maria GROS (16 Apr 1818–30 Jul 1845, died in Neipel). They had the following children: a) Angela (b. 29 Nov 1840), married to Johann BRILL on 20 August 1883 (see 5.2.4) and b) Peter (1 Aug 1844–10 Mar 1922), married to Barbara STAUB (b. 15 Mar 1849 in Bliesen), daughter of Nikolaus STAUB and Anna Maria WAGNER, on 31 May 1883. In a second marriage he married on 14 May 1846 in Scheuern Maria WENDELS (b. 14 Jan 1823 in Dorf, d. 16 Nov 1895 in Neipel), daughter of Johann WENDELS and Gertrud BACH. The following children from the second marriage were born in Neipel:

- c) Barbara (9 May 1847–8 Jun 1858, died in Neipel)
- d) Nikolaus (3 May 1848–8 Feb 1933, died in Neipel), unmarried, photo see 5.2.4
- e) Katharina (13 Aug 1849–13 Feb 1889, died in Scheuern), married to the master tailor Michael FALK (b. 16 Oct 1844 in Neipel, d. 17 Jun 1909 in Scheuern), son of Peter FALK and Margarethe BLUG on 16 October 1887 in Scheuern
- f) Michael (25 Dec 1850–5 Feb 1921, died in Neipel), unmarried
- g) Maria Katharina (b. 24 Jun 1853), married on 27 February 1872 to Joseph SCHNEIDER
- h) Johannes (1854–1861, died in Neipel)
- i) Mathias (1857–27 Jan 1934, died in Tholey), unmarried, farmhand
- j) Kasimir (7 Oct 1859–17 Oct 1927, died in Alweiler), married on 13 February 1884 to Anna Maria RAUBER (22 Mar 1861–6 Jan 1912, died in Alweiler), daughter of Peter RAUBER and Angela RECKTENWALD (see 5.1.1).
- k) Barbara (1861–1875, died in Neipel)
- l) Nikolaus (1863–1920, died in Neipel), unmarried

On 3 February 1834, the farmer Mathias (b. 1787) purchased at an auction of the widow of Johann BLUCH from Scheuern a piece of a meadow in the "Dörferwiese", situated between Johann SCHERER and Johann KLESEN BAMERS, consisting of 19 ruthen and 42 schuh, for 6 thaler 25 groschen in the presence of the witnesses Mathias SCHERER and Johann KLESEN, both farmers from Scheuern.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> StA Sbr, notary's office Tholey, Notary BOCHKOLTZ, 1830, no. 147.

<sup>2</sup> StA Sbr, notary's office Tholey, Notary BOCHKOLTZ, 1834, no. 79; see also Schmidt, Neipel pp. 62f.



To chap. 3.3 no. 14: Johannes' youngest son Johannes (8 Mar 1796–7 Jan 1853), named SCHOLL and Johannes Second, married to Maria Katharina CONRAD (b. 3 Feb 1798 in Scheuern, d. 3 Feb 1843 in Scheuern), daughter of Casimir Wendel CONRAD and Margaretha CLESEN on 31 January 1815 in Scheuern. They had the following children, all born in Scheuern:

- a) Elisabeth (b. 11 Jun 1816), unmarried
- b) Maria<sup>1</sup> (22 Sep 1818–14 Feb 1898, died in Scheuern), unmarried
- c) Barbara (16 Jan 1821–23 Oct 1831, died in Scheuern)
- d) Casimir<sup>2</sup> (26 Aug 1822–20 Jan 1889, died in Scheuern), farmer, married first on 22 Jan 1857 in Scheuern to Catharina ENDRES (b. in Lindscheid, d. 27 Dec 1859 in Scheuern) and in a second marriage on 12 July 1860 in Lindscheid to Angela BLUG (b. 7 Oct 1840 in Scheuern, d. 22 Mar 1894 in Scheuern), daughter of Peter BLUG and Catharina SCHUG (see below). They had the following children:
  - aa) Maria (3 Apr 1861–1 Apr 1937, died in Macherbach), married to Johann HESEDENZ (b. 1892 in Macherbach, d. 15 Apr 1930)
  - bb) Michael (b. 23 Mar 1863, d. in Altenwald), married on 16 August 1891 in Sulzbach to Anna WEILER, daughter of Mathias WEILER and Maria REITER. Child Barbara married Franz GIEBEL (b. 8 Sep 1893 in Kastel).
  - cc) Johann (6 Nov 1864–12 Feb 1902, died in Scheuern), married on 3 Feb 1896 to Eva STRÄSSER (b. in Aschbach, d. 2 Aug 1951 in Scheuern), daughter of Nikolaus STRÄSSER and Maria SCHMITT. Children: 1.) Alois (5 Feb 1897–25 Sep 1944)<sup>3</sup>, 2.) Eva (b. 20 May 1898), married on 29 May 1922 to Nikolaus NIEREN (d. 14 Apr 1957), 3.) Barbara (15 Sep 1899–17 Apr 1901), 4.) Johann (12 Jun 1901–11 Dec 1979), married on 28 May 1943 in Eppelborn to Maria KRÄMER, daughter of Nikolaus KRÄMER and Franziska GROß.
  - cc) Barbara (29 Jan 1867–11 Jan 1980), married on 11 November 1890 to Johann KLEIN from Macherbach, son of Johann KLEIN and Maria KLAUCK
  - bb) Nikolaus (1869–1896), unmarried

<sup>1</sup> On 3 August 1884, Maria KLESEN made her testament and named the following persons as legal heirs: the first born daughter of her brother Casimir, called Maria (b. 1861), the couple Barbara and Casimir KLESEN, farmer from Scheuern or Angela born BLUG, also living in Scheuern, or respectively their descendants (StA Sbr, notary's office Tholey, Notary SCHÄFER, 1884, no. 815).

<sup>2</sup> Casimir KLESEN SCHOLL's wife Catharina ENDRES auctioned off a total of 11 parcels of land in the Theley district for 400 thaler 20 groschen on 24 March 1858 in favor of herself and the minors Nicolas and Michel ENDRES from Lindscheid (StA Sbr, notary's office Tholey, Notary Bochkoltz, 1858, no. 114).

<sup>3</sup> Alois married Katharina WARKEN (b. 24 Dec 1896) in 1922 and the family lived in Hasborn with the children Ernst, Bernhard, Irmgard, Mathias, Franz, Alfons, Marianne and Monika (see Finkler p. 63).

- cc) Angela (26 Aug 1875–7 Jan 1920), married on 13 Feb 1896 to Peter JUNKER (b. 10 Mar 1874 in Scheuern, d. 1 May 1916 in Scheuern), son of Johann JUNKER and Katharina BACH
- e) Johann (23 Jun 1824–7 Jul 1824, died in Scheuern)
- f) Michael<sup>1</sup> (19 Jul 1825–23 Aug 1870, died in Scheuern), married on 1 Feb 1853 to Margaretha BLUG (21 Dec 1825–1 May 1893, died in Scheuern), daughter of Johann BLUG and Helena BERNARDING. They had the children: aa) Katharina (28 Feb 1853–21 Apr 1875, died in Scheuern), married on 23 November 1872 in Scheuern to the farmer Johann SCHNUR (10 Feb 1847–11 Aug 1914, died in Scheuern), bb) Johann (20 Mar 1857–11 Mar 1934, died in Northfield, Illinois, USA—see 5.2.1), cc) Angela (19 Jan 1860–5 Dec 1938, died in Spiesen), married on 26 January 1882 in Scheuern to the teacher Peter SCHNUR (b. 28 Jan 1859 in Scheuern, d. 18 Feb 1922 in Spiesen), son of teacher Peter SCHNUR and Elisabeth MÜLLER, dd) Michael (1861–1877), ee) Peter (b. 1865), ff) Barbara (b. 29 Jan 1867, d. 17 Aug 1947 in Scheuern)
- g) Johannes<sup>2</sup> (7 Jul 1827–11 Apr 1894), married to Catharina WILHELM, childless
- h) Mathias (3 May 1829–3 Aug 1876, died in Scheuern), married first to Elisabeth THEIS. They had the child Elisabeth (1857–1857, died in Überroth). He married in a 2nd marriage on 27 January 1859 Maria SCHNUR (14 Mar 1839–27 Sept 1883, died in Scheuern)<sup>3</sup>. They had the children, born in Scheuern: aa) Jakob (1859–

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<sup>1</sup> On 12 April 1869, an auction took place in Scheuern at the request of the farmer Michel KLESEN-SCHOHL from Scheuern as a client of the couple Michel CONRAD, worker, and Katharina KLEIN in Williamsburgh in the state of New York. Sellers were: (1) Jakob SCHNUR, teacher in Scheuern, for Johann SCHNUR, farmer, there residing, at that moment a soldier in Mainz in garrison. (2) Johann BLUG the young, farmer. Guarantee was the afore named teacher SCHNUR. (3) Mathias KLESEN, farmer; guarantor was teacher SCHNUR. (4) Johann WILHELM, coal miner. Guarantor was Michel KLESEN-SCHOHL. (5) Johann SCHERER, farmer, all from Scheuern (StA Sbr, notary's office Tholey, Notary HESS, 1869, no. 1355). On 12 April 1869, the miller Mathias KIRSCH from Niederhofen held a free auction in Scheuern, at which the following people purchased property: (1) Niclas GROSS, farmer in Neipel. Guarantor was Johann KLESEN-SCHOHL, farmer in Scheuern. (2) Mathias KLESEN-HENNEN, farmer in Scheuern, guarantor was the above named Johann KLESEN-SCHOHL. (3) Casimir KLESEN, farmer in Überroth. Guarantor was Mathias KLESEN, farmer in Scheuern (StA Sbr, notary's office Tholey, Notary HESS, 1869, no. 1356, see also 1869, nos. 1453, 1551 and 1870, nos. 1811–1813).

<sup>2</sup> On 16 April 1863, Johann KLESEN SCHOLL, farmer from Scheuern, auctioned off a meadow in Lindscheid to Nikolaus JUNKER in Neipel for 37 thaler (StA Sbr, notary's office Tholey, Notary BOCHKOLTZ, 1863, no. 1292).

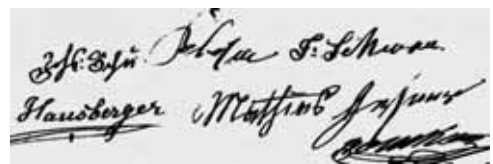
<sup>3</sup> On 13 April 1864, the couple Jacob SCHNUR, teacher, and Elisabeth SCHERER sold their house situated in Scheuern next to the schoolhouse to the couple Mathias KLESEN and Maria SCHNUR for 550 thaler. On the same day, the couple Mathias KLESEN and Maria SCHNUR from Scheuern made an obligation of 200 thaler in favor to Amelias HARTUNG, widow of Johann Heinrich KALK, pensioner in Saarbrücken. In 1866, they borrowed money through an obligation from the pensioner Eleonore BOCHKOLTZ from Tholey (StA Sbr, notary's office Tholey, Notary BOCHKOLTZ, 1864, nos. 1546, 1548 and Notary HESS, 1866, no. 48).

1868), bb) Johann (1861–1872), cc) Kasimir (1865–1868), dd) Maria Katharina (1866–1868), ee) Maria (1867–1868), ff) Peter (1867–1868), gg) Michael (1869–1893), unmarried, hh) Maria (1871–1872), ii) Maria (2 Jul 1873–1939), married to Peter DEWES on 5 November 1896 in Thalexweiler, jj) Elisabeth (1875–1876).

- i) Barbara (10 May 1833–26 Dec 1916, died in Dörsdorf), married first on 26 Feb 1859 in Eppelborn to Peter AMES (19 Mai 1828–16 Jun 1873, died in Dörsdorf), son of the cartwright, innkeeper and farmer PETER AMES (b. 28 Nov 1800 in Bergweiler, d. 8 Nov 1857 in Dörsdorf) and Elisabeth SCHEDLER (8 Nov 1799–7 Apr 1856, died in Dörsdorf) (see 5.2.3). Barbara married in a 2nd marriage around 1868 in Tholey Mathias SCHÄFER, son of Johann SCHÄFER and Catharina SCHEID.
- j) Catharina (b. 17 May 1834)
- k) Maria Catharina (18 Sep 1835–13 Jan 1919, died in Hasborn), married to Michael HENKES (b. 4 Sep 1828 in Hasborn), son of Michael HENKES and Maria SCHOLL<sup>1</sup>
- l) Angela (1838–1838)

The farmer Johann KLESEN Second (b. 1796, see 3.3, no. 14) raised the revenue of 450 thaler 5 groschen at a free public auction in Scheuern in 1859.<sup>2</sup>

To no. 14d: On 10 February 1865, Casimir KLESEN SCHOLL (b. 1822) appeared before Notary BOCHKOLTZ in Tholey, to draw up his last will and testament. He was physically and mentally healthy and dictated to the notary his last will which the notary wrote down as follows: I had promised to my wife Angela born BLUG at our marriage to bequeath her half of my house which I own together with my siblings, and I will deliver my promise. Therefore, Angela shall own half of the house in Scheuern, which is usually called the "School House", with the same proportion of the barn, stables, yard and garden. The police attendant Johan SCHWAAN, the farmer Johann SCHU, the warden guard Johann HAUSBERGER and the day laborer Mathias GESSNER, all from Tholey, signed as witnesses. Signatures: *Johs. Schu, Klesen, J. Schwan, Hausberger, Mathias Gesner, Bochkoltz.*<sup>3</sup>



To no. 14i: Peter AMES (b. 1828), the husband of Johannes' daughter Barbara (b. 1833), received through a donation from his parents Peter AMES (b. 1800) and Elisabeth SCHEDLER their house situated in the "Calves Garden" or "Onion Garden" with barn and stables, the so-called old "Mängeshaus", between the property of Peter HOFFMAN and the field called "Lunenfeld", for 350 thaler on 7 February 1854. Several

<sup>1</sup> The auction of Catharina KLESEN and Michel HENKES, from Hasborn, and Maria KLESEN, unmarried, residing in Scheuern, raised an amount of 679.20 thaler 20 pfennigs for the couple HENKES and 60 thaler for Maria KLESEN in 1859. On 17 March 1863, they auctioned off 7 parcels for 367 thaler 5 groschen inter alia to Johann JOHANN, Johann ENDRES, Michel and Johann KLESEN (StA Sbr, notary's office Tholey, Notary BOCHKOLTZ, 1859, nos. 282, 1863, no. 1293).

<sup>2</sup> StA Sbr, notary's office Tholey, Notary BOCHKOLTZ, 24 Mar 1858, no. 114, 1859, no. 283.

<sup>3</sup> StA Sbr, notary's office Tholey, Notary BOCHKOLTZ, 1865, no. 1694.

times, the young married couple was mentioned in the notarial files: On 19 March of the same year, Barbara and Peter from Dörsdorf purchased some parcels of land in the Dörsdorf district from Peter THOME Jr. and Angela WILHELM for 28 thaler. In 1858, Peter AMES and his wife Barbara KLESEN (named SCHOLL), farmers in Dörsdorf, entered a bond in favor of Eduard KOCH, pharmacist in Saarbrücken. In 1858, the farmer and innkeeper Peter AMES received 85 thaler 15 groschen at a free public auction. Peter ceded this amount in the following year. On 24 February 1859, his wife



**Figure 32.** The house of Casimir KLESEN, called “School House”, was later the house of Johann KLESEN (b. 1864).



**Figure 33.** The house of Casimir KLESEN, called “School House” (see arrow), on the street to Dörsdorf on the left

Barbara raised revenues of 487 thaler 20 groschen at a public auction of his property in Scheuern. She received 226 thaler 20 groschen at another auction on 17 December 1860 in Scheuern. Together with her husband, they held an auction in Scheuern in 1867, at which Michel KLESEN-SCHOHL and Joseph KLESEN were guarantors and more members of the Klesen family were purchasers. They were also mentioned at the auction of Michel THIES in Überroth (see also chap. 5.2).<sup>1</sup>

Johannes KLESEN—either the son Johannes (b. 1780, chap. 3.3, no. 6) or the son Johannes, named SCHOLL (b. 1796, no. 14)—accompanied the Notary BOCHKOLTZ to the apartment of the Scheuern wood turner Casimir CONRAD on 17 February 1832. Conrad declared that his daughter Elisabeth CONRAD, wife of the cartwright Mathias CONRAD, residing in Theley,

could dispose of her inherited property already before his death: Elisabeth CONRAD ceded her one third portion to the farmer and jurymen Johann KLESEN, named SCHOLL (b. 1796), and his wife Maria Catharina SCHOLL (named CONRAD), her sister living in Scheuern. It was her one third portion of all farmland, meadows, gardens and other landed property in the district of Scheuern, Überroth, Heisterberg and Hölzer—her

<sup>1</sup> StA Sbr, notary's office Tholey, Notary BOCHKOLTZ, 1854, nos. 151 and 189, 1858, nos. 155 and 261, 1859, nos. 289, 292, 281, 1860, no. 640, 1867, nos. 220–226.



sister and her brother Michel CONRAD owned the other two portions—which she had inherited from her father Casimir CONRAD and her late mother Margaretha KLESEN. The sale was made for 266 thaler Prussian currency. The seller had already received 106 thaler in cash from the purchaser before the document was signed. The act was concluded by Casimir CONRAD in the presence of two witnesses, the Scheuern farmers Michel BLUCH and Johann NIEHREN, and signed as follows:

*Casimir Conrad, Johann Klesen, + = mark of Elisabetha Conrad, Mathias Konnrath, Maria Catarina conradth, Michael Plug, Johannes Niehren, Bochkoltz.*<sup>1</sup>



On 27 March 1805, the parents-in-law of Margaretha CLESEN (b. 1811) and her husband Casimir CONRAD were mentioned at the sale of real estate: Henry ROUFF from St. Wendel and his wife Barbe NICOLA sold all their property situated in the district of Scheuern and Heisterberg inherited by Pierre NICOLA and his wife Elisabethette MALDENER to the Scheuern master tanner Casimir CONRAD and his wife Margueritte. The sale was concluded for the sum of 420 francs in the Tholey office of the Notary GIRAUD. Witnesses were the court recorder Peter BAUER and Peter WILHELM. Signatures: *Casimir Conrad, Henrich Ruff, barbara nicola, Bauer, Peter wilhelm* and Notary *Giraud*.<sup>2</sup>

On 7 April 1839, Johann KLESEN SCHOLL declared before the notary that his parents-in-law Casimir CONRAD and Margaretha born KLESEN had deceased in Scheuern leaving behind three children: Maria Catharine CONRAD, Michel CONRAD, farmer in Scheuern, and Mathias CONRAD, farmer and cartwright, residing in Theley. All three children had inherited one third of their parents' estate. After the death of the parents, Johann had purchased the inherited portion of Mathias CONRAD and had divided the estate together with his brother-in-law Michael CONRAD, without signing a public document. At this division Johann had received 28 parcels of 12 acres, 71 ruthen and 30 schuh in the Scheuern district as property. Now a document was signed in Tholey in the office of the Notary in the presence of the two witnesses, the day laborer Peter BESSE and the shoemaker Philipp BESSÉ, both residing in Tholey. The notary, the well-known contracting parties and the witnesses signed after explanation: *Johann Klesen, Michael Conrad, Besse, Besse, Bochkoltz.*



<sup>1</sup> StA Sbr, notary's office Tholey, Notary BOCHKOLTZ, 1832, no. 135.

<sup>2</sup> StA Sbr, notary's office Tholey, Notary GIRAUD, 1805, no. 219 (French).

On 21 December 1841, Johann was a witness at two auctions (*Auction* and *Subhastation*) of Adam BALZER from Scheuern with the sums of 78.27 thaler and 81.15 thaler. The document was signed by Johann with the surname SCHOLL: *Johann Klesen Scholl*, + = mark of *adam Balzer, Nicolas Holz, Notary Bochkoltz*.<sup>1</sup>

On 4 January 1843, Johannes and Michel CONRAD, both farmers in Scheuern, appeared before the notary and exchanged the following parcels: Johann exchanged a meadow on the "Shepherds Meadow", district 2, no. 381.50 ruthen and 60 feet, for Michel's meadow in the "Taubenthal", district 2, no. 424.37 ruthen and 80 schuh, and another meadow situated there, district 2, no. 426.20 ruthen and 60 schuh. They had recently inherited these parcels of land from their parents. The exchange was concluded without compensation, but they declared the value of the exchanged meadows to be 24 thaler due to the stamp duty. The contract was made in the presence of the two witnesses, the night watchman Johann SCHU and the butcher Lambert FRANK, both residing in Tholey. All signed as follows:



*Johann Klesen Scholl,  
Michael Konrad,  
Joh. Schuh, L. Franck,  
Bochkoltz*.<sup>2</sup>

1 StA Sbr, notary's office Tholey, Notary BOCHKOLTZ, 1839, nos. 247, 1841, nos. 527 and 528.

2 StA Sbr, notary's office Tholey, Notary BOCHKOLTZ, 1843, no. 7.



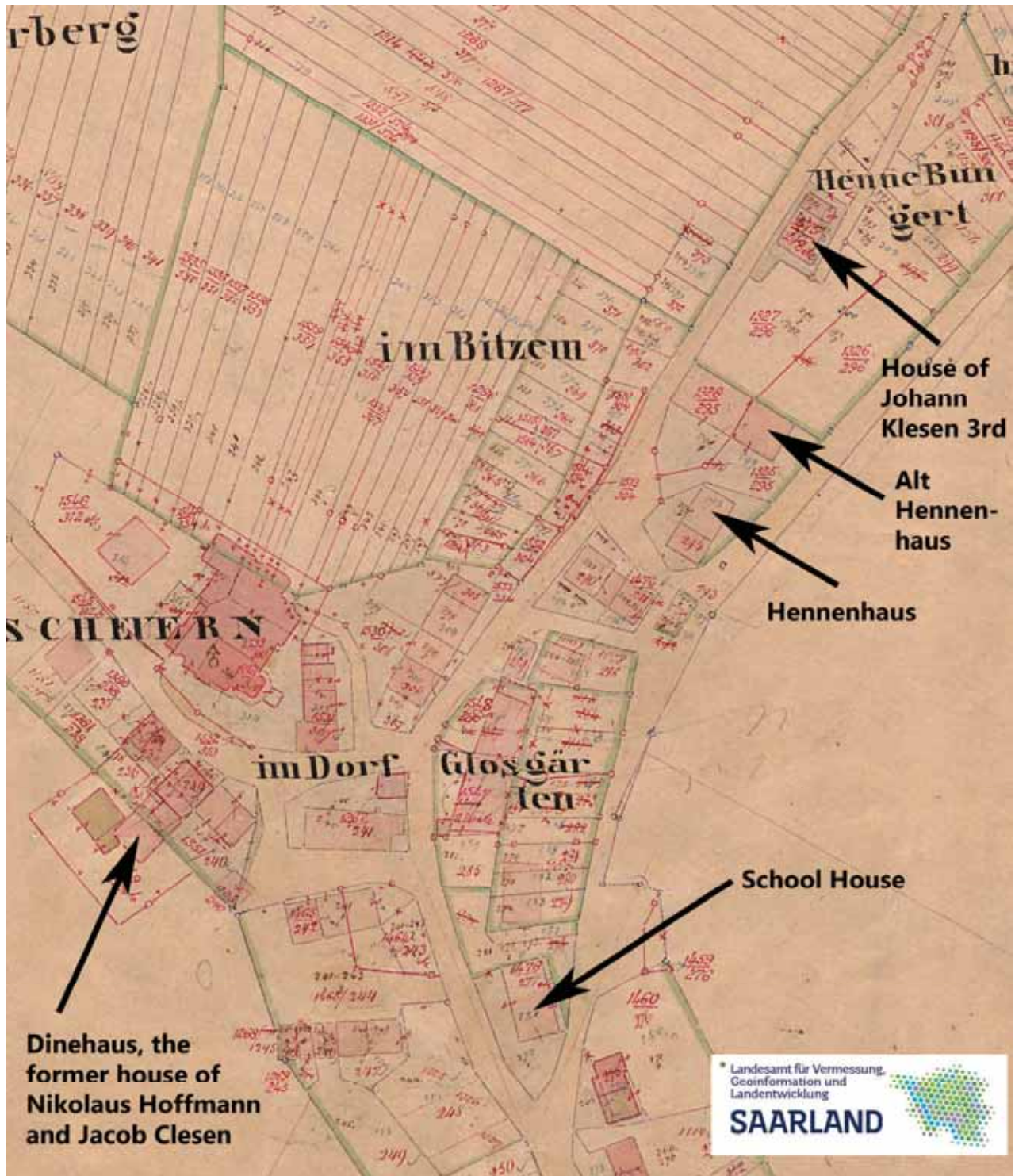


Figure 34. On the Scheuern original cadastral map of 1840, several houses were mapped, in which members of the Klesen family resided in the middle of the 19th century (see arrows): Kasimir KLESEN SCHOLL and his wife Angela BLUG lived in the so-called “School House,” Johann KLESEN and his wife Margareta FINCKLER in the “Hennenhaus” and Anna Maria KLESEN and her husband Johann ENDRES in the “Alt Hennenhaus”. Johann KLESEN 3rd (III) and his wife Anna Maria MARX purchased the house of the forger Michel AMES and his wife Barbara KLESEN in the “Hennebungert”. The last named then purchased the house of Katharina DINE and her mother Maria KLESEN, the widow of Peter DINE, opposite the church. This might have been the first house or the plot next to this house, which Jacob CLESEN purchased from Nikolaus HOFFMANN in 1749 (Source: Saarland’s Land Registry Office—LVGL).

### 3.5 Tailor and Farmer Casimir KLESEN in Scheuern (Generation No. 4)

#### *The Tailor*



**Fig. 35.** Tailors in 1613 (from the house books of the Nuremberg Twelve Brothers Foundation)

Casimir KLESEN (14 Aug 1789–30 Nov 1879 Scheuern, see 3.3, no. 11), son of Johannes (b. 1742), married Katharina JOHANN (b. 10 Jun 1799 in Dorf, d. 7 Mar 1866 in Scheuern), daughter of Philipp JOHANN and Anna Maria BOMMER, on 27 February 1816 in Scheuern. They had eleven children, all born in Scheuern:

1. Anna Maria (b. 18 Jan 1818), married to Peter GROß on 6 February 1844 in Scheuern
2. Johann (27 Apr 1820–10 Nov 1900), married to Magdalena WILHELM (12 Jan 1822–6 Jun 1892, died in Niederhofen), daughter of Josef WILHELM and Barbara SCHMITT, on 17 February 1852 in Scheuern (see below)<sup>1</sup>
3. Joseph (15 Nov 1822–21 May 1898 in Scheuern), married to Margaretha BLUG (18 Dec 1829–26 Jul 1910) on 29 January 1856 (see below)<sup>2</sup>
4. Catharina (26 Aug 1825–6 May 1868), married to Johann BLUG (7 Jun 1827–30 Nov 1907, died in Scheuern) on 1 February 1853 in Scheuern
5. Margaretha (31 Jan 1829–13 Jan 1830)
6. Michel (26 Dec 1830–6 Mar 1908 Dörsdorf) (see 3.6)
7. Catharina Elisabeth (25 Nov 1833–4 Feb 1889, died in Scheuern), married to Peter Alban BLUG (3 Mar 1837–3 Mar 1888, died in Scheuern) on 21 February 1865 in Hasborn<sup>3</sup>
8. Maria (7 Mar 1836–5 Apr 1838)
9. Peter (12 Jan 1839–13 Nov 1923, died in Überroth), twin, married to Anna CASPAR (20 Dec 1841–7 Apr 1893, died in Überroth), daughter of Nikolaus CASPAR and Anna Maria FOLLMANN, on 5 February 1868<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> In May 1865, the farmer Johann WILHELM from Niederhofen sold his house with barn, stable and garden to Johann KLESEN and his wife Magdalena for 450 thaler. On 30 March 1869, the couple farmer Johann KLESEN and Magdalena WILHELM from Niederhofen held an auction with the consent of Casimir KLESEN, residing in Scheuern, at which Michel KLESEN-HÜBEL with his guarantor Mathias KLESEN, Joseph KLESEN with his guarantor Michel KLESEN, and Johann KLESEN with his guarantor Casimir KLESEN-SCHOLL were present. In April 1869, Johann KLESEN paid an unknown sum to Jacob BÄHR (StA Sbr, notary's office Tholey, Notary BOCHKOLTZ 1865, no. 1825, Notary Hess, 1869, no. 1309, 1869, no. 1322).

<sup>2</sup> In 1865, Peter BLUG and Catharina SCHUG sold their house to Joseph KLESEN and Margaretha BLUG for 325 thaler (StA Sbr, notary's office Tholey, Notary BOCHKOLTZ, 1865, no. 1693).

<sup>3</sup> In December 1868, the Scheuern church counter Mathias SCHÄFER from Niederhofen lent money to Peter BLUG *HENNEN* and Elisabeth KLESEN under guarantee of Peter BLUG *SCHUCKEN* (StA Sbr, notary's office Tholey, Notary HESS, 1868, no. 1039).



10. Casimir (12 Jan 1839–13 Mar 1921, died in Überroth), twin, tailor, married to Margareta CASPAR (b. 29 Nov 1841 Überroth, d. 11 Jan 1918) on 30 Jan 1866 in Hasborn. They had two children: a) Kasimir (22 Feb 1867–8 May 1912), married to Barbara KIRSCH, b) Katharina (1872–1960). Kasimir (b. 1867) and Barbara had seven children, all born in Überroth:
- aa) Katharina (1892–1973), married to Jakob JUNKER (b. 25 Jun 1892 in Überroth) on 10 February 1919
- bb) Barbara (b. 1894)
- cc) Agnes (1897–1981), married to Michel KLESEN (b. 27 Aug 1898 in Dörsdorf, d. 20 Apr 1979 in Überroth), son of Michel KLESEN and Anna Margaretha SCHOMMER on 3 Feb 1920
- dd) Kasimir (1899–1977, see 4.1), organist and sacristan in Lebach, married to Barbara SCHMITT (1903–1970, died in Lebach), daughter of Mathias SCHMITT and Maria JUNKER, in Niederhofen on 11 November 1923
- ee) Mathias (13 Nov 1901–1973), married to Ida ANDRES (1904–1962). They had three children: a) Erwin (1925–2003), married to Sabina GRAF (b. 1932) (children: Jutta, married to Heinz HERRMANN with son Oliver; Dieter, married to Inge SCHUH with daughter Tina and son Jan; and Margit, married to Bernd MOUTTY with Lisa and Dennis); b) Werner (b. 1928), married to Eda RÖTTGEN (children: Bernd, Pia and Iris); c) Inge (b. 1929), married to Karl-Heinz HORNBERGER (children: Karl-Heinz and Doris)
- ff) Peter (1903–1943, died in Dörsdorf), married to Margaretha SCHEDLER (1902–1992) in Dörsdorf in 1929 (see figure 36 and 37). They had two children: a) Hannelore (b. 1930), married to Fridolin PETER (1920–1989), children: Gabi, Ruth and Uwe (d. 2008) and b) Hans-Gerd (1932–2007), chapel-master of the Saarberg *Bergkapelle* and director of the Steinbach music association, married to Ilse MÜLLER (b. 1937) in Steinbach (see figure 38), children: Horst, married to Sigrid HORNBERGER, and Heike, married to Martin ENGEL (children: Anna-Lena and Simon)
- gg) Michael (26 Nov 1906–10 Oct 1920 d. in Überra.)



Fig. 36. Peter KLESEN (b. 1903) and Margaretha SCHEDLER (b. 1902)



Fig. 37. Bus driver Peter KLESEN with his omnibus in Lebach in front of the hotel THIERRY



Fig. 38. Wedding photo of Hans-Gerd KLESEN and Ilse MÜLLER

<sup>1</sup> On 24 February 1869, the couple Peter KLESEN and Anna CASPAR held a free public auction in Überroth (StA Sbr, notary's office Tholey, Notary HESS, 1869, no. 1214).



Fig. 39. Mathias KLESEN with his Bohnental line buses

11. Mathias (b. 12 May 1843, d. 29 Aug 1918 in Scheuern), unmarried

To no. 10 ee: In 1927, bus driver Mathias KLESEN (b. 1901) from Überroth opened the first Bohnental line, which operated the liner traffic from Lebach to Steinbach, Dörsdorf, Scheuern and Überroth every day (see figure 39).<sup>1</sup>

To no. 2: Johann KLESEN (b. 1820) and Magdalena WIL-

HELM had the following children, born in Niederhofen:

- a) Peter<sup>2</sup> (23 Oct 1852–20 Feb 1930, died in Niederhofen), married to Katharina ENDRES (b. 12 Sep 1861 in Lindscheid, d. 18 Jul 1938 in Fischbach), daughter of Johann ENDRES and Margarethe SCHUG, on 19 September 1893 in Scheuern. They had the following children: aa) Johann (19 Jul 1894–22 Mar 1918, died in World War I), bb) Katharina (1896–1980), cc) Kasimir (b. 16 Nov 1898), dd) Maria (b. 10 Nov 1900), ee) Peter (b. 31 Aug 1902), ff) Barbara (b. 26 Apr 1905), gg) Michael (b. 5 Oct 1907).
- b) Johann (5 Feb 1855–6 Feb, died in Niederhofen), married to Barbara FINKLER (b. 18 May 1858 in Niederhofen) on 30 May 1881 in Niederhofen. They had the following children: aa) Katharina (1883–1967), bb) Michael (b. 6 Jun 1885–12 Mar 1956), cc) Barbara (1888–1956), dd) Maria (1891–1923), ee) Elisabeth (1893–1960), ff) Franziskus (1898–1900).
- c) Michel (3 Jan 1857–3 May 1898), married to Katharina FINKLER. They had the following children: aa) Katharina (1895–1896), bb) Joseph (1896–26 Aug 1918, died in World War I), cc) Kasimir (1898–1938).
- d) Kasimir (9 Sep 1859–12 Dec 1909), married to Katharina FINKLER on 27 February 1900. They had the following children: aa) Katharina (b. 1901) married Michael Weyand, bb) Maria (1903–1903).
- e) Mathias (b. 17 Feb 1862), unmarried

To no. 3: Joseph KLESEN (b. 1822) and Margaretha BLUG had seven children born in Scheuern:

- a) Kasimir (b. 4 Nov 1856–5 Jan 1919), unmarried
- b) Michael (b. 25 Mar 1858–26 Nov 1937), married to Angela HAHN
- c) Angela (b. 9 Nov 1860), unmarried
- d) Elisabeth (28 May 1863–5 Apr 1868)
- e) Katharina (b. 27 Feb 1865), married to Joseph SCHEID from Hasborn

<sup>1</sup> See Schmidt, Dorf p. 165.

<sup>2</sup> Peter KLESEN and Katharina ENDRES from Lindscheid concluded a marriage contract in September 1893 (StA Sbr, notary's office Tholey, 1893, no. 2905).

- f) Margaretha (24 Nov 1869–14 Nov 1925)
- g) Peter (20 Mar 1874–17 Aug 1947), married to Katharina BERWIAN (b. 22 Nov 1880 in Gresaubach, d. 29 May 1971 in Scheuern), daughter of Michel BERWIAN and Maria KIRSCH, on 9 Jun 1900 in Gresaubach. They had 14 children: aa) Margaretha (10 Aug 1901–21 Jul 1956), married to Johann BLUG, bb) Katharina (10 Jan 1903–2 Jun 1974, d. in Dörsdorf), married to Albert HOFFMANN (31 Mar 1902–24 Mar 1979, d. in Dörsdorf) on 21 Feb 1927, cc) Michael (12 Feb 1905–13 Feb 1979, d. in Scheuern), married to Angela THEIS (b. 19 Oct 1904) on 30 Sept 1929, dd) Nikolaus (b. 4 Oct 1906, missing in World War II), married to Maria GROß from Thalexweiler on 16 Nov 1931 in St. Wendel, ee) Anna Maria (30 May 1908–4 Jul 1984, d. in Steinbach), married to Johann MÜLLER from Steinbach, ff) Maria (4 Mar 1910–4 Dec 1969), married to Peter WILHELM, gg) Georg (30 Nov 1911–8 Sep 1991), forger, married to Maria WILHELM on 11 Nov 1941, hh) Barbara (b. 1913) married to Heinrich THOME from Dörsdorf, ii) Alois (b. 19 Sep 1915), married to Otilie CASPAR from Überroth on 3 September 1948, jj) Kunigunde (20 Sep 1917–14 May 1941, d. in Steinbach), married to Alois KÜHN from Steinbach, kk) Cäcilia (b. 25 Nov 1919), married to Peter Franz KIRSCH, ll) Rosa Veronika (1921–1921), mm) Peter Anton (3 Jun 1923–15 May 1942, died in World War II), nn) Angela (b. 31 Jan 1926), married to Felix GROß from Bubach.



Fig. 40. Marriage of Peter KLESEN (b. 1874) and Katharina BERWIAN (photo about 1900)



Fig. 41. Family Peter KLESEN (b. 1874) and Katharina BERWIAN (b. 1880) (photo about 1930)



To letters gg: Georg KLESEN (b. 1911) and Maria WILHELM had the following children:

1. Annemarie (b. 1942), married to Karl-Heinz OTT, children: a) Konstanze (children: Maurice and Sebastian), b) Andrea (child: Jannyck) and c) Burkhard (child: Corinna)
2. Georg (b. 1948, see fig. 44), married to Luise VOGEL, children: a) Karina QUINTEN with Milena and Michelle, b) Ronny
3. Katharina (b. 1946), children: a) Natalie (child: Leon), b) Frank (child: Johanna) and Oliver (children: Simon and Greta).

Georg (b. 1911) conducted his own ancestors search when he retired. He found the marriage license of Jacob CLESEN from 1738 and a document stating that Jacob worked as a carpenter of the Tholey abbey. Jacob built, for example, baroque altars for three parishes in Lorraine, which he produced *without spot and blameless* (see 2.1 and 3.1).



Fig. 42. Georg KLESEN (b. 1911) and Maria WILHELM



Fig. 43. Georg and Maria KLESEN



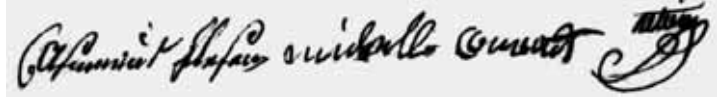
Fig. 45. Communion of Georg KLESEN (b. 1948)



Fig. 44. Georg KLESEN (b. 1911) ran a forge in Tholey Scheuern



On 2 March 1819, the farmer Casimir KLESEN (*Glaisen*), born in 1789, was first mentioned as a witness in the notarial files at an auction by request of *Michäl* ROUSCHEL, farmer in Scheuern. He signed with *Casimirus klesen* beside *michell Conradt* and Notary *Retiene*.



At the age of 36 years, Casimir signed as witness when Peter WILHELM and his wife Maria born ZOBEL from Scheuern auctioned off furnishings on 7 March 1826.<sup>1</sup>

On 1 January 1830, Casimir was one of the witnesses when the unmarried Anna Francisca MALCK, residing in Scheuern, drew up her testament. The four witnesses were: (1) Johann KLESEN, farmer and locksmith, (2) Casimir KLESEN, farmer, (3) Nicolas NICOLA, locksmith, all three residing in Scheuern, and (4) Michel BRILL, farmer in Lindscheid. Anna Francisca MALCK was physically and mentally healthy, but old and weak. She dictated to the notary BOCHKOLTZ her last will and testament as follows:

*I bequeath my entire fortune, which I will leave behind after my death, to my niece or the daughter of my sister Elisabetha WEBER, of age, without occupation living here with me in Scheuern, also unmarried, all that without any exception nor further reservation as sole and exclusive property.*

She made her mark on the document, written in the Scheuern parsonage, while the four witnesses signed together with the notary.<sup>2</sup>

Casimir often participated in the execution of notarial contracts, in which he was involved as witness and he received a financial compensation for his time exposure. Only few days after the aforementioned testament, he was present at an auction in the Scheuern parsonage on Tuesday, 5 January 1830, and on Thursday, 7 January 1830, when the auction by request of Johann and Andreas MÜNDEN continued in Tholey. Casimir appeared as a witness beside the locksmith Nicolas NICOLA from Scheuern. The auction of furnishings begun in Scheuern, but continued in Tholey to give the farmers the opportunity to auction off all of their objects. For example, Johann KLESEN, farmer in Scheuern, purchased a dung stretcher, i.e. a portable stretcher for cow dung, for 4 groschen. At this auction of 348 items the auctioneers Johann and Andreas MÜNDEN received the sum of 810 guilders and 16 groschen.<sup>3</sup>

At that period, auctions were a good opportunity to make more money. For example, household goods and agricultural implements, which were not needed or used, could be sold at an auction. In this way, the auctioneers received money to finance a marriage dowry when a son or a daughter would leave the family and get married. Johann SCHERER from Scheuern, who emigrated to North America in the 1840s, decided to auction off or lease his real estate. This free public auction started on Monday, 18 January 1830, and continued the following day, 19 January, at

<sup>1</sup> StA Sbr, notary's office Tholey, Notary RETIENE, 1819, no. 42 and 43, 1826, nos. 63 and 64.

<sup>2</sup> StA Sbr, notary's office Tholey, Notary RETIENE, 1830, no. 1.

<sup>3</sup> StA Sbr, notary's office Tholey, Notary RETIENE, 1830, nos. 2–5.

9 o'clock. Obviously, Johann SCHERER owned many parcels of land and he could not cultivate his land by himself. At this lease of land, Casimir KLESEN and other members of the KLESEN family rented the following parcels of land or they were named as adjacent owners of the rented parcels:

*[Lease of land] a) for three years:*

114. Peter SCHERER, farmer in Neipel, a piece of land in the Weidenholz Heck, thereat, situated between Casimir KLESEN and Peter PLUCH for 2 thaler 4 groschen

117. The same [Peter PLUCH] a parcel below Herrenwiddum beside Adam WILHELM and Casimir KLESEN for 3 thaler 20 groschen

*b) for two years:*

126. Peter JUNKER, afore named, a parcel behind the Galgen hill, situated between Peter SCHERER, and Johann KLESEN SCHOLL, for 3 thaler 15 groschen

127. Peter JUNCKER from Niederhofen, aforementioned, a parcel therein between Johann KLESEN SCHOLL and Peter PLUCH, for 3 thaler 8 groschen

133. Nicolas NICOLA, locksmith in Scheuren, a parcel in front of Herren Widdum, beside Johann KLESEN for 2 thaler 29 groschen

*c) Wasteland for three years: [Hölzer district]*

187. Johann KLESEN SCHOLL, locksmith in Scheuren, a parcel beside the bidder for 1 thaler 8 groschen

189. Johann KLESEN SCHOLL, aforementioned, a parcel, but on the Scheuer lime kiln, reaching until the Theis hill, for 1 thaler 11 groschen.

*g) for three years, Heister hill district*

192) Johann SCHERER, son, a parcel above before the Schloß meadow, beside Johann KLESEN and Johann SCHERER, for 3 thaler four groschen

197) Johann KLESEN SCHOLL, aforementioned, a parcel on the Heister hill, beside Casimir KLESEN for 1 Thaler 2 groschen

198) Mathias KLESEN, shoemaker in Scheuren, a parcel, on the Schwarz meadow, between Johann ENDRES and Johan NICOLAY, for 1 thaler 2 groschen

210) Jacob SCHNUR, a meadow in the Gutz meadow to Casimir KLESEN for 13 groschen

Johan SCHERER received revenues of 352 thaler at an auction of 219 items in his apartment; the innkeeper Peter DINÉ and the farmer Johan PLUCH NICKELS signed as witnesses as follows: *Johann Scherer, P. Diné, Johannes Bluch, and Bochkoltz.*<sup>1</sup>

In the middle of the 19th century, notaries started to add to the family name a second surname to distinguish the individual persons. Sometimes it was the maiden name of the wife, but also house names of where the wife lived or where the couple lived in a purchased house, i. e. Johann KLESEN *Scholl*, Michel KLESEN *Hübel* and Mathias KLESEN *Hennen*. In other cases, it was the first name of an ancestor, such as Johann PLUCH *Nickels*. It had become necessary, because in that period the birth dates of the contracting parties had not yet been introduced as a unique identifier in the notarial contracts in the middle of the 19th century – something that is common nowadays.

<sup>1</sup> StA Sbr, notary's office Tholey, Notary RETIENE, 1830, no. 15.

In 1832, Casimir borrowed money from the Scheuern church. On 1 August, he went to Jacob BOCHKOLTZ, the Royal Notary of the land court for the district Trier, residing in Tholey. He declared in the presence of witnesses that the Scheuern parish church, for which the counter Michel BRILL, farmer in Lindscheid, was present, had lent him the sum of 34 thaler, Prussian currency. Casimir confirmed with a receipt that he had received the sum in cash out of a fund of the church. He committed himself to pay back the total sum and the interest of 5 percent yearly punctually on the due day. All payments, the main sum and the interests, had to be paid in usual silver or gold guilders. He would make payments "into the hand" and "the apartment" of the responsible church counter without any refusal, division or deduction. This had been agreed to expressly. Furthermore, he declared to mortgage his landed property in the Scheuern district and to hypothecate it in order to repay the interests and the recovery costs. The parcels were his exclusive and personal estate and free of all other debts, mortgages and privileges. The following estate was mortgaged: (1) a parcel of farmland situated in the "Rund meadow", beside the parcels of Johann KLESEN and Johann SCHERER, area 2, no. 12 of the cadastral map, 1 acre, 53 ruthen and 4 schuh; (2) a parcel of farmland next to the "Klein meadow", situated between the parcels of Peter BLUCH and Johann KIRSCH, area 2, no. 57 of the map, 55 ruthen and 8 feet. Casimir also declared that he authorized the parish administrator to register the parcels in the land register and he committed himself to pay the costs and fees of the document. It happened in Tholey in the office of the notary on 1 August 1832 in the presence of two witnesses, the innkeeper Peter STAHL and Wilhelm HOFFMANN, both residing in Tholey. The debtor was well known to the notary, the church counter and the witnesses signed after a reading as follows: *Casimir Klesen, Michell bluch, Wilhelm Hoffman, Peter Stahl, and Bochkoltz*. Fees of 3 thaler and 19 silver groschen had to be paid.<sup>1</sup>

On 21 January 1835, at a free public auction of parcels of land by Maria JÄCKEL, widow of Johann KIRSCH from Limbach, Casimir purchased a piece of farmland in the "Leitersthal", situated beside the parcels of Johann NICOLAY and Johann KLEIN, area 2, no. 638, for 16 thaler and 5 groschen. In 1837, the mason Adam BALZER and his wife Gertrude, born POSS, from Scheuern sold him a piece of farmland of 78 ruthen and 4 schuh in the "Weidenholz", situated beside the property of Mathias KLESEN, area 1, no. 137, for 13 thaler in cash. The contract was signed in the apartment of Joseph VOLLMANN in Dautweiler together with the witnesses Adam WARKEN and Mathias VOLLMANN as follows: + = mark of *Adam Balzer*, + = mark of *Gertrude Poss, Casimir Klesen, Adam Warken, Mathias Follmann, Bochkoltz*. In 1838, Casimir purchased a piece of farmland at a free auction in Scheuern, which was held by the farmer Jakob SCHERER from Alsweiler; the piece of farmland of 100 ruthen and 77 schuh was situated on the Peters mill, area 3, no. 25a and it cost 32 thaler and 10 groschen. Johannes SCHERER, Jacob SCHNUR, Peter BLUG, Peter FALK and Peter

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<sup>1</sup> StA Sbr, notary's office Tholey, Notary BOCHKOLTZ, 1832, no. 274.

SCHERER sold the rest of the parcel of land. Witness was Johann KLESEN SCHOLL. The auction was finished with revenues of 507 thaler.<sup>1</sup>

In 1840, Casimir and other KLESEN people were mentioned as inhabitants of the Scheuern village. Many residents of the Bohnental villages and of Dörsdorf had leased the rights to the limestone under their farmland to a quarry. On 7 March 1840, the Dörsdorf farmer Peter AMES appeared before notary BOCHKOLTZ and signed a notarial deed to the limestone quarry. With the private law contract from 26 June 1836, the following people had concluded an agreement to the Royal senior overman (*Obersteiger*) August HEINS, residing in Elm. They were the Scheuern township members, namely Johannes KLESEN, Adam BALZERT, Kasimir KLESEN, Johannes SCHWARZ, Johannes KLESEN Schol, Nikolas NEHREN, Johannes WILHELM, Jakob KASPER, Adam WILHELM, Peter BACH, Peter BLUG, Peter FALK, Mathias SCHERER, Michael CONRAD, Johann SCHERER, Peter DINÉ, Peter NICOLA, Mathias KLESEN, Niklas GRAF, Peter KELLER, Johannes BLUG Sr., Michael AMES, Jakob SCHNUR, Johannes GRAF and Johannes BLUG *Nikels*, Michael BLUG, all residing in Scheuern, Peter SCHERER, Michael BRILL, Johannes BRILL, those residing in Neipel, Nickolas BLUG, Michael ENDRES, Johannes SCHERER, Michael Endres LAUER, those residing in Linnscheid, Peter HOLZER, Mathias WILHELM and Peter FINKLER, those residing in Niederhofen and Ueberroth, as well as Johannes Nicolay and Johannes BERNARDY, both residing in Dörsdorf. They agreed with the senior overman that he was allowed to mine lime in the district of Scheuern called "Galgenberg" and in the rest of the district under their private property, i.e. farmland and meadows. Each owner received one silver groschen per malter of lime and was allowed to mine the lime, which was situated underground in small gaps, for his own use but not for trade. The mining of communal property was prohibited by senior overman HEINS.<sup>2</sup>

On 18 February 1865, Casimir and his wife sold their residential house to their daughter Elisabetha and her husband the shoemaker Peter BLUG, both farmers in Scheuern: (1) Their residential house with barn, stables, yard, garden with all attachment and with all rights, situated in Scheuern, on area 2, no. 294, of 29 ruthen and 30 feet, no. 7 of the list of buildings (see fig. 46), and (2) a meadow of 9 ruthen and 50 feet on the shepherd meadow, area 2, no. 373. The sale was concluded under the following conditions: (1) Until their death or until a possible early and voluntary handover to the purchasers, the sellers kept the entire property and the main responsibility in the house in which they jointly lived now. (2) The sellers reserved for themselves a free apartment in their parental house for all their unmarried children, as long as they were not married. (3) The purchaser had to maintain the sold buildings in good structural condition and to pay all accruing municipal and state taxes. The sale was concluded for the sum of 450 thaler, which the sellers gave to their nine children as a donation in the same portion as their inherited portion. Witnesses were the

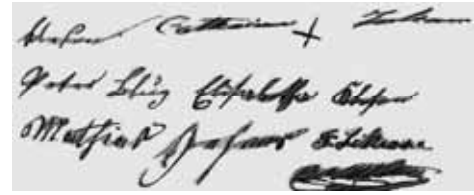
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<sup>1</sup> StA Sbr, notary's office Tholey, Notary BOCHKOLTZ, 1830, no. 147, 1834, no. 248, 1835, no. 73, 1837, no. 442, 1838, no. 238.

<sup>2</sup> StA Sbr, notary's office Tholey, Notary BOCHKOLTZ, 1840, no. 159.



day laborer Mathias GESSNER and the police servant Johann SCHWAAN, both from Tholey. Signatures: *Klesen, + = mark of Catharina Johann, Peter Blug, Elisabetha Klesen, Mathias Gesner, F. Schwaan, Bochkoltz.*<sup>1</sup>



On the same day, Peter and Elisabeth sold their residential house with barn and stable and half a meadow with trees to Joseph KLESEN, farmer in Scheuern, and his wife Margaretha BLUG for the amount of 325 thaler.<sup>2</sup>

On 24 January 1866, the couple and farmers Casimir KLESEN and Catharina JOHANN, residing in Scheuern, gave the formal and unconditional consent to their 27-year-old son Casimir KLESEN, farmer, residing in Scheuern, to marry Margaretha CASPAR from Überroth. This notarial statement was signed in their Scheuern apartment in the presence of the witnesses Johann ENDRES and Peter BLUG from Scheuern. Obviously, the consent was given afterwards, since the marriage had already been celebrated on 16 January 1866. For this contract notary BOCHKOLTZ cashed fees of 4 thaler 5 groschen and 5 groschen stamp fees.<sup>3</sup>



**Fig. 46.** House of Casimir KLESEN and Katharina JOHANN, which they sold to their daughter Elisabeth and her husband Peter BLUG in 1865 (drawing by Edwin Warken).

<sup>1</sup> StA Sbr, notary's office Tholey, Notary BOCHKOLTZ, 1865, no. 1692.

<sup>2</sup> StA Sbr, notary's office Tholey, Notary BOCHKOLTZ, 1865, no. 1693.

<sup>3</sup> StA Sbr, notary's office Tholey, Notary BOCHKOLTZ, 1866, no. 1942.

### 3.6 Shoemaker and Linen Weaver Michael KLESEN in Scheuern (Generation 5)

#### *The Linen Weaver*



Fig. 47. Linen weavers in 1610 (from the house books of the Nuremberg Twelve Brother Foundation)

Michael KLESEN (26 Dec 1830–6 Jun 1908, see 3.5, no. 6) married Katharina KIRSCH (b. 18 Jul 1839 in Dörsdorf, d. 24 Apr 1907 in Scheuern), daughter of the farmer Peter KIRSCH (b. 14 Jul 1809 in Bergweiler, d. 20 Sep 1883 in Dörsdorf) and Catharina NICOLEY (b. 10 Feb 1811 in Dörsdorf), who lived in Dörsdorf in the “Lehmkaul”, on 2 May 1861 in Tholey. They resided in the Scheuern “Hiwwelhaus” and had the following children:

1. Kasimir (6 Aug 1861–20 Nov 1928, died in Scheuern), married to Anna Maria HAAG (b. 15 Apr 1870 in Limbach, d. 14 May 1941 in Scheuern), on 20 May 1890 (see below)
2. Peter (b. 28 Feb 1863 in Dörsdorf, d. 1 Jun 1863 in Dörsdorf), twin
3. Catharina (b. 28 Feb 1863 in Dörsdorf, d. 13 May 1896), twin, unmarried
4. Elisabeth (b. 4 Jan 1865 in Dörsdorf, d. 24 Dec 1893), unmarried
5. Matthias (b. 26 Jun 1868 in Scheuern, d. 3 Oct 1923 in Dörsdorf), married on 7 January 1897, to Karoline SCHOMMER (b. 19 Jan 1873 in Illingen, d. 7 Nov 1918 in Dörsdorf), daughter of Mathias Joseph SCHOMMER (b. 7 Oct 1842 in Mitlosheim, d. 6 Apr 1923 in Mitlosheim) and Katharina WOLL (b. 7 Aug 1848 in Illingen, d. 19 Jun 1888 in Mitlosheim), who had married on 14 August 1870 in Illingen (see 4.1)
6. Michael (6 Apr 1870–12 Sep 1872)
7. Michael (5 Nov 1872–11 Oct 1937, died in Dörsdorf), married to Anna Margaretha SCHOMMER (b. 14 Dec 1874 in Illingen, d. Dörsdorf), daughter of Mathias Joseph SCHOMMER and Catharina WOLL, on 27 September 1897 (see below)
8. Peter (23 Jul 1875–11 Mar 1934, died in Neipel), married to Barbara FALK (b. 22 May 1874 in Neipel, d. 28 Feb 1944 in Neipel), daughter of Mathias FALK and Susanne JUNKER on 28 October 1885 in Neipel (see below)
9. Katharina (4 Feb 1878–2 Apr 1891)

To no. 1: Kasimir KLESEN (1861–1928, generation no. 6), married to Anna Maria HAAG on 20 May 1890. They had the following children, born in Scheuern:

- a) Michael (b. 27 Aug 1890, d. 19 Oct 1953 Scheuern–generation no. 7), married to Maria SCHUSTER (b. 30 Apr 1894 in Niederhofen, d. 12 May 1976 in Scheu-

- ern), daughter of Johann SCHUSTER and Elisabeth BRACHMANN (see 5.1.8)
- b) Elisabeth (14 Oct 1892–23 Dec 1972, d. in Scheuern), married to Nikolaus BLUG
  - c) Barbara (1 Dec 1894–1959, died in Regensburg), married to Peter KOCH (b. 17 Sep 1893 in Dörsdorf, d. 1964 in Regensburg), son of Johann KOCH and Anna Maria HOFFMANN
  - d) Kasimir (b. 31 Jul 1897), married to Odilia WILHELM (b. 1896 in Steinbach, d. 1974 in Saarbrücken)
  - e) Maria (1889–1979), married to Alois KOCH (b. 1900 in Dörsdorf, d. 1968 in Püttlingen)
  - f) Aloysius (b. 22 May 1902), married to Elisabeth REICHARDT
  - g) Joseph (3 Sep 1904–11 May 1977, d. in Steinbach), married to Cäcilia SCHUSTER
  - h) Nikolaus (b. 27 Mar 1907), married to Anna Maria KOLZ (b. 4 Feb 1891 in Gresaubach)
  - i) Anna (26 Sep 1909–14 Jan 1970), married to Johann KLEIN
  - j) Johannes (b. 7 Jul 1912), married to Elisabeth HOFFMANN on 8 April 1939 in Herrensohr

To no. 7: Michel KLESEN (b. 1872 in Scheuern, d. 1937 in Dörsdorf), second Chief of the fire brigade Dörsdorf (see figure 48) married Anna Margaretha SCHOMMER (b. 14 Dec 1874 in Illingen) from Mitlosheim on 27 September 1897. They had six children, all born in Dörsdorf:

- a) Michel (27 Aug 1898–20 Apr 1979 in Überroth), married in 1920, in Überroth, to Agnes KLESEN (2 Jan 1897–23 Jun 1981 in Überroth), daughter of Kasimir KLESEN and Barbara KIRSCH, children: aa) Karl (1921–1943, died in World War II), married to Hildegard HOLZ (see fig. 49) (child: Karl Werner, married to Rosemarie JOHANN (d. 1997) and in 2nd marriage to Barbara ENGEL), bb) Erwin, married to Rosemarie in Scheuern, cc) Erich, married to Hildegard in Überroth, dd) Rosi, living in Lockweiler and ee) Anni, married to Otto GERSTNER.
- b) Katharina (1 Apr 1903–27 Jan 1980, d. in Steinbach), married to Johann PERIUS from Steinbach on 25 July 1925. Children: Brigitte, Hans, Felix and Leo
- c) Robert (2 Aug 1905–17 Mar 1982, d. in Dörsdorf), married to Margaretha



Fig. 48. Fire Chief Michel KLESEN (b. 1872) and his wife Anna

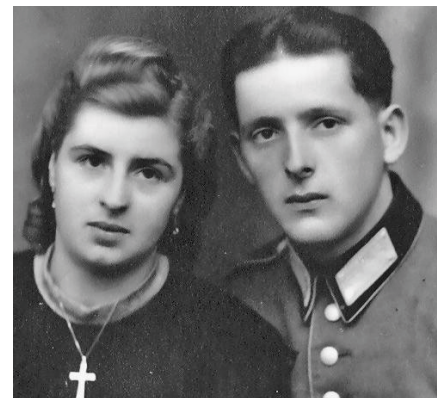


Fig. 49. Soldier Karl KLESEN and his wife Hildegard HOLZ



KIRSCH (d. 17 Mar 1988), child: Erna WAGNER, married to Heinz KASPER in Dörsdorf

- d) Richard (1909–1981), married to Elisabeth SCHOLL (1914–1994), residing in Steinbach, children: aa) Liesel (b. 1938), married to Wilfried MÜLLER (1939–1993) with son Frank, bb) Ilse, married to Toni LINNENBACH (d. 1985), cc) Gisela with son Tassilo and dd) Helga (b. 1954), married to Alfons NAUMANN (children: Anne and Eva)
- e) Maria (2 Sept 1912–2000, died in Dörsdorf), married to Johann THOME (died in World War II)
- f) Anton (18 Feb 1917–2004), married to Erna HOFFMANN (d. 1998), children: aa) Karl Felix, married to Heike BERWANGER (children: Heike, Angelina and Viktoria-Louise) and bb) Christa, living in Altland

To no. 8: Peter KLESEN (1875–1934) and Barbara FALK had the following children, all born in Neipel:

- a) Angela (21 Sep 1902–5 Jan 1920, died in Neipel)
- b) Nikolaus (b. 20 Aug 1904), married first to Elisabeth HERO on 26 June 1933 in Neipel, in 2nd marriage to Elisabeth Angela KRASS on 23 May 1940
- c) Katharina (b. 12 Mar 1906), married to Johann TREIB on 1 October 1934
- d) Elisabeth (23 Mar 1908–14 Feb 1983), married to Peter MÜLLER on 13 November 1933
- e) Mathias (b. 3 Apr 1910), married to Barbara BOMMER in Hasborn on 22 November 1938
- f) Peter (b. 2 Nov 1911), married to Anna DEHMER on 23 June 1947 in Hasborn
- g) Barbara (b. 2 Oct 1913), unmarried

The birth certificate of Michael KLESEN (b. 1830) reads as follows:

<p>N<sup>o</sup>. 173</p> <p>Mayoral office Tholey, district Ottweiler, Civil court Ottweiler</p> <p>On the twenty seventh of the month of December in the year one thousand eight hundred thirty, afternoon at one o'clock. Birth certificate of Michael KLESEN, born on the twenty sixth of December one thousand eight hundred thirty at five o'clock this afternoon in Scheuren, son of Casimir KLESEN, forty five years old, and Catharina JOHAN, thirty four years old, farmers and a married couple in Scheuren. The child's sex is masculine. First witness is Joseph FOLLMANN, sixty seven years old, farmer in Dautweiler. Second witness, Peter THOME, forty two years old, miller in Hasborn. The request for this certificate, which was proposed to us, was made by Casimir KLESEN, the father. After reading, this document was certificated in duplicate original by me, Urban SCHEIER, mayor of Tholey, as a responsible civil service official; he signed with me.</p> <p>So occurred in Tholey on the day, month, and year as above.</p> <p>Casimirus Klesen Peter Thome</p>	<p>Birth certificate no. 4</p> <p>Follmann</p>	<p>Mayor Urban Scheier</p>
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(Source: Birth registry of the community Tholey, 1830, no. 173)



In 1861, Michel married Katharina KIRSCH in Tholey. The transcript of the marriage certificate follows:

Nº. 16

*Marriage file*

*In the year one thousand eight hundred sixty one on the second of May at eleven o'clock in the morning, came to me Nicolaus MERTEN, mayor and civil service official of the mayoral office Tholey, in the district Ottweiler, government area Treves, land court district Saarbrücken:*

*On the one side:*

*Michel KLESEN, according to the presented birth certificate, thirty years old, born in Scheuren, on the twenty six of December one thousand eight hundred thirty, by trade a shoemaker, residing in Scheuren, of age son of Casimir KLESEN, by trade a farmer, residing in Scheuren, here present and in agreement, and his wife Katharina JOHANN without occupation, residing in Scheuren, here present and in agreement.*

*On the other side:*

*Katharina KIRSCH, according to the attached birth certificate, twenty one years old, born in Dörsdorf (Dersdorf), on the eighteenth of July one thousand eight hundred thirty nine, without occupation, residing in Dörsdorf, of age, daughter of Peter KIRSCH, by trade a farmer, residing in Dörsdorf, here present and in agreement, and his wife Katharina NICOLAY without occupation, residing in Dörsdorf, here present and in agreement.*

*They asked me to complete the intended marriage. The proclamations of the marriage had occurred already, first on Sunday, the fourteenth of April in the year one thousand eight hundred fifty nine at ten o'clock in the morning, no. 48 of the register of the proclamation of marriages, and second on Sunday, the twenty first of April in the year one thousand eight hundred sixty one at ten o'clock in the morning, no. 57 of the register of the proclamation of marriages, in Tholey and [...] in Eppelborn; no obstacles or no further oppositions had been expressed against it.*

*Since there were no oppositions against the marriage and since the future spouses also had the necessary consent of their parents and all required by law, as the aforesaid person had confirmed, then I, the official of the civil service in Tholey, who personally read all formalities mentioned scripts as well as chapter 6 of the marriage and the mutual rights and duties of the spouses, then*

*I asked the groom Michel KLESEN,  
if he would marry the bride Katharina KIRSCH?*

*I also asked the bride Katharina KIRSCH,  
if she would marry the groom Michel KLESEN?*

*Because each of them answered the question with yes, I declared Michel KLESEN and Katharina KIRSCH in the name of the Law to be united in legal marriage.*

*I drew up the present file in the presence of four witnesses in duplicate original, namely:*

*1st, Peter MÜLLER, by trade a farmer, forty years old, residing in Tholey, not related to the bride and the groom*

*2nd, Mathias BACKES, by trade a farmer, fifty nine years old, residing in Hasborn not related to the bride and the groom*

*3rd, Wilhelm SCHNEIDER, by trade an innkeeper, forty years old, residing in Tholey, not related to the bride and the groom*

*4th, Wendel MICHELS, by trade a carpenter, forty three years old, residing in Tholey, not related to the bride and the groom.*

*The witnesses, the joint spouses, the present parents with the exception of the two mothers of the bride and the groom, who declared their inability to write, and I signed this file after having held a reading.*

*So occurred in Tholey in the town hall in the mayoral office*

*Tholey on the day, month and year as above.*

*Michel Klesen*

*Katharina Kirsch*

*Klesen*

*Peter Kirsch*

*Müller*

*Backes*

*Schneider*

*Michels*

*Merten*

*Michel Klesen Katharina Kirsch Klesen  
Peter Kirsch Müller Backes Schneider  
Michels Müller*

(Source: Marriage registry of the community Tholey from 2 May 1861, no. 16)

In 1867, Michel (b. 1830), residing in Scheuern, was mentioned as purchaser at an auction held by Notary HESS on the request of Michel SCHERER.

Mathias KLESEN was named as village chief of Scheuern, when the inventory of Johann ENDRES was taken in 1886. However, it is impossible to determine which member of the family KLESEN was Mathias.<sup>1</sup>

Michel KLESEN (presumably born in 1858—see chap. 3.5 no. 3b), by trade a farmer and from Scheuern, was mentioned as a collector in 1913. He collected donations for



Fig. 50. Erich KOCH was standing in front of his house, named "Hiwwelhaus", in Scheuern in 1938. It is said that Michel KLESEN once resided in this house.

the new building of the Scheuern church in the Mayen region at the beginning of the 20th century. Nicolaus KLESEN, Casimir KLESEN and the farmer Mathias KLESEN from Niederhofen were mentioned in the textbook of the church association, as being active collectors for the parish in the towns of Simmern, Altenkirchen, Prüm, Daun and in the Westerwald.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> StA Sbr, notary's office Tholey, Notary HESS, 1867, no. 280, 1869, no. 1356, 1886, no. 1924.

<sup>2</sup> See Jäckel pp. 12–16.

## 4 Lebach-Dörsdorf (Germany, Saarland)

### 4.1 Shoemaker Matthias KLESEN in Dörsdorf (Generation 6)

Michael's third son, the shoemaker Matthias KLESEN (b. 23 Jun 1868 in Scheuern, d. 3 Oct 1923 in Dörsdorf), see 3.6, no. 5, called *Matz*, married Karoline SCHOMMER (19 Jan 1873–7 Nov 1918) from Mitlosheim on 7 January 1897 in Tholey. They lived in Dörsdorf and had the following children, all born in Dörsdorf:

1. Anna (15 Jun 1897–3 Oct 1898)
2. Josef (20 Apr 1899–20 Mar 1963, died in Fischbach) (see 4.2)
3. Peter (29 Dec 1900–7 May 1971) (see below)
4. Katharina (28 Nov 1902–22 Nov 1904)
5. Viktor (b. 23 Oct 1904, died in Dörsdorf)
6. Felix (20 Dec 1905–4 Oct 1965) (see below)
7. Bernhard (20 Jan 1908–30 Mar 1981) (see below)
8. Anna (1912–1930)
9. Alois (22 Feb 1913–17 Dec 1998) (see below)
10. Hubert (22 Sept 1918–4 Nov 1918)

On 7 November 1918, Karoline died in childbed of influenza pandemic two days after her newborn son Hubert died. Matthias was an enthusiastic musician, who was living for the music. He played the violin with great talent and gave violin lessons to his sons Josef and Felix. *Matz* instructed all his sons in different musical instruments and conducted the Dörsdorf village music chapel which accompanied, for example, the Steinbach Corpus Christi processions with live music every year. All his children exercised diligently their musical instruments already at an early age and had played in the village music chapel since they could barely walk and carry an instrument. The sons played the following instruments: Josef, the eldest, played the violin, like his father. Peter made music on the *Bandonika*, a kind of accordion. Felix was a violin, cello, and Saxophone player, Bernhard played tenor horn and trumpet; Alois played (transverse) flute. After their marriages, all sons played in dance bands and music societies or gave music lessons.

*The Shoemaker*



Fig. 51. Shoemaker in 1564



Fig. 52. Matthias KLESEN (b. 1868)



Fig. 53. Anna KLESEN (b. 1912)



To no. 3: Matthias' son Peter KLESEN (1900–1971), coal miner, lived after the early death of his mother until his marriage at the family ZANGERLE's house in Eppelborn. He married first Margaretha Cäcilia SCHMITT (27 Mar 1901–16 Oct 1965, d. in Humes), daughter of Johann SCHMITT from Wiesbach and Katharina PERSCH from Humes, on 14 June 1928 in Eppelborn. The following four children were born in Humes:

1. Felix (1928), married to Walburga FUCHS from Illingen (1928–2012), child: Sonja
2. Viktor (b. 1931), married to Erika PENTH (1929–1977) from Lummerschied, children: Petra and Peter
3. Siegbert (1936–2006), married to Gertrud SCHUHMACHER (b. 1939), daughters: Hiltrud, Sylvia and Christine
4. Theobald (1938–1948) died in an accident with war ammunition in Hierscheid.



**Fig. 56.** Siegbert and Felix play the mandolin (photo 2006)



**Fig. 58.** Siegbert's original "Hopf" mandolin with inlay from the collection of stringed instruments of Felix KLESEN



**Fig. 54.** Peter KLESEN and Margaretha SCHMITT on the day of their golden communion (photo about 1958)



**Fig. 55.** Siegbert, Viktor, Felix and Theobald KLESEN (photo about 1942)

Peter married in a 2nd marriage on 16 November 1966 in Tholey Agnes KIEFER, widow SCHUHMACHER (b. 27 Apr 1909–1980, died in Wustweiler), daughter of Peter KIEFER and Katharina MEISER.

Peter's sons followed in their father's footsteps. Felix played mandolin, mandola (see fig. 58), banjo and organ. In his parental house in Humes (see photo), he gave mandolin lessons to young people in the village. Later, the brothers founded the Humes mandolin society "Blauer Enzian" (Blue Gentian) with Felix as conductor and president. Felix also played music for friends or relatives together with his brother Siegbert, an enthusiastic mandolin player (see figure 56). His brother Viktor completed the musical family, playing the guitar and giving music lessons.





To no. 6: Matthias' son Felix KLESEN (1905–1965), married in October 1931 to Regina KÜHN (1909–1994, d. in Steinbach), daughter of Peter KÜHN and Maria PAULUS. They had the following children, all born in Steinbach:

- a) Susanne (1932–1994), married to Hans HEINRICH (1933-2016), children: Aloisius (b. 1962), Josef (b. 1964) and Sonja (b. 1975)
- b) Marlene Karoline (1935–2016), married to Günter SCHUG (b. 1934), sons: Alfred (b. 1959) and Klaus (b. 1964), married to Rita OSTER (b. 1968), children: Julian (b. 1994) and Lukas (b. 1997)
- c) Adelheid (b. 1937), married to Herbert PESCH with the daughters aa) Silvia (b. 1965), married to Achim RÖDEL (b. 1962), bb) Ruth (b. 1968), cc) Susanne (b. 1970), married to Achim ZWER (b. 1970) with daughter Elena (b. 2004)
- d) Juliane (b. 1939), married to Ernst SCHUG (b. 1935), daughters: aa) Christiane (b. 1961), married to Stefan SCHMIDT (b. 1960) with Beatrix (b. 1978) and Swenja Marie (b. 1991), bb) Jutta Ursula (b. 1965), cc) Birgit (b. 1966) with daughter Frida Regina (b. 2004), dd) Daniela (b. 1967), married to Karl-Peter FUCHS (b. 1965) with Emely (b. 2002) and Tim (b. 2004) and ee) Alexandra (b. 1976)
- e) Ursula (b. 1946), married to Alois JENAL, child: son Thorsten (b. 1976)



Fig. 59. Wedding photo of Felix KLESEN and Regina KÜHN (photo 1931)



Fig. 60. Felix (b. 1905) and Bernhard KLESEN (b. 1908) were active in the music chapel of the Steinbach music society "Harmonie". Felix was for example youth trainer in the 1960s. In the photo, Felix (2nd from left) played the trombone and Bernhard (4th from left) the tenor horn (photo 1950).



Fig. 61. After the war, Alois KLESEN (b. 1913) was a cofounder of the Steinbach marching band called "Spielmannszug Blau-Weiß". His sons Werner and Rudi (†) played the transverse flute in the marching band in the photo (photo 1962).

In the 1920s, Felix founded the so-called Dörsdorf "Schlenkerclub" (see figure 62), which later turned into the "Quartettverein". The members met for rehearsal, serenaded for spouses or when a jubilee was celebrated, they sang at the gravesite of a member who died, were active at events of other associations and visited singing festivals in the area. Felix played the violin, cello and saxophone.



**Fig. 62.** The "Schlenkerclub" in the 1920s, predecessor of the Dörsdorf "Quartettverein" (In the first row from left to right): Johann SCHEDLER and Martin SAAR; (2nd row): Albert SCHUG, Anton SCHEDLER, Sepp LAUCK, Willi BALZER, Alois SCHUG; (3rd row): Gerhard LAUCK, Richard HOFFMANN, Alois AMES, Richard KLESEN, Alfred SCHUG, Robert KLESEN, Bernhard KLESEN, Eduard SCHÄFER, Karl HOFFMANN, Felix KLESEN (photo about 1925)

Felix was a member of the Steinbach music association "Harmonie", which was founded in 1923. The chairman Johann SCHU introduced a new set of statutes on 15 December 1926. Principal director of the new association became the former organist Kasimir KLESEN (see photo). Felix was one of the members of the association who gave lessons to young musicians in the 1960s. In 1962, Hans-Gerd KLESEN took the director's baton from Alois HEWER.



**Fig. 63.** Kasimir KLESEN (d. 1977 in Überroth)



To no. 7: Bernhard KLESEN (21 Feb 1908–30 Mar 1981 d. in Lebach), coal miner, married on 5 Nov 1931 in Eppelborn to Martha GRAF, daughter of Peter GRAF (1865–1939) and Maria SCHERER (1869–1948). The following children were born in Steinbach:

- a) Herbert (b. 1933), teacher, married to Mechtild HILDE HUWIG (b. 1943), daughter of Jakob Alban HUWIG (b. 1915, d. 2004) and Adelheid Anna BONNERTZ (b. 1915), children: aa) Susanne (b. 1963), married to Armin NILLES, daughters: Eva Lena (b. 1993) and Annika (b. 1998); bb) Birgit (b. 1964), married to Michael SCHANZ, sons: Aron, Tristan and Elias, cc) Christof KLESEN (b. 1968), married to Sabine FREY, sons: Jonas Jakob (b. 1998) and Jasper David (b. 1999).
- b) Peter (1934–1934)
- c) Anton Peter (b. 1944), married to Ursula NEIS, daughter of Nikolaus NEIS (b. 1920) and Agnes KUHN, children: Michael and Andreas

To no. 9: Alois KLESEN (1913–1998, d. in Steinbach), married on 28 June 1941 to Christine BERWIAN (1916–2015), daughter of Johann BERWIAN and Katharina NICOLAY, on 10 April 1947. They had the following children, born in Steinbach:

- a) Werner (b. 1948), telecom technician, married to Maria Elisabeth THOMAS (b. 1954), daughter of Alfons THOMAS (1921–2007) and Elisabeth Johanna THEOBALD (b. 1925), children: aa) Bettina (b. 1976), married to Christian JÄCKEL, son: Robin, bb) Isabel (b. 1981), married to Andreas BACKES, daughter: Zoe
- b) Rudi (1949–1968)
- c) Gertrud (b. 1951), educator and florist, married to Karl Heinz GRAF (b. 1950), son of Robert GRAF (1913–1984) and Hedwig ENDRES, children: aa) Katja (b. 1973), married to Christof JOHANN (b. 1970) (child: Nina), bb) Manuel and cc) Alice



Fig. 64. Wedding of Bernhard KLESEN (b. 1908) and Martha GRAF (photo 1931)



Fig. 65. Wedding of Alois KLESEN (b. 1913) and Christine BERWIAN (photo 1947)

On 29 January 1897, Matthias purchased a yard and garden next to his house situated in the area called "Im Ecken" (see figure 66). The following persons appeared before Gerhard SCHULT, Notary in the district of the Royal Prussian Superior Court in Köln: (1) Nikolaus WALTER, coal miner in Dörsdorf, married to Angela KIRSCH, as seller and (2) Matthias KLESEN, shoemaker in Dörsdorf, married to Karoline SCHOMMER, as purchaser. They purchased a parcel in the district of Dörsdorf, area 3, no. 1496/717, "Im Ecken", a yard of one are 54 meters and a garden of 55 meters, no. 11497/719, for the price of 1,200 Deutsch Mark. The document was signed by Nikolaus WALTER, Matthias KLESEN and Notary SCHULT (fees 12 Deutsch Mark).

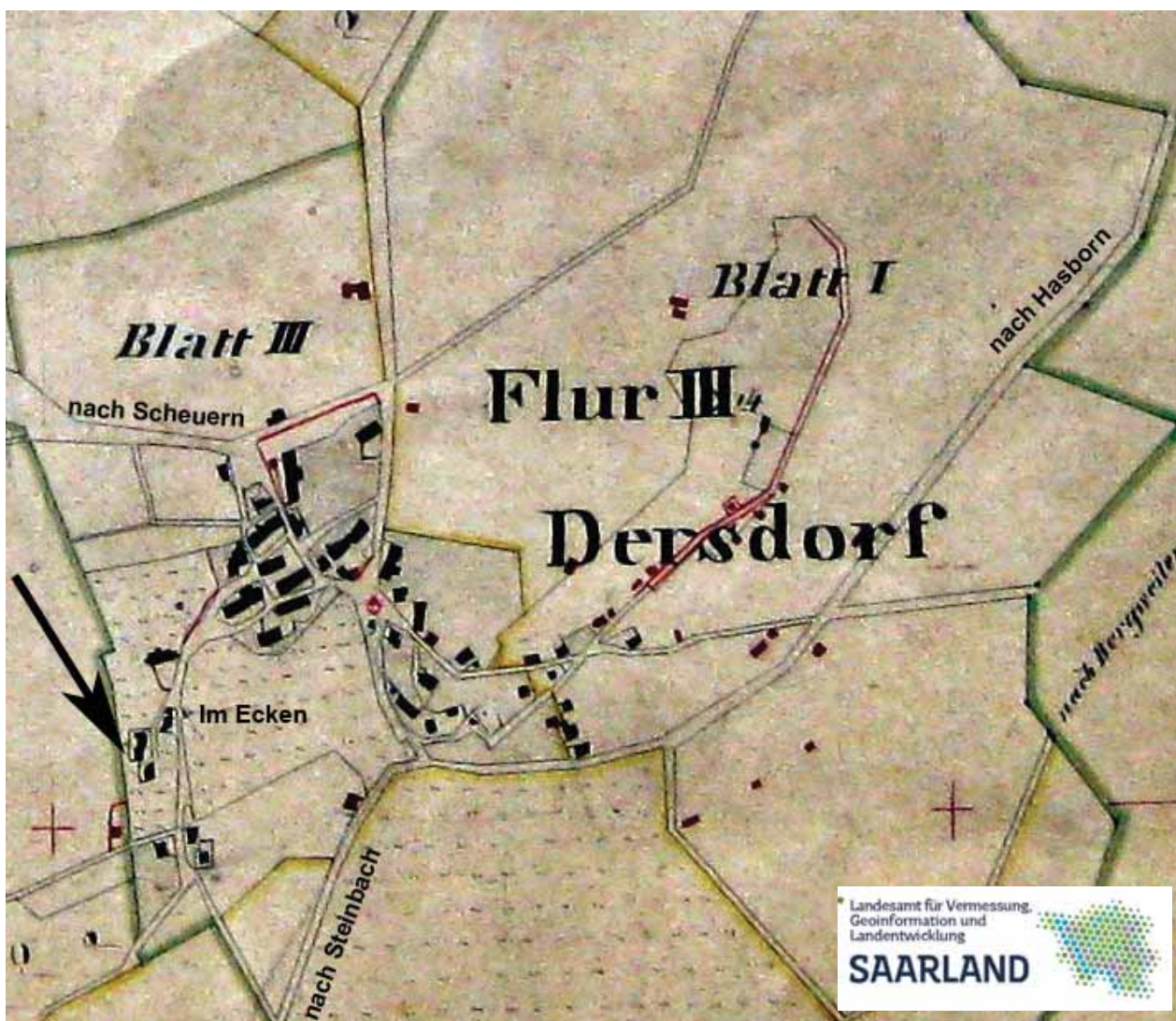


Fig. 66. The house of Matthias KLESEN in the area "Im Ecken" (see arrow on the left) in a map from 1845

Shortly before his death, Mathias (by trade a shoemaker, living in house no. 80) was recorded on the list of candidates A as 7th candidate for the first Dörsdorf municipal election on 8 July 1923 and was elected as a member of the first Dörsdorf council.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> See Schmidt, Schulen pp. 55f.



## 4.2 Coal Miner Josef KLESEN in Dörsdorf (Generation 7)

The coal miner Josef KLESEN (b. 20 Apr 1899 in Dörsdorf, d. 20 Mar 1963 in Fischbach), see 4.1, no. 2, the oldest son of Matthias (b. 1868), married Maria AMES (b. 24 Jun 1902 in Dörsdorf, d. 21 Jan 1984 in Dörsdorf), daughter of Peter AMES and Elisabeth ALT, in Eppelborn in 1922. Eleven children were born in Dörsdorf, of which the sons Josef, Mathias and Martin died in the year of birth.

1. Maria (b. 17 Aug 1924, d. 2000—generation no. 8), married to Emil GROß (1919–2004) from Steinbach in 1944. They had five children: a) Karoline, named Karin, married to Jürgen ENGELDINGER, children: Pascal (†) and Yvonne with Christian KREFT (son Lucien), b) Manfred (†), married to Hannelore SCHNEIDER, c) Gertrud, married first to Hassan DUDIN (d. 1983), children: Mey and Louiza, and in 2nd marriage to Ad KONINGS, d) Isolde, married to Ewald SCHUG, children: Esther and Marcel, e) Armin, married to Helga BOMMER, children: Janina and Julian.
2. Anna, called Helga (1927–2016), married Edgar BESSE (1927–2009) from Steinbach on 2 Jul 1949. They had the following children: a) Michael (b. 1950), children with Brigitte: Simone (daughter Elena) and Sabine, married to Peter KRÄMER (son Carlos), b) Gudula, married to Werner LUDWIG, children: Rainer, married to Petra KUNZ (children: Emily and Lina) and Marc, c) Christel (b. 1953), married to Jean-Claude JACOBY, children: Patrice, married to Petra RAUBER (children: Luisa and Laura), Pierre, Stefanie, married to Karsten MÜLLER, and Raphael, d) Arno, married to Dorothee MECKING, e) Thomas (b. 1958), married to Maria SCHULLIGEN, children: Andreas, Tobias and Nathalie Katharina, and f) Marion, married to Christoph NEIS, children: Celine and Adrienne (generation no. 8 to 11).



Fig. 67. Maria AMES and Josef KLESEN (photo about 1922)



Fig. 68. Maria KLESEN and Emil GROSS



Fig. 69. Helga KLESEN and Edgar BESSE

3. Rosalia (1930–2004), married to Leander STEIMER (1929–2016) from Riegelsberg in 1955. They had the children: Martin (1956–1996), Andreas (b. 1971) and Renate (b. 1961), married first to Klaus BÜCH (d. 2007), daughters: Michaela and Katrin (with son Luca), and in 2nd marriage to Manfred ZIMMERMANN in 2009.
4. Helmut (b. 1933), married to Theresia SCHOLL (b. 1933), daughter of Michael SCHOLL (b. 1890) and Katharina HENKES (b. 1891) from Hasborn. They had the following children: Nikolaus (1957–1957), Armin (1960–1986), Gerhard (1961–2015), Michael (b. 1964) and Rainer (b. 1968).
5. Anita (b. 1 Jan 1936), married to Karlheinz SCHNEIDER (1938–1998) from Hasborn in 1959. They have five children: a) Toni (b. 1960) married to Marianne BRITZ, children: Julia and Benjamin, b) Monika, married first to Dietmar SCHWIRTZ, daughters: Jessica, Helena and Rebecca (twins), c) Peter and Heike have the son Felix, d) Klaus (d. 2006) and e) Erik, married to Katja LINNENBACH, children: Henning and Nina.
6. Walburga (b. 8 Jun 1937), married to Engelbert BRADL (1933–2002) from Wiesbach in 1960. They have the sons Max (b. 1965) and Rainer (b. 1972) and the grandson Julian.
7. Manfred (14 Oct 1939–2006), unmarried
8. Günter (1 Feb 1941–2009), married to Rita JOHANN (1948–2006) from Dörsdorf in 1968. They had three children: a) Christian, married to Blandine KASPER, children: Anne-Kathrin, married to Thomas ENDRES (Matida and Paula) and Caroline, b) Britta, married to Lothar GILLENBERG, children: Louis and Maj, c) Kathrin, married to Arno PETER.



Fig. 70. Rosalie and Leander



Fig. 71. Theresia and Helmut



Fig. 72. Anita and Karlheinz



Fig. 74. Rita and Günter



Fig. 73. Walburga and Engelbert

Josef grew up in a very musical family. His father Matthias (b. 1868) had conducted the Dörsdorf music chapel; after his father's death in 1923, Josef "inherited" his father's role in the chapel. According to townspeople, Josef played the violin as no other person had ever before in his village. In order to buy an old violin they sold a cow; it should be mentioned that at that time a cow supported a family because she would bear a calf every year and would deliver the necessary milk for the family. The purchased old violin is said to have had a unique sound, similar to a Stradivari violin<sup>1</sup>. It was sent to Switzerland to be repaired after his death. This violin is still owned by the KLESEN family today. The figure 75 shows a similar baroque violin with a lion's head from the Felix KLESEN collection. Josef was referred to as an accredited musician in his membership card of the Reich Music Chamber in Berlin from 31 January 1941.

He gave accordion lessons to each of his children and conducted his own music band together with his brother Felix (saxophone), with Sepp LAUCK (saxophone) and *Matts* LAUCK (drum), and later with *Schage* Fritz SCHEDLER from Steinbach on the drums. In the beginning, his daughter Maria accompanied him on the accordion, then his daughter Rosalie and his sons Helmut and Günter after the war. Helga also learned to play the accordion, Anita played the accordion, organ and guitar, Walburga the zither. The violin was the leading instrument for the musical accompaniment in Josef's dance band, since it was responsible for the true rhythm of the songs.

The band named "The Klesens" first played dance music in the inn "Stipp" in Dörsdorf, then in Hasborn in the inn "Post" and in the restaurant in the village cen-



**Figure 75.** Old Baroque violin with lion's head of Felix KLESEN



**Figure 76.** Rosalie (b. 1930) and Helga (b. 1927) pose with the violins and Maria (b. 1924) plays the accordion



**Figure 77.** Josef KLESEN (behind left) with the precursor of the Dörsdorf music association (photo from the 1920s)

<sup>1</sup> STRADIVARI, Antonio (b. 1644 in Cremona (?), d. 18 Dec 1737 in Cremona), Italian violin maker (The Brockhaus Music p. 673).



ter, which had a dance room, but also in Bergweiler and Sotzweiler. During the first years, they collected money in a hat at the end of every musical event. But when the innkeeper noticed that the hat was always full, Josef's dance music ensemble was engaged after having agreed to a fixed payment. At that time, an old dance game enjoyed great popularity, the so-called "kiss waltz", in which the couple who should be brought together, had to be situated in a heart of chalk at the end of the song. During the dance, the dance master drew with chalk a large heart on the floor in the center of the room. All couples who stood in the center of the heart, when the music stopped playing, could not continue dancing before the gentleman gave the lady a kiss (on the hand).<sup>1</sup> This dance was especially popular after the war when, from week to week, more soldiers returned from Russia. By dancing this waltz to the music of the KLESEN combo, people could temporarily forget about the deprivations and the captivity of the war.

Josef was already interested in local politics at an early age and was a candidate for a mandate in the Dörsdorf village council. The coal miner Josef KLESEN, living in the house no. 9, ran as 7th candidate on the list 2 for the Labor Party in the local election on 11 July 1926. In the election of 17 November 1929, he participated as 3rd candidate of list 3 (Labor Party) and in 1932 as no. 2 of the list 4 (Labor Party no. 2) along with the coal miner Robert KLESEN. However, none of these attempts was successful.<sup>2</sup>



**Figure 78.** The wooden grave of Josef KLESEN in the Steinbach cemetery

After World War II, he continued his engagement in local politics and was finally elected to the village council in 1956. Anton KLESEN was also a member of the local council from 1956 to 1960. After World War II, the Dörsdorf village mayors were Josef KAPPLER (1946–1949), Josef FEIT (1949–1955), Fridolin PETER (1956–1960), Nikolaus NIKOLAY (1960–1964) and Johann SCHERER (1964–1979). In this period, all political persons stood up for building a new church with cemetery and mortuary as well as for the recognition of Dörsdorf as a climatic health resort. But Josef did not live to see the inauguration of the "Maria Königin" church in 1964, which was built on his personal initiative. He was buried in the Steinbach cemetery (see figure 78).

Josef was also interested in cultivating fruit orchards. He was the founder of the Dörsdorf fruit and garden association and first chairman of the association from 1946 until 1959. Today, Werner KLESEN (b. 1948) holds this post in Hasborn and Anton KLESEN in Eppelborn, the latter being the 13th chairman of the Eppelborn fruit and garden association since the 1990s. Josef was especially praised for tree pruning. Behind his house in the so-called "Gänseecken" and on the "Krumenstein" (also called "Bergkopp") in the district behind the hill, he owned some

<sup>1</sup> See Gööck p. 54.

<sup>2</sup> See Schmidt, Schulen pp. 55f.



parcels of land with fruit trees and a small garden shed for an after-lunch nap. Still today, these fruit orchards with many trees originally planted by him are owned and maintained by the family.

When Maria AMES married Josef in 1922, she lived in a household wherein Josef's late mother Karoline SCHOMMER had left behind five minor children. When her father-in-law died one year later, the young married couple was not only responsible for their own eight children born beginning in 1924, but also for the other children. Maria was the oldest daughter of the local resident Peter AMES and his wife Elisabeth ALT who were living in his house at the "Starz". Peter was the last name carrier of the AMES line in Dörsdorf, which had been living in the village since the middle of the 18th century and had originated from Bergweiler and Scheuern. The AMES ancestors were blacksmiths and innkeepers and had a small brick factory in the area called "Griesert". Today, the name AMES cannot be found in Dörsdorf anymore (see the Immigration to America in chapter 5.3).



**Fig. 79.** Family Peter AMES<sup>1</sup> and Elisabeth ALT (sitting) in front of their house in Dörsdorf at the "Starz" with their children Paula AMES, Martin AMES, Franziska Elisabeth AMES, Alois AMES, Rosa AMES with her husband Henz LAUER and Maria AMES with her husband Josef KLESEN (behind from left to right) (photo before 1937)

<sup>1</sup> Peter AMES (31 Oct 1874–1937, died in Dörsdorf), coal miner, son of Peter AMES, mine blacksmith, and Elisabeth SCHMITT, married Elisabeth ALT (26 Aug 1876–1958, died in Dörsdorf) on 28 August 1898 in Eppelborn (see Storb/Naumann/Naumann pp. 67 and 59).

## 5 Immigration to America

### 5.1 Johann KLESEN and Anna SCHMITT in Chicago, Illinois, USA (Generation 6)

Johann KLESEN (b. 20 Mar 1857 in Scheuern, Saarland, Germany, d. 11 Apr 1933 in

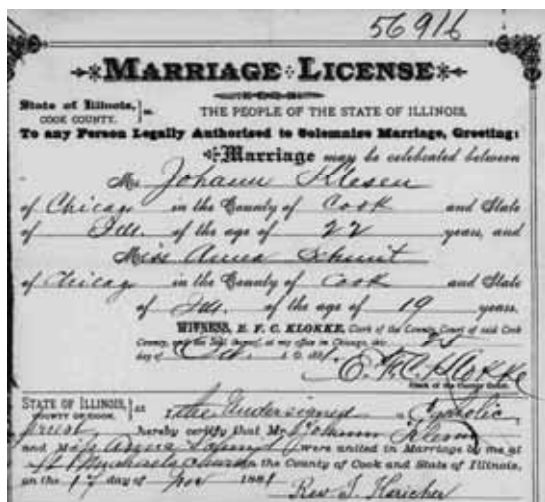


Fig. 80. Marriage License of Johann KLESEN and Anna SCHMITT in 1881

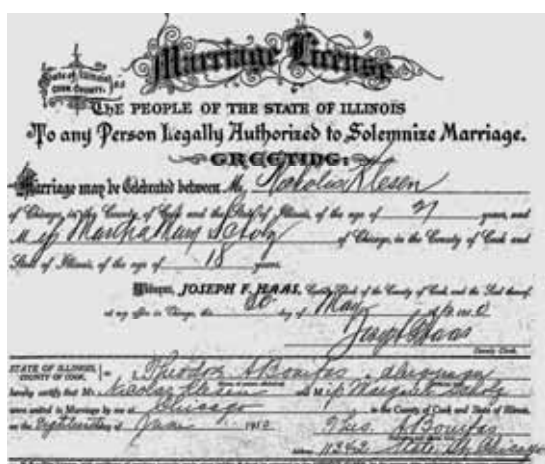


Fig. 81. Marriage License of Nicholas KLESEN and Martha SCHOLZ in 1910



Fig. 82. Marriage of Nicholas KLESEN and Martha SCHOLZ in 1910

Northfield, Cook, Illinois), see 3.3, no. 14f, bb, son of Michel KLESEN (b. 1825) and Margaretha BLUG, married on 17 November 1881 in Cook County, Illinois, Anna SCHMITT (b. 8 Sep 1862 in Germany, d. 10 Nov 1923 in Chicago), daughter of Johann SCHMITT and Katharine MOTTER. They had the following children born in Chicago:

1. Nicholas or Nick (*Nikolaus*, b. 28 Apr 1889), married on 1 Jun 1910 to Martha SCHOLZ (b. 1892 in Chicago), daughter of Adam and Eva SCHOLZ (b. Breslau, Germany, immigrated in 1886). He was a steel cabinet and tool maker. They had the child Antoinette Josephine (b. 10 Mar 1912 in Chicago).
2. Anthony (*Anton*, b. 21 Nov 1891, d. Sept. 1970 in Antioch, Lake, Illinois), married in 1922 to Mary SCHWARTZ (b. 1886 in Chicago). He was a chauffeur (in 1920) and steelworker. They had the child LaVerne Mary (b. 16 Sep 1921 in Chicago).
3. Clara J. (7 Aug 1897–1947), married on 20 Jun 1917 to Otto R. MACHOLL (b. 1896 in Chicago). They had the child Grace Marie (b. 10 Jun 1918 in Chicago).
4. Joseph (1899–6 Dec 1956, died in Cook County, Illinois), married to Pearl Eve KROSS (b. 17 Apr 1899 in Petersburg, PA, d. 2 Nov 1981 in Chicago), child: Anthony James (b. 17 Apr 1920 in Fort Sheridan, Illinois, d. 9 Oct 1989 in Rensselaer, Jasper, Indiana), married to Eleonor Pauline SOSKE (b. 12 Feb 1914 in Illinois, d. 18 Mar 1988 in Rensselaer), children: aa) Anthony (b. 1946), married to Stephanie Roberta RADLIFF (b. 1948), children: 1. Anthony (b. 1972) lives in Las Vegas, NV and 2. Kimberly A. KLESEN (b. 1975), married to Christopher STANLEY in Burbank, CA, bb) John B., cc) Joseph J. and dd) Kenneth (died as an infant).
5. Anna (d. 1903)



Johann KLESEN (b. 1857 in Scheuern, d. 1934 in Northfield, Illinois) immigrated to America in 1879 without any arrangements. Family lore says he left his home village on the spur of the moment after a brawl with other boys to impress girls at the parish fair. A policeman came to his house the next morning to take him to the jailhouse for three weeks as punishment. Johann quickly packed some clothes and money and fled through the back door of the house. Together with an uncle he went to Holland and took the next ship to America. In Chicago, Johann worked in the glass industry, where he lost his sight due to an industrial accident.

Johann's father Michael died in 1870 and his mother Margaretha had to earn a living as a farmer with her family of six children. Either when her oldest daughter Katharina married Johann SCHNUR in 1872 or after Katharina's death in 1875, Margaretha decided to make a private division of her landed property. It must have been before 1879, the year of Johann's immigration to America, because in 1884 his attorney Peter KLEIN explained before a notary that his client (Johann KLESEN) was present when the building and property were allocated and he agreed to it. In 1884, Margaretha decided to document the private division by a notarized act. For the purpose of the division, she drew up the latest extract of the property tax register before Mayor SCHNEIDER in Tholey at the mayor's office on 24 January 1884. Therein, the widow is registered with the properties of her deceased husband, called *Michel CLÄSEN SCHOLL*, and as owner. She did not divide all her land and buildings, but rather she retained a part of it for herself and her unmarried children.

Surely, John's mother informed him in Chicago in the spring of 1884 of the division. Since he would not travel to Germany, he determined to execute a power of attorney, by which a client was able to handle all legal transactions concerning the transfer of the properties and finally the sale in Germany. On 30 May 1884, the factory hand (employee) Johann KLESEN and his wife Anna, residing at Hudson Avenue no. 348 in the City of Chicago, in the County of Cook and State of Illinois, United States of America, appeared before the Notary Public Mathias SCHMITZ to execute a power of attorney (see fig. 83), that was seen and witnessed by the Imperial German Consul the next day. The couple ascribed this power of attorney to Johann's friend Peter KLEIN (farmer), residing in Scheuern, district

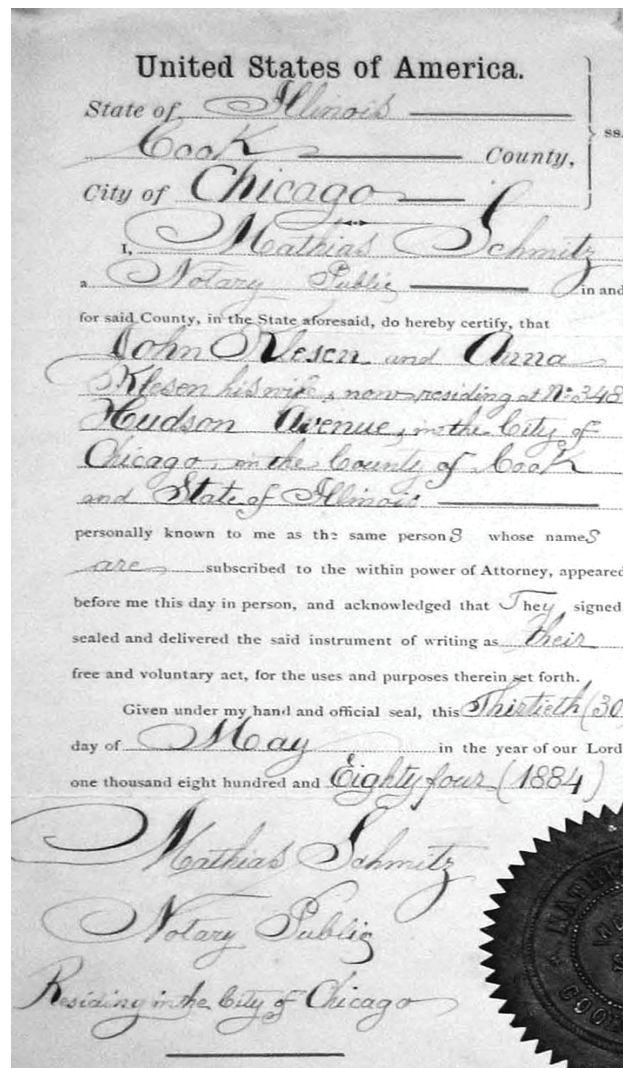


Fig. 83. Power of attorney to Peter KLEIN in Germany, certified by Johan KLESEN

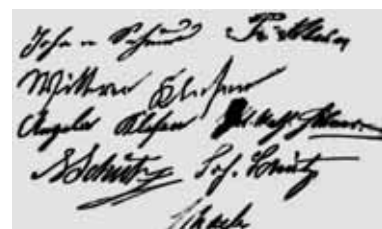
Ottweiler, government district Trier, Kingdom of Prussia. The document was given under the hand and official seal of Notary SCHMITZ the thirtieth day of May in the year of the Lord *one thousand eight hundred and eighty four* (1884) and signed by Notary Public Mathias SCHMITZ. Johann immediately ordered his attorney to send him the monies coming from Germany by Postal Money Order. Auto-graph signatures: *Johann Klesen, Anna Klesen.*



Indeed the document was sent by post to Peter KLEIN in Germany, because on 4 June 1884 Peter met with others to document the division of properties that had taken place years before, presumably some years after the death of his father Michel. His mother also gave some parcels as a gift to Johann's siblings. It was confirmed that Angela, wife of the teacher Peter Mathias SCHNUR, residing in Spiesen, Saarland, drew the first lot, the second lot was drawn by Johann SCHNUR as guardian of his children with the deceased Katharina SCHNUR born KLESEN and Johann KLESEN, in Chicago at that time, drew the third lot. Kasimir KLESEN as an orphan's guardian and the teacher Peter SCHNUR plus Peter KLEIN as sworn care workers of the minor children of Johann SCHNUR were also present due to the later juridical authorization by the Tholey guardians' court. All three were also estimators and they certified with their signature that all lots had as many as possible properties of the same quality and that no visible difference existed between the lots.



This acknowledgement was listed in the notarial registration as a donation in Tholey on 1 October 1884 and as having occurred in the office of the Royal Prussian notary Josef Hubert SCHAEFER, where Margaretha was present to make the donation legal and binding and to repeat all this in the preceding manner by a notarized contract. In addition to Margaretha as donor, the following persons were present to receive the donation: (1) Angela KLESEN, without occupation, wife of teacher Peter Mathias SCHNUR (here first called *Klesen*), both residing in Spiesen, Saarland. (2) The minor children of the deceased Katharina KLESEN, born in the marriage with the farmer Johann SCHNUR, residing in Scheuern: Jacob and Angela SCHNUR, residing with the aforementioned father as their guardian, both without occupation and residing in Scheuern. (3) Johann KLESEN, factory worker in Chicago, state of Illinois, United States of North America. The following lots were drawn: first lot received by Angela KLESEN authorized by her husband. Second lot for the minors was accepted by notary and guardian Johann SCHNUR from Scheuern. Third lot for Johann KLESEN, residing in Chicago, accepted by his attorney farmer Peter KLEIN residing in Scheuern, based on the witnessed and legalized power of attorney from 21 May 1884, attached to this contract. The lots' drawing was agreed to by the contracting parties. Signatures: *Johan Schnur, P. Klein, widow Klesen, Angela Klesen, Pet. Math. Schnur, Schütz, Joh. Schütz, Schaefer* (notary).<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> See StA Saarbrücken, notary office Tholey, notary SCHAEFER 1884 no. 864.



A listing of the lots was attached to this contract as a so-called private separation of the real estate of the deceased Michel KLESEN, that was prepared by Kasimir KLESEN and teacher Peter SCHNUR as valuers. They had jointly allocated several parcels of land for each lot. The first lot of Angela KLESEN included 12 parcels with a value of 1,703 German Marks, the second lot of SCHNUR 16 parcels with a value of 1,642 Marks and the third lot of Johann KLESEN in Chicago spanned 12 parcels of land to the amount of 1,713 Marks. The lots were drawn on 4 June 1884 in Scheuern. The properties were also registered in the property tax list of Scheuern, where the plots of the widow of *Michel CLÄSEN SCHOLL*, in Scheuern were situated.<sup>1</sup> But it is not known when Johann KLESEN in Chicago received his monies (1,713 German Marks).

John KLESEN and his family were mentioned in U.S. Censuses as follows:<sup>2</sup>

1910 Census, Ward 24 Chicago, Cook Co., IL

John J.	Head	Age 53	Married once for 28 years	Born: Germany	Occupation: Laborer
			Immigrated in 1879 and is a naturalized citizen		
Anna	Wife	Age 47	Married once for 28 years 7 children of whom 5 are alive	Born: Germany	
			Immigrated in 1863		
Nick	Son	Age 21	Single	Born: Illinois	Occupation: Trimmer
Anthony	Son	Age 18	Single	Born: Illinois	
Clara	Dau	Age 12	Single	Born: Illinois	
Joseph	Son	Age 10	Single	Born: Illinois	
Anna	Dau	Age 7	Single	Born: Illinois	

1920 Census, Ward 24 Chicago, Cook Co., IL

John J.	Head	Age 62	Married	Born: Germany,	Occupation: Street Laborer
			Immigrated in 1879 and was naturalized in 1888		
Anna	Wife	Age 57	Married	Born: Germany	
			Immigrated in 1879 [doesn't agree with 1910 census] and is a naturalized citizen		
Anthony	Son	Age 28	Single	Born: Illinois	Occupation: Chauffeur
Anna D	au	Age 17	Single	Born: Illinois	

1920 Census, Ward 9 Chicago, Cook Co., IL [Note: name is misspelled as "Kleven"]

Nicholas	Head	Age 31	Married	Born: Illinois	Occupation: Steel Cabinet maker in a car shop
Martha	Wife	Age 28	Married	Born: Illinois	
Antoinette	Dau	Age 7	Single	Born: Illinois	
Eva Scholz	Mother-in-law	Age 62	Widow	Born: in Breslau	Immigrated 1886,
			naturalized in 1890		
John B. McCray	Nephew	Age 26	Married	Born: Kansas	
Irene McCray	Niece	Age 18	Married	Born: Illinois	

1930 Census, Ward 9 Chicago, Cook Co., IL [Note: name is mis-spelled as "Kresen"]

Nicholas	Head	Age 42	Married	Born: Illinois	Occupation: Tool maker metal pattern shop
Martha	Wife	Age 38	Married	Born: Illinois	
Antoinette	Dau	Age 18	Single	Born: Illinois	

1930 Census, Ward 45 Chicago, Cook Co., IL [Note: name is mis-spelled as "Klesan"]

Anthony F.	Head	Age 38	Married (at age 30)	Born: Illinois (both parents born in Germany)	Occupation: Chauffeur
Mary	Wife	Age 38	Married (at age 30)	Born: Illinois	
LaVerne	Dau	Age 8	Single	Born: Illinois	
John	Father	Age 73	Widower	Born: Germany	

<sup>1</sup> See StA Saarbrücken, notary office Tholey, notary SCHÄFER 1884 no. 854, 1885 no. 1190.

<sup>2</sup> Extracted from Ancestry.com by Jim Carpenter, El Cajon, CA.

## 5.2 Catharina KLESEN and Peter PUHL in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA

Catharina KLESEN (b. 13 Jun 1809 in Scheuern, Germany, d. before 1900), daughter of Johannes KLESEN (1780–1861) and Margaretha FINKLER (see 3.3.2), married Peter PUHL (6 Jun 1804–d. before 1870), son of Mathias PUHL (1770–1843) and Catharina BACKES (1776–1835), on 23 January 1833 in Scheuern. The couple PUHL/KLESEN considered emigrating to America in 1840, which is why in the spring of 1840 they auctioned off their home and household furnishings with a profit of 193.18 thaler. Also, they generated proceeds of 72.20 thaler by a public lease of land (249.23 thaler) at a voluntary public auction, all together 514.41 German thaler. The Ottweiler tradesman Johann COBLENTZ paid them even more than the total amount, namely 881.18 thaler by a reduction of 5 percent on the outstanding amount. Peter PUHL took the money from his parental inheritance, so that he had enough cash to set out for America. Peter's father Mathias PUHL died in 1843, but Peter PUHL and his wife didn't emigrate until 1848. Only on 20 December 1851 Peter gave a power of attorney to Nicolas BACKES in Theley to auction off his inherited estate for a price of 444 thaler and 5 pennies. In this contract, it was noted that Peter PUHL was residing as a farmer in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. One year later, Peter PUHL issued a bill to Jacob COBLENTZ, because COBLENTZ had received the outstanding amount of money. Catharina KLESEN and Peter PUHL did not emigrate in 1840, when Maria, born SCHERER, from Scheuern and her husband Johann HACK, both farmers in Niederlosheim, Saarland, Germany, emigrated to St. John in Wisconsin. Catharina and Peter probably emigrated around 1848 or 1849, when the youngest SCHERER brother emigrated.

The couple HACK gave a power of attorney to Maria's brother-in-law Jacob SCHNUR, teacher in Scheuren, on 2 April 1840 before their trip to America. Jacob SCHNUR was authorized to manage all affairs like issue of inventories, inheritance matters, auctions etc. Given under the hand and official seal of the Notary the 2nd day of April *in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty*. Signed by *J. Hack, Maria Scherer, Joh. Becker, P. Besse, Bochkoltz*.<sup>1</sup>

Peter PUHL was mentioned in the Tholey notary ship's files of 1851 as a farmer in Pittsburgh. Presumably, Peter died before 1880, as he was not listed in the 1880 census. His widow Catharine PUHL (b. 1810) from Prussia, 70 years old, was registered in the household of the grocer Lorenz LATTNER (b. 1844 in Darmstadt, Hessen) as mother-in-law in Allegheny, Pennsylvania. Her son Peter PUHL, born in 1834 in Germany (Prussia), was named as moulder and head of household in the 6th Ward, Precinct 1, Allegheny, Pennsylvania.<sup>2</sup>

Per the 1880 census, Peter PUHL and Catharine KLESEN had the following children:

1. Peter (b. 1834 in Scheuern, Prussia), married to Anna Mary LATTNER (b. 1837 in Darmstadt, Hessen, Germany, d. about 1928) in 1858 in Pittsburgh, PA. Anna

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<sup>1</sup> See StA Saarbrücken, notary office Tholey, notary BOCHKOLTZ 1840 nos. 152–154, 278, 1951 no. 377, 1852 no. 12, 1840 no. 258.

<sup>2</sup> See US census 1880 on the Internet at [familysearch.org](http://familysearch.org).

- Mary LATTNER immigrated in 1845 from Antwerp, Belgium, on the ship "Hudson". Peter worked in Allegheny City as a laborer in 1860 and as a retail grocer in 1870. They had the children: a) George W. (b. Nov. 1858 in Pittsburgh), b) Julia (b. 1862), c) Elisabeth (b. 1864), d) Frank (b. 1868) and e) Joseph (1869–d. before 1880).
2. Michel (b. 1834 Scheuern, Prussia), married to Elisabeth
  3. Philomena (b. 1843 Scheuern, Prussia), married to Lorenz LATTNER (3 children)
  4. Nicholas (b. 1845 Scheuern, Prussia)
  5. John (b. 15 Aug 1847 Scheuern, Prussia, d. 6 Aug 1916), married to Emma STUCKWISCH on 15 Apr 1868, daughter of John George F. STUCKWISCH and Philomena SCHUMACHER. They had the following children: a) Minnie (1869–1870), b) Maisy (1870–1959), c) Ida B. (1872–1953), d) Henry L. (1873–1933), e) Mary (b. 1874), f) George F. (1875–1921), g) Charles (b. 1876), h) John William (1880–1955), i) Bertha L. (1887–1975), j) Grace E. (1892–1967).
  6. Frank J. (17 Jul 1848–24 Feb 1881)
  7. Margaret (b. 1849 in Pennsylvania)<sup>1</sup>

Twelve entries of the family name PUHL are mentioned in the US phone book in Pittsburgh and Allegheny City which was incorporated into Pittsburgh in 1907.

### 5.3 Jacob and Nikolas AMES in Potosi, Wisconsin, USA

Barbara KLESEN (b. 20 May 1833 in Scheuern, Tholey, Saarland, Germany, d. 26 Dec 1916 in Dörsdorf, Lebach, Saarland, Germany), daughter of Johannes KLESEN 2nd (b. 1796), named SCHOLL, and Barbara Katharina CONRAD, married Peter AMES (b. 19 May 1828 in Dörsdorf, d. 16 Jun 1873 Dörsdorf), son of Peter AMES<sup>2</sup> and Elisabeth SCHEDLER, on 13 February 1854 in Eppelborn. They lived in Dörsdorf. Peter's brothers Jacob and Nikolas AMES emigrated in the summer of 1852 to North America. In Antwerp, Belgium, they booked passage on the ship "Leopoldville" which originated in Germany and arrived in New York on 17 August 1852. Their father Peter AMES died on 8 Nov 1857 in Dörsdorf and the children came into their parental inheritance.

On 15 Dec 1858, Peter and Mathias AMES, their brother remaining in Dörsdorf, met with the notary. Mathias was the private attorney of his brother Nikolas AMES resident in *Potosi Grant Counti, Staat Wisconsin, in Nordamerika* (as it was written down in the German notarial contract). The farmer Peter AMES and his wife Barbara born KLESEN, both farmers in Dörsdorf, purchased from the emigrated Nikolas the following real properties, that he had inherited

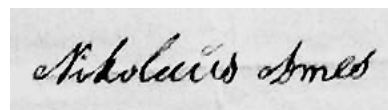
from his deceased parents from Dörsdorf Peter AMES and Elisabetha SCHEDLER: one field of farmland in the district of the village Bergweiler and 17 fields of farmland and meadows in the Dörsdorf district for 750 thaler Prussian currency. Peter AMES and Barbara committed to pay the price in four installments at five percent interest to the



<sup>1</sup> See 1860 United States Federal Census, see more on <http://familytreemaker.genealogy.com/>

<sup>2</sup> Peter AMES (b. 28 Nov 1800 in Bergweiler, d. 8 Nov 1857 in Dörsdorf), son of the farmer Adam AMES and Margaretha PUHL married in Tholey Elisabeth SCHEDLER (b. 8 Nov 1799 in Dörsdorf, d. 7 Apr 1856 in Dörsdorf) on 27 November 1820 (see Storb/Naumann/Naumann pp. 65-68 and p. 810).

Tholey tradesman Jacob BAEHR, namely "in the hands" and "in the apartment" of Mr. BAEHR. Witnesses were the farmer Johann SCHUH and the prison warden Johann HAUSBERGER. A power of attorney from the Royal Prussian Consulate in Cincinnati in the State of Ohio, in the U.S. of North America from 10 Nov 1858 was attached to the sale document. The document written in German and English was signed by the Consul Carl Friedrich ADAE and by Nikolas AMES. In order to pay the amount of 750 thaler, Barbara KLESEN auctioned off her inheritance properties in Scheuern on 24 Feb 1859. She received proceeds of 487 thaler 20 groschen at this voluntary public auction.



Jacob AMES (1827–1900) lived in *Clayton City in Clayton County im Staate Iowa in Nordamerika* in 1858. According to a German notarial contract Jacob wanted to auction off his paternal inheritance that he had received in Dörsdorf, Germany, after the death of his parents in 1857. Therefore Jacob went to the notary Jacob NICKLAUS in Guttenberg, Clayton County in Iowa on 18 January 1858 in order to issue a general power of attorney to his friend Johannes HOFFMANN, carpenter in Dörsdorf. The document was legalized on 1 February 1858 at the Prussian Consulate in St. Louis Missouri and sent to Peter AMES, *Dersders, district Ottweiler*. The Tholey notary BOCHKOLTZ took it to the auction on 9 March 1858 when all objects of the inheritance were

## The Brick Maker



Fig. 84. Brick maker about 1568

sold (all together 161 items). Present were the brick maker Johann BOHNENBERGER from Dörsdorf, Peter AMES and Anna AMES, minor sister, and also Mathias AMES. Kasimir KLESEN auctioned a drilling hammer and driller for 26 groschen. The auction brought a total of 745 thaler. Jacob AMES' share was 85.25 thaler and the widow STRASS' portion only 7.10 thaler. At a second auction in Dörsdorf on 21 March 1858, Jacob AMES received revenues of 1.029 thaler and 10 groschen selling 21 acres, gardens, meadows and wild fields.<sup>1</sup>

On 24 April 1858, the AMES siblings sold their parts of a brick-yard when the following people appeared before the notary: (1) The Dörsdorf farmer Johann HOFFMANN authorized by Jacob AMES, (2) Peter AMES, farmer and innkeeper in Dörsdorf as attorney for his brother Nicolas AMES in Potosi in North America (see above), (3) Anne AMES and (4) Mathias AMES, both resident in Dörsdorf. They all sold a field in *Griesert* in the hemp garden and their brick-yard with all corre-

<sup>1</sup> State Archive Sbr, notary office Tholey, notary BOCHKOLTZ, 1858, nos. 107 and 108.



sponding equipment and a second field in *Griesert*, all in Dörsdorf district, to the brick maker Johann BOHNENBERGER and his wife Elisabetha AMES from Dörsdorf for 336 thaler, 280 thaler for the five parts. In the same year 1858, Mathias AMES purchased their parental home, a residence called "Altmengeshaus", which was under the security of Johann HOFFMANN for 208 thaler 10 groschen. In May 1858, they auctioned off further 16 parcels of land for 499 thaler 20 groschen. It is not clear if those were all the parcels they sold, since the Tholey tradesman Jacob BÄHR issued a deed of assignment of 650 thaler for Jacob AMES in Clayton in North America in 1859.<sup>1</sup>

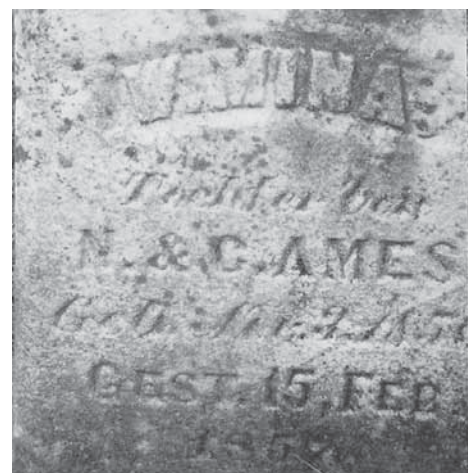
By auctioning off their inherited property by power of attorney and by purchasing parts of the family land Barbara KLESEN and her husband Peter AMES supported the emigration of Peter's brothers. The immigrants had now received enough money to seek their fortune in America.

Nickolaus AMES (b. 1 Apr 1830 in Dörsdorf, Trier, Prussia, Germany, d. 29 Oct 1877 in Potosi-Tennyson, Tennyson, Wisconsin) married on 4 Nov 1855 in Potosi, Grant County, Wisconsin Christina SCHOLL (b. 25 Jun 1838 in *Eilen/Erleen* [?], Prussia, Germany, d. 4 Apr 1916 in St. Andrew's, Tennyson, Wisconsin), daughter of Peter J. SCHOLL and Wilhelmina ROEMER. Christina and her parents arrived in New York on 2 July 1845 aboard the ship "Brutus". In the 1880 census, Christina was registered as widow and mother-in-law in the household of the farmer Joseph BLUEMER (b. 1854 in Wisconsin) in Potosi. They had the following children, all born in Wisconsin:

1. Wilhelmina AMES (b. Jun 1858 Wisconsin, d. 1925), married on 22 January 1878 to Frank Joseph PLUEMER, son of Frank PLUEMER and Barbara ZENG, at Grant, Wisconsin. They had the children: a) Tina B. (1878–1960), b) Peter Harry (b. 1880), c) Barbara (b. 1880), d) Mary Clara (b. 1883), e) Mary S. (b. 1885).
2. Nicholas AMES (b. 1863), married to Caroline GRITTERMANN in Potosi on 17 Nov 1891
3. Frank AMES (b. 1867)



**Fig. 85.** Gravestone of Nickolaus Ames and Christina Scholl in the cemetery of St. Andrews church in Tennyson, WI, USA



**Fig. 86.** Original gravestone of his daughter W[ilhel]mina (d. 1857)

<sup>1</sup> StA Sbr, notary office, notary Bochkoltz, 1858, nos. 216, 147, 148, 154, 1859, nos. 281 and 322.

4. Andrew AMES (4 Apr 1869–Apr 1930), married to Fredericka Margaret KREISER, daughter of Christian Jacob KREISER and Margaret SCHAMBAUCH, on 11 July



**Fig. 87.** Andrew AMES (b. 1869) and Fredericka KREISER

1893 at Grant, Wisconsin. They had the children: a) John (b. 1895), married to Bertha LAND, b) Sarah H. (b. 1897), married to unknown, c) Philip (b. 1899), d) Wilfred G. (b. 1901), e) Henry P. (b. 1904), f) Paul P. (b. 1906), g) Englebert A. (11 Apr 1908–31 Dec 2001), called Bert Adolph, and h) Oliver (b. 1912). To g) Bert's son Donald married to Cleone on 16 August 1958. They had the children Richard D., Rhonda K., Roxanne M., Steven M., Sherri A. and Brad J.

5. Annie AMES (b. 1871)
6. Caroline AMES (b. 1873)
7. Rosa AMES (b. 1877), married to August PATZNER on 9 Oct 1900 at Grant, WI<sup>1</sup>



**Fig. 88.** Gravestone of Mary AMES, Jacob's wife

Jacob AMES (1827–1900) could not be located in Clayton in Iowa, but he was mentioned in the 1880 census in Potosi, where he worked as a blacksmith. In this 1880 census, his 14-year-old son Nicholas was noted as being born in Iowa in 1859 and as a minor in the household of his father Jacob AMES from Prussia in Potosi in 1880. Presumably, after the death of his brother Nicholas in 1877 Jacob moved south down the Mississippi to Potosi. Jacob AMES married Mary M. WARD (b. Apr 1836 Connecticut, d. 1909 Dubuque, Iowa) in 1855 (her father was from Ireland). They had the following children:

the following children:

1. Mary C. AMES (Jan 1856–Apr 1930), married to Henry G. KREISER on 26 Oct 1879
2. Jacob William AMES (b. 15 Feb 1859 in Iowa, d. 1949 in Grant, WI), married to Sarah Sophia KREISER 1907 in Grant, WI. They had the children: a) Marguerite L. (b. 1909), b) Clifford L. AMES (5 Dec 1912–4 Jan 1998).
3. William Jacob AMES (b. May 1861 in Prairie Du Chien, Crawford, WI, d. 11 Jan 1905 in Dubuque, Iowa), married to Sarah Sophia KREISER on 13 Feb 1890 at Grant, Wisconsin. They had the children: a) Christian W. (b. Mar 1891), b) William A (b. Oct 1892), c) Fredericka P. (29 Oct 1893–Jan 1984), d) George J. (19 Mar 1899–Mar 1978), e) Harvey P. (7 Jan 1901–Aug 1979) and f) Mae M. (b. 1903)
4. Nicholas AMES (b. 1866)

<sup>1</sup> Online at [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org), US census, Friede-Abrahamson Genealogy Site Page 818 [www.frielfoto.com/genealogy](http://www.frielfoto.com/genealogy) and [www.whitepages.com](http://www.whitepages.com).

5. Johanna Frances AMES (1869–28 Jun 1942), married to Frank Lester BITZBERGER
6. Elizabeth AMES (b. 1870)
7. John AMES (15 Nov 1873–28 Sep 1957 in Waterloo, Iowa at age 83), married to Anna K. GOLDHAGEN on 29 May 1905. They had the following children: a) Bernice M. (24 Apr 1906–1961), b) Donald (1906–1916), d) Elmer F. (1909–1999), d) Sylvester J. (1911–1991), e) Evelyn (b. 1913), f) Madeline (10 Dec 1916–27 Oct 1999), g) Lester (21 Oct 1921–9 Mar 1999),
8. Joseph AMES (15 Nov 1873–1937 in Waterloo, Iowa).

AMES are listed twice in the phone book of Clayton Iowa, but in Potosi (711 inhabitants) 26 entries for this family name can be found. A street called "AMES lane" is situated in Potosi next to the Mississippi, named after the immigrant Nikolaus AMES. He purchased land property in Potosi and built a brick house which his son Andrew rebuilt in 1920 (see fig. 89). His grandson Jerry AMES was living there in 2016.

Nikolaus also helped to construct the St. Andrew church in Tennyson, Wisconsin (see fig. 90) – one of the buildings in that region that was constructed using brick (as for example the Potosi brewery).<sup>1</sup>



Fig. 89. Andrew AMES' brick house in "Ames lane" in Potosi, Wisconsin, USA



Fig. 90. Catholic church St. Andrew in Tennyson, Wisconsin

<sup>1</sup> See [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org), US census, Friede-Abrahamson Genealogy Site Page 402 [www.friel-foto.com/genealogy](http://www.friel-foto.com/genealogy) and [www.whitepages.com](http://www.whitepages.com).



#### 5.4 Angela KLESEN in Picada Café, Brazil

Angela KLESEN (b. 26 Oct 1840 in Neipel, d. 25 Sep 1927 Brazil), daughter of Nikolaus KLESEN (b. 7 Dec 1813 in Dorf, d. 9 Nov 1901 in Neipel) and Maria GROS (see 3.4, no. 10a), and farmer Johann BRILL (b. 1830 in Lindscheid, d. 1895 in Brazil) concluded a marriage contract on 23 July 1867. The contract was written in the presence of Johann's grandfather (because it was his second marriage) on 20 August 1867. According to article IV of the contract, in case of death Johann would bequeath 150 thaler from his estate to his bride.<sup>1</sup> In two marriages Johann had six children, all born in Neipel:

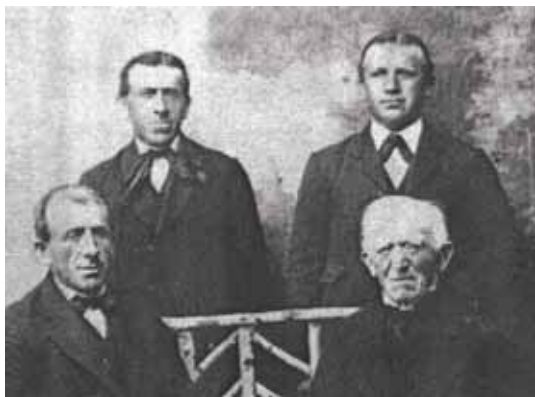


Fig. 91. Nikolaus KLESEN (b. 1813) with three of his five sons

1. Peter (b. 23 Jul 1864), from 1st marriage
2. Johann (b. 15 Apr 1866, twin), 1st marriage
3. Anna Maria (b. 15 Apr 1866, twin)
4. Michel (b. 23 Nov 1871), 2nd marriage
5. Maria (b. 11 Aug 1875), 2nd marriage
6. Katharina (b. 24 Mar 1879), 2nd marriage

The emigration request of the couple BRILL-KLESEN to Brazil in order to join relatives was granted at the Mayor's office in Tholey on 5 April 1883. The voyage cost around 3,000 Marks at that time. On 13 June 1883, the family

emigrated via Antwerp and Lisbon to the town of Picada Café in the state of Rio Grande do Sul in the south of Brazil.<sup>2</sup>

In 1887, a deed was written in the Tholey notary office to sell the parental house, since the property was divided between Johann BRILL, called *Schengel*, and his siblings. Johann authorized the blacksmith Nikolaus WILHELM to sell his property in two sales, one in January and another in Lindscheid in April, when he was still resid-



Fig. 92. The house constructed by Nikolaus KLESEN (b. 1813) called "Bämelshaus", where Angela was born. His brother Nikolaus KLESEN (b. 1848) is seated in the chair.

ing in Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil. The following people of the BRILL family were present in September: Peter Joseph HAUPENTHAL as guardian of his wife Barbara BRILL, Margaretha SCHERER, the widow of Johann BRILL as guardian of her children of the first marriage, namely Margaretha and Anna Maria BRILL, Anna Maria BRILL with her husband Nikolaus WILHELM as appointed agent. The last contract concerning the emigrated couple dated from May 1891.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> StA Sbr, notary's office Tholey, notary HESS, 1867, no. 429.

<sup>2</sup> See Lauck, *Brasilien*, pp. 68–78 and Schmidt, *Neipel* pp. 33–35 and 144–148.

<sup>3</sup> StA Sbr, notary's office Tholey, notary SCHÄFER, 1887, nos. 2185 and 2663, 1893, no. 669.



## 6 Abstract

This study tells the story of how the family name of the Luxembourgian emigrant Jacob CLESEN (1708–1782) became so widespread in the Saarland. The study includes material on his ancestors and descendants. Jacob lived in the Luxembourgian rural village of Binsfeld in the Ösling (*Osling*) region, which is in the north of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg. In the middle of the 18th century, he settled in Scheuern (Saarland, district St. Wendel), thus becoming the first documented member of this family in the Saarland. Jacob's trade was that of specialty carpenter. He presumably was a skilled joiner, wood sculptor and wood turner and, in particular, he crafted the Baroque altars of the Benedictine Abbey in Tholey in the 18th century.

A separate study on Jacob's professional career with a focus on his work as a specialty carpenter and creator of Baroque altars in the Saarland, Lorraine and possibly the Mosel and Rheinhessen areas is in preparation. Jacob's parents Adam KLESEN and Anna Margaretha lived in Binsfeld at the end of the 17th century, and were listed in the parish register of the church in Holler. Adam and his brother Heinrich worked as shepherds in Binsfeld in the north of Luxembourg. Jacob CLESEN's son Johannes did not work as a carpenter like his father, but as a farmer and blacksmith in Tholey-Scheuern, Saarland. In the following generations, the descendants were mostly farmers; but many of them also earned their living with various craft professions like cooper, tailor, weaver, shoemaker, forger and locksmith. In the 20th century, members of this family were very musical and engaged in music clubs or founded music groups. In the middle of the 19th century, after bad harvests, many people left the Saarland and the Tholey region. There were waves of KLESEN family emigrations to North America to Chicago/Illinois, Pittsburgh/Pennsylvania, and Potosi/Wisconsin (USA) as well as to South America to Picada Café in Brazil.

Most German family names originated between the 14th and the 16th century and they usually derived from first names. At that time, Nicolas was the second most frequent first name after John. The surname *Klesen* derives from the forename *Nikolaus* or its short form *Klaus* or *Kles(en)*. The name *Klesen/Clesen* has been written in many variations over the years, for example *Clesen*, *Klessen*, *Kleesen*, *Klæsen*, *Gleßen* and in the English-speaking countries especially in the variation of *Kleasen*. The spelling of *Klesen* was adopted for this book because it has mostly been used since the period of the Duchy Palatine Zweibrücken in 1786 until today.

However, just having dates about someone's marital status does not provide any insight into how our ancestors lived. Therefore, the authors have researched transnationally in the State Archive in Saarbrücken and in the National Archive in Luxembourg to learn more about the 10-generation history of the name and the family KLESEN. The information retained in notarial files from the 18th and 19th century has been analyzed in detail in order to compose this family story.

Since not only members of the family KLESEN were named in the notarial files, but also a lot of buyers, auctioneers or witnesses, this study represents a rich source for other family names. Family researchers are encouraged to do further research on their own. In addition, this study contributes to the local history because it presents historical events in the villages of the Schaumburg region in the Saarland and of the Osling region in Luxembourg.

## 7 Directories and Registers

### Abbreviations

a.	=	<i>anno</i> (Lat. = year)	Jul	=	July
abt.	=	about	Jun	=	June
acc.	=	according	kr, xr	=	<i>kreuzer</i> (type of currency of the period)
Apr	=	April	Lat.	=	Latin
Aug	=	August	Luth.	=	Lutheran
b.	=	born (date of birth)	Mar	=	March
ca.	=	circa	mp	=	personal (Lat. <i>manu propria</i> )
cal.	=	circa	Mr.	=	Mister
Cath.	=	Catholic	Mrs.	=	Missus
col.	=	column	no. (nos.)	=	number(s) (Lat. <i>numero</i> )
d.	=	died (date of death)	p., pp.	=	page(s)
Dec	=	December	Rep.	=	<i>Repetitorium</i> (Lat.)
Dör	=	Dörsdorf	StA Ko.	=	State Archive Koblenz
e.g.	=	<i>exempli gratia</i> (Lat. for instance)	StA Sbr.	=	State Archive Saarbrücken
Feb	=	February	StA Sp.	=	State Archive Speyer
fig.	=	figure(s)	Saarbr.	=	Saarbrücken
fol.	=	folio, page	Steinb.	=	Steinbach
Fr.	=	French			
i.e.	=	<i>id est</i> (Lat. that is to say)			
Jan	=	January			
Jr.	=	Junior			

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Archive of the town of Tholey

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- Parish register Scheuern 1746–1787
- Parish register Scheuern from 1792
- Register of births, marriages and deaths, tome II, Scheuern 1786–1807
- Register of births, marriages of the commune Tholey

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## Register of Names of People

In the register, names with slightly different spellings are listed under the most common spelling. The name KLESEN (and its variants *CLESEN/CLESEN/KLESEN/KLESSEN/KLEASON*) is not included in the register.

- ADAMS 88  
ALBERTY 17  
ALDENBORREN 20  
ALLERGEN 37  
ALT 53, 54, 55, 125  
ALTMAYER 90  
AMBOS 39  
AMES 46, 47, 59, 61, 81, 82,  
83, 84, 95, 96, 108, 118,  
121, 125, 132, 133  
ANDRES 37, 38, 73, 87, 101  
ATZ 75  
BAAL 65  
BACH 92, 94, 108  
BACKES 12, 21, 48, 49, 62,  
63, 81, 82, 113, 114, 119  
BAHR 88, 100  
BALZER 98, 107, 108, 118  
BAMERS 92  
BARBEL 46  
BAST 59  
BAUER 39, 51, 52, 61, 65, 66,  
97  
BAUS 34, 36, 37, 40  
BEAUMONT 50  
BECKER 39, 48, 63, 67  
BERES 21  
BERGER 47  
BERNARDI 85, 108  
BERNARDING 73, 79, 94  
BERWANGER 112  
BERWIAN 103, 119  
BESCH 28, 46, 72, 73, 74  
BESSE 84, 85, 97, 121  
BIEGEL 46, 76  
BIEL 27, 30, 31  
BIERBRAUER 88, 89  
BLANDIN 46  
BLUG 10, 39, 46, 52, 53, 67,  
68, 77, 81, 82, 92, 93, 94,  
97, 100, 102, 106, 107,  
108, 109, 111, 126  
BOCHKOLTZ 64, 66, 78, 84,  
85, 94, 96, 97, 105, 107,  
108, 109, 132  
BÖHM 62, 63  
BOHNENBERGER 132  
BOMMER 68, 112, 121  
BONNERTZ 119  
BOST 30, 38, 46, 47  
BOUL 37  
BOULGÉ 27, 45  
BOURGER 52  
BRADL 122  
BREININGER 50  
BRILL 68, 81, 105, 107, 108,  
136  
BRITZ 122  
BRONDER 55  
BRÜCK 75  
BUG 103  
BURGER 87  
BUSECK, VON 42, 44  
CASPAR 26, 27, 41, 42, 74,  
100, 101, 103, 108, 109,  
122  
CHRIST 47  
CLEIS 22  
CLEMANN 30, 64  
COBLENTZ 90  
COLLING 58  
CONRAD 10, 30, 37, 50, 51,  
52, 53, 54, 55, 67, 68, 69,  
73, 74, 75, 77, 78, 79, 85,  
93, 94, 96, 97, 98, 105, 108  
CREIS 16  
CREMERS 16  
CREUZ 60  
DÄGES 63  
DEHMER 112  
DENGLER 22  
DENZER 82  
DEWES 95  
DIDAS 63  
DIEDRICH 18, 21  
DIENER 82  
DIER 81  
DILL 48, 49  
DINÉ 82, 83, 84, 106, 108  
DITTGEN 27  
DIXIUS 60  
DOEMER 18, 19  
DUDIN 121  
DUPONT 16, 17, 18, 19  
ECKER 38, 63  
EICHER 25  
ELSEN 8, 13  
ENDRES 68, 81, 93, 95, 102,  
108, 109, 114, 119  
ENGEL 111  
ENGELDINGER 121  
ENGES 101  
ESCH 27, 38  
EVEIS 21  
EVERTS 16, 21  
FALK 51, 52, 53, 75, 87, 92,  
107, 108, 110, 112  
FEIT 82, 124  
FELTEN 16  
FINCKLER 44  
FINKLER 68, 81, 83, 84, 87,  
102, 108  
FLANDER 30, 31, 37  
FLECK 52  
FLEMMERS 20  
FLESINGER 62, 63  
FOLLMANN 81, 100, 112  
FONDEUR 27  
FONTAINE 17  
FRANK 19, 20, 21, 30, 58, 98  
FREY 119  
FRIDEN 19, 21  
FRIEB 75  
FUCHS 55, 116, 117  
GERSTNER 111  
GESSNER 95  
GIEBEL 93  
GIEREND 39, 40, 48  
GILLEN 52, 63, 65  
GILLENBERG 122  
GIRAUD 13, 39, 40, 42, 47,  
48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 54, 55,  
56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 63,  
65, 69, 72, 74, 75, 78, 97  
GLAB 62  
GLESENER 22, 25  
GOBIN 45  
GORIANS 19, 21  
GRAF 53, 101, 108, 119  
GRISEL 46  
GROß 46, 57, 65, 66, 67, 68,  
92, 94, 100, 103, 121, 136  
GROSS 26, 28  
HAAG 110  
HAHN 82, 102  
HAMUS 25  
HANDELE 30, 56, 60, 62, 63  
HANNY 65, 66, 73  
HANS 48  
HANBEN 21  
HARRICH 30  
HARTUNG 94  
HAUPENDAHL 58

- HAUPENTHAL 136  
 HAUPERT 51, 69  
 HAUSBERGER 83, 95  
 HAUTPEZ, DE 18  
 HAYMANN 83  
 HECKMANN 81  
 HEINEN 21  
 HEINRICH 117  
 HEINTZ 89  
 HEINZ 68, 80, 108  
 HENKES 37, 40, 95  
 HENNEN 94, 100  
 HENNES 31  
 HERMANN 37, 73  
 HERO 112  
 HERRMANN 101  
 HESEDENZ 93  
 HEWER 118  
 HEYSEN 35  
 HINDERSCHIEDT 21  
 HOFFMANN 9, 21, 27, 28,  
     29, 30, 31, 32, 34, 35, 36,  
     37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43,  
     46, 47, 50, 60, 62, 67, 68,  
     69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 95,  
     103, 107, 111, 112, 118,  
     132, 133  
 HOFMANN 44  
 HOLZ 45, 67, 89, 111  
 HOLZER 108  
 HOMAYER 47, 58, 71  
 HORNBERGER 101  
 HOURY 16, 18, 19, 20, 22  
 HOUSCHET 21  
 HUWIG 119  
 IMLER 76  
 JÄCKEL 29, 47, 48, 51, 54, 56,  
     57, 59, 60, 63, 67, 69, 73,  
     77, 81, 90, 119  
 JACOBY 121  
 JENAL 117  
 JOHANN 26, 27, 30, 35, 55,  
     56, 57, 59, 63, 68, 75, 77,  
     82, 84, 87, 88, 89, 90, 95,  
     100, 102, 109, 111, 112,  
     113, 119, 122  
 JOHN 88, 89  
 JOST 38, 39, 40, 45  
 JUNG 52, 63, 67, 87, 88, 89  
 JUNGBLUT 38, 47, 51, 52, 53,  
     54, 60, 61, 62, 74, 84, 85,  
     91  
 JUNGERS 21  
 JUNKER 26, 42, 55, 94, 101,  
     106, 110  
 KALBERS 16, 17, 19, 20, 21,  
     24  
 KALCK 83, 88, 94  
 KAMMER 21  
 KAPPES 74  
 KAPPLER 124  
 KASPAR 88  
 KASPER 112  
 KAUFMANN 79  
 KELLER 108  
 KESSELSCH 15  
 KETMAN 15  
 KIEFER 73, 116  
 KILBURGER 40  
 KIRSCH 27, 30, 45, 50, 52,  
     57, 58, 74, 82, 84, 87, 88,  
     94, 101, 103, 107, 110,  
     111, 112, 113, 114, 120  
 KIRTZEN 17, 21  
 KLÄSENER 89  
 KLAB 38, 39  
 KLAUCK 83, 93  
 KLEFFERS 15, 21  
 KLEIN 52, 53, 54, 60, 90, 93,  
     107, 111  
 KLESER 87, 88  
 KLOS 38  
 KLOST 21  
 KOCH 75, 96, 111  
 KOENER 25  
 KOLZ 111  
 KONINGS 121  
 KONNAU [?] 39  
 KOSMANN 63  
 KOST 20, 23  
 KOSTNER 45  
 KRÄMER 55, 93  
 KRASS 112  
 KREUTZ 62, 63  
 KROSS 10, 126  
 KUHN 30, 57, 58, 59, 63, 76,  
     119  
 KÜHN 103, 117  
 KUNZ 121  
 KUTSCH 38  
 L'HOSTE 28, 30, 46, 60, 61,  
     62, 63, 64, 65, 66  
 LAMBERT 72  
 LANGENDÖRFLER 48  
 LÄBGES 21  
 LATZ 27, 38  
 LAUB 47  
 LAUCH 118  
 LAUCK 26, 58, 67, 123  
 LAUER 108, 125  
 LAUX 51, 53, 54, 63, 64  
 LEBERGER 74  
 LEHNE 40  
 LEIBFRIED 73  
 LEISSEN 15, 18, 21  
 LENGLER 17  
 LENHOFF 73  
 LENNIG 38  
 LERMEN 87, 88  
 LESCH 50, 55, 63  
 LINIG 27  
 LINNENBACH 112, 122  
 LORD 83  
 LÖSCHERTZ 15, 17, 21  
 LOTH 61  
 LUCA 17  
 LUDWIG 68, 69, 89, 91, 121  
 MACHOLL 126  
 MALCK 85, 105  
 MALDENER 51, 81, 97  
 MANDERSCHIEDT 17  
 MARX 82  
 MATHIS 35, 37, 38, 43, 44,  
     46, 47  
 MATTHIEU 17  
 MAYER 40  
 MECKING 121  
 MEIER 31, 67  
 MEIERS 21, 69  
 MEISER 116  
 MERFELD 38  
 MERTEN 113, 114  
 MERTES 54, 90, 91  
 MICHELS 113  
 MILLEPETERS 20  
 MINDEN 60, 85, 105  
 MOLTER 26, 27  
 MONARD 40  
 MORSTROFF 38  
 MÖSEN 45  
 MOSER 60, 77  
 MOTTÉ 61  
 MOTTER 126  
 MOUTTY 101  
 MÜLLER 46, 55, 101, 103,  
     112, 113, 114  
 MULLERS 21  
 NAUMANN 88, 112  
 NEIS 75, 119, 121  
 NICKLAUS 132  
 NICOLA 51, 53, 84, 85, 97,  
     105, 106, 108  
 NICOLAY 36, 106, 107, 108,  
     110, 113, 119  
 NIEKEL 40  
 NIEREN 81, 83, 93, 97, 108  
 NIKOLAY 124  
 NILLES 119  
 NONNENGART 63  
 OELEN 17  
 OLMANN 48



- ORNAU 39, 45  
OSTER 117  
PASS 64  
PAULUS 27, 87, 88, 89, 117  
PENTH 116  
PERIUS 75, 111  
PERSCH 116  
PESCH 117  
PETER 46, 101, 122, 124  
PETRY 65, 83  
PHILIPPI 27  
POSS 107  
PRIETZ 21  
PRIME 50  
PUHL 81  
QUENGERS 17, 21  
RADLIFF 11, 126  
RAUBER 52, 74, 92, 121  
RAUSCH 16, 20, 21, 22, 48  
RECH 49, 81  
RECKTENWALD 48, 49, 92  
REICHARDT 111  
REIET 55  
RENTMEISTER 15  
RESCH 74, 75  
RETIENE 14  
RETIENNE 54, 62, 64, 78, 90, 91, 105  
RHODEN 39, 40, 73  
RIEHM 9, 31, 46, 55, 56, 57, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 73, 74, 75  
RINNEN 21  
RISCH 37, 38, 40, 41, 47, 71, 73  
ROBBEN 30, 32  
RÖDEL 117  
RODEN 42  
RÖTTGEN 101  
ROUSCHEL 53, 54, 78, 105  
RUFF 50, 51, 97  
RUTTERS 20  
**SAAR** 118  
SASSEL 15, 18  
SCHÄFER 14, 67, 95, 100, 118  
SCHANZ 119  
SCHAUSSELS 20  
SCHEDLER 82, 95, 101, 118, 123  
SCHEFFER 23  
SCHEID 39, 48, 49, 95, 102  
SCHEIER 112  
SCHEOURÜTZ 55  
SCHERER 26, 27, 30, 37, 39, 44, 46, 49, 51, 53, 54, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 77, 79, 83, 84, 85, 88, 92, 94, 105, 106, 107, 108, 114, 119, 124  
SCHILTGES 16, 22  
SCHMID 26, 74, 75  
SCHMIDT 117  
SCHMITT 16, 26, 47, 48, 50, 51, 60, 62, 63, 87, 89, 91, 93, 101, 116, 125, 126  
SCHMITZ 14, 16, 17, 18, 20, 21, 24  
SCHNEBERGER 27, 46, 47, 63, 72, 74  
SCHNEIDER 23, 38, 39, 46, 84, 89, 90, 92, 113, 114, 121, 122  
SCHNUR 29, 82, 94, 106, 107, 108  
SCHOLL 69, 79, 84, 93, 95, 96, 97, 98, 106, 108, 112, 122  
SCHOLTUS 31, 73  
SCHOLZ 126  
SCHOMMER 10, 14, 48, 101, 110, 111, 115, 120  
SCHRAM 85  
SCHU 27, 30, 38, 49, 50, 55, 57, 62, 65, 95, 98, 118  
SCHUCKEN 100  
SCHUG 93, 100, 102, 117, 118, 121  
SCHUH 101  
SCHUHMACHER 116  
SCHULLIGEN 121  
SCHULT 120  
SCHUMER 48, 49  
SCHUMERT 39  
SCHUSTER 110, 111  
SCHÜTZ 48  
SCHWAN 61, 71, 91, 95, 109  
SCHWARZ 45, 50, 52, 53, 54, 79, 108, 126  
SCHWEITZER 57  
SCHWEVERST 21  
SCHWIRTZ 122  
SENZ 55  
SEYLER 27, 28, 35, 47, 63  
SITTEL 85  
SONDERCK 17  
SOSKE 11  
STAHL 61, 107  
STANLEY 11  
STASS 67  
STAUB 68, 92  
STEIMER 122  
STEMPELS 15  
STRASS 88  
STRÄBER 93  
STURM 28  
TASSIN 37, 38, 40, 44, 45, 46, 48, 49, 58, 72, 73  
TAUSCH 82  
TEGES 60  
TESPERT 45, 58  
THEIS 22, 25, 103  
THEOBALD 119  
THEVES 23, 24, 54, 90, 91  
THIES 50, 96  
THOMAS 119  
THOME 67, 96, 103, 112  
TRAUSCH 48  
TREIB 112  
VOLLMANN 107  
WAGNER 68, 92  
WALFARTH 38  
WALLERS 17, 21  
WALTER 120  
WARKEN 82, 107  
WEBER 85  
WEILER 27, 45, 93  
WEILERS 56  
WEISS 60, 61  
WELLES 21  
WELTER 17  
WELTIS 15  
WENDELS 92  
WETZEL 38  
WEYAND 75, 83, 102  
WEYDENBAUER 65, 66  
WEYRICH 53  
WIESEN 38, 45  
WIHLEM 44  
WILHELM 26, 29, 38, 44, 47, 50, 51, 53, 55, 68, 69, 78, 79, 82, 89, 90, 91, 94, 96, 97, 100, 102, 103, 105, 106, 108, 111, 136  
WILMES 16, 17, 20, 21  
WINCKEL 44  
WINGERT 76  
WOLL 110  
WOLTER 74  
ZAHN 34, 41, 75  
ZAHRD 58  
ZANGERLE 116  
ZAUNZ 22  
ZILL 81  
ZIMMER 57  
ZIMMERMANN 122  
ZOBEL 78, 79, 105  
ZWER 117

## Register of Names of Places

The communities of Binsfeld, Luxembourg, Weiswampach, Luxemburg, Tholey-Scheuern, Saarland, and Lebach-Dörsdorf, Saarland are not included in the register, as entire chapters are assigned to these places where the family resided for generations. Place-names set in italics could not be identified or could not be localized.

- Bad Kreuznach 83, 84  
 Basbellain-Niederbesslingen/Luxembourg 19, 20, 21  
 Bastogne/Bastenach/Belgium 32  
 Beckingen-Reimsbach 59  
 Blieskastel-Biesingen 85  
 Bouzonville/Busendorf/France 73  
*Brintzkastel* (Primskastel), Nonnweiler-Kastel 65  
 Burg Reuland/Belgium 17  
 Burg Reuland-Bracht/Belgium 17  
 Burg Reuland-Thommen/Belgium 17  
 Chicago/USA 10, 14, 126  
 Clayton, Iowa/USA 132, 133  
 Courtil/Belgium 19, 23  
 Diekirch-Drinklange/Luxembourg 16  
 Elsenborn/Belgium 17  
 Eppelborn 43, 44, 46, 55, 68, 87, 88, 90, 93, 95, 116, 124  
 Eppelborn-Bubach 103  
 Eppelborn-Calmesweiler 43, 44  
 Eppelborn-Habach 122  
 Eppelborn-Hierscheid 116  
 Eppelborn-Humes 116  
 Eppelborn-Macherbach 93  
 Eppelborn-Wiesbach 116  
*Eyselsbach* 45  
 Forbach/Frankreich 54  
 Freisen-Reitscheid 48  
 Guttenberg, Iowa/USA 132  
 Hautbellain-Oberbesslingen/Luxembourg 16, 17, 18, 19, 21  
 Heinerscheid/Luxembourg 15, 18  
 Heinerscheid-Hüpperdingen/Hüpperdange/Luxembourg 16, 20, 21, 23  
 Heinerscheid-Lieler/Luxembourg 20  
 Hellental-Hollerath/Nordrhein-Westfalen 23  
 Heusweiler-Lummerschied 116  
 Hosingen-Eisenbach/Luxembourg 22  
 Illingen 10, 110, 111, 116  
 Illingen-Wustweiler 115, 116  
 Lake, Illinois/USA 126  
 Lebach 9, 57, 67, 68, 70  
 Lebach-Aschbach 57  
 Lebach-Gresaubach 37, 57, 73, 79, 103, 111  
 Lebach-Jabach 67  
 Lebach-Steinbach 30, 37, 38, 47, 56, 57, 87, 88, 89, 101, 103, 111, 112, 115, 117, 119, 121  
 Lebach-Thalexweiler 54, 55, 57, 60, 81, 88, 90, 95, 103  
 Liège/Belgium 15  
 Losheim-Mitlosheim 87, 110, 111, 115  
 Mainz 55, 94  
 Marpingen 55  
 Marpingen-Alsweiler 107  
 Marpingen-Berschweiler 55  
 Marpingen-Urexweiler 65  
 Mechelen/Malines/Belgien 18  
 Mettlach-Saanhölzbach 50  
 Munsbach-Marnach/Luxembourg 8  
 Munshausen/Luxembourg 30, 32  
 Namborn 47  
 Neunkirchen 46, 47  
 Nohfelden-Eiweiler 46  
 Nohfelden-Neunkirchen 50  
 Nohfelden-Selbach 46, 67  
 Nohfelden-Wolfersweiler 39  
 Nonnweiler-Bierfeld 46  
 Nonnweiler-Braunshausen 58  
 Nonnweiler-Kastel 27, 38, 39, 40, 45, 56, 67, 74  
 Nonnweiler-Mettnich 51, 83  
 Nonnweiler-Otzenhausen 82  
 Northfield, Cook County, Illinois/USA 94, 126  
 Northfield, Illinois/USA 10  
 Oberthal-Gronig 37, 39, 46, 48, 49  
 Oberthal-Güdesweiler 39, 40, 48, 55

- Oberthal-Linden 48, 75  
Oberthal-Morscholz 45  
Oberthal-Steinberg 39, 48  
Osburg, bei Trier 74  
Ourthe/Belgium 16  
Petersburgh, Pennsylvanien/USA 126  
Picada Cafe, Rio Grande do Sul/Bra-  
silien 136  
Püttlingen 88, 111  
Quierschied-Fischbach 84, 102, 115  
Regensburg 111  
Reichenbach-Steegen, Rheinland-  
Pfalz 46  
Riegelsberg 122  
Saarbrücken 83, 88, 94, 96, 111  
Saarbrücken-Herrensohr 111  
Schmelz-Außen 73  
Schmelz-Bettingen 27, 40, 41, 88  
Schmelz-Dorf 68, 78, 79, 82, 87, 88, 89,  
90, 136  
Schmelz-Goldbach 73  
Schmelz-Limbach 30, 31, 37, 88, 89  
Schwalbach-Elm 108  
St. Wendel 51, 97  
St. Wendel-Bliesen 49, 92  
St. Wendel-Winterbach 48, 74  
Sulzbach 93, 119  
Sulzbach-Altenwald 93  
Tholey 10, 27, 30, 38, 42, 45, 46, 47, 49,  
50, 51, 52, 54, 55, 57, 58, 60, 61, 62,  
63, 64, 65, 66, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76,  
78, 81, 84, 85, 86, 89, 91, 95, 97, 98  
Tholey-Bergweiler 13, 56, 58, 81, 124  
Tholey-Hasborn 28, 29, 67, 69, 74, 112,  
122, 124  
Tholey-Lindscheid 38, 45, 53, 74, 81,  
86, 87, 89, 90, 92, 93, 94, 102, 107,  
108, 136  
Tholey-Neipel 37, 38, 41, 47, 54, 56,  
68, 69, 79, 87, 89, 92, 106, 108, 110,  
112, 136  
Tholey-Niederhofen 41, 54, 55, 56, 74,  
91, 100, 101, 102, 106, 108, 110, 114  
Tholey-Sotzweiler 46, 55, 61, 62, 75,  
124  
Tholey-Theley 54, 81, 96, 97  
Tholey-Überroth 13, 26, 29, 39, 41, 46,  
47, 50, 52, 53, 55, 56, 69, 81, 94, 96,  
100, 101, 103, 108, 109, 111, 136  
Troisvierges-  
Drinklange/Luxembourg 16, 22  
Troisvierges-Goedingen/Goedan-  
ge/Luxembourg 16, 22  
Troisvierges-Massen/Luxembourg 17  
Troisvierges-Uiflingen/Luxembourg  
15, 20, 22  
Völklingen-Geislautern 82  
Wadern 50  
Wadern-Altland 112  
Wadern-Bardenbach 38, 68, 69, 88  
Wadern-Bardenbach-Biel 89  
Wadern-Büschfeld 67, 69, 75  
Wadern-Buweiler 38, 58, 79  
Wadern-Krettnich 37, 40  
Wadern-Lockweiler 51  
Wadern-Nunkirchen 67  
Wadern-Vogelsbüsch 87  
*Walsweiler* 52  
Weiskirchen 88, 89  
Weiswambach-Breidfeld/Luxem-  
bourg 17  
Weiswambach-Holler/Luxembourg  
8, 12, 15, 16, 17, 18, 20, 21, 22, 23  
Williamsburgh, New-York/USA 94  
Wintrange-Sassel/Luxembourg 15,  
16, 20  
Wintger-Asselborn/Luxembourg 15,  
17, 21

## Illustration Credits and Sources

	Page
Fig. 1. Binsfeld, town of Weiswampach/Luxembourg (from Cosyn p. 46) .....	7
Fig. 2. Binsfeld ( <i>Bénzelt</i> ), Weiswampach/Luxembourg. Photo by Thomas Besse, 2009 .....	7
Fig. 3. Baroque high altar in the church of Holler. Photo by Thomas Besse, 2009 .....	8
Fig. 4. The Ösling (Luxembourgian <i>Éislek</i> ) of Luxemburg. Photo by Thomas Besse, 2009 .....	8
Fig. 5. Shepherd in 1475 with stock. From Rodericus Zamorensis according to Weingärtner p. 30) .....	15
Fig. 6. The ancestral house of the family CLESEN in Binsfeld. Photo by Th. Besse, 2010 .....	22
Fig. 7. "at the shepherd's ..., a folklore museum today. Photo by Th. Besse, 2010 .....	23
Fig. 8. A sheep farm on the district <i>Op de Schiefricht</i> around 1600. From the Volkskunde- und Landmuseum „A Schiewesch“ p. 2) .....	24
Fig. 9. A sheep farm, around 1730. From the Volkskunde- and Landmuseum „A Schiewesch“ p. 3 .....	24
Fig. 10. The land register map of 1820. From the Volkskunde- and Landmuseum „A Schiewesch“ p. 1 .....	24
Fig. 11. The 3rd CLESEN house in the street to Ulflingen behind the museum. Photo by Thomas Besse, 2010 .....	25
Fig. 12. The CLESEN ancestral house, the museum <i>A Schiewesch</i> and behind on the street <i>Élwenterstrooss</i> no. 8 the 3rd CLESEN house. Photo by the Interessengemeinschaft Binsfeld .....	25
Fig. 13. Cartwright in 1425 (from the house books of the Nuremberg Twelve Brothers Foundation). Amb. 317.2° Folio 10 verso Mendel I; see <a href="http://www.nuernberger-hausbuecher.de">www.nuernberger-hausbuecher.de</a> .....	26
Fig. 14. Carpenter in 1444 (from the house books of the Nuremberg Twelve Brothers Foundation). Amb. 317b.2° Folio 66 verso Mendel I; see <a href="http://www.nuernberger-hausbuecher.de">www.nuernberger-hausbuecher.de</a> .....	29
Fig. 15. Jacob KLESEN'S first house was presumably situated opposite the parish church ... which he bought from Nikolaus HOFFMANN in 1749. Photo by Thomas Besse, 2016 ...	33
Fig. 16. Survey of the Scheuern territory of 1789–1793. StA Koblenz, source. 24, no. 1000, pp. 30–31 .....	36
Fig. 17. The house, which Jacob CLESEN purchased from the heirs of the Mayor Tillmann Hoffmann in 1768, was named the house of the Mayer in 1775. Drawing by Edwin Warken, 2001 .....	43
Fig. 18. Former high altar in the St. Willibrordus church in Schmelz-Limbach, now in Isenburg/Germany. Photo by Besse, 2011 .....	49
Fig. 19. Wood Turner in 1587 (from the house books of the Nuremberg Twelve Brothers Foundation). Amb. 317b.2° Folio 47 recto Mendel II; see <a href="http://www.nuernberger-hausbuecher.de">www.nuernberger-hausbuecher.de</a> .....	52
Fig. 20. In 1782, Mathis KUHN'S house was situated between the <i>Lennenhäuser</i> (see arrow) and behind the home of Mathias KIRSCH. Photo by Thomas Besse, 2016 .....	58
Fig. 21. High and side altars in the Blasius chapel near Bergweiler. Photo by Thomas Besse, 2011 .....	59
Fig. 22. A Franciscan hermit (habit). From Naumann, Blasiuskapelle p. 67 .....	60
Fig. 23. Cooper in 1518 (from the house books of the Nuremberg Twelve Brothers Foundation). Amb. 279.2 Folio 10 recto Landauer I; see <a href="http://www.nuernberger-hausbuecher.de">www.nuernberger-hausbuecher.de</a> .....	61



Fig. 24. Blacksmith in 1504 (From the house books of the Nuremberg Twelve Brothers Foundation). Amb. 317.2° Folio 121 recto Mendel I; see <a href="http://www.nuernberger-hausbuecher.de">www.nuernberger-hausbuecher.de</a> .....	67
Fig. 25. The house of Jacob and Johannes CLESEN in Scheuern in the Hölzer street 10 in direction to Überroth on a photo of the last century. Photo by the Historical Association Bohnental .....	72
Fig. 26. The ore miner with cradle. See Wikimedia, Archives of Pearson Scott Foresman .....	80
Fig. 27. The house of Peter DINÉ and Maria KLESEN. Drawing by Edwin Warken .....	83
Fig. 28. The house of Johann KLESEN 3rd and Anna Maria MARX on the left of <i>Hennebungert</i> , <i>Althennenhaus</i> and <i>Hennenhaus</i> . Model by Edwin Warken .....	83
Fig. 29. Bäwelshaus in Scheuern, the last house with thatched roof in Scheuern, about 1920. Photo by the Historical Association Bohnental .....	86
Fig. 30. The house of Johann KLESEN and Margaretha FINKLER, named <i>Hennen house</i> , which was sold to Johann JOHANN and his wife Elisabeth KLESEN in 1842. Drawing by Edwin Warken .....	87
Fig. 31. Joseph KLESEN and his wife Angela WILHELM sold the "Allergen" or "Allershaus" in Lindscheid in 1815. Photo by Erwin Marx, about 1915 .....	83
Fig. 32. House of Casimir Klesen, named "School House". Drawing by Edwin Warken .....	96
Fig. 33. The house of Casimir Klesen, named "School House". Model by Edwin Warken .....	96
Fig. 34. Scheuern original cadastral map of 1840. From Saarland's Land Registry Office ....	99
Fig. 35. Tailors in 1613 (from the house books of the Nuremberg Twelve Brothers Foundation). Amb. 279.2° Folio 83 recto Landauer I; see <a href="http://www.nuernberger-hausbuecher.de">www.nuernberger-hausbuecher.de</a> ....	100
Fig. 36. Peter KLESEN (b. 1903) and Margaretha SCHEDLER. Photo by Horst Klesen .....	101
Fig. 37. Bus driver Peter KLESEN before his omnibus in Lebach. Photo by Horst Klesen .....	101
Fig. 38. Wedding photo of Hans-Gerd KLESEN and Ilse MÜLLER. Photo by Horst Klesen .....	101
Fig. 39. Mathias KLESEN beside his bus of the Bohnental line. Photo by Inge Hornberger b. Klesen .....	102
Fig. 40. Marriage of Peter KLESEN and Katharina BERWIAN. Photo about 1900 by Karina Quinten .....	103
Fig. 41. Family Peter KLESEN and Katharina BERWIAN. Photo by Kar. Quinten about 1930 .....	103
Fig. 42. Georg KLESEN and Maria WILHELM. Photo by Karina Quinten .....	104
Fig. 43. Georg und Maria KLESEN. Photo by Karina Quinten .....	104
Fig. 44. Communion of Georg KLESEN (b. 1948). Photo by Karina Quinten .....	104
Fig. 45. Georg KLESEN run a forge. Photo Georg Klesen, Limbach .....	104
Fig. 46. House of Casimir KLESEN and Katharina JOHANN. Drawing by E. Warken .....	109
Fig. 47. Linen weavers in 1610 (from the house books of the Nuremberg Twelve Brothers Foundation). Amb. 279.2° Folio 78 verso Landauer I; see <a href="http://www.nuernberger-hausbuecher.de">www.nuernberger-hausbuecher.de</a> .....	110
Fig. 48. Fire Chief Michel KLESEN (b. 1872) and his wife Anna. Photo by Bernhard Scholl .....	111
Fig. 49. Soldier Karl KLESEN and his wife Hildegard HOLZ. Photo by Bernhard Scholl 1940 ....	111
Fig. 50. Erich KOCH in front of "Hiwwelhaus" in 1938. Photo by Historical Association Bohnental .....	114
Fig. 51. Shoemaker in 1564 (from the house books of the Nuremberg Twelve Brothers Foundation). Amb. 317b.2° Folio 26 verso Mendel II; see <a href="http://www.nuernberger-hausbuecher.de">www.nuernberger-hausbuecher.de</a> .....	115

Fig. 52. Matthias KLESEN (b. 1868). Photo by Helga BESSE born KLESEN .....	115
Fig. 53. Anna KLESEN (b. 1912). Photo by Helga Besse .....	115
Fig. 54. Peter KLESEN and Margaretha. Photo by Felix KLESEN, Illingen, about 1958 .....	116
Fig. 55. Siegbert, Viktor, Felix and Theobald KLESEN. Photo by Felix Klesen, 1943 .....	116
Fig. 56. Siegbert and Felix play the mandolin jointly. Photo by Felix Klesen, 2006 .....	116
Fig. 57. Klesen house in Humes Photo by Felix Klesen .....	116
Fig. 58. Siegbert's original „Hopf“ mandolin. Photo by Thomas Besse, 2011 .....	116
Fig. 59. Felix KLESEN and Regina KÜHN. Photo by Marlene Schug, Steinbach .....	116
Fig. 60. Felix (*1905) and Bernhard Klesen (*1908). Photo by Ilse Klesen, 1950 .....	117
Fig. 61. Alois Klesen (b. 1913). Photo by Werner Klesen, 1962 .....	117
Fig. 62. The Dörsdorf <i>Schlenker</i> club. Photo by Marlene Schug, about 1925 .....	117
Fig. 63. Kasimir KLESEN from Überroth, conductor of the Steinbach music association .....	117
Fig. 64. Bernhard KLESEN and Martha GRAF. Photo by Marlene Schug, 1931 .....	119
Fig. 65. Alois KLESEN and Christine BERWIAN. Photo by Werner Klesen, Dautweiler, 1947 .....	119
Fig. 66. Map of Dörsdorf, 1845. From LVGL .....	120
Fig. 67. Maria AMES and Josef KLESEN, about 1922. Photo by Anita Schneider .....	121
Fig. 68. Maria KLESEN and Emil GROß, about 1944. Photo by Karin Engeldinger .....	121
Fig. 69. Helga <i>Anna</i> Klesen and Edgar Besse, 1949. Photo by Thomas Besse .....	121
Fig. 70. Rosalie KLESEN and Leander STEIMER, 1955. Photo by Thomas Besse .....	122
Fig. 71. Theresia SCHOLL and Helmut KLESEN. Photo by Thomas Besse .....	122
Fig. 72. Anita KLESEN and Karlheinz SCHNEIDER, 1959. Photo by Thomas Besse .....	122
Fig. 73. Rita Johann and Günter KLESEN, 1968. Photo by Thomas Besse .....	122
Fig. 74. Walburga KLESEN and Engelbert BRADL, 1960. Photo by Thomas Besse .....	122
Fig. 75. Old Baroque violin with lion's head of Felix KLESEN. Photo by Thomas Besse, 2011 ...	123
Fig. 76. Rosalie, Helga and Maria, about 1937. Photo by Karin Engeldinger, Dörsdorf .....	123
Fig. 77. Josef KLESEN and the Dörsdorf music association, from the 1920s. Photo by B. Scholl III ...	123
Fig. 78. The wooden grave of Josef KLESEN on the Steinbach cemetery, about 1980. Photo by T. Besse .....	124
Fig. 79. Family Peter AMES and Elisabeth ALT, before 1937. Photo by Thomas Besse .....	125
Fig. 80. Marriage License of Johann KLESEN and Anna SCHMITT, 1881. By Kim Klesen, USA ...	126
Fig. 81. Marriage License of Nicholas KLESEN and Martha SCHOLZ, 1910. By Kim Klesen .....	126
Fig. 82. Marriage of Nicholas KLESEN and Martha SCHOLZ, 1910. By Kim Klesen .....	126
Fig. 83. Power of attorney to Peter KLEIN in Germany certified by Johann KLESEN. From StA Saarbrücken .....	127
Fig. 84. Brick burner about 1568. From Jost AMMAN; see <a href="http://wiki-commons.genealogy.net">wiki-commons.genealogy.net</a> .....	132
Fig. 85. Gravestone of Nickolaus AMES and Christina SCHOLL Photo by Brad Ames, USA .....	133
Fig. 86. Original gravestone of his daughter W[ilhel]mina (d. 1857). Photo by Brad Ames, USA ..	133
Fig. 87. Andrew AMES (b. 1869) and Fredericka KREISER. Photo by Brad Ames, USA .....	134
Fig. 88. Gravestone of Mary, Jacob AMES' wife. Photo by Brad Ames, USA .....	134
Fig. 89. Andrew AMES' brick house in <i>Ames lane</i> . Photo by Brad Ames, USA .....	135
Fig. 90. Catholic church St. Andrew in Tennyson, Wisconsin/USA. Photo by Brad Ames, USA ..	135
Fig. 91. Nikolaus KLESEN (b. 1813) with sons. From Schmidt, Neipel, p. 144 .....	136
Fig. 92. The house build by Nikolaus KLESEN, called <i>Bämelshaus</i> . From Schmidt, Neipel, p. 135 ...	136
Fig. 93ff. Maria, Nathalie and Thomas Besse by U. Gemballa, Live-Photo, Riegelsberg .....	Cover

The KLESEN family history is a typical migrations story, which happened many times in Europe in the past: Since the 18th century, there have been emigrations from Luxembourg to the Germany as well as from the Saarland and Palatinate to the United States in the 19th century. After the Thirty Years' War, the Luxembourgian Jacob CLESEN immigrated into the northern area of Saarland in the 1730 years. However, it was not a farmer who immigrated, but a master carpenter from Binsfeld in northern part of Luxembourg. As the carpenter of the Benedictine Abbey at Tholey, Jacob CLESEN crafted lots of Baroque altars that were conserved in some churches and chapels in the region. This academic study includes numerous old documents from different archives which provide interesting insight into early modern times. On account of the good quality of the documentary material in the Luxembourgian archives, the KLESEN family tree can be traced back over 11 generations until the end of the 17th century.



**Professor Dr. phil. Maria Besse** managed the Research Center „WDW – Dictionary of the German winegrower’s language“, a project of the Mainz Academy of Science and Literature, in Kaiserslautern from 2001 to 2011. Since 2012, she is working in the Lessico Etimologico Italiano (LEI) in Saarbrücken. As assistant professor, she acts in teaching at the Saarland University. The main focus of her studies is on older German literature, special language research, onomastics, genealogy, dialectology, loanword and interference research.



**Dr. phil. Nathalie Besse** from Riegelsberg, Saarland/Germany, born in Saarbrücken-Dudweiler, Saarland in 1988, studied Spanish and English linguistics, literatures and cultures at the Saarland University in Germany, the University of Valencia and the University of Seville in Spain, and the University of Sydney in Australia. Her doctoral thesis was about the language of Spanish online advertising.



**Thomas Besse**, administration graduate, born in Lebach-Dörsdorf in 1958, has worked in the Saarland Ministry of the Interior and Sports for more than 38 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 (family chronicles, emigration stories to America) and regional history (baroque altars, renovations of the Schaumberg area, historical borders and border stones). He is the President of the Thalexweiler Historical Society.



**Johannes Naumann**, alias Frater Wendelinus, from Lebach-Thalexweiler, historian and numismatist, studied history and archaeology in Saarbrücken, Nancy and Paris. He is curator of the museum Theulegium and board member of the historical association for the Saar region and the Saarland organization of historical and cultural associations. Since 2015 he is monk in the Benedictine abbey of Tholey.