

Vornkahl Stories and Photographs in Germany

Heinrich Schrader - Legends and Truths the Old Folks Told

by Andreas Schröder and Ulrich Schröder

We believe that it is appropriate to briefly mention our grandfather, Heinrich Schrader, in this book as he inspired us to search for Vornkahls in the United States. During the time when the Nazis ruled over Germany, people were required to provide certified data for an ancestor pass in order to prove that they did not have Jewish roots. Our grandmother took care of the data collection. In the course of that research our grandfather claimed that Vornkahl relatives of his had emigrated to the U.S.A., but people were very skeptical about that. After the death of our grandmother, our mother, Magdalene Schröder nee Schrader, took over the genealogy of our family.

When Ulli started to work in Magdeburg in 1995 he had for the first time access to the emerging internet and found several Vornkahls in the U.S. In order to answer the question about our Vornkahl relatives in the U.S., our mother asked Ulli to get in touch with them. That was the reason why Ulli had about 20 letters addressed to Vornkahls in his baggage when attending an international meeting in San Diego in 1995. Three persons responded: Karen Vorn Kahl of Chicago, Mark Vornkahl of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, on behalf of his father, Henry Lee Vornkahl of Houston, and Martin Vornkahl of Morton, Illinois, on behalf of his uncle Mel Vornkahl of Keokuk, Iowa. In 1998 Roy A. Johnson of Sausalito, California, began searching for his Vornkahl ancestors and joined the team.

Heinrich Hermann Alex Schrader was born 03 Mar 1884 in Flettmar, the third child of the painter Heinrich Wilhelm Schrader nee Köther (b. 02 Apr 1849, Flettmar; bap. 15 Apr 1849, Müden on Aller) and Friederike Dorothee Meyer (b. 13 Mar 1853, bap. 20 Mar 1853, Müden on Aller). Dorothee was the daughter of Johanne Christine Sophie Vornkahl (b. 27 Nov 1821; Berel) and Johann Heinrich Meyer **(C8B)**. Thanks to Wendy McKim of Aubrey, Texas, researching for her husband and daughters and to Doris Hageman of The Woodlands, Texas, we could rapidly verify that Christine Sophie indeed had relatives in the U.S. Her aunt Ilse Dorothea had married Johann Heinrich Stanze of Nordassel **(C8B)**. Their daughter Johanne Wilhelmine Henriette (b. 26 Nov 1802) had married the shoemaker master Johann Heinrich Christian Hagemann of Hohenassel and the couple had emigrated to the U.S.A.^[2770] together with their seven children. So, grandfather Schrader was right. However, those were apparently not the relatives he meant.

He was most likely speaking of Ernst Adolph Friedrich Wilhelm Vornkahl who emigrated to New York in about 1900 (see pages 214-215). His father, Johann Heinrich Friedrich **(C8B)**, also was born in 1849 in Müden on Aller and as a *taufzeuge* for a baptism in 1866, he was mentioned as *Malergeselle* (journeyman painter). Our grandfather's uncle, August Friedrich Meyer, of Müden also was a painter. As there very few master painters around, it is likely they both had been apprentices of the same master. It would not be surprising if Wilhelm, also a painter, apprenticed to one of them. It is highly likely that they all knew each other as they were related and Müden and Flettmar are only four km apart. Their houses still exist today but have been completely reconstructed. Originally they looked like the one in Flettmar of 1798 shown in Figure 90. All Vornkahls and relatives of Müden and Flettmar have been baptized in St. Petri, a unique church (Figure 91) founded in the 13th century.

Heinrich Schrader's father was financially well situated as he had inherited a grocery store with bread, food, colors, and a small farm. Heinrich had four siblings: Emilie Dorothea Friederike (b. 15 Sep 1878, Flettmar; d. 06



Figure 90. Typical 19th century homestead, Flettmar.

March 1956, Päse^[3181]), Frieda Caroline Christine (b. 22 Feb 1881, Flettmar; d. 28 Jun 1956, Hamburg), Otto Heinrich Hermann (b. 17 May 1886, Flettmar) and Karl Friedrich, who died in infancy (b. 15 Jun, d. 16 Jun 1888, Flettmar). Karl Friedrich was buried together with his mother, who died in childbed, in the cemetery at Müden (d. 18 Jun 1888, Flettmar). In 1889, Heinrich's father married Sophie Auguste Schrader (b. 19 Jan 1865, Groß Eicklingen) and generated four half siblings: Heinrich Karl Emil (b. 15 Sep 1892), Frieda Helene Pauline (b. 21 Feb 1894), Marie Elise (b. 08 Jun 1896) and Heinrich Friedo (b. 23 Aug 1903, d. 1 Feb 1907). Heinrich's father died from a colon carcinoma 1 May 1907 without leaving a last will. Auguste married Waldemar Martin in 1908 and had a son, Berthold, and a daughter, Martha with him. Unfortunately, Waldemar not only abused his wife but also ran through the fortune, leaving nothing for Heinrich Schrader to inherit.

Grandfather Schrader had meanwhile become a baker master. As his journeyman's book is unfortunately lost we do not know where he spent his apprenticeship, where he worked as a journeyman, or where he was promoted master. From 10 Oct 1906 to 21 Sep 1908 he did his military service as a musketeer of the 7th platoon of the famous Heideregiment, the 2nd Hannover Infantry Regiment No 77 in Celle. It is said that with the financial aid of his grandparents in Celle he took over an abandoned bakery in Eicklingen. We have found no evidence for that event as yet, though. His sister Emilie had married Friederich Ernst August Buchholz (b. 05 Sep 1877, Bröckel; d. 12 Jan 1955, Päse),^[3182] who that day also took over the Brinksitzer farm No. 20 from his parents, Carl Friedrich Buchholz (b. 16 Mar 1853, Päse; d. 11 Dec 1921, Päse) and Caroline Marie Santelmann (b. 10 Sep 1851, Bröckel; d. 11 Dec 1921, Päse). Carl Friedrich was the son of Jürgen Heinrich Buchholz and Sophie Dorothee Christine Vornkahl (**C8B**), a sister of Emilie's grandmother.

Through visits from his sister, Heinrich also became more intimately acquainted with the neighbors in house Nr. 34, master baker Johann Köhler and his family. Johann, born as Caspar Adam Köhler 06 Jan 1861 in Urnshausen, Thuringia, had remained as journeyman in Flettmar, fell in love with the shoemaker's daughter Marie Wilhelmine Ebeling at Päse and married her. He bought the house, which was registered to his name 02 July 1897, from the Fesser family, leased some additional land and added a bake house and a cattle shed to the house. He moved in with his wife, his parents-in-law and his wife's brother, Wilhelm. Wilhelm was blind.



Figure 91. St. Petri church, Müden on Aller.

When Wilhelm was six years old, he and a friend from Siedersdamm had found a loaded shotgun in the barn of a farm and played with it. A shot broke up and the shot ruined his eyesight. After he learned Braille and other embossed printings, he became a well-read man who could help others, particularly the school kids with German and geometry, and earned his living as a basket maker.

House Nr. 34 was considered a haunted house and there are both a farmer's version and an official version of the incident that gave the house its reputation. Bachelor Kahle, who lived in the house with the Fessers, was a poacher. At the end of July, 1886, he went poaching with three others, but the gamekeeper and the gendarme were around so they had to flee. When jumping over a staunching ditch at the Harsebruch, Kahle tripped, the gun went off and the bullet destroyed a large part of his right hand. The other three carried him home to his chamber located on top of the cellar (thus called the cellar chamber). As he did not utter a sound anymore, they thought he was dead but to make sure so he would not implicate them, they hung him from a supporting beam. They then went to Voges at Siedersdamm to play cards in order to establish an alibi.

The official version was given in two brief notes in the local newspaper^[3183] stating that in the presence of the prosecutor of Hildesheim the judicial commissioned autopsy of the corpse of the hanged worker Kahle had been performed. Further investigation indicated that he had gone poaching alone the evening before his death with a borrowed rifle, which for some reason discharged and the bullet damaged his hand. From remorse and fear that his activity would be known, he committed suicide. Supporting the farmer's version, however, it was also mentioned in the notes that there was very little blood and that no gun was found.

Since that time the rumor has been that under a full moon one can see the man hanging and hear him scream for help. When Ulli was a little boy, he often slept in the cellar chamber and longed to see Kahle hanging there, but either the ghost never appeared or Ulli fell asleep too early.

Johann Köhler had three daughters, Anna Marie Helene (b. 27 Jan 1899; d. 11 Sep 1977; Päse), Emma Johanne Sophie (b. 28 Apr 1900, Päse) and Martha (b. 10 Aug 1901, Päse), and one son, Hermann Johannes



Figure 92. Wedding party for marriage of Heinrich Schrader and Anna Köhler, 5 May 1922.

Kaspar (b. Oct 1902, d. 21 Jan 1903, Päse) who suffered sudden infant death. When she was 13-15 years old Anna fell deeply in love with Heinrich Schrader. In 1914, however, Heinrich had to close his bakery because he was drafted for military service in World War I. He served as a miner whose duty it was to tunnel under enemy lines to blow them up. He participated in one of the bloodiest battles of the war, the Battle of the Somme in 1916. About one-hundred-four Franco-British divisions attacked about forty German divisions and, in total, there were over one million dead and wounded on all sides within just 141 days. In the end, the Franco-British forces advanced just seven miles and failed to break the German defense. Our grandfather hardly ever mentioned the war, which is understandable if one looks at the pictures showing a moonscape covered with craters and torn bodies. One day his group was attacked with poisonous gas and he was one of the few who survived.

The official casualty lists mention Heinrich as missing in action 26 Oct 1916.^[3184] At that time he belonged to the 11th platoon of the newly formed Infantry Regiment 368 and his Red Cross search card^[3185] tells that he was last seen alive on 25 Oct 1916 near Combles. He was apparently taken prisoner-of-war (POW) a day later by the French 110th Infantry Regiment when it conquered the village during the battle of Morval. He appeared again in the casualty list on 07 March 1917 as POW, but it was mentioned that this was unverified information from foreign sources.^[3186] There was no further information on him thereafter. A legend said that he and three others escaped from the POW camp and managed to reach the Pyrenees when one of his comrades broke his leg. Grandfather stayed with him until help came while the others crossed the Spanish border. He was recaptured and sent to a penal camp. This incident, which needs to be verified by the French POW records if they still exist, may explain why he was released so late.

As the war had been over for years and there was still no information on him people thought he was dead and his siblings sold his property. The only person who was absolutely sure that he was still alive was Anna Köhler. He returned in spring 1921 without prior notice, as his postcard was delayed. Since he had no place to



Figure 92.1. Heinrich Schrader, seated far right, front row.



Figure 93. Heinrich Schrader, 1970.

stay he was harbored by sister Emilie and her husband Ernst Buchholz. In May 1922 he married Anna Köhler (Figure 92). They had three children: Hanna (b. 10 Sep 1928, Päse; d. 26 May 2016, Lehrte), Hans-Heinrich (b. 10 Jul 1930, Päse, d. 14 Aug 2016, Seershausen) and Magdalene (b. 16 Dec. 1933, Päse; d. 01 Dec 2005, Hamburg). After his marriage he worked with his father-in-law in the bakery.

Heinrich Schrader was a very socially-minded person. When Martha Köhler gave birth to an illegitimate child, Ilse, which was still a stigma at that time, he took care of her and raised Ilse like his own daughter while Ernst Buchholz was her legal guardian. Ilse Köhler died in a tram accident in 1951. When the Nazis came into power, Heinrich Schrader became suspicious of them as he did not share their political views. Like many people in eastern Lower Saxony he supported the Deutsch-Hannoversche Partei, a conservative Lutheran party which advocated Hannover, originally under Welfen rule, as a member state of the German Reich independent from Prussia. That is why it was also called Welfenpartei. Heinrich might have been influenced by Anna's grandparents. They were apparently connected to the Welfen as they obtained a precious bible from Ernst August, Duke of Cumberland and Duke of Braunschweig and Lüneburg, for their golden wedding anniversary in 1914. The bible was one of the first with printed photographs from the Holy Land.

The Third Reich was not an easy period in Heinrich's life. He had to give up the bakery trade. The reason is not clear but there are two different versions which in this case may both be true. The first is that he developed a flour allergy, a common baker's disease. The second is that he was denounced and caught at illicit baking, a severe crime in those days, and that the Nazis wanted to install a party member in his master position. After losing his bakery, he worked in road and railway construction and in the forest. During World War II food and other staples became rare and could only be obtained with ration books. Under Nazi policy, blind "Uncle Wilhelm" should have been sent to a home for disabled persons, but Heinrich somehow managed to prevent that.

Wilhelm would have become a victim of Hitler's order to euthanize worthless life, which included the blind. Since Wilhelm received very few food ration cards, he was supported by Heinrich's family.

In 1943 Heinrich was conscripted again. All men fit for military service were at war and therefore men who were considered too old or otherwise unfit for front-line service were drafted for guard and garrison duties. There was a huge camp with more than 10,000 POWs, Stammlager Stalag XI-B, at Fallingbommel. Because the local workers were at war, the POWs were recruited for forced labor on farms and in construction and were organized into Arbeitskommandos ("work camps") in the area. Soviet and Polish POWs were considered sub-human by the Nazis and treated as such. They received rations on which they could barely survive and no medical treatment. Thousands died from typhoid fever and exhaustion. From fall 1943 until 1945 Heinrich had to guard the mainly Russian and Polish POWs of the Arbeitskommando 3336 at Flettmar working on the farms and on railway construction. A group picture from the Flettmar station with "his" forced laborers still exists (Figure 92.1; four of the men in the photograph are POWs, one is seated in front and three are in the upper row; Heinrich Schrader is seated in front on the far right).

Heinrich treated his POWs well and tolerated their collection at night of beets and potatoes left behind by the farmers in the fields in order to have something to eat. After the war, when the camps were liberated his POWs protected him against attacks from liberated POWs from the East who marauded the villages, killing and raping. The British also did not punish him. To treat such POWs well could cause trouble with the authorities, as experienced by Ernst Buchholz. He had Russian workers from the Arbeitskommando 3497 at Pässe and they usually took their meals in Ernst's house. One day the Nazis asked him how he could feed such people at his table and he replied: "They are doing the same hard work I do and they are doing it well. Therefore they deserve to sit at my table and eat my bread." He was probably under surveillance thereafter, but farmers like him were too important for the Nazis to really punish for such incidents. Heinrich, on the other hand, might have faced severe punishment if the rumors were true that he was involved in the getaway of a Jewish couple.

Heinrich Schrader was a very peaceful man but once was convicted for assault. When the workers became unemployed in winter they had to go on the dole. In order to get the money, they needed a stamp from the employment office. One day, however, he and a colleague went to the office and the young clerk got so haughty that they dragged him over his desk and proficiently tanned his hide with their walking sticks.

Heinrich was a serious man and could be very reticent, but, on the other hand, he was known for his jokes and his readiness for all sorts of "mischief." He could tell stories with such a serious face and body language that people often were not sure if the story was true or if he was hoaxing them. He could be very convincing at that and in a way taught us children to reflect carefully on what we were told. When we were young his main threatened punishment was: "We'll send you to bed barefooted and you will have to look all night over your noses." The way he presented the threat was so convincing that it took quite a while until we realized that this would happen anyway. Another thing he said was: "You can catch a hare if you can put salt on his tail." So we went out into the fields with salt to catch a hare. We saw many but could not catch one. But what he said was nevertheless no lie: if you can manage to put salt on his tail you can as well catch him.

Heinrich Schrader retired not long after the end of World War II. His dearest activity even in old age was chopping wood for the winter (Figure 93), mainly oak and beech wood from the local forests. He wore the dress and cap still typical of the farmers and workers of those days. The cap did not only protect from sun and dirt but it was also a good hiding spot. One of his duties was to take care of the chickens and to collect the eggs which his daughter-in-law was selling. He loved whisked egg with sugar but he was not allowed to take any eggs for himself. Thus a few eggs he collected ended up under his cap and he complained with the most serious face to his daughter-in-law that the chickens had been lazy again and that she maybe should feed them better. He died 26 Feb 1972 at the age of 88.

The Friedrich Vornkahls - Bakers in Sehlede

by Friedrich Vornkahl (translated by Ulli Schröder; photographs courtesy of Friedrich Vornkahl)

My Vornkahl ancestors originate from Nettlingen. My great-grandfather Heinrich Vornkahl (b. 23 Nov 1841)^[1158] was born in Nettlingen. He was master coachman on the Lauenstein farm in Nettlingen but later moved to Sehlede (d. 22 Feb 1913, Sehlede). He married Sophie Raake (b. 1 Aug 1840, Bettrum; d. 6 Nov 1908, Sehlede), the daughter of the master baker Raake in Bettrum (see Figure 94 and C4). They had two sons, Heinrich and my grandfather Friedrich (b. 15 Oct 1867,^[1286] Sehlede; d. 25 April 1955, Sehlede; Figures 95 and 97). While Heinrich became a teacher with emphasis on German philology, Friedrich learned the baker's craft in the bakery of his grandfather in Bettrum. Great-grandfather Heinrich Vornkahl bought a cottager's place and around 1884 a bake house was erected. The family lived in an old half-timbered house on the street.



Figure 94. Great grandparents.



Figure 95. Grandfather Friedrich Vornkahl.

In 1886 at the age of 19 years grandfather Friedrich Vornkahl started baking in the bake house, supported by his mother with her experience from the bakery in Bettrum. At that time the minor qualification of Geselle (journeyman) was sufficient to be allowed to run a bakery, whereas previously and also again later the major qualification of Meister (master) was required. However, in order to have apprentices a master's title was still a prerequisite and Friedrich earned it after five journeyman years. The bakery developed rapidly and after a few years the bakery and the butcher's shop were the best commercial tax payers of the village. In the bakery four journeymen and two domestic workers were employed. The main distribution area of the bakery was Sehlede, Esbeck, Deilmissen, and Heinsen and later also Elze. The establishment was a combination of farming and bakery. The agricultural products, such as fruits, eggs, milk and grain were processed in the bakery. There were two cows, a horse, 10 pigs and 2 to 3 bulls, 30 chickens and geese in summer. In 1893 a new dwelling house was built and in the following years a barn. Behind the barn was a whim, which was used to drive agricultural equipment (chaff-cutter, grist-mill) in the barn. It was later replaced by an electric motor.



Figure 96. Lina (Kreibohm) Vornkahl.

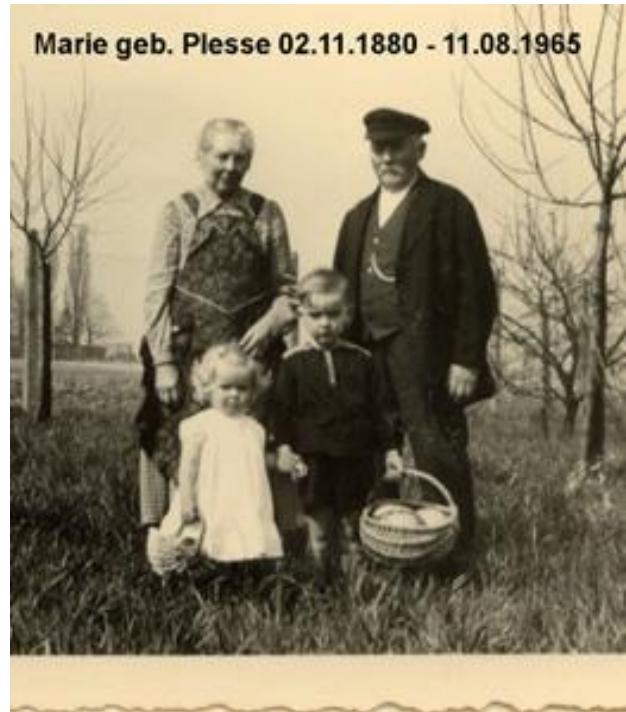


Figure 97. Friedrich and Marie (Plesse) Vornkahl.



Figure 98. Friedrich Vornkahl.



Figure 99. Hanna (Warnecke) Vornkahl.

In the 19th century a pathway led past the plot to a large ice pit. Before the invention of refrigerators and freezers, such pits, cellars or special houses were used to store ice collected in winter from lakes and rivers and sometimes also snow. The ice was covered with insulation such as straw, chaff or sawdust. It would remain frozen for many months, often until the following winter, and could be used as a source of ice during summer months. The main application of the ice was in the refrigeration of perishable foods. At the end of WW2 two

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firebombs were dropped on Sehlde. One hit a barn in the lower village where my father had parked a cart with grain and the other hit the upper village.

My grandfather (Figure 95) was married 3 times. The first two women died from diseases that can be cured in this day and age. The wives were Lina nee Ahrens (16 Sep 1871 – 29 Jun 1909), Lina nee Kreibohm (17 Oct 1884 - 10 Nov 1916; Figure 96) and Marie nee Plesse (2 Nov 1880 – 11 Aug 1965; Figure 97). From the marriage three girls, Erna, Hilda, Martha and a boy, Friedrich emerged. My father Friedrich Vornkahl (1 May 1912 - 7 Jan 1964; Figure 98) took over the business and taught me the baker's craft. In 1960 he had to close the bakery for health reasons. He married Hanna Vornkahl nee Warnecke (9 May 1916 - 1 Jan 1993; Figure 99). Two sons, Friedrich (that's me) and Walter, and daughter, Ingeborg resulted from this marriage. The bakery was not reopened and the property was sold to the staff of an educational institution. Additional photographs below:



Figure 100. Heinrich Vornkahl (1841-1913) on left; Friedrich Vornkahl (1867-1955) on right.



Figure 101. Vornkahl house, Sehlde.



Figure 102. Friedrich Vornkahl (1867-1955) with firewood for the bakery.



Figure 103. Three generations of Friedrichs, l. to r., grandfather, author, father.

Vornkahls and Bocks of Berel

by Eike Bock

Since I always knew that I have Vornkahl ancestors, it was natural for me to be interested in this name. My grandfather, Hermann Bock (Figure 104), had carried out searches on his direct ancestors with a genealogist. I was interested in which house was which in Berel. I found the answers to this bit by bit through examination of the inheritance and crop yield registers at the Office of Lichtenberg. For the survey I needed to make maps showing the respective farmsteads and their owners. Since the village and countryside have barely changed over the centuries, it was relatively easy to make assignments of farmsteads in Berel (Figures 106, 109-110).



Figure 104. Hermann Bock.
1876-1949.



Figure 105. Hermann Bock,
father of Eike Bock. 1903-1992.

There were only three Vornkahl courtyards in Berel. These are discussed on pages 301-304. Of these, Nr. 36 (Figures 107 and 108) has the longest Vornkahl history, from about 1548–1840. In addition to my interests, I was motivated to research the genealogy of this name because of the many outside requests for information.



Figure 106. Aerial view of Berel, 2014 (Google satellite photo).



Gruss aus Berel →

Figure 107. House Nr. 36, ancestral Vornkahl homestead in Berel. Photo (1930) courtesy of Eike Bock.



Figure 108. Part of farmstead at Nr. 36 in Berel; photographed in 2007.

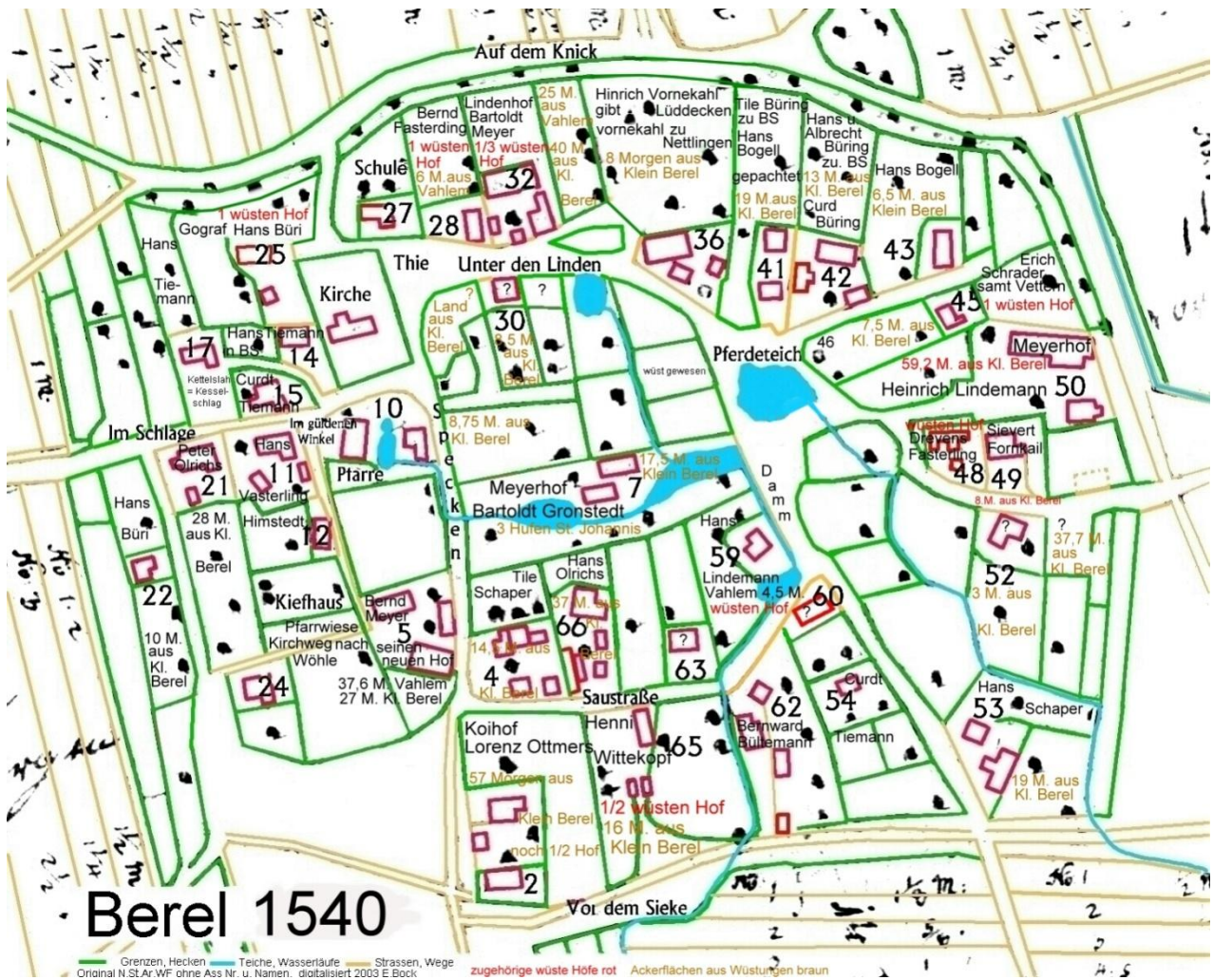


Figure 109. Occupants of Berel farmsteads in 1540 as reconstructed from the 1753 Asse Kuranz Nummer and the 1540 Lichtenberg register of names. Map courtesy of Eike Bock.

There were many interested parties, including the mother of Dr. Ulrich “Ulli” Schroeder who first made inquiries and then came to Berel from Hamburg to visit. Later, Ulli’s brother, Andreas, called a number of times.

From 1981–1985, I spent 4-5 hours each day looking for relatives. I drove, little by little, to almost all places, made contacts, and took pictures. With Nettlingen, this was relatively easy; I just needed to interview my mother’s relatives who had come from Nettlingen. I also was able to get access to the “Nettlinger Chronicle” by Dr. Fr. Spanuth. By 1985, I was finding nothing new and so I turned my attention to the foundation of the family and other topics such as the village chronicles. Then, when my first grandchild was born in 2007, I decided it was time to continue the search again.

Beginning in 2001, I put a list of the Bereler emigrants on our village website. This was found by people in the U.S.A.. I received emails asking for information. In this way, I came into contact with Melva Lewis of Jackson, Missouri. This was a highpoint of a special kind. Now I knew that the Bocks, as well as many other families including the Vornkahls, had gone to Cape Girardeau County, Missouri.

For Expo, Ann Voges Schwartz came to Berel from the Chicago area. I drove her to the archive in Wolfenbüttel and helped where I could. In return, they turned to a family researcher in Missouri (Melva Lewis unfortunately died in 2002). He searched and found data for the Bock’s up to 1920. As a result, I received details about the emigrant Bocks. However, it lacked access to the living generations.

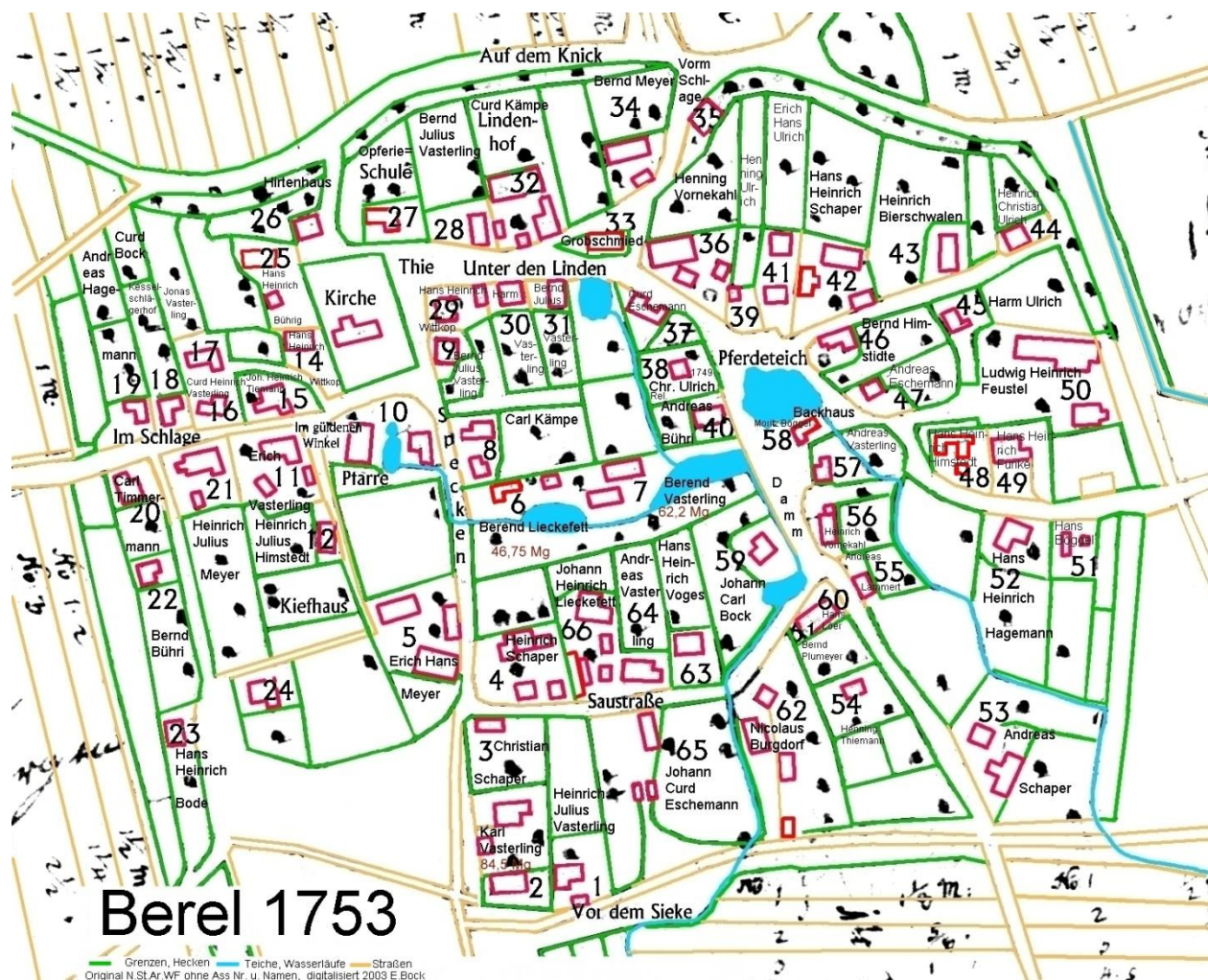


Figure 110. Occupants of Berel farmsteads in 1753 as reconstructed from the 1753ASSE Kuranz Nummer and the 1753 Lichtenberg register of names. Map courtesy of Eike Bock.

In July 2007, Betty and Dr. Randy Smith were unexpectedly passing by Berel. They left a business card since I was not at home. Now I had an address from a living generation. A few months later, I received a U.S. Bock history with about 700 relatives. In 2009, I followed in the footsteps of the Bereler emigrants. Seven families in Cape Girardeau County took me in for about three weeks. I met the Ron Vornkahl family through help by Ulli. Facebook has helped me enormously to get contacts and photos of the relatives. After nine years of intensive research, this number has risen in the U.S. to over 2,400. Now I am sending pdf extracts upon request to U.S. Bock descendants.

Since about 2001, I have been in touch with Ulli Schröder. Here began a new push. For him, I searched for the first record of a Vornkahl in Nettlingen and was lucky to find the early ratification of the fief transfers. Particularly fascinating to me was a visit by Ulli and Roy to Nettlingen and Berel in 2007 to photograph parish records. My Vornkahl ancestor is Ilse Marie Vornkahl of Berel who married Levin Julius Bock in 1775 (see Chart 8A) and to whom I am related through their oldest son, Johann Heinrich, born in 1777.

After a total of thirty-five years of searching, the knowledge about one's past now is exploding with use of the search capabilities of the Internet. Despite some uncertainties in the complete line, I now can trace my ancestors back to the year 1334. The Vornkahl line also goes back very far. The international cooperation I have received from Argentina, South Africa, Venezuela, Ecuador and primarily the United States brings together vast amounts of information. I am happy I can be part of it.

Auguste Johanne Emilie (Vornkahl) Berking

Photographs courtesy of Stefan Beate



Figure 111. Heinrich and Emilie (Vornkahl) Berking.



Fig. 114. Emilie (Vornkahl) Berking, center, daughter Ida and son-in-law Ludwig John.



Figure 112. Heinrich and Emilie Berking with children.



Figure 113. L. to r.: unk.; Heinrich and Anna (Berking) Giesemann & children; Emma Sophie Christine (Vornkahl) Hantelmann.



Figure 115. Emilie (Vornkahl) Berking with granddaughter.

Miscellaneous Photographs



Figure 116. Historic (1581) Wassermühle (watermill) of Nettingen. The living quarters were occupied by a Friedrich Vornkahl family around 1800. Historical information courtesy of Eike Bock.



Figure 117. "Steins Vornkahl" farmstead, Nettingen. Photo courtesy of Friedrich Vornkahl.

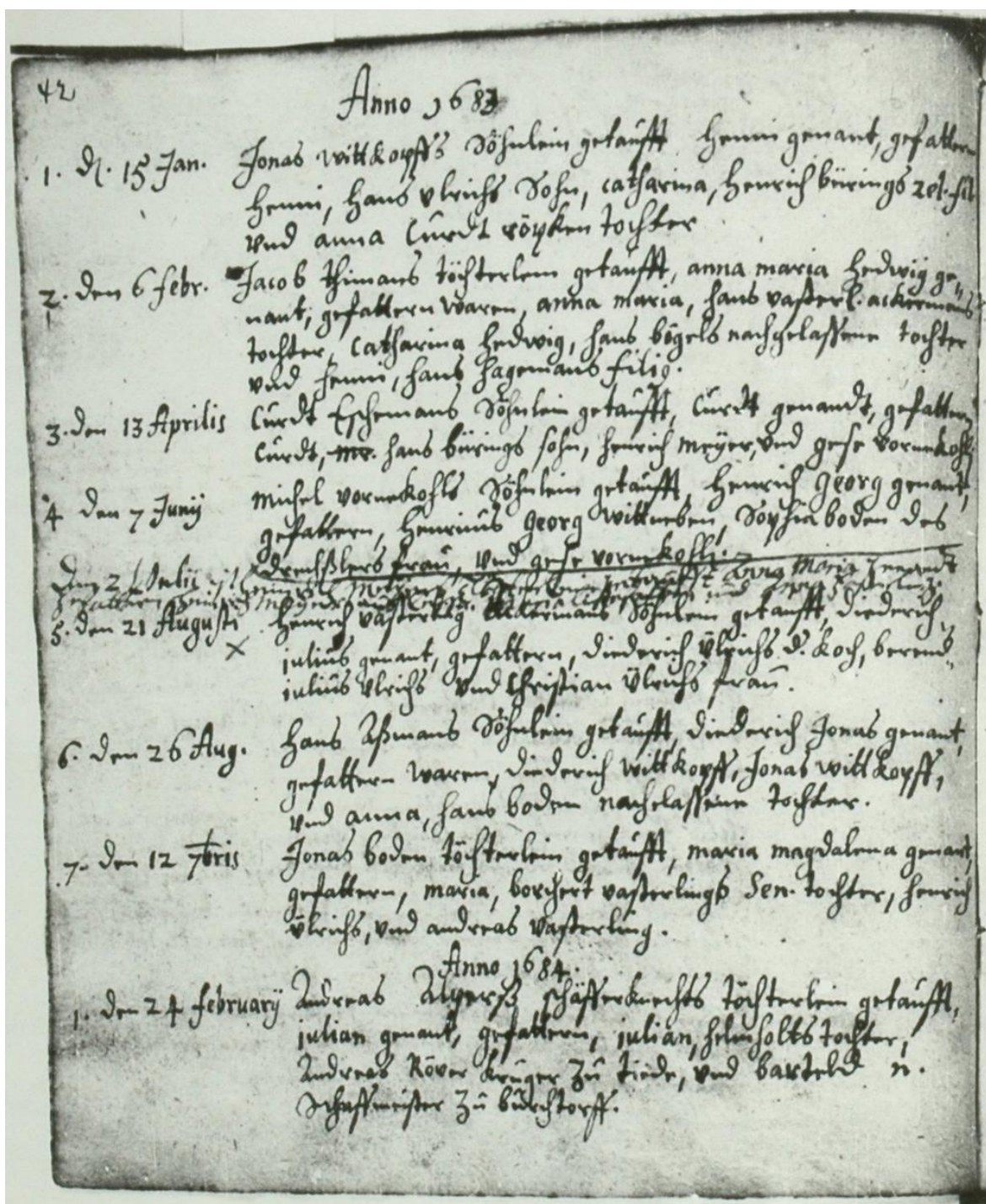


Figure 118. Page 42 of the 1683 Berel Kirchenbuch wherein the baptism of Heinrich Georg Vornekahl is recorded. Entry number 4 on the page reads: “den 7 Junij Michal Vornekahl's Sohnlein getaufft, Henrich Georg genant, Gefattern Henricus Georg Wittenben, Sophie Boden des Drechßlers frau, und Gese Vornekahl.”

An approximate translation: “On the 7th of June, Michal Vornekahl's baby boy was baptized and named Henrich Georg. Godparents, Henricus Wittenben, Sophie Boden the (wood)turner's wife, and Gese Vornekahl.” Note that Gese Vornekahl is also a godmother to the baptized baby boy, Curdt Escheman, in the preceding entry number 3.



Figure 119. Plaque marking the site where the village of Klein Berel once existed. An approximate translation: “Little Berel. The village of Little Berel lay 150 meters south of this stone. Archaeological finds from the Roman Empire dating to the 1st – 5th and the 8th – 15th centuries have been made at this site. By 1548, the residents had moved to Berel, Nordassel, and Burgdorf.” The site is about half-way between the present day villages of Nettlingen and Berel.



Figure 120. Oldest house in the village of Berel, dating to the 1500s.



Figure 121. St. Marienkirche, Nettlingen.



Figure 122. St. Michaeliskirche, Dingelbe.



Figure 123. St. Martinkirche, Hoheneggelsen.



Figure 124. Ev.-luth. Kirche, Berel.