

**This website is about the history of the Blomeier / Blomeyer family from Eastern Westphalia, Germany. We can trace back our ancestry to Johan Blommeier, a smallholder in Wallenbrück/Herford district (born ca. 1525). Descendants by now live all over Germany, in the USA (Indiana et al), Mexico, South Africa and England. They flourish in three major branches with ca. 300 members alive world-wide: The elder one, the younger one and the »Bockhorsters«.**

**A connection neither to the Upper Palatine Blomeiers nor to the Blomeyers from Northeim district is proved. The »Ahnenliste« gives an account of ancestors of the first twelve generations. Further data from the 13th to present 17th generation (22 more pages with c. 900 additional names) are available to family members on request.**

**For any question or addition, please contact [blomeierblomeyer@web.de](mailto:blomeierblomeyer@web.de) !**

## 7. English Version

»Surely a historian's object should not be to amaze his readers by a series of thrilling anecdotes; nor should he aim to at producing speeches which might have been delivered, nor study dramatic propriety in details like a writer of tragedy: but his function is above all to record with fidelity what was actually said or done, however commonplace it may be.«

Polybios II, 56

### 7.1. Origins and Name

The region between Teutoburger Forest and the hills of the Wiehengebirge in today's Northwest Germany attracted permanent settlers about five or six thousand years ago. Before them, only hunters on band level occasionally had striven through its woodlands, sharing them with bear and bison. Archaeologists and linguists draw quite a precise picture of the life of these early pre-indoeuropean settlers who had learned to cultivate plants already, and of the nomad people, originating from the forested steppe at Don and Wolga rivers, who later replaced them in several advances and overtook agriculture and sedentariness from them. Apparently, the early population had heavily been reduced by epidemics and famine before they were substituted by those we identify as our forefathers. Earlier research called them »battle-axe-people«. Only a few thousand men were living between Weser and Rhine river then. Fund-sites in our area among others are Werste (Bad Oeynhausens/megalithic tomb), Künsebeck (Halle/pottery), Dreierwalde (Hörstel/flintstone-dagger) or Spenge's ironage graves. In regard of today's individual families this could contribute to their history only when latest techniques of genetic research would be applied, as has been done in the Harz region and in the Alpine area and proved continuity of the indigenous population over thousands of years. Although the evolution of the Saxon tribe during the 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> centuries in later north-west Germany was preceded by the migration of some dwellers across the Rhine, the situation might be described in similar terms in our area. Tribal consciousness developed first among clans distinguished by fortune and martial success and their warriors rather than among the mass of scattered peasants<sup>1</sup>. The later Blomeyers' home area *Wessigau* and *Graingau* were known as part of *Angria*, since the times of the Salian dynasty they usually are regarded as parts of Westphalia.

Cores of settlement in the parish of Wallenbrück<sup>2</sup> (older versions *Woldenbrugge* etc), now part of the town of Spenge/Herford district, were, according to local historians, Baringdorf and Düttingdorf, Wallenbrück with its St Mary church itself and the hamlet of Helligen at the ancient road from Herford to Osnabrück. New onomastic reflections do not draw back the name Helligen<sup>3</sup> from a Saxon man's name any more - as is undisputed for its in-

<sup>1</sup> On the historical background see K. Hauck: *Das Wissen Widukinds von Corvey von der Neubildung des sächsischen Stammes im 6. Jhd.*, in: H. Stob (Ed.): *Ostwestfälisch-Weserländische Forschungen zur geschichtlichen Landeskunde*, Münster/Westf. 1970, p. 1-16. Also W. Kohl: *Kleine westfälische Geschichte*, Düsseldorf 1994, p. 12-30.

<sup>2</sup> On Spenge's history see: W. Mager (Hrsg.): *Geschichte der Stadt Spenge*, Spenge 1984; C. Hartmann u.a. (Hrsg.): *Spuren der Geschichte in Wallenbrück und Bardüttingdorf*, Bielefeld 1992, sowie M. Vollmer: *Die Flurnamen der Stadt Spenge*, Bielefeld 1996. G.H. Griese: *Heimatgeschichte des Amtes Spenge*, o.O. 1926; id.: *Wallenbrück. Ein Heimatbuch deutscher Geschichte*, Herford 1932, is not adequate in title and tone to today's methods any more, its content in some respects outdated. But one cannot deny his effort of academic achievement. Griese (to [J1367b], s. p. 71f.), born at Lenzinghausen is based among others on the Praestationsregister of Enger bailiwick from 1721, its 1686 Kataster, the Ledebur family archive. Cf. also: W. Wissmann: *Neunhundert Jahre Wallenbrück. Festschrift zur 900-Jahrfeier*, Spenge 1952. Among the ca. 30 parishes of the county, Wallenbrück was one of the smallest..

<sup>3</sup> Cf. mndt. helle/Abhang, nhd. halde Abhang; comp. engl. hill, dutch/afrikaans helling(en): slope, decline, also place name Hille in Minden-Lübbecke district. B. Meineke: *Die Ortsnamen des Kreises Herford*, Bielefeld 2011, S. 124f. on Helligen. In older sources also Hellingen, Heilgen etc; in Low German »Hellgen« is common. The place names of Baringdorf und Wallenbrück are meanwhile traced from persons' names, s. *ibid.* p. 366ff. and 292ff. The name of the major local creek Warmenau e.g. derives from indo-germ. »\*our«/water.

dividual farms - but explains it as taken from the topographical situation. Thus it meant the slight hill reaching down to the southern Mühlenbach creek. The original name might then have been *Helding*. Also it is possible to explain it from the middle-low German expression for a territory routed out, what would also make sense in the context of establishing a new village. Whether the village had been founded in Saxon times or after the later Frankish conquest, cannot be decided. Elder reflexion believed, single farms were Frankish, cluster settlements like Hellingen Saxon. Reliable written sources exist from the beginning second millennium AD.

On the early history of the Blomeyers we can nevertheless only speculate. At the end of the 11<sup>th</sup> century a dedication of the main farm of Wallenbrück, according to some historians including farms in the peasantry of Hellingen, to Osnabrück church is recorded<sup>4</sup>. The north and west of the Ravensberg county then was part of this diocese. Possibly this was today's Graefe zu Ohlsen near the Wulbredeer heath was meant. According to this, in the clan of the dedicating lady the name of Widukind was still in use, which in the region is memorialized as name of the leader of the pagan resistance against Frankish conquest, who is buried in near Enger church. W. Mager convincingly suggested the said nun belonged to the nobles of Oesede<sup>5</sup>. Until late middle age farms in Hellingen and Wallenbrück however were property of monasteries such as Herford abbey and St Dionysios convent of Enger. The convent, consecrated to the patron of the victorious Franks, had been founded by the widow of the first German king Henry I on her patrimony for his commemoration in the mid-10<sup>th</sup> century. Each of the twelve canonicates had one large farm to substitute him. Legend much later made a number of farms in Enger and south of it deriving from the prince's companions. It is generally accepted, that queen Mathilde (896-968), Henry's second wife since 909, was from the Widukind clan, was born near Enger and grew up under supervision of her grand-mother in Herford abbey. Wallenbrück's St Mary near Warmenau-shore probably also had been erected as a noble's proprietary church. Following the *Vita Mathildis Reginae antiquior*, written ca. 975 in eastern Saxony, Widukind himself established several »cellulae«. Uncertain is it yet to connect the place-name Wallenbrück, »settlement near Waldo's bridge«, to count Waltbert, Widukind's grandson and presumed great-grand-father of Mathilde. He maybe also was count at the Graingau as late as 859, descendants invested to high clerical offices until late 10<sup>th</sup> century, the last known Liudolf bishop of Osnabrück<sup>6</sup>. At least building bridges was counted not less than building churches as pious work, and the clan, having submitted to the Caro-lingians like other Saxon clans after defeat, had to foster the tribe's christianisation. Earlier, missionaries had been slaughtered by the ancient Saxons. But therefore, we can carefully speculate, that the mentioned farms once might have been part of the estate of the said *dux* or his warriors. From one of those farms the Blomeyers later stemmed from. Not much more can be said of our early forebearers.

The earliest notation of a *Blommeyge* in the sources is an entry in the Werburg manorial roll dated from palaeographic features and archival context to 1548. Annually he had to pay *fourteen bushels of oat, four hens and three guilders from the goat field*<sup>7</sup> (»Seygenkampe«) to the lord of the manor. No further taxes were to be paid,

<sup>4</sup> Historischer Verein für die Grafschaft Ravensberg (Hrsg.): *Ravensberger Regesten 785-1346, 2 Bde., ed. by. G. Engel, Bielefeld u.a. 1985; ibid. fn. to nrs. 80 and 97 annos 1096 and 1118.*

<sup>5</sup> W. Wehrenbrecht: *Spenge im Mittelalter*, in: W. Mager (Ed.): *Geschichte der Stadt Spenge*, p. 39-72. Also comp. W. Hillebrand: *Besitz- und Standesverhältnisse des Osnabrücker Adels 800-1300 (Vorarb. z. histor. Atlas Nds, c. 23)*, Göttingen 1962 p. 86-89. O. Merker: *Das Werden des Territorialstaates am Beispiel des Amtes Grönenberg*, in: *Verein für Geschichte u. Landeskunde Osnabrücks (Ed.): Osnabrücker Mitteilungen 74 (1967)*, p. 1-36 gives an account from earliest timest o the 17th century comprising all relevant factors influencing the area. On Ravensberg: F. Heuwinkel: *Die Grafschaft Ravensberg im Mittelalter – Probleme der Herrschaftsbildung, Ms. Bochum 1977, and Regesten I, p. 9ff.*

<sup>6</sup> K. Schmid: *Die Nachfahren Widukinds*, in: *DA 20 (1964)*, p. 1-47. Teacher Griese contributed to the collection of the memorial place build 1937 in an ancient farming burgher house near the church (modified in 1983 and 2005), from 1948 on he was in the board. On Widukind see Ravensberger Regesten 1, p. 91 no. 1. Founder of Herford abbey, St Waltger sometimes is taken for member of the dynasty as well, he also build Kirchdornberg church. Waltbert also build Wildeshausen's St Alexander at the Hunte bank.

<sup>7</sup> *LdArch Münster Dep. Benkhausen Nr. 1762, no pages (s. appendix). Maybe to be dated up to three years earlier, for in 1544 succession at the Werburg estate might have demanded a record of incomes. A »Saigenkamp« north of Hellingen village still exists, but is no more part of the Blomeyer farm (Flurnamenatlas, p. 10).*

with exception of the church title of course. To be ratable, the farm might have been established at least the year before, and maybe non-repayment years have to be estimated. However, no names of individual family members are mentioned, just the cottage as an economic unit. A Johan Blommeier [0101a] is first mentioned a few years later in the Ravensberg *Urbar*<sup>8</sup>, a ducal account of the county's inhabitants from 1556. Johan is described as bondsman with wife and children to the squire Johann Ledebur<sup>9</sup> of Werburg<sup>10</sup>, a man of eldest noble stock in the region, from a family dating back to the 13<sup>th</sup> century. The near Mühlenburg, Werburg and others were their main residences since they assumed them as fiefdom by the count of Ravensberg in early 15<sup>th</sup> century. Shortly before the 30-Years-War (1618-1648) the Ketteler family inherited the Werburg, soon the von Münchs, both also from ancient local families, and finally the von dem Bussches who owned it for more than two hundred years until the late 20<sup>th</sup> century<sup>11</sup>. Today the remains of the Werburg houses a history museum for children, the gatehouse is used as municipal archive and for wedding-ceremonies. The Ledebur were owing most bondsmen in the bailwick in their days, just second to the count, his tenant-in-chief. This was the duke of Jülich then, to whom the county was a secondary territory which he rarely visited. The local nobility therefore was almost free to exercise their will. They were under-tenants to the counts, later their bailies as well as hereditary marshals to Herford abbey, later county governors and members of the provincial diet. Their importance for the county is illustrated by the fact, that the common measure bushel often was described as Ledebur bushel, their leadership of the shire's knights' association and the fact that they assembled the local lords in the Wallenbrück church. There was even a saying that they were offspring of the counts<sup>12</sup>. Nothing more than those few words we know for sure about Johan. But for the family the contain the most important fact: »...with wife and children...«.

According to the *Urbarium* the Blommeier cottage owed neither service nor contribution to the ruler. He can hence not have been initiator of the establishment of the farm. Only in later years the ruler's administration installed most new small-estates. Johann III of Werburg also had the right of *Besat* i.e he was permitted to put men of his choice in charge of farmsteads. The more farmsteads, the more income from fees, contributions and statute labour. Motive might have been the great drought of 1540. On the whole the number of small farms in north east Westphalia has doubled between ca. 1450 to 1650. By satisfying the people's need for land, peasant uprisings as in south and central Germany had been avoided. Around 1640 as much as 147 bondsmen were counted for the Werburg estate. Most of them might have been established on former waste or common grounds (markland). No remark in the *Urbarium* tells us, Blommeier's cottage had also been erected this way, but this is

<sup>8</sup> Griese (1932), p. 76ff. and F. Herberhold: *Das Ravensberger Urbar von 1556, Teil I Text, Münster 1960, no 1210, 1215, 1216, 1313-15. Its statistical analysis -with incorrect dating- was done by K. Schreiber: Das Urbar der Grafschaft Ravensberg vom Jahre 1550, Münster i.W. 1906.*

<sup>9</sup> Cf. Johann III. Ledebur, who inherited the Werburg in 1544. Most prominent family member in Westphalia certainly was the historian Leopold von L. (1799-1877). Information on the most important offices and estates of the family contains G. Frhr. v. Ledebur: Die Ledeburs. Geschichte der Uradelsfamilie Ledebur, Kiel 1984 (Ms.), particularly p. 113-131. Generally on the regional gentry see A. Fahne: *Geschichte der westphälischen Geschlechter, o.O. 1853 (ND Osnabrück 1966), S.264 f.*

<sup>10</sup> Manor house, whose name is taken from »Wederburg« and means »opposite (to the elder Mühlenburg)«. Today municipal property, the gatehouse serves as local archive; records set in only ca. 1815. Parts of its' water ditch still exists, fortifications like the tower had been demolished since the 18<sup>th</sup> century. A volunteer association takes care of the main building. See A. Wehrenbrecht: *Die Werburg. Aus 500 Jahren ihrer Geschichte, Bielefeld 1994. The Mühlenburg is used as residence house and restaurant.*

<sup>11</sup> The files of the Werburg were taken to Münster state archive in the early 1970s. They are part of the *Depositum Benkhausen*, of which they make up to a third. Benkhausen, ca. 30 km north of Wallenbrück near Espelkamp was main residence of the last Werburg owners. The 4000 Ledebur files were registered by Staatsarchivrat L. Schütte in the late 1970s. Cf. Nordrhein-Westfälisches Staatsarchiv (Ed.): *Das Staatsarchiv Münster und seine Bestände. Territorialarchive von Minden, Ravensberg, Tecklenburg, Lingen und Herford, ed. by W. Reininghaus, Münster/Westf. 2000. Ibid. p. 34ff. A basic bibliography on constitutional, administrative, economic etc works of the (imperial) county.*

<sup>12</sup> E.A.F. Culemann: *Geographische Beschreibung der Grafschaft Ravensberg (1745), in: Jahresbericht des Historischen Vereins der Grafschaft Ravensberg 54 (1947), p. 85-187, p. 142. The counts, formerly sitting north of Osnabrück, rose as followers of saxon emperor Lothar III († 1137), to whom they were distantly related. Probably the bishops had called them to the area. Like other families, they used the century after Henry the Lion's fall (1180) to stabilize and expand their power, which was undisputed after Worringen battle (1288). The male line died out, the new dukes of Jülich inherited the territory 1346. To them and their successors, it was merely a distant »Nebenland«; even a collection of essays honoring Wilhelm V's 500th birthday hardly mentioned it even in the chapter about the states.*

not sufficient to assume he was a villager. His payment to his lord just was too low for such an interpretation. As bordar he rather was part of the village's middle class.

The topographical situation also supports the assumption that the farm had been build near markland. Blommeier's cottage stood just uphill the Ellerbach creek, which separated Hellingen from the two manor houses Werburg and Mühlenburg and west of the still existing wood *Holmke*<sup>13</sup>. Woodland like this traditionally was used for spatial separation. Together with southern Vahrenhorster birch trees it was the border to Spenge parish. The markland was used for hogsleas, collecting fire-wood and leaves for cattle food, mushrooms, berries etc. Details were fixed by the greater farmers in an annually newly negotiated markland statute. The more the population grew, the more important common waste-grounds became. A later right of villagers to move cattle over Blommeier's field also indicates the establishment of his farm near the markland. Unfortunately, local history is little productive in this respect<sup>14</sup>.

According to general historical experience the Blommeier cottage will not have been established long before it's first notification. In Henry IV Ledebur's last will<sup>15</sup> from 1468 among five dozens farms and cottages it is not mentioned yet. No house of another lord would have been accepted so close to the Werburg, so this is our *terminus post quem* for the installation of a Blommeier farm. Three generations of unknown Blommeiers therefore might have preceded Johan. During a church visitation in September 1533 by the ducal governor, Spenge villagers complaint about the three Ledebur brothers, who »slain die marcken zu und berauwen die kirspelsluide und andere. Derhalven sich zuschen inen irrungen und gebrechen erhaven, dan die holtzgraven wollen sich die marcken als für ir eigen anziehen und undergewinnen«, and also Wallenbrückers complaint about the Werburg lord<sup>16</sup>. Their high-handednesses must not have included purely enclosing the common land for their own cattle stock. A more efficient use would have been to install new farms. Maybe therefore the founding of the Blommeige farm was done under Johann III Ledebur around 1530, who had inherited his estate in 1505. In this case, an unknown additional generation would have to be assumed before [0101a]. We also have to take into account the twenty years needed to complete the Urbarium, in Wallenbrück starting like elsewhere with the duke's bondsmen in 1535. It is unknown, in which year Blommeige had been recorded. No proof, but maybe another hint of a late creation of our name is its absence in the 1580s record of field supplements in the bailwick Enger, in Sondermühlen, Bruchmühlen and Rollinghof estate registers of husbandmen, which are kept in Osnabrück state archive. The first one contains hundreds of names from the Westphalian-Lower Saxon border area including Hellingen and dates back in parts to the 1480s, but no Blomeyer. To this list could be added the files of Herford's St John, Bielefeld's St Mary, Osnabrück's St. Gertrudis and those of the Enger church (back to 1538). No files of more distant estates stored in the said archive were examined when insight demanded permission of private depositors such as Arenshorst, Krietenstein, Ostenwalde and Palsterkamp. Chances for new findings are small anyway. Parchment was valuable, data not needed any more were erased and the skin used anew. And no marriage-agreement from the county came upon us. Too imprecise is Spenge parish's *area blomen* in a revenue-list of Enger chapter-church from 1362<sup>17</sup>. Renewing it's nave at this time demanded close registration of all revenues. The Blomeyer farm at least has always been closer to Spenge than to Wallenbrück church.

<sup>13</sup> Cf. *ndt. holt/wood; the suffix from -beke/creek, hence meaning »wood at the creek«. »Ellerbach« from *ndt. Eller/alder tree*.*

<sup>14</sup> Schreiber, *passim*. S. Brakensieck's: *Agrarreform und ländliche Gesellschaft. Die Privatisierung der Marken in Nordwestdeutschland 1750-1850 (Forschungen zur Regionalgeschichte 1), Paderborn 1991 (Diss. Bielefeld 1990) is despite it's case study on Ravensberg p. 17-184 of little use, though it is of excellent use to get an idea of everyday life then..* See also Griese (1932), p. 95.

<sup>15</sup> DWUD Rep. Ledebur, Nr. 14, extract in Wehrenbrecht, p. 240f.

<sup>16</sup> *Protokoll der kirchlichen Visitation der Grafschaft Ravensberg vom Jahre 1533. Nach den Akten des königlichen Staatsarchivs zu Düsseldorf mitgeteilt von Pastor A. Schmidt in Vlotho, in: Jahrbuch des Vereins für evangelische Kirchengeschichte Westfalens 6 (1904), S. 135-169, hier S. 150ff. See also Brakensieck p. 38, Griese (1932) p. 98 and Urbar p. 231. Also interesting the given number of ca. »300 communicanten« in Wallenbrück, i.e. people participating in the eucharistie, from which only small children were excluded.*

<sup>17</sup> E. F. Mooyer: *Verzeichnis der Einkünfte der Kirche zu Enger vom Jahre 1362. Nebst einem Fragment eines Todtenbuches desselben, in: Westfälische Zeitschrift 6 (1843), p. 153-167: »Alia obediencia (...) item habet in area blomen xviii den(arii) pro reddibus denariorum« (p. 165). The Flurnamenatlas's 2500 entries, unique in Eastern Westphalia, do not help on this.*

As *Blomen farm*, as it might have been called in those days, we can imagine a straw-covered, half-timbered house of some 40 to 40 feet. It's gate lead to an open fire-place (»Herdstuie«) at the end of the hall (»Deele«), the cattle beside the walls. Right and left to the fire the eating and washing corners, beyond a chamber, a store-room and maybe the best room (»Stube«). The open tallet stored hay and chicken, smoke conserved the grain stored there and left by the main gate (»Nuinduir«). It was smelling from wood, clay, sweat and manure. For centuries this type of building remained unchanged<sup>18</sup>. A more impressive successor building today stands at Spenge's Ledebur road. Some 200-year old oaks indicate that the original building was located closer to the creek than today's farm. Possibly some shards, an iron shutter or a penny of earlier residents is hidden in the soil. Since the first mentioning it is owned by the Blomeier family. The cottage's early inhabitants lived a comparatively contemplative life<sup>19</sup>. Untouched by the religious quarrels of city people and the enmities of the princes, events which would shake their world had long passed over respectively were still a lifetime ahead. From their duke Wilhelm V the Rich, who visited the county only once in 1556, not to mention his father-in-law king Ferdinand I in faraway Vienna's new fortress or the king's brother emperor Charles V they heard, if at all, only in the Sunday prayer. Nobody yet possessed a clock.

Johan Blommeier [0101a] was not a freeman. Already in the mid-16<sup>th</sup> century only the seventh part of the population was, mostly the poor on which taxation was senseless. Becoming someone's bondmen however not uncommonly was an act of free will of a man or woman (s. [0501c], p. 59), who then inherited this status to their offspring. His cottage was only a few *Ruten* (engl. *rods*, ca 600 yards) southeast of Hellingen hamlet, where the oldest estates of the peasantry were concentrated. Among them only the hereditary, hence older markman Bruning and the villager Rexmann (also Rekesman, Recksmann etc) also were Ledebur's bondmen. It is probable that Blommeier's cottage had been split of the former's farm<sup>20</sup>, if not installed on markland. For a marriage of Johan Blommeier's grand-daughter [0302b] to a Bruning, about which we know from a later record<sup>21</sup>, would not have been allowed according to ecclesiastical law would they be kin too close to each other. A marriage between a Blomeyer [06021] and Rexmann in contrast was contracted only three generations afterwards for the first time. One can also assume that for a new cottage the sons of the villagers, who surely provided the necessary investment capital, were preferred, had not the landlord provided for it. Up to a fourth of its arable land might have had been separated for the new farmstead. And in the oldest registers Blomeyer is usually listed directly behind Rexmann. To give a new farm to one of Rexmann's sons surely helped to reduce the farmer's angriness about the misuse of common land. Certainly the Rexmann farm or possible predecessors at that time existed already for seven or eight-hundred years. From Griese's and W. Wehrenbrechts's evaluations of the medieval rolls we can carefully conclude Rexmann maybe still was freeman in late middle age. Hartmann counts him among the most ancient Hellingen estates<sup>22</sup>. A farm like this provided the settlers with everything needed for daily life, from meat to grain, milk, beer, honey, firewood and lumber, wool, linen and leather. Enough to give a surplus to a saxon, frankish or german nobleman, under whose protection most of them came, who in exchange overtook military service. What was not produced locally could be borrowed and bartered with neighbours or like iron

<sup>18</sup> Vgl. L. Volmer: *Von der westphälischen Bauart. Hausbau in Ravensberg zwischen 1700 und 1870, Essen 2011 (Diss. Münster 2005)*, esp. p. 61ff. and 488ff.

<sup>19</sup> G. Angermann: *Volksleben im Nordosten Westfalens zu Beginn der Neuzeit. Eine wachsende Bevölkerung zwischen Reformation und Renaissance, Obrigkeit und Wirtschaft (Minden, Herford, Ravensberg, Lippe), Münster/Westf. et al. 1995 tries to illustrate everyday-life in a period short of written sources.*

<sup>20</sup> H. Hirschfelder: *Herrschaftsordnung und Bauerntum im Hochstift Osnabrück im 16. und 17. Jahrhundert (Osnabrücker Geschichtsquellen und Forschungen 16)*, Osnabrück 1971, p. 87. A »house Rekesmann« is mentioned as Ledebur property first in 1468 in Ledebur's last will, later it comprises 64 acres ground.

<sup>21</sup> LdArch Münster Dep. Benkhausen Nr. 2869.

<sup>22</sup> Griese (1932) p. 76ff., Hartmann p. 149. In the files also »Recksmann«, »Rekesmann«, »Reckmann«, »Rextmann«, »Reickmann«, »Rukman«; from ancient German place name »Hecke«/hedge, or »recke«/hero, or maybe from a man's name »Raghar« or so. In none of the Westphalian record collections (Darpe, Engel, Philippi/Bär) and the DWUD nor at Kenter anything is said about this farm. Likewise few Ravensberg cattle lists from the 1490s in Duisburg state archive are of no use. Naming predominantly used endings –ing (Hellingen, Bruning, Cordinck), –mann (Rexmann, Tiemann) and –meier in successive centuries from high middle-age to early modern times.

goods bought from travelling merchants. This way of life came to an end at the time in which the cottage must have been built, Johan Blommeier [0101a] called his home. Money economy prevailed.

When surnames came in use in the high middle age, the Blomeyer ancestors thus were named Rexmann for two or three centuries. Only with right on his own soil and his own hearth Johan won an own identity. Possibly née owner of a new farm place named Johan got the new surname Blommeier to differentiate him from Johan Rexmann, who is also mentioned in the *Urbarium*<sup>23</sup>, and perhaps was Blommeier's father or brother. Johan was one of the most popular first-names then, among male Blomeiers alone almost a third bear it in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century. Family names in those days were not once and for all fixed. In Spenge for example, the sources mention one and the same family within 150 years as Eickmeyer, Eickinhove and Unter der Eiche, all meaning »farm at the oaks«. Should we therefore meet a Blomert/Bloemer/Blomenkemper in the registers it could be a person otherwise called Blomeier. Also the husband, who usually transferred his name to his wife, could adopt her surname when he overtook her family's estate<sup>24</sup>. From time to time in following centuries Blomeiers were hirelings at Rexmanns'.

The meaning of the name *Blommeyge* is not difficult to explain<sup>25</sup>. To give a short version, it is most improbable that there is any connection to the Osnabrück patricians of the 13<sup>th</sup> century called Blawe, nor to a *Bleeke*, the place where linen, a traditional product in Ravensberg county, was put to dry after its bleaching. In 1604 a *Blommenwiese* (flower meadow) is mentioned in a contract<sup>26</sup> of a Bruchmühlen Ledebur close to »Blommeyers hause«, maybe identical to the above *area blomen*. Our family name therefore rather means as much as *tenant at the meadow*. As most German surnames it is a place name. Similar names in Wallenbrück bore Jurgen by de Linden (George at the lime trees), Jurgen vor dem Baum (George at the tree) or Thonius Ellersieck (Anthony at the alder creek). Related names of even meaning are for example Klee- and Koppelmeier or Weidemann. A geological MA thesis of H. Lohmann<sup>27</sup> from Spenge describes the high level of ground-water in that particular area which might have made pasture at an early stage more effective than ploughing, so our assumption is supported from this view as well. Imagination of willows with flowers (German: Blumen, formerly *Blomen*, compare *bloom* in English) indeed made sense before the input of all sorts of chemicals to the soil and its suppression by heavy machines had disturbed its ecological balance<sup>28</sup>. Until the 19<sup>th</sup> century *blômholt* is used to describe a prolific stock of trees well suitable for pig feed. *Meier/Meyer*<sup>29</sup> in Low Germany's early middle age was a name for Frankish reeve-farms, but its meaning changed in time. In early modern time combined -meyer/-meier names no longer indicated an elevated position in a village hierarchy, but were given to people who hired a small estate for a certain time in copyhold, usually for lifetime but with customary right to pass it to one's children. The increase of such small-holdings had become a necessity when the population loss of the Black Death in the 14<sup>th</sup> century was balanced again in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, and the now surplus of agrarian population could no longer, as in earlier centuries, found new villages in untouched forests, settle in new towns or emigrate to the Baltic. As a result two centuries later a massive, economically endangered population of small-holders was characteristic to

<sup>23</sup> See *Urbarium* p. 313, Nr. 1264.

<sup>24</sup> See E. Storck: *Der Hofname in der Grafschaft Ravensberg*, in: *Ravensberger Blätter* 8 (1949), S. 63ff.

<sup>25</sup> Introduction to onomastic K. Kunze: *Namenkunde*, 5<sup>th</sup> ed. München 2004, also H. Bahlow: *Niederdeutsches Namenbuch*, Walluf et. al. 1972. To be incorporated into the manuals the name B. is too rare. Exception: R. Zoder: *Familiennamen in Ostfalen*, vol. 1 Hildesheim 1968, p. 255. His proves for the 16th century from Oschersleben, Goslar and Hannover rather confer to the Uslar B. (see above). His hypothetical deduction from an elder »Blomann« is unproved (but comp. fn. 118).

<sup>26</sup> DWUD, Rep. Ledebur, Nr. 133. Vollmer, p. 54 does not know about it anymore.

<sup>27</sup> H. Lohmann: *Die siedlungsgeographische Entwicklung der Gemarkung Spenge (Msch.)*, Bielefeld 1971, p. 7 and 50. Also R. Zoder: *Die niedersächsischen Meier. Eine sozial- und agrargeschichtliche Studie an Hand der Familiennamen auf »-meier«*, in: *Niedersächsisches Jahrbuch für Landesgeschichte (NF)* 23 (1951), p. 1-88.

<sup>28</sup> More in K. Ditt u.a. (Hrsg.): *Agrarmodernisierung und ökologische Folgen. Westfalen vom 18. bis zum 20. Jahrhundert (Forschungen zur Regionalgeschichte 40)*, Paderborn et al., esp. p. 47-84 R. Gudermann: *Der Take-off der Landwirtschaft im 19. Jahrhundert und seine Konsequenzen für Umwelt und Gesellschaft*.

<sup>29</sup> L. Schütte: *Schulte und Meier in (Nordost-)Westfalen*, in: A. Mayr/K. Tenlitz (Hrsg.): *Bielefeld und Nordost-Westfalen. Entwicklung, Strukturen und Planung im unteren Weserbergland*, Münster 1995, p. 211-226; also G.H. Griese: *Die Meierhöfe und ihre Entstehung: Ein Beitrag zur Siedlungsgeschichte Ravensbergs*, in: *Jahresbericht des Historischen Vereins für die Grafschaft Ravensberg* 45, Bielefeld 1931, p. 107-122. To draw -meier from »meggen«/mowing looks interesting in combination with the name's prefix, but is rare and almost never provable.

the Minden-Ravensberg country and -meier-names can be found there in the most dense concentration within all of Germany until today. Blomeiers were married to other -meiers/-meyers more than twenty times alone.

In the records we find at least nine different writings, such as Blameyer, Blohmeier or Blohmeyer. Occasionally also »Blomayer«, until the 16<sup>th</sup> century frequently »Meiger«<sup>30</sup>, in church books of the 1650s also »Blameyer«. Writing either with y or i made no difference. Sometimes in official documents, the clerk puts it Blomeyer, but the signature looks Blomeier. [Ä1216b] signs announcing child-birth several times as »Blommeyer«, what years later was corrected officially. His cousin [Ä1217c] at that occasion was so excited to write »Blomeiyer«. During the 20<sup>th</sup> century occasionally officials write a first name »Carl«, but the man himself signs »Karl« on the same document. The late 19<sup>th</sup> century liked to add diacritics onto the y (ÿ, ŷ). In printed works diacritics never are used. Likewise the names e.g. Henry and Elizabeth sometimes in local dialect were spelled Henrich or Hinrig resp. Elsabein or Ilsabein.

As father to an adult daughter Weßell (in use only in the Netherlands, in modern German: Werner) Blomeyer [0201a] might have been a son of Johan Blommeier. His daughter Anke (Anna Katharina) [0301b] already had an illegitimate son called Jost (Josiah) [0401a], fathered to enforce the exchange in the landlord's opinion, when she married to Knigge's tiny cottage in Spenge in 1603. From the document permitting her change to Spenge we learn that she and her parents formerly had belonged to the Mühlenburg Ledeburs. It must had been an easy thing to the Werburg Ledebur to exchange Blomeyer sons, as the small farmstead could not nourish more than one man and his family anyway. Even teenagers could be changed between the lords, e.g. Johann Hinrich [Ä0602c] a few days before his fourteenth birthday in 1687<sup>31</sup>. In everyday-life however little altered for the respective person. The Knigge family is still flourishing around Spenge in our days. Although a new heritor was born soon, a son of widower Johan Knigge's first wife overtook the farm in 1620.

Hinrig Bruning, who married a Blomeyer's and his wife Grete's (Margarete) daughter [0302a] october 1<sup>st</sup> 1607 and overtook her family's cottage<sup>32</sup> could have been son-in-law to an unknown sibling of Weßell. This way of succession was applied only when no male heirs were available to manage an estate. As was the custom, Henry will have adopted the family-name Blomeier. In the third generation thus the farm was surpassed by the female line for the first time, what also was to happen again several times later. Children were born to Henry and his wife between 1607 and 1622: Lüdeke, Johan, Anne, Jost and Henry [0405a-e]. It was thought to be worth noting Johan's birth »up palm«(arum), i.e. palm sunday 5<sup>th</sup> april 1612 (april 15<sup>th</sup> after introduction of the Gregorian calendar in 1700). Griese mentions a Caroline Blomeyer [0403b] who married farmer Ernst Grönegress in 1622 but does not tell us his source<sup>33</sup>. The hint possibly was from Enger pastor Gerhard Kenter (1913-86), but is not reconstructable from his left papers at the Bethel archive, genealogical collections of the WGGF at LWL-Archivamt in Münster and at Gelsenkirchen Conservation Association. She might have been a sister to Jasper [0403a] and can be interated into the lineage with difficulties only. Maybe she was a daughter from an earlier marriage of [0301c]. Sewin (colloquial version of Severin) [0301a] married the widow of the large Helligen estate Tieman in 1601 and died in 1644. His exchange from the Mühlenburg to Herford abbey makes us believe him to be Weßell's son, too<sup>34</sup>. It took place 28<sup>th</sup> of august 1601, which is the first exact date of the family history. For the woman he was her third husband, off-spring is not known. He must have been a man of qualities, otherwise the Herford chapter would not have agreed to the marriage, which made him head of a farm at least five times as big as his uncle's [0201b] one. His first name, rare in the region, is noted only twice for Mühlenburg bondsmen in the *Urbarium* for the whole bailiff in Spenge and once for free under-bailiff Klingenberg in

<sup>30</sup> *Blomayer*: e.g. LdArch Münster, A 204/XII, 4); *ibid. Dep. Benkhausen Nr. 8823* once »Bloemejer«.

<sup>31</sup> LdArch Münster: *Stift St. Mariä auf dem Berge, files no. 137, p. 320 (exchange letter) and ibid. no.162, p. 12r.*

<sup>32</sup> LdArch Münster, *Dep. Benkhausen, Nr. 7478, p. 110 (list of Werburg bondsmen 1600-1660). Before Bruning had been bondsman of the Sparrenburg bailiff, see ibid. p. 79r.*

<sup>33</sup> Griese (1932), p. 128. *His announcement to publish Wallenbrück family trees in vol. I of the Ravensberger Geschlechterbuch was not realized. Grönegreß was bondsman to the von Cappel in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, searching in the deposit of their successors in the Westphalian Archive Departement lead to no results.*

<sup>34</sup> LKArch Bielefeld-Bethel: *Kenter collection 20,4 Fasc. 3p. C with reference to information of Griese from 1956, who then was an experienced researcher. Also ibid. Fasc. 4 n. p. Blomeyer has 20,4 Fasc. 4 his own page, whose information does not exceed the already known.*

Wallenbrück<sup>35</sup>. An under-bailiff's, i.e. a farmer competent of reading and writing used as administrative aide, daughter would not have been an inadequate bride for farmer Rexmann's son Johan Blommeier or one of his sons, so the name might have been introduced by such a marriage. Apparently Severin himself was capable to write; at least he could put his name under a debt directory. [0301a]'s intention must have been to survive this spouse and generate offspring with a younger wife. But after being plundered by soldiers in 1626 he was almost corrupt and had to be sold to Meyer zu Ohsen, neighbor Blomeyer among the creditors with seven *Reichstalers*, cousin Knigge with ten, but not [0301c]. Severin himself was mistreated so badly that he had to stay »full five weeks in bed«. The villagers learned from such experience to bring corn and clothes into the manor house's security at later quartering<sup>36</sup>. From a respective inventory it is seen that the farm was alive at the end of that war. Soon after Severin's marriage in Lenzinghausen Herman [0301c] married wealthy Elisabeth Bockhorst<sup>37</sup>. Kenter's date of 1610 had not been confirmed, but the conclusions drawn from the year of release of one of his wife's sons from her first marriage 1626, which usually not happened before the twelfth year, and from the probable handover of the farm to Herman's daughter from his presumed third marriage around 1650 do not contradict the assumption that he had been grandson to [0101a]. He married another time in 1618 and if we do not want to introduce an unknown branch we shall assume even an additional earlier marriage from which he had [0403a/b]. The other six children are not recorded in the ancestors' list, because they did not bear our name. All three siblings [0301a-c] acquired farms. We lack proof, but regarding rural marriage customs it could likewise be possible, that they were half-siblings to [0302a] from a former marriage of their father, thus farmer-children who just lost their claim to inheritance to offspring of the new couple. Mentioning Bruning's wife's first name might indicate this interpretation, but this cannot be decided as long as we lack additional documents. Werner [0201a] then might have been farmer Blomeyer himself. To record his daughter Anke's letter of change might be another hint, for it would be rather unusual to keep the one of a mere hireling's child. A particular charm of this combination is the necessity of just one instead of two unknown in the second generation of the reconstructed descendancy. Also Jasper's ascension to the farm (see below) would become even more plausible. Werner Blomeyer's dependence to the Mühlenburg instead the Werburg however is not brought into accordance.

Unfortunately, the Wallenbrück church-books which had been made obligatory by the ruler's mandate in the 1580s had been destroyed during the 30 Years War, those from Spenge had been lost when the parish-house burned down in 1765<sup>38</sup>. Others might have been destroyed at the great city fire of Herford 1638, behind whose presumptively certain walls they might have been brought before. Lacking data in later times also has to be complained of. During the Seven Years War troops quartered in Wallenbrück and will have used church books to make fire or to produce bullet paper. Most documents we rely on for the early family history are the surviving records of the Werburg archive in Münster State Archive (deposit Benkhausen) and the church-books in the Lutheran Archive of Westphalia in Bielefeld-Bethel. Files and church-books concerning Blomeiers in Lower Saxony mostly are stored in the Church-Book Archive and the state archive at Osnabrück.

To maintain the interests of the House of Brandenburg in the quarrel over the succession to the died-out dynasty of Jülich the county Ravensberg had been occupied by troops of the prince of Orange as early as 1615, then from 1623 for some ten years by those from the catholic party<sup>39</sup>. Several times it had to suffer marching armies through its territory. The very time of suffering however were the years 1633-36 when both war-parties occupied it simultaneously. More than thirty imperial regiments waited on Schildesche heath to fight the Swedish, camping near Herford. But they denied battle, so the county was spared from an entry into history-books. From nearby Bielefeld we know that it lost nevertheless a tenth of its three thousand inhabitants in the hot

<sup>35</sup> Urbar no. 1349 (»Segewin«) and 1253, see B. Hüllinghorst: *Protokolle der Vogtei Enger des Amtmanns Consbruch (1650-1654)*, Herford 1993, p. 242. Rarely also »Wessel« (no. 995 and 1328).

<sup>36</sup> LdArch Münster, *Fürstabtei Herford*, files 620 p. 24, *ibid.* no. 962 p. 10 and *Benkhausen* no. 5658.

<sup>37</sup> *Ibid.*: *Kollegiatstift St. Mauritius vor Münster*, files no 0/L9/6 p. 33. Bockhorst owned ca 39 acres.

<sup>38</sup> See G. H. Griese's *Die ersten Kirchenbücher in Ravensberg*, in: *Ravensberger Blätter* 6 (1949), p. 50. *Wallenbrück church-book are incomplete 1766/67, 1771 and 1823 (baptisms) and 1762-66 (marriages)*.

<sup>39</sup> K. Salge: *Der Dreißigjährige Krieg in der Grafschaft Ravensberg*, in: *Jahresbericht des Historischen Vereins für die Grafschaft Ravensberg* 36 (1922), p. 1-55 (*Diss. Münster 1921*), Bielefeld 1922.

summer of 1636 by plague. In the 1670s Münster and French troops raided into it, after the prince-elect had dislocated his army in the west to support the Dutch General States against another French attack. Compared to other parts of Germany such as Mecklenburg or Silesia losses in north-west Germany were modest however. Despite this, the location of the Blomeyer farm close to the main road from Herford to Osnabrück and to the Werburg manor could have made it an object of plundering troops, who killed family members or took away their food-reserve so they had to starve to death. A siege of Bielefeld's Sparrenburg in spring 1625 failed, the prisoners including Ra-vensberg dwellers who were forced to support, were punished by cutting off noses and ears. Maybe young Lüdeke [0405a] took part, but armies were small at the time, so regular soldiery of any of the few known Blomeyers is improbable. The Werburg afterwards was occupied and plundered by imperial dragoons<sup>40</sup>, later in that war the landlord was even kidnapped. Almost certainly the Blomeyer farm was affected. Thus from the 1650s onwards, when written documents<sup>41</sup> exist in greater number we read of few family members only: Hermann [0501a], whose death is recorded 1655, Hinrig [0501b], and Elisabeth, Jasper's wife. She might have been »the old Blomeyer's« who died september 3rd 1679<sup>42</sup>. 1667 a Jürgen Blomeyer [0601a] must be born, as his dead is recorded in Wallenbrück at the age of 59 in 1726. Neither he nor his parents left any traces as they probably were servants all life-long. Berend (Bernhard) Blomeyer [0501d] will be dealt with in the next chapter. If we do not want to introduce more elusive individuals to the reconstruction of the lineage, Jasper shall have been brother to Caroline, Hinrich and Berend Jasper's sons. Biologically another generation between these two is possible, but we have no evidence of this.

It goes without saying that to every generation we have to add several young deceased infants who were not recorded. Prior to times documents are available no extensive branching-out of the family should be assumed. Successive bad harvests in the 1570s and sinking average temperature during mid-16<sup>th</sup> till late 17<sup>th</sup> century reduced plant-growing, consequently food-supply and thus margins for population growth. After the Schmalkaldic war 1546/47 during the second half of the 16<sup>th</sup> century the danish-swedish war, the Dutch struggle for freedom and Huguenott wars provided well-paid service-opportunities as lansquenets to Westphalian country folks as well<sup>43</sup>, but reduced the possibility of founding families. Maybe therefore all then living Blomeyers knew each other.

The given data are in accordance with a request of a Jasper Borgmeier, married to Elisabeth Winkelinghaus, from june 1662 in Werburg's protocoll book<sup>44</sup> to overtake »Blomeyers stette« for twenty-five *Reichstalers* if we assume that the mentioned Jasper in already progressed age acquired the small freehold place Borgmeier in Spenge for a short time, but the bigger Blomeyer farm in Helligen soon after, so beared a different name only for a short time. Maybe his presumed father [0301c] had already noticed with anger that his cousin and Henry Bruning had inherited the grandfather's place. Borgmeier's heir is reported to have married the miller's widow and rejected his father's farm<sup>45</sup>. First known Blomeyer freeman for a while, Jasper might have been capable to raise the fee for overtaking a new home twice within such a short period. Three adolescent sons were ready to help him at work. His predecessor might have been one of the Bruning-Blomeyers. We may even conclude indirectly, that in 1662 the presumptive heir Hinrig had died unexpectedly without leaving own children old enough to overtake the farm. Jasper could even support [0501c]'s new farm with fifty *Talers* five years later<sup>46</sup>. Maybe his »wealth« came from his wife? We know of the Winkelinghaus farm from Griese, and earlier, a Johann Winkelinghaus was among the main creditors to his uncle Severin<sup>47</sup>.

<sup>40</sup> Quoted from *Schildesche chapter chronicle* H. Grusemann: *Die Frühgeschichte des Geschlechts Ketteler (Kettler) im 12.-16. Jahrhundert*, ed. by Karl-Josef Frhr. von Ketteler, Münster 2004; p. 334 and Wehrenbrecht p. 175ff.

<sup>41</sup> LKArch Bielefeld-Bethel: KB Wallenbrück 1655-1687, p. 64, 81, 101 u. 108, as well as p. 67. *Hermanns age is unidentifiable, maybe 48 years. He cannot have been Bruning's son then. An entry at Do(min)ica 13 trinitatis, i.e. 22<sup>nd</sup> august 1655 has Henry as godfather.*

<sup>42</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 171.

<sup>43</sup> Angermann, p. 87f., 149, 297.

<sup>44</sup> LdArch Münster, *Dep. Benkhausen Nr. 838, p. 1. On Borgmeier in Enger bailiff see ibid. Visitationsregister 1720, p. 573 and Urbarium No. 1369.*

<sup>45</sup> LKArch Bielefeld-Bethel: *Kenter collection 20,5 Fasc. 4, p. 13.*

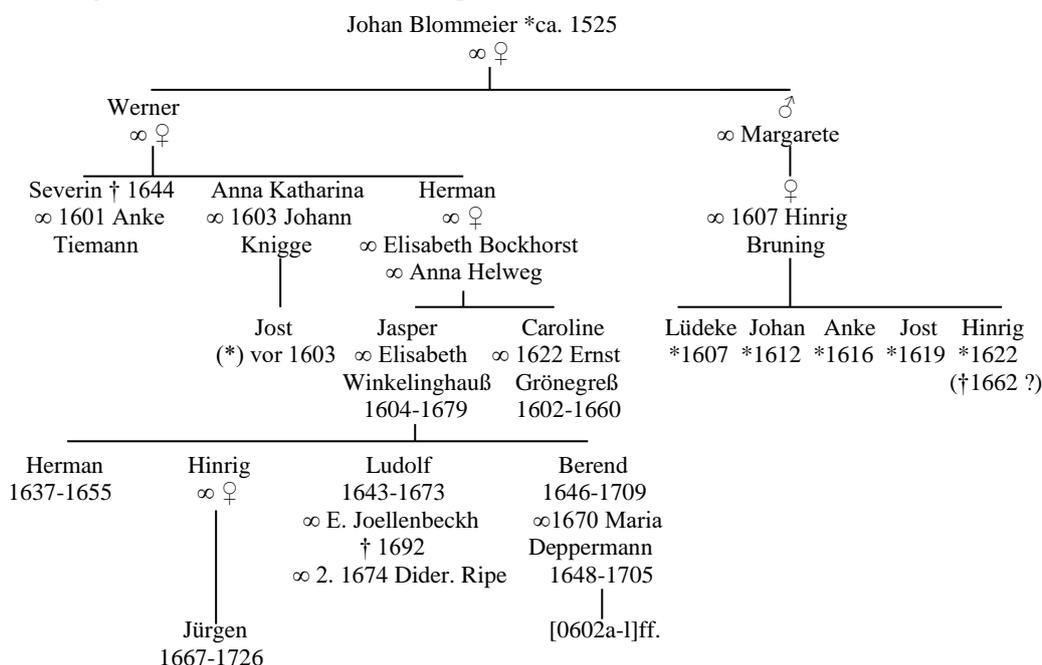
<sup>46</sup> LdArch Osnabrück: *Eigenbehörigenbuch Sondermühlen, p. 9.*

<sup>47</sup> Griese (1932), p. 115 and fn. 36.

Ludolff [0501c], likewise Jasper's son, shall have been a brother to Berend, who named one of his sons like him [0602e]. He pledged his lord Heinrich Ledebur of Königsbrück »deeply and continuously«, to let him leave whatever way he wanted to take, what he finally recorded on february 26<sup>th</sup> 1668. He overtook his father-in-law Jollenbeckh's cottage on Wallenbrück markland belonging to Sondermühlen estate<sup>48</sup>. Thus the liberation had been condition just to get the farm. Ownership of a however small farmstead with some arable land to produce food was estimated more than an abstract liberty. Soon however, he expired his soul. Death-fee war released *ex singulari misericordia* because of heavy damage from storms and new quarterings<sup>49</sup>. In 1674 Hermann Meyer zu Helligen and Berend Blomeier confirm to Ludolf's minor Anna Ilsabein her right of residence in the cottage where her step-father was living by then. Son Jobst Henrich is not mentioned anymore, he had died in infancy<sup>50</sup>.

Our prosopographic knowledge is dense enough anyway to start counting generations with Johan Blommeier. In consequence, we can trace back our roots to the times of Martin Luther.

The given schedule shall demonstrate, how the family-tree in it's early stage might have looked like, but also gives an idea of how fragile this reconstruction in some aspect is:



## 7.2. The »Bockhorst« Blomeyers

Berend Blomeyer's letter of exchange from Königsbrück's Ledebur to Werburg's still exists<sup>51</sup>. Blomeyers had become Königsbrück's men probably by Berend's mother. As husbandman he probably spend his lifetime in his home region. Neighbour Rexmann bought himself and his wife out to release from bondsmanship in 1694, Meyer to Helligen did so 1713<sup>52</sup>. In october 1670 he married Maria Deppermann<sup>53</sup>, probably born 1648, from Baringdorf, who gave birth to her first child seven months later. Generally women were seen no longer as brides

<sup>48</sup> Ibid.: *Charters Sondermühlen Nr. 250 and ibid. Manorial rolls Sondermühlen Rep. 563 Nr. 188, Bl. 23. The cottage: Urbar Nr. 1256 in Wallenbrück parish. In the church book he is called »Luelff Jölmke«.*

<sup>49</sup> See fn. 46, p. 50. In 1672 the Brandenburg prince-elect dislocated his army in the west to support the Dutch General Staes against the French attack.

<sup>50</sup> Hüllinghorst, p. 768f.

<sup>51</sup> LdArch Münster, *Dep. Benkhausen Nr. 3112. On Königsbrück estate only two kilometers west of Helligen at the Warmenau creek see Griese (1932), p. 85f. Today owned by a von Richthofen.*

<sup>52</sup> Griese (1932), p. 115ff.

<sup>53</sup> Literally »Marieken«; according to LdArch Münster *Dep. Benkhausen Nr. 3112 daughter of Hinrich and Anna Dippermann, whose eldest of seven children girl Maria is recorded in KB Wallenbrück 1655-1687 p. 74/1656, so that she might be born in 1648.*

but as wives once the marriage contract was completed<sup>54</sup>. Her family were a Münster canonical's men. Possession of a wife, a horse, three cows and a pig demonstrated Berend's social position. Two thirds of Wallenbrück estates owned less cattle, a sixth a lot more<sup>55</sup>. According to custom and law Berend's minor Jobst Henrich [0602k] succeeded him. Deviation of heritage rules occurred, as we have seen already, often enough to incorporate it as paragraph 1 into the *statute of property*<sup>56</sup> from 1669. By this codification on behalf of the Great Prince-elect we are well informed about the social and economic situation of the county at that time. Among freemen usually the eldest son inherited an estate, the youngest among the unfree.

A three-field economy was the foundation of the Blomeyers of the time like of most Germans then. A third of the arable land grew summer-, another third winter-grain, the rest being fallow-ground for cattle. Mostly rye and oat was produced, later potatoes were added. Potatoes, buckwheat groat and rye bread in milk were the major food. Potatoe pancake (»Pickert«) still is a popular dish in Eastern Westphalia. Before introducing potatoes it was also made by buckwheat. People usually ate with their fingers and from the same pot or the daily stew with a wooden spoon. Water from creeks and fountains in pre-industrial time was drinkable everywhere outside the few towns. Flax, though of great importance to local economy, grows well only one in eight to twelve years on the same field, therefore no more than a twelfth of the soil was covered with this plant.

In the next generation Johann Albert Heinrich [0715e] hold the farm. Soon after his death in autumn 1758 a Johann Henrich Niemeier (here also writings -meyer), maybe from Spenge, where they are still numerous, married widow Anna Maria née Bruning. Johann Albert's cousin Dietrich [Ä0701f] also married a Bruning maiden. Widower, he espoused a cousin of his wife, who also had lost her husband. The Brunings certainly were good matches were they from the hereditary marksmen of that name. [Ä1111b] and [J1248e] likewise married two women of same surnames (in case of (the first no sisters); widower [Ä1225a] his widow sister-in-law. Similarity of names of the two wives of Hermann Heinrich [J0910c] two generations later also lets us presume kinship. Maybe a sister or cousin took place of a deceased to take care of two infants left behind. In hindsight we have difficulties to analyze the certainly underlying marriage and acquisition strategies similar to those of protestant clergy an great owners<sup>57</sup>. As no bachelor or widowed brother of the deceased was alive to replace him, Niemeier gained widow and farm Blomeier. Like the above mentioned Hinrig Bruning he adopted the farm's name and is called in Wallenbrück church-books from then on *Colon Blomeier*<sup>58</sup>. This was as common as until recently in Germany adopting a husband's name by married women. Then, son Caspar Heinrich [B0823e] from the second marriage overtook the farm. When he died, his second wife Cathrine Döpker married to Johann Wilhelm Bockhorst, who like his wife's former father-in-law fifty years ago adopted the name Blomeier. Managing the Blomeyer farm secured his family's existence in the »year without summer« 1816. Mean brother of three, Johann Wilhelm had little chance to overtake his father's farm in Lenzinghausen. Instead, he courted his aunt, who simultaneously was his great-grandfather's great-grand niece.

One could doubt with good reason whether their offspring is one kinship with physical progenitors of Berend [0501d]. Yet all posteriority of Johann Wilhelm Bockhorst-Blomeyer undoubtedly became members of the Blomeiers and got the name in accordance both with custom and law. Only from 1828 onwards it was no longer allowed in Prussia to change names when overtaking a new cottage. Even [B1014c] and [Ä1005e], born thirty years after that law, often are called by their wives' names in the sources. In addition we may assume that when

<sup>54</sup> P.F. Weddigen's: *Historisch-geographisch-statistische Beschreibung der Grafschaft Ravensberg in Westphalen*, 2 vols. Leipzig 1790, insinuation p. 47: »Sobald der Ehecontract geschlossen ist, sieht der Bräutigam die Braut als seine Frau an, daher Kindtaufe und Hochzeit nicht weit voneinander entfernt zu seyn pflegen« can be transferred to the ancestral generation. Also trial before relations were practised to find out if a girl was skilled and diligent enough.

<sup>55</sup> LdArch Münster, cattle register Sparenberg district (ca. 1676), p. 117f., here p. 121. Numbers varied in time, cattle was sold after the grazing period for example and it is uncertain, if weak or animals to be slaughtered always were included.

<sup>56</sup> See W. Upmeyer: *Die Minden-Ravensberger Eigentumsordnung von 1741*, Hildesheim 1906.

<sup>57</sup> See C. Fertig: *Familie, verwandtschaftliche Netzwerke und Klassenbildung im ländlichen Westfalen 1750-1874 (Quellen und Forschungen zur Agrargeschichte 54)*, Stuttgart 2012 (Diss. Münster 2010), with examples from Löhne/Herford district. Anna's father might have remembered a nephew or other relative from Hinrig Bruning-Blomeyer at Jasper's lifetime who had claimed for the Blomeyer farm instead of him; the marriage might have fulfilled these Bruning hopes.

<sup>58</sup> LKArch Bielefeld-Bethel: *KB Wallenbrück 1759 Bl. 255, 1760 Bl. 261, 1764 Bl. 13etc.*

Bockhorst son [B0925j] overtook his new name Dammann, he wished to be part of the new family as well. Today the Bockhorst-Blomeyers are Blomeyers since six generation by descendance anyway, by undisputed use of the name for two-a-half centuries they acquired a claim to belong to the kinship even if the above reconstruction should be wrong. Stemming from the same farmstead as all other Blomeiers they should be accepted as such. Naming this branch »the Bockhorst« Blomeyers sufficiently indicates their particular situation. Much more falls into account, that Johann Wilhelm's same-named father apparently descended from [0301c], who, as we have seen, overtook Bockhorst estate in 1610 and whose second daughter Agnes of his marriage with Anna Helweg had been his principal heir<sup>59</sup>: In this case, no Bockhorst-Blomeyer would have a drop of Bockhorst-blood in his veins, but more of Blomeyers' than any other name-carrier ! In fact, the descendants are closer related to the elder branch than members of the cadet branch are.

The lost Spenge church-books indeed are replaced by a Lenzinghausen protocol-book and a St. Mauritz roll of all local farms<sup>60</sup>. They permit a reconstruction of the ancestral line between 1650 and 1750. A gap remains just during parallel Blomeier generation five. We only know of Agnes's daughter Anna, but a farmer and potential son Johann Henrich, married to Anna Wibbig is also recorded. And what is even more, Johann Wilhelm Bockhorst senior's first wife was Anna Maria Elisabeth [0823a], thus their son descended from [0301c] in both paternal and maternal line. Johann Wilhelm junior's mother-in-law, eldest daughter of Helligen farmer [0715a], previously had been sister-in-law to his wife by her first meanwhile deceased husband. Catherine Döpker's mother cannot be identified clearly for slight variants of first names in church books<sup>61</sup>. Probably she was [Ä0802e], coincidentally in all relevant Bünde church-books certainly a Blomeyer. She can rather not have been half-sister of Caspar Heinrich [0823e] from his mother's first marriage, for in this case he would have had wooed a niece, Bockhorst junior a cousin. If the affiliation to [Ä0701f] in the ancestors' list is correct, Catherine Döpker instead just was great-granddaughter of his step-uncle of second degree respectively great-granddaughter of a step-uncle third degree of Bockhorst junior. With some probability she knew about her grand-mother, whereas rather improbably Johann Wilhelm had an idea about the origin of his great-great-great-grandfather. In any case posteriority [B0925e-h] were part of the Blomeyer kinship not only by their father's gaining of name and farm, but also through their grandmother's descendance. Only children from Niemeier's son Caspar Heinrich's [0829e] marriage with Catherine Griese did not descend from Herman; but posteriority of them seems to be small and is known only up to the 13th generation in Osnabrück [B1386a/b]. Living »Bockhorst« Blomeyers thus are connected by the Döpker marriage to the elder branch, or by [0832a]'s marriage to Berend's minor [0602k]. Whoever therefore brought up the rumour still believed by old [B1283a] from Lengerich, the »Bockhorsters« had nothing to do with the rest of the clan did not know the sources. Parson Kenter cannot have been it, his name is found on the users' list of the relevant documents.

Berend's successor gave one smoked hen as ground-due to the government's revenue office a year, some bushel of straw to the bailiff, another four chickens plus eighteen bushel oat to lord von dem Bussche whom he also owed one day work a week<sup>62</sup>. He had to help the bailiff hunting wolves as well and to watch for smugglers. The tithe was for Königsbrück manor, the parson got three gifts for his substitution a year, the sexton at easter

<sup>59</sup> *Again ca. 1700 female succession took place, see fn. 42/Visitationsregister p. 617.*

<sup>60</sup> LdArch Münster: *Kollegiatsstift St. Mauritz vor Münster, files no 0/L 9/7, p. 9r, 44, 72 and ibid. no. 0/L9/8 p. 7, also LKArch Bielefeld-Bethel: KB Spenge 1765, p. 95. The ancestral line runs backwards from Johann Wilh. (\*1781) his father of the same name (\*1747) and Anton Hinr. (\*1695) to Agnes's son Johann Henr. († before 1710) Is the reconstruction correct, Johann Wilhelm Bockhorst would even be part of the eight (Blomeyer-) generation into which he married at Helligen. A genealogical table spreading from Herman to Johann Wilhelm in the appendix p. 152. Ibid. p. 2 Agnes's husband Herman Schefer is still noted as farmer. Spelling of the surname also »Boic(h)horst« (»living at the beeches' wood«).*

<sup>61</sup> LKArch Bielefeld-Bethel: *KB Bünde 1768 p. 359, 1771p. 380; 1773/76/80 n.p.; KB Wallenbrück 1744 p. 177. The name Döpker is also frequently written in variations. Strange however, that the widow's new bride was a hireling's, not a farmer's wife ash ad been customary.*

<sup>62</sup> *E.g. LdArch Münster, Dep. Benkhausen Nrs. 5706, 5129, 7883, 9930 and ibid. Nr. 7088, p. 16. Different from other imperial states, in the Jülich territories rather the Spanish attacks on the Rhine area than the »Türkengefahr«, which for the first time forced even the common man elsewhere in the Holy Empire to pay a quasi-permanent contribution to substitute fortresses and almost regular armies to stop the Osman advance into Hungary and to the Reich's borders, had been the main reason to establish a pre-absolute taxation system. In this context the dukes enlarged Sparrenburg castle to Westphalia's greatest fortress.*

five pace-eggs and six pennies, the poor about a penny per month. Additionally he had to pay almost twelve *Talers* taxes a year. Half a *Taler* was the price for a pair of men leather shoes or ten horseshoes. Compared to the first register we know of, taxes had been increased a lot since the Great War's ending, almost certainly when Berend overtook the farm<sup>63</sup>. It has been reduced later during the French occupation when male labor force was short. Reductions also were negotiated in case of bad harvest, cattle diseases or general misery. In later times help during the harvest and weekly service, which consisted of transport of hay, stone or letters, repair of streets and bridges etc was extended to manufacturing of flax, whereas the due to the revenue office had been turned into a money tax. The lords however lost more and more control over the rural population in the course of centuries to the state government<sup>64</sup>. Not without reason in the 18<sup>th</sup> century the saying was common "You walk like going to manorial service", what meant slowly. What is more, obligation to stay all life onto an estate ceased to exist other than *de jure*. Working for the master one day a week was anyway little compared to duties of the population in eastern Prussian territories. Apart from that there was a right to be paid when working for the lord.

Children spend a year serving at the house of their parents' lord. In wartime, obligations were more intense. Grain and flour had to be carried to the forces, sick and wounded soldiers to be transported, cannons to be pulled. Guard service in the parish or at the border to the principality of Osnabrück was another duty, not that much for fear of enemies but do detect deserters. Horses used for the said purposes the farmer often did not get back. Apart from these duties people lived unencumbered by their superiors. Less law - as already in Rhinish cities or fashion, as in our days - but usage still directed life. Making debts however demanded permission from the lord. Anyone's farmstead was in one's own responsibility anyway. Before the last Ravensberg smallholder had bought himself off from all levies and bondsmanship it though took many decades.

The habit to release a wife from her lord's rule for money was preserved until the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. Blomeier paid for the permission to espouse his bride 46 Reichstalers in 1709<sup>65</sup>. Even then marriage obviously was an expensive pleasure. If the lord of the manor demanded a sum too high, marriage did not take place. This happened to [B0823e], who after the death of his first wife intended to marry Margarete Manter. His sixty-two years old father, describing himself in Job 42,17 and Gen 25,8 words as "old and rich of life", asked for a reduction of the eighty *Talers* demanded, as he had to pay his only daughter's dowry recently and had also lost ten horses, a filly and two cows while owner of the farm without ever asking "the gracious lordship" for remission. Finally, to conserve the farmstead which was in need of a housewife, a marriage to the said Catharina Döpke was allowed - for ten *Talers* only. The Manter girl meanwhile was married to Theenhausen burship.

Blomeyer in 1721 did not possess many cattle, just one horse and two cows<sup>66</sup>. Neighbour Meyer to Helligen owed each three horses and cows, the wealthy Meyer to Baringdorf even five horses and nine cattle. To plough the heavy loam and clay soil four horses were regarded as necessary. Using oxen would have been easier of course, but to do so the country folks were to proud. Blomeyer's grounds seemed to be insufficient at that time to feed enough horses. He must have owned not more than fifteen acres. Farms of these sizes were called half-meier. Full-Meier was only who owned thirty or more acres. The wealthier farmers headed the village community. In Helligen, these were Einhaus, Bruning, Tiemann, Wehrenbrecht and Coring with each around one-hundred acres. There were however also quarter-Meiers and even sixteenth-Meiers in the Ravensberg and Osnabrück burships then. Neighbourly help in field-work, house-building, sickness and funerals etc were also common without saying. Maybe however the small number of animals just was a consequence of the extremely dry year before after which fodder to sustain cattle was short. In this case it is probable that usually Blomeyer lend

<sup>63</sup> Griese (1932), p. 115ff. *Different from other imperial states, in the Jülich territories rather the Spanish attacks on the Rhine area than the »Türkengefahr«, which for the first time forced even the common man elsewhere in the Holy Empire to pay a quasi-permanent contribution to substitute fortresses and almost regular armies to stop the Osman advance into Hungary and to the Reich's borders, had been the main reason to establish a pre-absolute taxation system. In this context the dukes enlarged Sparrenburg castle to Westphalia's greatest fortress.*

<sup>64</sup> *On the lords' duties and rights generally see Hirschfelder, S. 87ff.*

<sup>65</sup> LdArch Münster, Dep. Benkhausen Nr. 6643.

<sup>66</sup> Griese (1926), p. 60. *In his work from 1932 this information is omitted.*

horses to more wealthy hirelings and big farms to plough for money. At the end of the century the farmstead displayed a wealthier image.

This is clearly revealed by an inventory from 1789<sup>67</sup>, written on the occasion of the death of Anna Maria née Bruning, wife of Johann Heinrich née Niemeier. The property's value had to be examined in order to calculate the heriot that was to be paid when someone died to the manor house. A table with six chairs, another old table, an old iron oven, a clock, a cupboard and a wardrobe, a cup-board for dairy products, a bedframe in the chamber, another old bedstead, a wooden box, a tube, five spinning-wheels with whims, two pieces of linen, five table cloths, four handkerchiefs, crockery, knives, a cask for cabbage making, a saucepan and a pan for pancakes, an iron pot, two copper pots, a cart, a plough with two harrows, thrashing fails, two hacks, three rakes, two old cars with equipment, harnesses, two old cows worth twenty Talers, a cattle with a two calves, a pig, two old mares of fifteen and fourteen years belonged to the chattel. The most worthy property were two more horses of two and ten years, being taxed to fifty Talers. In all mobile property summed up to more than 177 Talers in december 1789. The master had claim on twenty. The clothes of the deceased were not mentioned, perhaps a part was already given to the poor. Certainly some caps and aprons were among them, decorated with colored embroidery and bands typical for the folks' wearing<sup>68</sup>.

When the common ground had been distributed among the village people, Blomeyer succeeded in acquiring more arable land<sup>69</sup>. When the lord of the manor, direct neighbour to Blomeyer, was forced to encounter the economic crisis that evolved due to the blockade of North Sea trade by the French and to pay debts by releasing virtually all his property not yet hired, including the house's garden, the sheep stable, the gate house etc, Blomeyer took advantage from the situation, particularly by using the *Goldkuhle* («golden hollow») at north-west end of the Werburg wood. During French occupation the farm's levy to the landlord for this was estimated at impressive 1900 francs. The average in the Canton Werther to which parts of modern Spenge then belonged, was only a third of that sum, only a fifth of all farms being worth more than a thousand francs. Additionally acquired land seems to have been used to improve the dower house<sup>70</sup>. The explanation for his comparative wealth in that difficult time might also have been that none of the daughters had been married yet, so no dowry had to be paid, and the eldest son had married under French regime when marriage-fees had been abolished. Generally, farmers tried to keep the number of children low to avoid high costs. Berend [0501d], it is true, was next to [J1126f] with fifteen children from two marriages the most productive Blomeyer. Four of them were girls whose posterity we do not follow here as little as that of any other women marrying to other families and not continuing the family-name. Berend's sons Hinrich Wilhelm [0602b], Lueleff [0602e], Hermann [0602i] and Thonnies [0602j] met death young. Furthermore he was living in a time of economic recovery after the devastations of the 30-Years-War. Son Johann Jobst [0602h] despite two marriages had only one daughter. From Johann Jürgen's [0602d] two marriages likewise only three children were born, while his son Jobst Henrich [0705a] had nine from two wives. Second marriage was because of high childbed mortality almost normal. Nine out of sixteen male descendants of Berend up to the generation of his great-grandchildren married twice. Three *copulations*, as was the term of the time, occur just once per generation (known cases: [B0901g, R0910c, B1014c, Ä1114b, Ä1310b, R1361e, Ä1428c]). [J0910c] first was too young to participate in the Coalition Wars against revolutionary France, afterwards, when our home area was part of short-lived kingdom of Westphalia of Napoleon's younger brother Jérôme and from late 1810 until late 1813 as Departement "Ems supérieur" even part of the *Empire*, almost too old to be forced into the *Grande Armée*, mostly composed of Germans, who almost entirely perished returning from the Russian campaign in 1812. Caspar Heinrich [J0920h] and Hermann Heinrich [B0925d] were on the more lucky side. [J0920h] was only enlisted into a depot bataillon, which remained in Germany. But he died

<sup>67</sup> See fn. 65.

<sup>68</sup> Description see Schwager, p. 12f. and Weddingen, p. 45ff. W. (1758-1809), Bielefeld teacher, parson in Kleinenbremen near Minden and writer, became the founder of Westphalian ethnography.

<sup>69</sup> LdArch Münster, A 204/XII, 4; *ibid.*, Dep. Benkhausen, Nr. 2703, p. 1557; register from 1812 and *ibid.*, no. 125. Fields' names in detail in Hartmann, p. 147. 1900 fr. were ca. 500 former Reichstalers. Separations throughout the province started in the county for demographic pressure.

<sup>70</sup> *Ibid.* Nr. 6155, p. 25. Usually the »Leibzucht« should not consume more than a sixth of an estate.

from wounds received in besieged fortress Küstrin in autumn 1813. Saddler [B0925d] served only from November 1812 onwards, when the campaign was already known to have failed. Before he had served for three years in the Prussian army, so he knew how to conduct. He managed to detach himself from likewise besieged Spandau citadel only a few months after. His elder brother [B0925d] even stayed less in a new unit, that emerged from the National Guard reserve, which he might have left before first encounters at the Elbe river<sup>71</sup>, as many of his comrades did, who did not want to risk their necks for French aims any more. Yet he remained missed. A note to the birth-entry of [B1012c] on July 1<sup>st</sup> in 1815 in Wallenbrück's churchbook tells us that it was still unknown whether he was still alive. The boy was illegitimate, as was his younger brother. And [Ä0902], Ä0905e, Ä1001a, B1012b/c, J1009e, J1010a] were born subjects to the usurper. About a third of all men in an age to marriage were killed, eighty alone in Spenge and Wallenbrück, mostly in their twenties<sup>59</sup>. No wonder, that in no canton more donations for the liberation armies were given than in Minden-Ravensberg. Noblemen and city-dwellers, among them women's associations, also hiremen and Jews gave their *Groschen*. Nowhere more men volunteered the troops, often starting in their smock frocks, getting arms and uniforms only on the march. Most of them were enlisted into the 2<sup>nd</sup> (later 15<sup>th</sup>) Westphalian Militia-Infantry-Regiment, which was involved into the Ligny affair, but not into the one at Waterloo three days after. It later took part in the capture of Paris. The regiment had almost as many wounded as the other five Westphalian militia regiments altogether.

Lack of sources prevents knowing whether Blomeyer men were among them. But it is probable, as six to eight Blomeier males in conscription age which ended at 32 were alive in Wallenbrück parish at this time and each fifth man was conscripted or volunteered. The 4<sup>th</sup> bataillon, raised in Bünde where they would have been enlisted detached at the end of May however to build the core of a new regiment to be used for besieging French garrisons in the Meuse-Moselle area and did not engage into active fighting. At least the name does not appear on the casualty list, nor on the commendation-list. Possibly a son to [B0823f] died from a shooting accident soon after the campaign<sup>72</sup>. For the first time in their history, Westphalian towns and principalities then were united under the Prussian crown, whose bearer called himself "Duke of Westphalia and Angria". More documents of Osnabrück bataillons survived in Hannover state-archive, but they tell us nothing about participation of any of our ancestors.

Hireling [J0910c] hence draw benefit from an inevitable surplus of women and took a third wife 1825. On musketeer [Ä0805g] we also know that he was in the ranks at this time. His infantry regiment 10 (von Wedell) was based in Herford and Bielefeld. As Prussian troops lacked battle experience since the Seven-Years-War, during which the western provinces were separated from their king of course, and the regiment arrived lately on the Jena and Auerstedt theatre 1806, after which it was dissolved, the Blomeyers probably had no casualties under Prussian command. In contrast, two thirds of those Westphalians recruited to the Napoleonic armies perished, out of thirty who marched into Russia only one returned. [Ä0825b] had died as soldier in Mainz in 1794, but fighting had ended the year before. At least, at the side of the king of Prussia, Johann Wolfgang v. Goethe and young ensign Clausewitz a Blomeyer had attended the *siège* to liberate the prince-elect's capital from French troops and German Jacobins. Neither losses are known according to the - incomplete - regimental church-books

<sup>71</sup> SDH Vincennes, matriculae 128<sup>th</sup>, 129<sup>th</sup> and 151<sup>st</sup> RI, p. 401, 93, 62. Also see LdArch Münster, *Regierungskommission Bielefeld No 95*, p. 87 u. 92. *Incomplete* is F. Overkott: *Eine Verlustliste aus dem Rußlandfeldzug Napoleons (1812)*, in: *65th Jahresbericht des Historischen Vereins für die Grafschaft Ravensberg (1962/63)*, p. 48-58. On [J0925a] also see KB Wallenbrück marr. 27.04.1832. *Donations* *ibid.* No 96 *passim*. *Modern German historiography focusses on constitutional theories of the French regime, the extreme casualty rate is not worth to refer to anymore* (e.g. B. Sunderbrinck: *Revolutionäre Neuordnung auf Zeit. Gelebte Verfassungskultur im Königreich Westphalen: Das Beispiel Minden-Ravensberg 1807-1813*, Paderborn 2015 (Diss. Hagen/Westf. 2012). *We lack examinations of single units such as from Brand, Fr. B.: Die Helden-schlacht. Das 129e Régiment d'infanterie de ligne »d'Oldenbourg« im Rußlandfeldzug Napoleon I 1812/13*, Oldenburg 2003 (p. 51-55). *Neighbours forced into the 127th and 128th sister regiments had a chance to see Moscow. In total the maelstrom initiated by the French revolution devoured three to five million lives. The B. lost 3 of 12 men born 1765-90, one of each branch. No participation of B.s in the Spanish campaign 1808/09, in which men of the Ems-Departement suffered mostly during the siege of Gironne, are recorded in detailed files in Osnabrück, Münster and Herford archives. Generally, military files are one of the best sources on live of ordinary people in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.*

<sup>72</sup> D. Ziesing: *Das Minden-Ravensberger Landwehr-Infanterie-Regiment (2. Westfälisches) in den Befreiungskriegen 1813-1815*, Münster 2016, p. 320f.; Jobst H. Lefthalm (2nd. Rgt.) died Feb. 11<sup>th</sup> 1816 in Münster.

from the unification campaigns 1864-71. Cuirassier [J1130a] died from “enteric fever” (typhus) shortly before their beginning during his service at Hamm.

Johann Heinrich [B0925f] still was a minor when he inherited his father’s farmstead. Therefore his stepfather Bockhorst from Lenzinghausen managed it until he was 25 years old<sup>73</sup>. Fifteen Talers was the annual tax of both cottage and dower-house in 1830<sup>74</sup>. Most Wallenbrück estates paid less than five Talers, the few villagers fifty and more. In 1839, [B0925f] finally bought off all obligations laying on the farm. This costed him two hundred Talers in gold and four hundred in silver<sup>75</sup>. Saving them took more than fifteen years, for just that decade grainprices were in decay. The Werburg administration even had to apply for Bünde law court to get its money. Nevertheless, for a short historical moment in [B0925f] the ideal of passing centuries appeared, the independent farmer ploughing his own ground. Gottlieb Heinrich [B1014f], married to Friederike Wellmann, build a new farm house in the then common style in the late 19th century, which still stands. It has since been enlarged by some modern buildings. His grandson Heinrich [B1276a] had been adopted by his uncle Gustav [B1146g]. His natural father was from the long-established Spenge family Hempelmann. Adoptions occurred in later times as well, e.g. [Ä1316a, J1345a, Ä1527b/c, Ä1529a], but not among relatives. Hilda’s [Ä1225f] son left the family by accepting his stepfather’s surname as later did [00000]; unknown is, if [J1471], adopted in early childhood after the death of her mother and a new marriage of her father, ever learned about her ancestry. The reason of Gustav’s adoption was to maintain the Blomeyer farm in the hands of the family of course. Gustav hold marriage in 1931 together with his brother [B1146f], the brides being twins from Blasheim<sup>76</sup>. Maybe they had met at the great cattle market there. Short to his death the younger adopted his wife’s nephew 2<sup>nd</sup> grade [B1274a] and made him heir of her Lübbecke farm. Son and grandson of the heir make the second and third generation of these new Blomeyers, the farm though is put into leasehold. Legally they are not part of the kinship, for in German law adoption of adults does not extent to relatives of the adopting. Artificial continuation instead of biological thus seems to be a feature of the youngest family branch. Meanwhile Heinrich’s daughter Heike [B1394a] is in charge of the farm. More cannot be said about its present situation, as unfortunately the present owners refuse responding letters.

Formerly rural Helligen meanwhile has changed its outlook to the extreme. An industrial site, established since the late 1960s, now covering almost half a square mile is dominating; it almost advanced at shouting distance to the Blomeyer farm. Recently it has been enlarged by a waste deposit site. Blomeyer construction company, founded 1927 by [J1262f] also runs such a site in nearby Lenzinghausen. Thousand-year-old Rexmann estate has gone, being replaced by a foundry, the name itself is almost perished. The disappearance of the Blomeyer farm also seems to be a question of time only.

But modern life provides alternatives. One of the »Bockhorsters«, Friedrich Heinrich [B1152a], began to build up a bourgeois existance in the interwar period. His father and an uncle [B1016c] had tried to establish an agricultural trade near Bielefeld fright-station before, but it had to be abandoned when the station expanded. Similar to famous August Oetker a few years earlier in the backroom of his Bielefeld pharmacy, he started putting baking-powder into small bags in Bünde, and also applied similar marketing methods as the Bielefeld entrepreneur did, who was however much ahead. His young wife contributed the investment capital from her dowry. Heinrich’s enterprise’s *Westfalia* main product, known as »Weltkrone« was sold all over the German speaking countries and the business was profitable enough to pay university fees for all his three sons [B1281a/b/d] and to marry the daughter, who kept the books, into another business family. Widowed, she married another businessman in the new plastic-industry, who was a farmer’s son himself. The eldest tended towards theology. In the

<sup>73</sup> LdArch Münster, *Dep. Benkhausen Nr. 6643 passim*.

<sup>74</sup> Wissmann, p. 56.

<sup>75</sup> LdArch Münster, *Dep. Benkhausen Nr. 9197 and 6643. The »Courant« was the standard silver coin.*

<sup>76</sup> *Their maiden name von Behren did not indicate a noble descendance. Such names are not rare in north-west Germany. As the same is true about the names of [Ä1316e], [J1361d], [J1363a] u. [J1563b]’s partners, no B. ever married an aristocrat. A single von Blomeyer in: Archivamt LWL: Haus Brincke (Pz 7), legal files count Kerksenbrock/v. d. Bussche from 1728 shall find a similar explanation; here, a misspelling of »Blomann« (cf. fn. 118) is possible. Brothers [B1150b/e] also married two sisters. A double marriage also had the sisters [J1128d/e] in South Africa, brothers [Ä1328a/b] later in Werther.*

western campaign he survived the failing attempt to seize Dutch air-base Valkenburg by one of the first airborne operations, later he was missed in southern Ukraine and declared dead in 1959. The second was killed in action near Leningrad. His family was told he got a head-shot when on patrol. But this is insecure; many company leaders wrote home a casualty died quick and without much suffering to relieve the families' pain. In another oral tradition his own men disposed of him. The third survived, but deceased after his studies in chemistry and achieving the first PhD for a Blomeyer, on a journey in Helsinki for his Leverkusen company. He had claimed several international patents. The Bünde factory had been shut down already at this point of time; [B1281d] had no healthy constitution, so that the concession for the food company was not prolonged. A rarity as historical remain is a small bag of baking powder preserved in Herford communal archive (dep. A 2068) from a price control examination in 1940. Maybe it is the oldest item of this kind in the world. Fifty years after, Ralf Hubert [Ä1414d] was in a leading position at the board of the other Bielefeld company, now a global player.

### 7.3. The Younger Branch

According to heritage customs, only one son if there were several, could inherit a farmstead. Most men in 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century thus had no choice than falling on hard times as hirelings and spinners. To popular song, the linen-weaver became prototype of the poor man. This was true to most Blomeiers as well. Out of five adults, four were agricultural labourers around 1750 [Ä0602h, Ä0701j, J0705a, 0715f]. In contrast to free contract workers who had to be paid even when weather conditions did not allow field work, hirelings had to be paid for done work only. Often they had a close relation to a certain villager, ate at the same table and had a long lasting contract, their children keeping horses and cows of the villager. If possible, hiremen owned half an acre or so garden-land on their own. Most of them kept some chicken, sometimes a goat or even a pig. None could afford a horse. Sheeps usually were bred by manor farms only. In the garden rapes and turnpipes, onions, peas and cabbage was produced, other vegetables rarely. Revival of the hirelings' garden-economy therefore was seriously recommended to sustain those from the burned cities and East German dispossessed after the last world-war. Growing fruit-trees was not worth it, as it was widely believed that the fruits would be stolen anyway<sup>77</sup>. Only from the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century fruit-trees decorated streets, meadows and gardens all over the province – until an order of the EEC in 1969 to regulate fruit-production led to cutting half a million trees in Westphalia alone in a few years. Slaughterday was once a year, seldom a hen was on the fire. Today's Germans consume approximately fifteen times as much meat and poultry. Home-production of food is almost cancelled even in house gardens since the 13<sup>th</sup> generation, whereas only seventy years ago there were seven Blomeyer farms, [B1144f, B1146f/g, B1148e, B1152b, J1130b, Ä1219a] and in South Africa [J1248e]'s. At least [J1553a] tries establishing an ecologically orientated farm at Bissendorf.

Between mid-16<sup>th</sup> and mid-18<sup>th</sup> century the number of hirelings had doubled. Eight hundred people lived on ca. fifty farms, some of them in shelters only. Demographic pressure was so intense that the common grounds had to be distributed from 1769 onwards. Starvation was seldom only because the potato had been introduced, all possible land was put under the plough (never before or after central Europe was less covered with woods, Spenge's city area still is almost free from any woodland, what is rare for the area as a whole), the main Ravensberg and Osnabrück product linen faced high demand and people started to discover the use of clover to improve soils and as food-crop. It has to be kept in mind of course that half the population died before reaching maturity. A fifth alone from small-pocks and diarrhea which for the most part infected children. No medical help was possible, the universal medicine for all kinds of diseases was brandy mixed with aloes<sup>78</sup>. Maybe the high death toll was

<sup>77</sup> J. M. Schwager: *Über den Ravensberger Bauern (1786)*, in: *Ravenberger Blätter 1/1981*, p. 5-18. *The institution of hirelings exists until the post-war area, when the rural regions were industrialized, too.* W. Freitag, *Prof. Mager's Bielefeld student to become one of the most reputed historians on westphalian history, interviewed the last witnesses of the out-dying world in Spenge in the late 1980s, when academic interest in social history had it's peak.*

<sup>78</sup> Weddigen, p. 45. *Other remedy were bleding for those who could afford a quack, or magic saying practiced by old women.*

the price to be paid for a description like that of the Minden royal councilor Culemann, who wrote about the country folks in 1745 they ...

“...have strong limbs, nice faces and are well bred. The women go clean in linen cloth, the male are useful for warfare and all sorts of arts. The language among the higher states is high German, low German among the commons. Most burr a little when talking.”<sup>79</sup>

Fourty years later, Jöllenbeck parson Schwager had noticed first hints of increasing care for dressing - among male villagers ! Some were shy to wear their wooden clogs any more, even hirelings' wives drank (cheap) chicory-coffee, villagers' sons began smoking tobac co. He did not see that these new habits might have been the reverse side of obligatory military service, which he expressively praised, that gave Ravensberg men, in contrast to inhabitants of ecclesiastical principalities like neighboring Münster or the small county of Lippe a broader horizon of the world outside their homeland. Nevertheless, Bielefeld teacher and parson Peter Weddigen's sketch of the rural style of eduction cannot have been nothing but a phrase of enlightened civilization critique when he noticed, that children ...

“...are educated the tough way, early getting used to the various changes of air, heat and cold, and rarely only one sees a weak or sick boy or a pampered girl; but the more vivid and strong child which give prove that their parents never faced the debauchery of young age common to the higher classes.”<sup>80</sup>

Almost at the same time young Bielefeld physician Wilhelm Consbruch described the region in his extensive and much quoted Medical Topography, which is little known outside but gives an impression in what kind of environment our ancestors were living:

»(...) At most places the county is rather hilly, and presents lovely views. The hills continue from west to east and mostly are covered with forest... Individual houses, villages, major farms and estates vary with the most beautiful woodlands and open fields, then the eye rests on a larger group of buildings out of which a church tower grows that bespeaks a town. The whole scenery here and there is cut by creeks and rivers which enlarge it's appeal and richness. (...) Most creeks are full of fish like pike, carp, perch, trout, lamprey, eel, whitefish, burbot, crayfish and more. (...) The more one turns from the western borders of the county to the northern, the more smooth the area gets, but still decorated with hillcocks and vales, and from Werther to Bünde and some way forth about three square-miles you see a plenty of lovely oaks and beech woods, and an excellent fat bran-soil watered by Warmenau and Else creeks. At some places here it is swampy and has nice peat-bogs. (...) We do not have woods as we once had, for the many colonists many are completely cut and turned into farmland, and also much lumber is consumed; though we do not entirely lack nice groves. Among the wild trees ... oak and beeches flourish particularly. The brook-willow is common, lest basswood, and needle-trees grow well on the sandy soils. Chestnut usually grows in the towns only. ... Hunting has been reduced compared to former time, but still we have many rabbits, wild boar, few deer but many fox and badger, and more four-foot carnivores. Wild birds are partridge, snipe, squirrel-birds, quail, wood pigeon and turtledove, throtle, lap-wing, star, lark, wild goose, ducks and others. Domestic animals are plenty, cows and pigs mostly, and famous westphalian ham is spendidly smoked. In addition sheep, goats, hen, ducks, goose and pigeons. Turkey is hardly bread, and we have no pheasant at all (...)«.

And so forth many pages about trade, commerce, mining, agriculture, medical aspects, the people's character, dressing, house-builing and more. A idyllic undertone can be not be overheard, which does not make overlooking how much our country has been changed since then.

While at work, children were under supervision. The death of eight-year-old Hermann Heinrich [B1260c], found drowned in a neighbor's pond, was an exception. Used to hard work from childhood on, pregnancy was not perceived as a physical burden as it is in our days. Besides, marriage and giving birth started much earlier than today in an age biologically more adequate. A few days after birth young mothers carried on daily work. Another reason for population-growth was the comparatively high degree of freedom people exercised in north-west Germany's countryside. Parallel to the decrease of the lords' powers limitations to marriage and reproduc-

<sup>79</sup> Culemann, p. 92; on *Enger bailwick* p. 135ff. Indeed, no overweights are seen on photographs until mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. »Schnarren« means pronouncing the »r« by the throat.

<sup>80</sup> Weddigen, p. 44. Service with dutch V.O.C. was another opportunity of 18th century men to escape a narrow rural world. Several Wallenbrückers are found among some 3000 men and women from Ravensberg county and Osnabrück in the company's Den Haag archive, no B. however.

tion of the landless fell. About half the population in the Northwest was free as early as the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century, thus long before the French and Prussian reform era. Villagers and landed gentry welcomed the increase of population, for it rendered labour-force cheaper. The depending part of the Wallenbrück population belonged in even shares to noble, ecclesiastical and royal estates. Not revealed yet is, from whom of them the name of the Blomeier cottage at Spenge's Hengstenberg street is given, which different to most hireling's home has not been demolished in the 20<sup>th</sup> century and since 1991 is property of Udo [Ä1428b]. In any case it is too far away from the Helligen farm to have been an annex once. Probably the name came into use by long inhabitation of a Blomeier hireling.

The outclassed, be they free or bondsmen could survive only by additional work, mostly yarn-spinning. In the Herford St. Mary file mentioned above, a brother and a relative of the wife of late [Ä0602c] plead to release the decease fee, for he had left nothing but six minors<sup>81</sup>. This after fifty years of work. Brother Johann Jürgen [J0602d], also mere hireling is progenitor of the younger branch. Mean of three brothers, this group can also be called "middle branch".

Producing linen, woven since stone-age times, is one of the oldest products of human culture and was a daily care of the country-folks for centuries. Berlin governments supported the production after the 30-Years-War. Seeds were imported from Courland mostly. Sowing of the blue-blossoming plant onto extensively platted fields happened in early spring, harvest in july. Flax-bushels dried on the field for two weeks, then the stalks were rippled to get the seed capsules, from which linseed-oil was made. Soaking the plant into water for several days separated fibres from the bark. To get rid of stiffy elements, the flax was beaten week-long. A dirty work mostly done outside or in the barns. Before hatcheling the straw, the last bark rests were drawn off. To get a particularly fine material it could be scraped on a hard piece of leather additionally. Some fields from Schildesche village via Häger and Wallenbrück, combined with water containing not too much lime and skilled work produced a spun smooth as womens' hair, it was said. From autumn to January was spinning-time, interrupted only from Christmas to Epiphany, when all work not essentially necessary stopped. A chummy time which was passed in order to save lightning and firewood in the neighbours' chambers in succession. In folk-art and -poetry spinning thus was extremely present. The string drawn by thumb and fore-finger from the rock was moistened, send onto the spinning-reel and drawn up a windlass. Birch-oil avoided spinning fingers sore. Before weaving this yarn was soaked again and treated with potash. Toxic waste different to modern textile production did not evolve. The main trading posts for linen were in Herford and Tecklenburg. A quality shirt was worn life-long. Was a cloth finally of no use anymore, the rags got new life in a paper-mill as one existed in Herford since 1462; the eldest documents of our history survived because of the durability of its' linen compounds. Osnabrück cloth at times was exported to the Americas for slave-garment.

Spinning and weaving linen however received a severe stroke by English and Scottish machine spinning after 1820. Linen was replaced by cotton from India and the United States. Soon the county was the poorest part of the province. Its population density in contrast was the highest, ca 150 people per square kilometer. Cigar-making was not common yet, and later often only a badly paid by-job for women and children. Only after mass-emigration to the United States after the years of starvation in the 1840s, when industrialization provided jobs for the poor, artificial fertilizers for the depleted soil and new methods of producing improved agrarian productivity the crisis was over. After the early Wallenbrück plot-realignment the Helligen farm's ca. thirteen hectares in 1900 were half the average of a Wallenbrück farm. Thirty years after it was not in Niekammer's agricultural directory yet, in which all farms of twenty hectares and more were listed.

Emigration was a risky undertaking with many suppositions not easy to exercise. Hundreds of inhabitants from Wallenbrück and Spenge left for America. Others emigrated to the Ruhrgebiet's industrial cities. So did many of this branch, which stems from Johann Jürgen [J0602d], Berend's third son. The first five generations were hirelings. Before inviting workers from the Prussian east into the newly developing mine-landscape the labor-potential of Westphalia and the Rhinelands was exploited. One of the first hints on labour migration is in the Royal Prussian Central Police Paper of january 1860. Hand worker Peter Heinrich [Ä0902I] was announced there

<sup>81</sup> See *fn. 31, no. 162*.

because he was expelled from Werl to his home-village Bardüttingdorf but did not arrive there yet<sup>82</sup>. Expulsion was common to get rid of unemployed whom to sustain in case of poverty a public duty existed for the home towns only. And the major business in the town was salt refinery, whose season-workers usually were released at the end of the year to be newly employed in spring. Apparently, Peter Heinrich had not established a family in Werl yet. Fifteen years later another hireling Peter Heinrich [J1130c] became pit-overseer in Gelsenkirchen. To nourish his extensive family he held two cows in what was to become the “city of thousand fires”<sup>83</sup>. In those days, all six bailiffs of later Gelsenkirchen together were composed of less than three thousand households. Only between 1885 and 1928 disregarding communal and provincial borders a district, then a city was constructed. Some of his sons and daughters moved to neighbouring Essen communities where the famous mine »Zollverein« was hugely extending at the time. Now closed down it is on the world cultural heritage list of the UNESCO. The connection to Eastern Westphalia was long kept. Five of his seven sons [J1253a/b/c/e] chose wives from Eastern Westphalia, grandsons [J1366a/d] even returned to Eastern Westphalia; so recently did [J1576a]. Gustav H. Griese, school-director in Gelsenkirchen-Horst, head of the local home preservation association and married to Peter Heinrich’s granddaughter Hedwig [J1367b] initiated two huge family meetings 1958 and 1960 visited by more the eighty family members of the twelfth to fourteenth generation. Young attendants remembered them even sixty years later. The newspapers reported about these events<sup>84</sup>. Dressed in costumes of Essen theatre, members of the family presented a self-written play ”The cousin of Wallenbrück”, honorary guest was the then owner of the Hellingen farm Gustav [B1146g]. Griese also edited two numbers of a family newsletter, and was member of the genealogical society of Westphalia. Further activity was put to an end by early death. Griese’s suggestion also led to naming the Ravensberg Street in Heßler, which actually got its name from a long demolished moated castle, but also reminds of the many miners settling there from Northeastern part of the province. His favourite nephew Otto [J1470c], bank clerk in Gelsenkirchen, was the first Blomeyer to apply for a coat-of-arms. It has been registered in the German Heraldry Roll (DWR) in 1980<sup>85</sup>. It is blazoned argent charged with an oak of seven branches, in pretence a half-timbered housefront with a top sable, on a helmet with a wreath vert sable argent a blackamoor dressed gules argent in chevrons. This rather strange image had been drafted by the leading German expert in heraldry, O.F. Neubecker from Berlin, but the explanation given for its design that can be historically accepted refers to Otto’s great-great-grandmother’s families’ origin only. It is thus not adequate for the Blomeyers as a whole. He got licence to carry this escutcheon only for himself and his male descendants i.e his son Heinrich Otto [J1565a]. No other Blomeyer therefore can claim to bear it.

In the long run the Blomeyers did not get rooted in Gelsenkirchen. Germans there as in many West German cities now are on the retreat to orientals; the rise of the Rhine-Westphalian industry to its dominating position as historical phenomenon as such was as sudden as short-lived. Almost a century after its employment-peak of over 570.000 miners and a half during which it was kept alive only by tax-payers’ subsidies, Westphalian and thus German coal mining had stopped in 2018. About twenty-five Blomeier men were miners during three generations. Today, this branch of the family is a disparate one, members living at the Lower Rhine area, in Bavaria and elsewhere. Dozens of them and of the Blomeiers in Bielefeld and Osnabrück area living in the 20<sup>th</sup> century have not been identified for archival restrictions hitherto. But two thirds of the German Blomeiers still house in the region of origin, though most of them from the two other branches. [Ä1228e] from the Osnabrück area became a miner too, but as pensioner he returned to Eastern Westphalia. It should not be forgotten to mention that

<sup>82</sup> Kgl. Preuß. Central-Polizei-Blatt XLII, Berlin 1869, p. 84.

<sup>83</sup> *Even agricultural farming still was common between Ruhr and Lippe then. Wide areas were covered with buildings only fifty years later, even more after WW II. Alas, sulphuric acids emissions soon affected plant growing too much to continue this way of existence. Cf. G. Grotdrees: Höfe, Bauern, Hungerjahre. Aus der westfälischen Landwirtschaft 1890-1950, Münster-Hiltrup 1991, p. 22ff.*

<sup>84</sup> *See Heimat-Rundschau 21./22.06. 1958 and Gelsenkirchener Stadtanzeiger 14.05.1960. Klaus W. [J1481b] from Schermbeck provided a copy of Grieses’s list of participants, which helped to identify many of this branch.*

<sup>85</sup> *See Deutsche Wappenrolle (DWR) vol. 34, Neustadt a. d. Aisch 1981, p. 68, registered 04/06/ 1980 Nr. 7462/79. [J1332b] also designed a coat-of-arms, displaying a red-brick wall underneath which three roses grow from green soil. Siebmacher’s ordinary of non-noble coats contains c. 30 similar motives until 1960 alone, sometimes in the like colours and identical crest, so that the possibility of mistaking is high. But none similar to the one described p. 82f. among 400 with rose-motives.*

Ravensberg's [Ä1327a] likewise chose his bride from Gelsenkirchen, as did [Ä1429d]. After the early death of his great-grandson Frank [Ä1307b], male descentance of Johann Wilhelm [Ä1005e], who also was a miner in Dortmund, seems to have ceased, likewise that of Wilhelm Adolf [Ä1223a] in Duisburg.

Another Peter Heinrich [J1009j] called "the Bielefelder" walked from Spenge to the border of the Rhine-province. His son Heinrich [J1120f] possessed a small band-weaving workshop where all family members had to help. Their products were widely used as hat and button ribbons, trimmings of paraments, aprons etc. After his sick father widowed, Heinrich carried him on his back from Oberelfringhausen to Nächstebreck to give him residence in his house. Another story is told about him, sounding cruel to modern ears. When his wife, born in Hessia at Phillipsthal, became sick, her young sister moved in to take care of her. The brother-in-law apparently liked her a bit more than allowed, so that she gave birth to a boy [J1246i] at the age of seventeen. The father tried to get rid of the baby and as a result he had to spend some time in prison. Now, demographic control by various ways of infanticide was not uncommon to many parts of Europe at all<sup>86</sup>, but exposing a newborn into an outside toilet was a different thing. To be mentioned that according a family tradition six earlier children had already died young (no proof has been found in church-books so far). When his recovered wife died some years later he married the sister a quarter of a year afterwards and had another five children with her who all survived except one. So did baby Heinrich. But one does not want to imagine the domestic atmosphere in the last years of the first marriage. This branch's ending in male line is probable due to lack of offspring.

Uncertain is the origin of another, also small branch of the family tree. Johann Friedrich Wilhelm's [B1140a] mother could have been [B1013b]. In this case her offspring would belong to the Bockhorsters. In his church book entry instead of the parents is only written »in Altenessen«. Factories, in which unmarried women from northeastern Westphalia could work had not been erected in that small Ruhr town then. Only in the following years Cologne bank Abraham Schaaflhausen made the parish the center of German coal mining. Was it shame about the illegitimate birth of her son that made her leave her home county? Their relatives who like so many settled a generation later at Emscher creek, not to speak of the Eastern Westphalians, they apparently never met. Descendance probably neither exists as [B1140a]'s great-grandsons [B1491c, B1493a] did not survive bombing of the Ruhr area in the war. At least we know where she lived, whereas from many other family members in the 19<sup>th</sup> century who sought work in road-building or as house-servants elsewhere we have no information at all.

In Eastern Westphalia the age of industry started with delay. Bielefeld linen agents began to manufacture their products in their hometown in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century<sup>87</sup>. Europe's biggest flax spinning mill was in Bielefeld. Soon "Bielefeld (dowry and table) wear" had a name nationwide. Many young girls from the town-ships around could add to the family-income as seamstresses and ironers. The young men produced sewing machines but also bikes, electronic devices and bollimats. Living next to the city of Bielefeld it took forty years longer before a Blomeier settled there than it did in the case of Osnabrück. Bielefeld weaving mills had opened branches in Spenge before. Shoe-maker Franz [Ä1228b] from Dissen, like many early Blomeiers in the city actually an »Osnabrückian« comes in 1888 and stays a number of years. So did bricklayer Wilhelm [Ä1216e] after the turn of the century. »Postilion« Friedrich [Ä1230c] left again soon, as did clockmaker Hermann [B1144i]. Only a generation later there were Blomeiers in Bielefeld as many as were in Osnabrück.

Some also went to work in the new factories or in the new steel work of Malbergen, whose worker colony became the town of Georgsmarienhütte<sup>88</sup>, e.g. [J1009c] and [J1119b/e]. Before them, [J0910c] had married three times across the Warmenau creek. All efforts to keep industrial workers such as the so called (mechanics and) "new-farmers" Johann Friedrich [J1240b] and his son Friedrich [J1345a] in touch with the soil were doomed to fail in the age of machinery notwithstanding.

A bricklayer's son, Jobst Heinrich Hermann [J1243c] became paviour after World War I in Osnabrück, later owner of his own building company, which son Georg [J1354b] after his death enlarged to a company with three

<sup>86</sup> Confirmed by Schwager, p. 9.

<sup>87</sup> M. Stemme-Sogemeier: *Bielefeld und seine Industrie*, 2nd ed. Trautheim u.a. 1953. For an earlier period H. Aubin: *Das westfälische Leinengewerbe im Rahmen der deutschen u. europäischen Leinwanderzeugung*, Ardey 1964.

<sup>88</sup> Very instructive on this interesting process S. Meyer: *Schwerindustrielle Insel und ländliche Lebenswelt: Georgsmarienhütte 1856-1933, Münster/Westf. 1991 (Diss. Osnabrück 1989), p. 139ff.*

hundred employees, the biggest Blomeier undertaking hitherto. Parts of the family-asset he invested in the purchase of erstwhile knights of St John comandery Lage near Bersenbrück from the Hannover estate management chamber. Over thirty years he ran a hotel-restaurant in the restored, three-aisle stately home, engrided by a moat at two sides. After selling the baroque property<sup>89</sup> to the diocese small congregations have moved in again. A wound at his hand he received during World War II when building an air shelter, not severe but neglected effected blood-poisoning and took the founder's life<sup>90</sup>. Among craftsmen like them it was still in use to wander around for a few months having finished the apprenticeship. Usually they stayed in northwest Germany. Take as an example Jobst's younger brother Johann Heinrich [J1243e], another bricklayer. After his lessons in Buer the bachelor worked a couple of months in Cologne, in the residence town Detmold, and for two years in the provincial capital Münster before he spend some time in Hamburg. The females usually worked as house maidens before marriage in cities like Hannover or Kassel, some in the Netherlands, the catholics in Münster. Essen's Maria Anna, widow of [J1253i] for 64 years, first was cook, then house-keeper and lady companion to an ennobled Bredeneby factory director's widow who even considered her in her last will. The lady had lost her only son at the same time »Mariechen's« hushband was taken away; her orphan also was given work in the company. Until early post-war times the majority of all employees in Germany were workers or domestic servants like them.

A different reason but poverty made Hermann Heinrich [J1009k] leave his country. Grown up fatherless he also lost his mother young and got under the influence of a teacher couple. Six brothers and sisters had three different mothers, the eldest was twenty-five years older than he was. After an apprenticeship as shoe maker and some years wandering around the adult became student at a Lutheranian missionary school in the Lüneburg heath. His surviving, hand-written curriculum vitae is a rare document from someone of his background. Near Ravensberg also was a hot-spot for missionary engagement, but he was subject to the king of Hannover. 1868 he left to pray in Africa. There he died 1882. His grave still exists, what is seldom in the homeland of his family after so long a time. This quiet man was to become "pioneer ancestor" of all South Africa Blomeyers (see chapter 7.5.).

## 7.4. The Elder Branch

The Osnabrück line derives from Johann Hinrich [Ä0602c]. His son [Ä0805a] had an *infans spurius ac adulteria genitus*<sup>91</sup> in addition to eight legal childs named Christian Henrich with Margarete Katharina Schleisieck<sup>92</sup>. Details will never be reconstructed, but the Jöllenneck parson wrote about the cottage girls...

“(...) among this class of people the males are the coy ones, the females are wooing (...). They know the art to coquet as well as the ladies, reveal the bosom and other attractions, impudently little by little, for that helps more than doing it at once. Does the juvenile stay coy she helps with brandy, and does he not follow her invitation to bed she visits him in his.”<sup>93</sup>

Having prenuptial children was no rare thing in later generations as well, for example [J1009e], [J1119a], [J1126f], [J1243d], [Ä1416b], [Ä1512a], [Ä1531a] oder [Ä1537a]. Within the family history we know about four dozen illegitimate children, starting with [0304a] and *ex filia Blameyers* ([0602a] ?). Christian Henrich died

<sup>89</sup> P. 115-112 in E.F. Warnecke: *Das große Buch der Burgen und Schlösser im Land von Hase und Ems, Osnabrück 1980. In the 16th century a Ledebur had been comtur there. A pity, that the nicely situated property had not become a family-seat !*

<sup>90</sup> Hermann Blomeier KG (Hrsg.): *50 Jahre Hermann Blomeier KG Straßen- und Tiefbau, Osnabrück 1959. In peak up to 800 men worked for them building railtracks and motorway. Short before its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary the company was shut down.*

<sup>91</sup> KrKBAmt Osnabrück: *KB Neuenkirchen, births 1767-1791, p. 7.*

<sup>92</sup> *Ibid. death roll 1837, p. 53, not as in the birth-entry from his brother [0701i], of whom neither marriage nor death is recorded.*

<sup>93</sup> Schwager, p. 9. *refers to hirelings' daughters only, farmers' daughters whose only ambition was to marry another farmer had to consider her reputation. "This basically is the entire romance..., the marriage soon to follow and its' deprivation eliminates any tenderness, mutual respect never was felt, such marriages thus become one of barbarians, obtained by animal instincts and necessity alone" he continues.*

1837 in Redecke in the parish Neuenkirchen, where his mother's family came from<sup>94</sup>. Since then Blomeyers lived to both borders of the Warmenau creek. Connections were loose from the beginning. In the Neuenkirchen records only a Caspar Henrich and a Anna Maria, probably [B0805e/f] are mentioned, as godfathers to J.H. Schürmann's children from Schiplage<sup>95</sup>. The mother was not a née Blomeyer. Their father and Christian Henry's father were cousins. While descendants of Christian Henry, who stayed in the Grönegau area for three generations, are numerous in Germany and America, living offspring of his brothers ended in the male line a few decades ago in Wallenbrück or are short before. As from [Ä0805g] less than a handful male progenitors are alive, these facts legitimizes to call this branch the »Osnabrückers«, »Meller« for today's assignment of Neuenkirchen parish to this town, or by the area's historic name »Grönegauers«.

A kind of second founder of this branch is hireling Heinrich Wilhelm [Ä1006c], who had forty-one grandchildren from the eleven children with his wife Catharina Hölscher, more than any other Blomeier. Not all reached adult life of course. Second to him is [J1130c] with twenty-nine grandchildren. Until today the Osnabrück and the Gelsenkirchen branch are the most numerous ones. Having fifteen or twenty grandchildren was not uncommon a thing.

The division into branches mainly serves for better orientation. But to differentiate between "Lower saxon" in and around the cathedral city Osnabrück and "Westphalian" Blomeiers around Bielefeld respectively between Lutheranian and catholic Blomeiers would not make much sense. Particularly not in an age when religious convictions generally are slackening and interconfessional marriage has become a normal matter. Besides, Osnabrück has long been confessionally mixed and had been ruled since the Thirty-Years-War successively by roman-catholic bishops and protestant princes from the Welfen dynasty. Among others [Ä1040e], [J1119b] and [Ä1221a] married catholic women<sup>96</sup>, the first's son [Ä1149d] with a Lutheranian one again, whereupon the children were educated as catholics. Unfortunately, contact among [Ä1221a]'s was abandoned after his marriage. It is true, in uniquely catholic parishes as Riemsloh or Wellingholzhausen and even in mixed ones like Krukum we meet Blomeyers<sup>97</sup> exceptionally only, but pre-reformation ancestors of Johann Blommeier of course prayed to the Roman saints for some sevenhundred years, as did their fathers to their pagan deities. Around 1530 small Wallenbrück still had a brotherhood dedicated to the veneration of the Body of Christ, and one more St Mary brotherhood<sup>98</sup>. During reformation, the Jülich dukes tried to walk the *via media*. Today, approximately a sixth of all Blomeiers is catholic again. [Ä1217c]'s wife worshiped the reform church, [Ä1333c]'s in Indiana converted from the Methodist church when she married. Apparently, [B1142b/c] also followed this confession. Exercising the St Jacob pelerinage as Volker K. Friedrich [Ä1414d] did twice is no longer a catholic privilege. None took vows or the veil, but the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> generations are faced with non-baptized family members for the first time. Both the ecclesiastical principality Osnabrück as well as the Jülich, later Brandenburg county Ravensberg were part of the imperial district of Westphalia, the county's jury-court until the 16<sup>th</sup> century sat on Schiplage heath west of the Warmenau. Both states gentry always was closely linked. Some Osnabrück Blomeiers e.g. [Ä1221c/d] returned to Ravensberg, likewise some Blomeiers from Herford district moved to Osnabrück. The Werther Blomeiers [Ä1327] and [Ä1328] and their offspring "actually" are Grönegauers. Regarding the low level of social and spatial mobility in ancient times it is a statistical matter of fact anyway, that including maternal descendance and crossing pedigrees the whole population with ancestry having settled to both sides of the Westphalian-Lower Saxon border for five hundred years and more is biologically related to each other. Bridesgrooms from non-Prussian states as for [Ä1210b] and [Ä1222c] from Bavaria and Saxony were exceptional at

<sup>94</sup> E.g. LdArch Osnabrück, *Personenstandsregister Neuenkirchen, Rep. 491 Nr. 1515, 1527, 1535, 1539. Only among the Schleisieck, not the B. the first name Christian was in use.*

<sup>95</sup> KrKBAm Osnabrück: *KB Neuenkirchen 1781-1785, p. 112 and 150.*

<sup>96</sup> *The very first inter-confessional relation was the one from which [J1122a] was a product. The list is incomplete; in Gladbeck e.g. [J1389a] married into a catholic family.*

<sup>97</sup> *See Gemeindeflexikon, p. 119f. Conversion happend for practical reasons to allow marrying a catholic. Schwager p. 17: »Very religious a man is he not, and backward in religious matters. Religion does not find much attention, and from generation to generation he is used to regard it a minor matter, seriously to deal with only on the death-bed«. Thus the Ravensberg pious revival movement was a temporary phenomem after the 1840s crisis years.*

<sup>98</sup> *Visitationsprotokoll, p. 150.*

their time. Blomeier men in the region of origin hitherto took wives from more than one hundred different families. This network of kinship is demolished only during the past thirty years since marriage partners are more often chosen from more distant regions. Already after the Second World War four out of five Häger siblings [J1383a-e] married to a Saxon and three Silesians. Silesians in particular took refuge in Westphalia after their expulsion from what is Western Poland now. What is more, both lines share a common development, albeit professions like steel-worker or stoker appear one generation earlier among the Osnabrück's than among those who stayed at the countryside for longer. Living-conditions of the working class in a city like Osnabrück were not much better though than for the rural population. Four out of eight respectively three of six children of [Ä1107a] as well as of [Ä1114b] still died in infancy. Men in the jobs mentioned often had to work in shift system contrary to human condition all their life.

The first Blomeyer noted in Osnabrück servant record-book<sup>99</sup> in may 1859 was Louise [J1122a], worker. The municipal poverty committee gave her residence in the apartment of the tailor widow Freese in Gold street, close to St John's church (whose deacon administered pre-reformation Wallenbrück). She was the byblow daughter of a Margaret Simpson from Osnabrück and Corporal Johann Heinrich from West-Hoyel [J1009c] who served in the 8<sup>th</sup> infantry bataillon, then in garrison in Osnabrück. The soldiers were, unusual for a German army but, as the king of Hannover then was king of Britain, following the British example, dressed in red coats. In his regimental roll he is described as of average size (5 feet 3 inches), slender, blond, blue-eyed with round front and ordinary nose<sup>100</sup>. His six year service term he had started at the age of nineteen in Nienburg. Louise's likewise illegitimate son [J1244b] changed his family-name once she had married a railroad worker who adopted him. A handful more Blomeyers moved to Osnabrück<sup>101</sup> within the next decade. Accommodation - by chance ? - some of them got in the neighbor's house in Gold street. Among them Friedrich Wilhelm [Ä1007e]. He and a cousin were employing the opportunities a developing city like Osnabrück offered in imperial Germany<sup>102</sup>, having teared down it's city walls to get place for factories and workers' homes and having gained access to railroad after the brother-war with Prussia 1866. In 1896 day-laborer Friedrich Wilhelm is a huckster, ten years later he owns a drug-store, retired he calls himself "privateer". His son, gardener Heinrich Ludwig [Ä1113d] soon becomes dealer in seeds, before 1900 he runs his own seeds-shop in Commenderie street, now calling himself Louis. He was the first Blomeyer with a telephone 1908.

[Ä1111d] however spend some time in prison in Lingen. We cannot know the reason as files are not conserved for so long a time. But as he was already more than sixty years old when condemned it will not have been an act of unreflecting youthful aggressivity. In the early 1920s young shop assistant [Ä1222b] also spend some time in jail<sup>103</sup>. Victim of a crime possibly was [J1463e], a young police-officer one day found shot with his gun; circumstances never had been cleared. Bielefeld businessman Peter Heinrich [J1254f] ended his life voluntarily with a rope during the 1930s.

About twenty-five Blomeiers fought in World War I, mostly infantrymen. Compared to the following war Blomeyer losses remained low, just two »Bockhorsters« [B1144k, B1264a] from Werther and Wallenbrück, two from the Ruhr area [Ä1110c, J1253i], [Ä1115c] from Dissen, and another [Ä1213c] from Wallenbrück, most at the western front. [Ä1110c] near Verdun for example. Human imagination hardly succeeds to produce an idea of his last days, which can however be well reconstructed by the regiment's war-diary<sup>104</sup>. Staying for days without

<sup>99</sup> LdArch Osnabrück, *Rep. 3b XVIII*, 53, p. 25 u. 27. Confirmed by St. Catherine and St. Mary church matricles.

<sup>100</sup> HStArch Hannover, *Rep. 45a I Nr. 562*, p. 78, 336, 368 etc.

<sup>101</sup> Next to the Wallenbrück church books certainly the most important source for the family history: LdArch Osnabrück, *Melderegister 1870-1930 vol. 7, Rep. 3b XVIII*, Nr. 116.

<sup>102</sup> Overview in R. Spilker: *Von der Industrialisierung bis zum Ersten Weltkrieg*, in: G. Steinmascher (Hrsg.): *Geschichte der Stadt Osnabrück*, Belm 2006, p. 453-467.

<sup>103</sup> Machine fitter [Ä1331a] shortly before the ban of the communist party in new West-Germany had been impeached to distribute insulting and defaming pamphlets about the federal government by Düsseldorf prosecution office, but his lawyer claimed he did not knew of his comrades' use of his address. Which could not be disproved so the notice of appeal was refused by the federal high court of justice. 1954 the case underfell an amnesty bill. See LdArch Duisburg: NW 337, no 2452.

<sup>104</sup> H. Mauenbacher: *Das Metzger Infanterie-Regiment Nr. 98. Nach den amtlichen Kriegstagebüchern*, Oldenburg et al. 1923, p. 36f.

water in summer-heat below fort Douaumont on a treeless battlefield marked by innumerable shell-craters and stinking decomposition of men's bodies, under enemy attack and gas grenades, death might have meant relief for soldiers. The exact day of his death can only be assumed, the spot surely was in range of sight of the huge ossu-aire, which might keep some of [Ä1110c]'s bones, too. Three others [B1144i, Ä1221c, J1246a] at least fought in the same battle. Exhaustion was lethal to [B1144k]. After days of forced marches his unit had to move into the most advanced position, the young man carrying his gun, combat pack and two ammunition boxes of thirty pounds each. After the company had rest in a small wood which covered the advance, he remained alone for a short while. The wood of course attracted French curtain-fire. A comrad later wrote to his parents, he had found him head, neck and breast full of shrapnels. His regiment had only six more losses that day. From this our youngest loss we might say like from so many other Europeans, he died before he had lived. Part of historical truth is yet, that this applied to millions of others in peace-time as well before the invention of antibiotics.

The memorial book of Werther parish contains more than two-hundred biographical sketches of each of the casualties, many of them with photographs. It is a unique source for local and family history, compiled by the parson who had to transfer the sad news to the families. Contemporaries however judged completely different on the late Wilhelminic state as is common today. A new edition therefore is unlikely. It seems worth to report on that account, that one of the presumably few remaining copies, although completely tattered, had been rescued and restored in the process of our family research. Musketeer [J1253i] died in a military hospital in Upper Austria from blood-poisoning after a shot into his knee. Part of almost the final levy was Franz Wilhelm [Ä1115c] from Dissen. Recruited to the militia at the age of almost fifty he deceased already in Cellelager training-camp, so did lancier [J1345g] in Hannover. It is unknown if any decoration hung around like for [B1144f] and [Ä1311a] is honoured by posteriors.

Brothers Heinrich Friedrich Wilhelm and Friedrich August [Ä1221c/d] from Redecke burship settled in Werther after the war. The elder had returned from service invalid but found work like his brother in a tube-factory and produced five children in spite of his handicaps. Similar to him half of the serving men of the family were wounded, Hermann [B1144i] from Werther for example in late 1916 near the infamous »Homme mort« height north of Verdun<sup>105</sup>. [Ä1221c]'s brother's wife worked as midwife and helped hundreds of children to be born, among them her later daughter-in-law (to [Ä1330d]). In the rural part of the country, none fell victim to the allied food blockade that was kept up after the armistice either. Neither was the entire province occupied up to Weser river again as was threatened, for a Reichstag majority felt coerced enough in time to surrender to Versailles treaty demandings. Only few industrial cities like Duisburg, Essen and Gelsenkirchen were occupied 1921-25 and cut off from the province to enforce implementation of the imposed regulations by six French and Belgian divisions. People tried to recover. The *Reich* as such plunged into the next disaster.

In the second World War all family branches suffered more losses. On the whole we lost fourteen non-commissioned officers and troops at least, now mostly at the eastern front<sup>106</sup>. The remains of [B1281a]'s and of the possible brothers Gerhard and Helmut [00000] from Enger never were found. Somewhere south of the Donbend, far east of Moscow longitude, lay the remains of Friedrich [B1270a]. His division, so far only being used for coastal defense in Flanders, got the order to advance to the 6th army, then locked up at Stalingrad, two days before christmas-eve 1942. For most of them, the three-weeks rail-transport to the east was a trip without return. Still lining-up, they were attacked and shot up by suddenly advancing Soviet tanks. In sharp eastern wind and

<sup>105</sup> All data according the casualty lists 795, 1100, 1131 and 1205 at [www.genealogy.net](http://www.genealogy.net) and [VDK/Kriegsgräbersuche online](http://VDK/Kriegsgräbersuche-online). Usually several weeks passed between the actual date of death and the entry into those lists. The ancestor-list shows the one of the entry into the army list. Identification is complicated for recess of birthday and regiment in the third year of war. Heinrich Gustav [B1144k] is no. 249/p.250 in Frhr. Rinck von Baldenstein, W.: *Das Infanterie-Regiment Freiherr von Sparr (3. Westfälisches) Nr. 16 im Weltkrieg 1914-18, Oldenburg 1927, formerly known as the »Hacketauer«, his biographic sketch p. 484f. in: P. Kienecker (Ed.): Das Kirchspiel Werther und der Krieg 1914-1918. Zum dankbaren Gedenken an unsere Gefallenen und Kriegsteilnehmer, Werther i. W. 1920.*

<sup>106</sup> [B1270d] is not recorded there, because he died as civil driver of the Wehrmacht in Graudenz/West-Prussia military hospital. The army information office's index cards at the federal archive Berlin compared to regiments' diaries helped to identify death sites of some of the missed. The two brothers, born 1924 resp. 1926 are not in the ancestor-list yet. In the 1948 edited Enger book their names are not listed; possibly the editor did not want to destroy the family's hope that they might have survived as POW.

about -25 °C bodies of the dead and the dying immediately froze to the steppe ground. Only at the next spring they were untightened with ropes and carried into big pits.

In addition air-raids in the Ruhr area killed two mothers with two boy children and a baby [B1491c, B1492d/e], old [J1253d] and Feldwebel Kurt Heinrich [J1370b] who was on holiday there. Also [Ä1371a]'s son never met his father. [B1489d]'s orphanage was evacuated to small town Geseke when a bomb hit their air-shelter and tumbling concrete-blocks killed him together with ten other children and some nurses. Hundreds of locals attended the funeral albeit none of the dead was from that place<sup>107</sup>. Friedhelm's [Ä1325e] mother died from a stroke after the war when she believed to identify her youngest son erroneously. Teenager Günter [Ä1328d] survived an air-raid on Bielefeld on a sunny september saturday afternoon only because he left a station-inn's vault early enough. All others who took shelter were killed, the town burned four days<sup>108</sup>. [Ä1327a], enlisted at young age as anti-air-gunner, returned sick to death; the apprentice had survived the great bombing only because extraordinary over-hours that day, so he did not arrive at the station where dozens of his hometown, mostly young girls, died. Young Ernst-Wilhelm [B1283b] also could call himself lucky. Entering the army short to defeat and prisoner to the Soviets in Saxony after a failed attempt of escape, a Russian physician took the half-starved-to-death to her house as footman and took care of his recovery. Second Lieutenant Julius [00000], instructor at Posen cadet-school, spend even four years in Soviet war-captivity.

Without those twenty-two losses some twenty or thirty Blomeiers more as posterity of the killed would be alive than actually are in our days. To give only one example: from the 6000 inhabitants of Werther alone more than 500, including three Blomeyers brothers [B1270a/c/d], were killed<sup>109</sup> although the community did neither saw active fighting apart from some shooting Easter 1945 to welcome the US-Army, mass-rape or forced expulsion as the eastern territories of Germany did, nor bombing like Osnabrück city, onto which in seventy air-raids concentrated in autumn and spring 1944 and finally on palm sunday 1945 approximately 700.000 bombs were dropped to devastate two thirds of the entire city, its center completely. The annexation of the ruins as considered in Dutch government the British occupation-force afterwards inhibited, just a few Lower Rhine communities were incorporated into the Netherlands for a few years. Thousands of British soldiers remained in about ten huge barracks in the area until the 1990s, headquarters of the British Army of the Rhine were in Bad Oeynhausen. Gelsenkirchen and Essen branches had less military losses, for miners were partly reserved from military service.

Wilhelm's [B1389a] attempt shortly after outbreak of war to remove to his wife's dutch home by pretending family difficulties failed and made him be jailed to death for desertion. His commander-in-chief turned capital-punishment into fifteen-year imprisonment beginning at the end of war during which he was obliged to forced labour. Only a day before capitulation Americans freed him gaunted to fourty-three kilograms from imprisonment near Remscheid<sup>110</sup>. On his children [B1492a-d] nothing is known: Did they survive the war ? Or were they separated from each other after their mother's death and given to other families, never knowing anything about their origins ?

Dissatisfaction with the dictatorship otherwise was expressed rather in a state of drunkenness like by [Ä1221a]<sup>111</sup>. His transfer to a Hamburg SS-Police-Bataillon<sup>112</sup> end of january 1945 when that city and the *Reich* were in ruins already, on the other hand did not make air-shelter-corporal Johannes Fr. W. [Ä1222b] automati-

<sup>107</sup> H. Schürbusch/A. Winter: *Nacht über Wattenscheid. Chronik des Krieges in unserer Stadt, Essen 2009, p. 22f.*

<sup>108</sup> H.-J. Kühne: *Augenzeugenberichte: Der Großangriff auf Bielefeld am 30. September 1944, in: 89 Jahresbericht d. Histor. Vereins für die Gft. Ravensberg (FS Vogelsang), Bielefeld 2004, p. 449-466.*

<sup>109</sup> Kriegerverein Werther/Westf. (Hrsg.): *Die Kriegsoffer des Amtes Werther 1939-1945, 1958, p. 5. This was no exception. [Ä1427a-d] knew their mother's three brothers only from letters left behind. Never since the 1812 campaign lives of German soldiers had been wasted to such extent.*

<sup>110</sup> LdArch Duisburg: *Rep 163, no 109. Most of the ca. 300.000 Wehrmacht deserters left their units near the front or short to capitulation. Three quarters of the 30.000 sentenced death penalties were executed.*

<sup>111</sup> LdArch Osnabrück: *Geheime Staatspolizei, Kartei 1928ff. (Rep. 439 Nr. 19).*

<sup>112</sup> *Ibid.: Schutzpolizeikommando, file W. Blomeier.*

cally a criminal. From almost completely accessible denazification files<sup>113</sup> we learn, that all of the mostly younger men from the family joined the new state-party after it had seized power or after the release of the admission-stop in 1937, as had done more than six million fellow citizens then. All were classified into the lowest category, inclusive [Ä1310e] and Osnabrück brothers Georg and Gustav [J1354b/c] who had been applicants to the SS in summer 1933 for a few weeks respectively were connected to her afterwards as support-member. Gustav's case was the most extensive, but his parish priest and an employee of half-jewish origin who survived the regime unharmed in his firm finally discharged him of suspects. Details on Georg's stay to superintend construction-works of his Berlin company in occupied Poland 1942/43, for which he was reserved from military service, were not found yet. Only Wilhelm [00000] had joined the party already in 1930 and became local functionary in Heepen for two years before his military service. From war-imprisonment he therefore was transferred to former concentration-camp Neuengamme in summer 1945 for about three years. Bielefeld neighbours supported his release, a former political inmate among them, who described him as "idealist who believed to serve higher national and social ideas without already understanding the true character of the party then". He also was fined to a sentence of sixhundred Reichsmark. Accountant Friedrich [Ä1223h], aide to a local party-functionary, from Ibbenbüren was also held in prison for more than a year after the war. So was *Unterscharführer* Hermann [Ä1310e] for two years in a Luneburg heath camp for having been in a regimental staff of the *Waffen-SS*. Members also were [Ä1311a, Ä1331a, J1349f] and [J1370a]; others might not have survived war and captivity or still were prisoners of war; until september 1944 however party-membership was inhibited to soldiers. This kind of source is also valuable for its data on education, income and military careers of many family members including non-comrades of the state-party. No Blomeiers lived in the sphere of the other German dictatorship, so the question of membership in it's state-party or other political corruption does not arise.

In a different way victim to the regime became Lina, wife of [J1260j]. Already her mother shall have »always been somewhat stupid«<sup>114</sup>. After the death of her father and her second pregnancy she became mentally ill too, sometime believing to be bewitched. In Gütersloh's hospital for the insane schizophrenia was diagnosed. According to the 1933 from Scandinavian examples decreed law to prevent genetically sick offspring Bielefeld health authorities ordered to sterilize her. The same happened to Peter W. Heinrich [B1280a] from Westerenger. His grandfather, Bockhorst grandson [B1016b], was said to suffer from occasional falling sickness, his father stifled from a seizure, brother [B1280b] died as baby »from spasms and intense imbecility«. Heinrich visited a school for weeks only, not to think of an apprenticeship. His mother, for »he did not know about the sexual«, complained against the order throughout all appeal stages until the young man died from natural cause at home and before the regime could have executed more lethal measures<sup>115</sup>. In spring of that year transports from West-Germany into the euthanasia-institutes had started. As no further cases are known, the disease surely has been introduced by [B09251]'s wife Marie Niederbremer from Rödinghausen. In her kinship the disease had occurred in the half-century before the said marriage<sup>116</sup>.

Of Osnabrück descendance also was Bauhaus student and architect Hermann A.W. [Ä1302a]. His career was not foreseeable. He attended Dortmund school of arts only against his Osnabrück born father's declaration. In early post-war Germany he edited the soon well-reputed magazine »Bauen und Wohnen«, in which he confessed, independently of the needs of his time, his tendency to normification and montage as modern principles of building, against all historicizing attempts. This makes him among all Blomeiers as an individual as the industrial worker from Essen or Bielefeld as a type to an emblematic man of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. He could exercise his conviction in some public buildings in South-west Germany; some of them now classified as historic monuments

<sup>113</sup> Ibid.: *Denazification committees 1946-49 (Rep 980)*, no. 31774, 35495, 35557, 43265; LdArch Duisburg: NW 1004-20101, 1035-04320, 1039-B-04735, 1057-MG-04521 and LdArch Hannover: *Entnazifizierungsverfahren Hermann Blomeier 1946ff.*

<sup>114</sup> LdArch Detmold, *Erbgesundheitsgericht Bielefeld/Blomeier files 1936ff.*

<sup>115</sup> In august 1941 the first few hundred mentally sick from the province were gassed in Hessian Hadamar. According to Mrs Schaaf/memorial institute Hadamar from march 23<sup>rd</sup> 2018 no B. is listed among the victims. The same is true referring to the list of deposit R 179 in the Federal Archive, Koblenz.

<sup>116</sup> KB Rödinghausen, *funerals 1806-39*, p. 32. Marie herself died from abdominal cancer (KB Wallenbrück 1883, no. 34).

themselves. Single among Blomeiers so far he became object of an (unpublished) biography and was honoured with the Federal order of merit. His widow Hedwig Emilie was the longest living Blomeyer ever. She passed away in her 107<sup>th</sup> year. Son and grand-children also are architects and artists like stage and television actress Anna-Katharina [Ä1507d].

Not yet identified is Ursula [to 000000] (1920-2005), whose ash is buried at Schinkel cemetery in Osnabrück. Also hitherto unknown are her five children. Together with her donkey for which she knitted a body-suit, after touring throughout the country the »oldest barrel-organ player of the world« became a post-war Berlin original, working on famous *Kurfürsten* boulevard. In the small community of barrel-organ players she is memorialized until today<sup>117</sup>. She is said to have been a humorous person, but photos of her Berlin time also display a lone-some old lady.

No relation between our family and the Blomeiers from Bavarian Upper Palatinate or the Blomeyers from Us-lar/Northeim district in Lower Saxony can be proved. Mobility over such a huge distance in early modern time was improbable. The Ledebur had no possessions there, and land was already then too valuable to leave it to foreigners. Therefore we can assume that the name Blomeier has been invented three times independently. Both other families are of peasant origin, the Lower Saxon freemen and raised early in the 19<sup>th</sup> century to bourgeois status. They are associated in the »Familienverband Blomeyer e.V.«<sup>118</sup>.

To make a difference between those Blomeyers and us, nothing would be more obvious as calling us the "Westphalian" Blomeyers. To differentiate from the Bavarian and the Northeim Blomeyers, we could likewise introduce the diacritics again. The owner of Beck manor in Löhne near Herford is one of the Lower Saxons, his father having been member of the Parliamentary Council in Bonn who drafted German Basic Law in 1948/49. Our folks did not enter the political stage to any great extent so far. Statistically, about two handfull of family members might have joined a party. Bricklayer August [B1264c] sat in Spenge community-council for a few years since 1929 representing Bardüttingdorf village on the ticket of a single-list. Young type-setter Wilhelm [00000] in Bielefeld was already mentioned above, Hermann [Ä1301a] designed mayor of his Baden residential town for two weeks by the French occupation force in summer 1945, Uwe [Ä1429c] some time was member of a Bünde council for an independent party, so was civil-engineer Erich [J1379a] in Spenge after fusing surrounding communities with the town and is [J1574a]. Parson Matthias [Ä1425b] has been advising citizen in a Bielefeld council-committee. Closest to high politics hitherto came [B1283b] and [J1576b]. Son of a hotel-owner, [B1283b] worked in Munich's »Vier Jahreszeiten«, then got a job in the Federal Diet's restaurant in Bonn. Hans Hartwig's father [J1445a] for some time was in charge of the Lutheranian parish in Mexico-City, where son [J1576b] learned to speak Spanish like his native tongue. After his studies of tropical agriculture he therefore entered the Adenauer foundation, a think-tank termed by the first Federal chancellor. For this institu-

<sup>117</sup> K. Krug: *In memoriam Ursula Blomeier*, in: *Der Leierkasten* 38 (2/2005), p. 24-28. A daughter apparently is married to a former GDR state functionary and like him member of the socialist party in a Brandenburg district council.

<sup>118</sup> Website [www.blomeyer-ev.de](http://www.blomeyer-ev.de); see also *Stammtafeln der Familie Blomeyer. Hofbesitzer Johann Christoph Blomeyer (1761-1823) aus Wiensen und seine Nachkommen. Aufgestellt nach gesammelten Unterlagen und Angaben durch Dr. jur. Friedrich Blomeyer, Haus Beck bei Löhne. Nach des Verfassers Tode herausgegeben von Eduard Blomeyer, Paulsdorf, Gör-litz 1927 (258 p.). Areas of residence oft he branch were predominantly northern Hessa, Thuringia, Silesia. Emigrants went to Brasilia. None of the Eastern Westphalian B. can be related to their prime ancestor Christoph (\*1612). Werner von Us-lar, mentioned in a collection of documents in Wolfenbüttel state archive (Rep I Alt 31a Nr. 189c, Bl. 60ff.) was a Goslar citizen without connexion to the knights of Us-lar at the Weser area, and his marriage 1579 at Königsbrück possibly relates to the Lausitz town of this name, not tonthe Eastern Westphalian estate. Pure speculation would it be to construct a relation of bride to a son of Johann Blommeier who accompagnied her to the Us-lar home, later was freed and honoured with a farmstead or so. Spelling of few Us-larers' offspring in the USA also is -meier. Wrong spelling could be »Blomeier«/»Blomann« for »Bloom« etc in KB Tecklenburg 1732-1809 (par. Leeden) in the 1790s (n.p.); variants to Blo- without any -meyer etc in Tecklenburg county in W. Leesch (Ed.): *Schatzungs- u. sonstige Höferegister der Grafschaft Tecklenburg 1494-1831 (Ver-öffentlichungen d. Histor. Kommission Westfalen XXX)*, Münster 1974, pass. Less probable this is twice for [J0820b] in KB (Pr.) Oldendorf (1754ff.) B/D 1777/79 to there frequent »Bolmeyer«, »Lo(h)meyer«, »Blomen«, »Blomenkamp« (e.g. Bl. 208, 212, 217 etc), where Hermann Heinr. [J0820b] in near Minden might has been soldier. Completely unique so far is Statius (Eustachius) Blomeiger 1609 as citizen of Obernkirchen near Bücke-burg in: *LdArch Bücke-burg: Urkunden Obernkirchen (Orig. Dep. 29) no. 9, maybe an ancestor of later Blomberg's. In CB Obernkirchen (1620-71, Hannover Church Archive) p. 11 a godfather »Matthis (?) Blomejer« is recorded in 1620, uncertain p. 290 (1666). P.s 64, 208, 238f., 339, 350 (1640-54) as in all younger churchbooks »Blomberg«, p. 167/294 (1634/1668) »Blome«, but no link to Wallenbrück B. Alternatively, a relation to the Us-lar Blomeyers up the Weser river seems possible.**

tion he spent decades in Latin America. Having been head of its London office he was in frequent contact to the greats of British and German politics; currently he works in Mexico-City. Some influence on public affairs had [J1472b]. Like the aforementioned she is from the younger branch. In charge of book-keeping of one of the most eminent employers of Gelsenkirchen in the 1980s, the St. Georg care-company, she found out about the corruption of her superiors at the expense of thousands of elder and disabled people. Although widow, soon released from her job and without any help of public authorities she fought for truth for many years, revealing one of the great scandals in NRW state. Finally, the head of the city administration quit »for the sake of health«, other men responsible went to jail for years<sup>119</sup>. [J1472b] never got a reward, but gave an example of civic virtue to her fellow citizen as well as to the Blomeiers.

Would there be a Blomeyer chiefship, this dignity certainly would belong to the eldest member of the eldest family branch. As far as we know, this is Hartwig [Ä1301b] from Werther, to whom his son Torsten [Ä1401a] one day will follow.

## 7.5. Blomeyers oversea

Emigration was not a new phenomenon in 19<sup>th</sup> century Northwest Germany. In the middle-ages men from here seeking for land emigrated to settle in Mecklenburg, Pomerania and the Baltic region. The »century of emigration« however was the 19<sup>th</sup>. Between 1830 and 1900, 300.000 Westphalians left their province heading for North America alone, half of them from eastern parts of it. Earlier emigration to America had been dominated by South and West Germans. Westphalians mostly took the Weser railroad from Minden to Bremen. Agents of Bremen shipping companies were active in all the small towns, often shopkeepers or land lords. In Spenge and Wallenbrück, salesmen Joseph and Levi Ruben managed the business. The cheapest passage on a sailing vessel cost thirty Talers, a year's earning of a day laborer. The one on a more rapid steam-ship three times as much. It took three weeks at least to the shore of New England, on a sailing ship sometimes two months. Life on board was, following reports from that time, not to be described<sup>120</sup>. No human need was said not to be satisfied in a most liberal way... It was rather economic necessity that draw people to emigrate, less fear of »feudal suppression« as often is believed in America, e.g. at the Historical Society of Westphalia/Michigan, the pure poverty after the potatoe blight 1842 and following years of draught. Even shipping on Ems and Weser rivers ceased in those years. The poor check-out was overcharged, release of magazines at Minden garrison for the suffering population and the purchase of Polish grain at Danzig by the king provided short-term help only. »Consumption« as death-cause in forty-eight-year-old hireling [Ä0902c]'s church-book entry might have indicated severe lack of food. Probably the said interpretation is part of American collective identity. Many of the noble estates in 19<sup>th</sup> century Westphalia were no more than huge farms to modern scale, many of its owners sold them as they were not profitable anymore, as did the Ledebur the Mühlenburg estate. During the 1840s and 50s legal conflicts between farmers and the Werburg administration yet increased<sup>121</sup>. A Blomeyer [Ä0902k], carpenter in Spenge, is mentioned only as witness to the »Spenge tumults«, lead by another drunken carpenter, during the uprising 1848 however, in which the Werburg was attacked as well<sup>122</sup>, and several wealthy farmers and citizens fled to Osnabrück for some days. Two others signed a petition to reduce taxes to the lord of the manor<sup>123</sup>. More intense within rural society were conflicts between villagers and hirelings or between spinners and yarn-traders. By distributing common grounds, smallholders had gained less compared to their more wealthy neighbours. In the new

<sup>119</sup> R. Liedtke: *Die neue Skandalechronik. 40 Jahre Affären u. Skandale in der Bundesrepublik*, Frankfurt a.M. 1989, p. 130f.

<sup>120</sup> *Very illustrative on the emigration process* W. Kamphoefner u.a.: *Von Heuerlingen und Farmern. Die Auswanderung aus dem Osnabrücker Land nach Nordamerika*, Bramsche 1999, also U. Plaß: *Meller Auswanderung im 19. Jahrhundert (Grönnenberger Heimathefte 24)*, Melle 2006. *Social, economic, geographic etc conditions in Osnabrück land and Ravensberg did not differ much.*

<sup>121</sup> *Extensivly* Wehrenbrecht p. 95ff.

<sup>122</sup> D. Meyer (Hrsg.): *Tumult in Spenge. Acta specialia über den Tumult in Spenge d.d. 22./23. März 1848 (Quellen zur Regionalgeschichte 14)*, Bielefeld 2008, p. 253. *More generally* Wehrenbrecht, p. 196ff.

<sup>123</sup> LdArch Münster, *Dep. Benkhausen Nr. 385.*

world in contrast, although they usually had to plough the less productive lots close to river banks at the beginning, they could become rich as was said ironically within twenty years “like the prince of Schaumburg-Lippe”. The average Midwest farm was indeed six times as big as the Blomeyer farm in Helligen. Soon, the development of a continental then international market for grain and meat led to a concentration of agrarian business, immigrants henceforth preferred staying in the cities. So did the Blomeyers, with exception of carpenter [B1014b], who was a farmer for a while. Emigrants arrived either at New York or Baltimore and travelled via Ohio to St Louis or they sailed to New Orleans and took a steam-ship via the Mississippi northbound. This journey lasted up to four months. Most were heading for the Midwest. Cleveland, St Louis and Pittsburgh in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century were as much German towns as nowadays many American cities are Afro- or Latin American. There are several places called »Westphalia«, settlers founded a New Minden, New Melle and an American Dissen. In south-eastern Missouri there is a populated place called Blomeyer (nine inhabitants) and a Blomeyer road; local country-singer Dwight Th. Vaughn in 2012 dedicated the song *Blomeyer junction* to it. They definitely got their names from »Uslar« emigrants.

Most German immigrants in northern America arrived in mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. No surprise therefore, that they had national units during the Civil war. [J1132d]’s husband took part in it on the Union’s side, so did Bennien tailor Hermann Henry [J1009f], who is buried near Nashville/Tennessee after joining a regiment build of a German turner association in his new home Cincinnati. Fifteen hundred Germans had volunteered within three days after the fall of Fort Sumter there. He was, after a few minor skirmishes before, deadly wounded at Chickamauga creek in september 1863<sup>124</sup>, in which battle was fought for the war-decisive railroad-knot of Chattanooga. It was the last great victory of the secessionists, only eight weeks after amend was made a few miles away. [J1009f], certainly had no own experience with slave ailment. As in neighbouring Indiana slavery was forbidden and only few blacks lived in Ohio then, whereas in southern Kentucky beyond the river, which remained in the Union, it gradually came to an end in those days. His fellow-citizens’ example, who almost entirely took up arms, and maybe a new sense of patriotism might have encouraged the already 47year old to volunteer for the fight. Cause of death was a fracture of his right humerus. Brother [J1009e] also emigrated in 1850s, but no descendance to commemorate them was found. Otherwise he would have become as important for the family’s memory as his half-brother in South Africa. We should therefore be grateful that the American administration conserves his grave, now the oldest remaining one of all Blomeiers. Already three men of the tenth generation lived in northern states then; all strangely called Hermann Heinrich. Although two were much younger than [J1009f] and just [J1010e] had to care for a family, none more joined the troops.

On the emigration list of Spenge we read the names of two more Hermann Heinrichs [Ä1003c] from Bardüttingdorf and [J1010e] of Nordspenge, who left Prussia 1852/53. Emigration from Spenge district was at its peak in that quinquennium. The younger travelled alone and without permission of the authorities, the elder with wife and four young daughters<sup>125</sup>. [Ä1003c]’s notwithstanding small property left back might have been seized for not having fulfilled obligatory military service before emigration.

Johann Heinrich<sup>126</sup> [B1014b] also from Wallenbrück came over on the steamer »Berlin« to Baltimore in 1868. Having returned for marriage, this poor chap apparently ended his life in Indianapolis lunatic asylum. Traces of his two sons, who changed the name into »Blumeyer« and three daughters from south-eastern Indiana are rare in

<sup>124</sup> G. Tafel: *Die Neuner. Eine Schilderung der Kriegsjahre des 9ten Regiments Ohio Vol. Infanterie, vom 17. April 1861 bis 7. Juni 1864, Cincinnati 1897, esp.p 123ff. and p. 239 Engl. Transl. Kent/Ohio 1987*. [J1009f]’s identity is proved by comparison of passenger lists (bark *Franziska*, 1853 Bremen – Baltimore), military sources and inhabitants register. His grave is in plot E 308 Nashville national cemetery. On [J1009e] from (KgdM.) Hannover see Hamilton County Genealogical Society’s naturalization index ([www.hcgsohio.org](http://www.hcgsohio.org)). Few other B. in the city were of Bavarian origin. Daughter [J1122b] and niece [J1124c] later followed him.

<sup>125</sup> Kreisheimatverein Herford (Ed.): *Amerikaauswanderer aus den Ämtern Spenge und Enger, in: Wittekindsland. Beiträge zu Geschichte, Kultur und Natur des Kreises Herford 1, Löhne 1987, p. 136 u. 168.*

<sup>126</sup> Two volume F. Müller: *Westfälische Auswanderer im 19. Jahrhundert. Auswanderung aus dem Regierungsbezirk Minden (1814-1900), 1, in: Beiträge zur westfälischen Familienforschung 38/39 (1980/81), p. 3-711; 2 ibid. 47/48 (1989/90), p. 4-762 does not mention him. Registration of immigrants was imprecise, usually only the country of birth was registered. What makes it difficult to identify individuals is wrong spelling of names when registering new arrivals and inaccurate dates of birth as well as that only the home country or province of an immigrant was put down, no precise place name.*

the archives. Son [B1142c] was in need of care as well. No descendance in the male line exists from him after his grandsons' deaths. Living Blumeyers in the US apparently derive from a Hannoverian family of this name.

Two more sons and one more daughter were born to [B1010e] to become the first "true American" Blomeyers. [J1010e] must have acquired some wealth by selling soap and toilet articles in a St Louis suburb, for he could give credit of 1600 dollars to his children [J1132d/f]<sup>127</sup>.

As most immigrant colonies do, the second generation still married within the community, also did they separate according to religious confessions. Until the third generation the language was preserved, German newspapers were published, they had their own benefit societies, in many places German schools existed up to World War I. But as early as 1915, before American entry into the war, streets and towns had to change names, music of German composers no longer was played in concert halls, use of German in school prohibited in 1919. Only German speaking church services were held until the 1930s<sup>128</sup>.

We also know wife and children of Hermann Heinrich jr. [J1132f]. Before 1900 they had moved to New York City. From his army enrollment file from 1917 we know of Walter Henry [J1257a] that he was tall, slender, had brown hair and blue eyes, lived with wife and daughter Irene [J1372a] just a mile away from the Metropolitan Museum of Art 439/9<sup>th</sup> avenue at the Upper Westside Manhattan and earned his live as pharmacist, too. The young family-father had not been enlisted to the ranks apparently, thus he did not have to shoot his German cousins abroad. Hopefully neither had to [J1224a] and sergeant Frederick Gordon [J1227b] from Richmond, who went into action with his machine-gun detachment/327<sup>th</sup> infantry in Lorraine/France the very last months of the Great War. According to the census-list 1940 also an aunt together with two daughters and his bachelor brother George [J1257c], working in his brother's drug store, were living in Walter Henry's household. George joined the navy soon after his country entered the war, but his vessel USS Arizona stayed in American waters, because European harbours could not provide fuel to its new oil-fired engines; the ship was sunk during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour without having ever fired a single shot. Carl [Ä1225d] served in the US Navy as well. Later, a son must be born either to one of them or to their brother Herbert, then living in Arlington/Virginia, for it can hardly be by chance that only a few blocks away cab-driver Walter [J1482a] lived for decades in a tiny apartment. The area in *en vogue* among cultural people now, so a real-estate agency had offered him more than half a million dollar to move out. He accepted, but soon after half the sum was paid a heart-attack brought him into grave, possibly the last of his withered branch.

Young tailor [Ä1008e] from the elder line reported to the authorities 1857 that he wanted to emigrate to an uncle in Buffalo. The plea was supported as the poor man could not help his old parents anyway, »and for there were too many tailors at all places« he surely would be better off in North America<sup>129</sup>. Abolishment of obligate guild-membership of craftsmen had indeed since long resulted in a surplus of crafts like tailors and shoemakers which did not demand workshops and expensive tools. Fulfillment of military service often was another request to get emigration permission. In Richmond/Indiana<sup>130</sup> [Ä1008e] later founded his own family. In the 1880s this states's population majority was of German origin. An American from the »Uslar« Blomeyers found a Johann Heinrich from Redecke/Gronenberg, who must have been elder brother [Ä1008b], during the research<sup>131</sup> for his

<sup>127</sup> City Library St Louis, City Wills Herman/Magdalena Blomeier 28/02/1891 resp. 18/05/1899. *In Mark, 1000 dollars were adequate to four annual wages of a skilled worker. Witness in both cases Diedr. Wehrenbrecht possibly from the Wallenbrück family.*

<sup>128</sup> *On the German culture see C. van Ravenswaay: The Arts and Architecture of German Settlement in Missouri. A Survey of a vanishing Culture, Columbia u.a. 1977.*

<sup>129</sup> LdArch Osnabrück, Rep. 335, Nr. 789, p. 69f and p. 31ff. *The uncle should have been the husband of [Ä0920d]. Nothing is also known about [J1122d] from Bennien who got his emigration permit in 1867 (LdArch Osnabrück Rep. 335, Nr. 802 Bd.1, Bl. 141).*

<sup>130</sup> D. M. Royer: *The German-American Contribution to Richmond's Development 1833-1933, Richmond/Ind. 1983. By chance Hermann [Ä1316a] on the way to his weekly choral society meeting met Royer 1990 at Osnabrück Neumarkt; the encounter led to a visit in the United States at Hermann's wife's distant relatives. Founded by Quakers, the city was known as a centre of the KuKluxKlan in the 1920s. A quarter of its inhabitants is of German origin. Generally on Indiana: E. E. Lyon (Ed.): *Indiana. Crossroad of America, Dubuque/Iowa 1978* and K. Dehne: *Deutsche Einwanderer im ländlichen Süd-Indiana (USA). Eine historisch-geographische Analyse, Passau 2003.**

<sup>131</sup> E. F. Blomeyer: *The Blomeyer Book, Bethesda/Maryland 1957 (Ms.), p. 15. Some of his combinations are incorrect.*

own family-tabular. Hermann Henry's great-grandson Michael [Ä1435a], today living in a Los Angeles suburb has been the first Blomeyer to take a non-white wife, the half-Japanese Michie Furukawa. Their children and grand-children all live in other regions of the Golden state. The only two known similar case of the said kind is Guido [00000], who has three sons with a Turkish woman. The first marriage of a Blomeier with a foreigner was that of [B1388a] with a Dutch, it failed after twelve years.

Apparently, his youngest sister [Ä1008i] and two nephews of Hermann Heinrich, Wilhelm Heinrich and Heinrich Wilhelm [Ä1115a/b] followed him. Sources are thin in this case, especially a problem is the lack of church-books from Neuenkirchen 1854-74. So other documents from high school yearbooks to conscription forms have to replace them. Of high value are the records of Richmond funeral company Jones & Placke. Several of their descendants later worked at the then well-known Starr Piano Company, the biggest employer of the town. American Blomeyers thus can take pride in having contributed in making jazz music popular. The first Blomeyers who attended a theatre-play or entered a cinema probably were, by the way, the cousins in St Louis respectively New York. The few descendants of Wilhelm Heinrich likewise left Indiana and today live near Denver/Colorado. In Richmond Roy Herman [Ä1333c] and his wife Sharon were the last Blomeyers; they helped a lot to reconstruct kinship relations. A more generous handling of personal data by authorities facilitates family research in the United States a lot; a genealogical department like that of Morrission Reeves Library in Richmond is not unusual in Mid-Western towns, but never even to be dreamt of in Federal German municipal libraries.

In Wisconsin Karl Friedrich [J1349b] merely had a daughter [J1442a]. Brother [J1349c] arriving together with him on Ellis Island soon returned home. They could not know that other Blomeyers were already living a few miles upwards the Hudson river. At the turn of the century, the German migration wave to the United States had declined in favour to East Europeans, Jews and Italians. Recently, Annette [Ä1427a] emigrated to Florida. For her, in some aspect the »American Dream« came true. Wilhelm Adolf [Ä1302c], brother of architect Hermann [Ä1302a], and his wife Marion who first ran a *Hofbrau House* and other restaurants in a small coastal town in New England and later moved to Florida, had no children. Marion, a former actress soon became a local celebrity as »Lady Christmas«, whereas rumors, [Ä1301c] once had been cook of the "Führer" hardly were avoidable in postwar America. His way had lead him from famous Berlin Adlon Hotel to Stockholm and Montreal. In the Sixties he appeared in a local broadcast-station in Maine as an early tv-cook. Altogether no more than a dozen and a half Blomeyers originating from Eastern Westphalia live in the USA today, all from the eldest branch. Most American Blomeyers seem to belong to the two other families of this name mentioned above; their ancestors mostly settled in Maryland, Missouri and Ohio.

Easier it is to follow the traces of those who emigrated to Mexico. Two Osnabrück brothers went there in the 1930s: Karl Heinrich and Wilhelm [Ä1310a/d]. The United States prior to this had radically changed immigration policy. Wilhelm married a very young girl from Ohio in Los Angeles, but she and their baby-boy were killed in a car accident soon after<sup>132</sup>. Then Wilhelm moved to his brother living as businessman in the industrial city of Monterrey and married another time a few years later. They benefited from the boom of the border town that enlarged its number of inhabitants to the twenty-fold within a century. The federal state of Nuevo León<sup>133</sup>, of which it is the capital, is three times as big as Westphalia, being the granary of the whole country. Its' inhabitants are reputed to have great self-confidence. Monterrey is the most wealthy and most secure city in Mexico - despite Patricio Adolfo [Ä1508c] was murdered at juvenile age. *Señor* Guillermo never visited Germany again, his brother did so several times although after the German-Soviet attack on Poland he was put under arrest despite naturalization in his new country. His bold hope, one of his sons would once become president of the Federal Republic of Mexico so far has not been realized. Son Carlos Guillermo [Ä1406a] whose wife was of German origin as well, also became a businessman and director of a flavour factory. [Ä1508a] and [Ä1509a] continue the family with two sons and one daughter.

<sup>132</sup> Already then 30.000 lives were taken by car accidents in the USA annually. Also brothers [Ä1230c/e] and [B1279b] were killed in such accidents.

<sup>133</sup> L. Hernández: *Geografía de Estado de Nuevo León, Monterrey 1971. Spelling of the Mexican B. is -meier.*

While most German emigrants headed to North America, some inhabitants of Hannover kingdom sailed to South African crown-colony Natal. Among them Hermann Heinrich [J1009k], whom we have heard of already above. He was follower of a popular preacher from Lüneburg heath area, and had attended his seminar for four years. Earlier, his mission-society considered to pray among Abyssinian tribes in the mid-1850s (therefore their vessel was named »Kandaze«), but the sultan of Zanzibar inhibited landing, probably for fear of interference to slave-trade. Therefore they turned to the South African coast, founding the settlement Hermannsburg east of Greytown, named to the center place of their movement and several other mission stations. In those days the protestant churches alone send more than ten thousand missionaries from Germany into the world. Which country could be more proper to welcome a Christian community than a land whose name stemmed from Jesus's birth (Natal Portuguese "Christmas") and was obviously blessed by nature? Some settlers from Osnabrück county already lived there as cotton farmers. Formal colonization German governments avoided despite considerable German immigration into Transvaal and sympathy for the Boer case<sup>134</sup> with respect to British interests, and for lack of power instruments. As wide as the whole North West Germany, the country between the Drakensberge and the coast was inhabited by less than half as many people as Westphalia. Sugar cane, fruits of all sorts and tobacco grew in its climate, cattle and sheep could be herded in its higher parts. Only in the past few years rain often is waited for in vain and in this part of the country as well rivers fell dry. Similar to the western half Northern American continent and Northern Mexico, it has to be expected, that the entire Southern Africa will turn into desert before end of the century. Wild creatures of course are extinct outside reserves, except antelopes. Members of the 13<sup>th</sup> generation however went to school with guns to protect from carnivores. Similar to Westphalia coal and iron was mined, harbours at the shore of the Indian Ocean guarantee contact to the outside world<sup>135</sup>.

With the same brig as [J1009k] eleven other missionaries as well as seventeen German brides came over to Natal in 1867. Brother Blomeyer some years later married Katharina Ruwe from Hoyel village. Having learned the native language, for almost a decade until »his early death he worked in simplicity and faith but without visible result among the ignorant [Ama]kabyles«<sup>136</sup> as head of mission at Emakabeleni valley in midst the thorny wilderness northeast of Greytown, »quite as his life was his dying in peace« (from consumption). Yet this quite man was to become ancestor to a flourishing family branch. His widow married former brother Wilhelm Kohrs<sup>137</sup> as his fourth wife. Some farming land was attributed to the mission stations and his eldest son [J1128a] stayed in this sector, but also worked a while as gold-pro prospector. Today none of the South African cousins is in the farm-business any more. The former mission-school is nowadays supported by the German Foreign Office.

Revelation of kinship relations was possible thanks to Erwin Louis sen. [J1361f], a retired engineer from Durban. The name Blomeyer was given up however by his cousin Walter [J1360a]. This decision had nothing to do with the death of his uncle sergeant Robert Herman [J1230g], who was killed in action at the beginning of the campaign against the colonial troops of Mussolini's Italy in Somalia, then ally of the »Großdeutsches Reich«. While we know little about suffering and dying of the mass of *Wehrmacht* soldiers, we are well informed about the ending of [J1248g]. South Africa then was still part of the British Commonwealth and thus supported Great Britain in its fight against Germany and her allies. Robert Herman volunteered the Royal Natal Carabineers, an ancient regiment once established to counter Zulu raids. 1940 it was shipped to Kenia in order to march to south-

<sup>134</sup> H. G. Steltzner: *Die Deutschen und ihr Kolonialreich*, Frankfurt/M. 1984, p. 178ff. and 187; the Kaiser's common verbal highhandednesses evoked a misleading impression. Wilhelm [J1128f] however served with the *Umvoti Mtd. Rifles* during the Boer war 1899-1902.

<sup>135</sup> G. Haccius: *Hannoversche Missionsgeschichte*, 3 volumes, Hermannsburg 1905ff., esp. II, p. 238-444. Also see E. Rosenthal (Ed.): *Encyclopedia of Southern Africa*, London et al 1961. Durban harbor was bought from natives in 1824, but the short-lived Boer republic Natal annexed by the Britons in 1838 to become a crown colony in 1845; eastern Zululand was annexed to Natal in 1897, after the Boer war the former »New Republic« around *Vrijheid* from former Transvaal; 1910 it became province of the Union of South Africa, official name *KwaZuluNatal (KZN)* since 1994. German literature on the Natal region is rare. The assumption, [J1009k] had found the Hermannsburg settlement is incorrect.

<sup>136</sup> *Ibid.*, III, I p. 134. Haccius' s opinion can be transferred to the whole undertaking of the Hermannsburg mission which was not yet integrated into the established church and could not keep with the Reformed and Anglican Churches. The concept of missionary colonist had no future.

<sup>137</sup> *Ibid.* on his activity in *Ethembeni* p. 134f.

ern Somaliland. Italian presence there was a danger to British oversea possessions and the passage to India. When his platoon advanced near the Jubba River just north of the equator they suddenly encountered an Askari deployment led by an Italian officer. The officer immediately waved a white flag, but when [J1248g] and two comrades moved forward to disarm the enemy they were shot at. The brigade could counter attack and caused heavy losses to the enemy, but it had lost thirteen men itself, Sergeant Blomeyer one of the first to be killed. The casualties were buried on the spot, later transferred to Nairobi war cemetery<sup>138</sup>. The scene is remembered as »white flag incident« in South African military history.

Before this, a more distant war-theatre was seen only by Karl Wilhelm [Ä1215e]. He volunteered from his regiment in deep Lorraine countryside to the East Asian Expeditionary Force under the command of Field Marshall count Waldersee which was deployed to China in summer 1900 to support the other colonial powers' fight against the *boxer rebellion*. The 20,000 strong German troops arrived too late however to face serious fighting. By chance the German envoye von Ketteler, whose murdering initiated the undertaking, belonged to the clan which owed the Werburg in the 17<sup>th</sup> century for some time; another Ketteler was in charge of the 2<sup>nd</sup> brigade, one of his regimental commanders a Ledebur ! Younger cousin Franz Heinrich [Ä1218c] also volunteered - attracted by a sense of adventure or the higher payment ? In contrast to Karl he did not return, but died shortly before arriving back home also from enteric fever on bord steamer »Batavia«, and is most probably the first Blomeier buried at sea. Maybe the medical private had infected in the ship's hospital. Embarking on the »Batavia«, the *Kaiser* had delivered his famous »hun«-speech to his troops the year before. We cannot tell more about this episode as all records burned with Potsdam army archive in april 1945. It marks the value of local inhabitants' registers to conserve information like this, which had dropped out already from family remembering. Forty years later book-keeper Paul William sen. [Ä1333b] served as fighter-pilot in the Pacific. Enlisted as recruit, education at an officer school, then training as pilot had been offered to him. Not to cause anxiety at his family he told them about it only when he had passed final examinations. Maybe his uncle August [Ä1225b], who served in Europe in a maintenance unit of the Army Air service had inspired him for aeronautics. Either he, retired as captain, or Leutnant Waldemar [B1281b] from Enger, who was killed in action at Lake Ladoga when the Red Army broke the siege of Leningrad, was the first Blomeyer to become an officer, so were in the final years of the war Erich [J1379a] and Julius [00000].

Walter's change of name - to return to this - had another reason. He was engaged to a girl of Scottish origin named McDonald-Watson. Proud on her origin she insisted before marriage that he would accept her family name. Having executed the complicated procedure of name change, they split. The new name was a souvenir to him and is to his later descendants<sup>139</sup>. Despite this we should count them among family members, maybe there is an occasion for rechange of name one day. For not name-change as such, but marriage or adoption into a new family makes someone leaving his native one.

The more than sixty South Africans of [J1009k]'s male descendency alone (2016) should be welcomed back should one evil day develop a situation in the »rainbow-nation«, where population grew to the eightfold within onehundred years, while the share of whites fell from a quarter to less than a tenth, similarly to so many other African states. The consulate of the Federal Republic however refuses German citizenship to them so far: [J1009k], who was born as subject to the king of Hannover, failed to apply for German citizenship after the German states united in 1871- how should he have done from the African bush ? On the other hand: had he applied successfully for himself and his children they would have been in danger of dispossession and imprisonment like all Germans abroad after 1914 respectively no later than 1919 due to article 297b of the Versailles treaty (or later by law no. 5/Allied Controll Council). Hermannsburg missionaries in southern India e.g. were deported in 1915. By their mother, daughter of an emigrant, [J1562a-c] – born in Australia, Hongkong and England

<sup>138</sup> Grave no. 111, image on [www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org) and the facebook site The Blomeiers/Blomeyers. Authorities are warning for danger of armed robbery outside the establishment which is located 10 km south-west of the city centre, and for aggressive bands of apes inside.

<sup>139</sup> In reverse Andreas, husband to [J1552c] overtook her surname when marrying.

- at least gained German citizenship again. Oliver [J1579a] also was born in Africa, when his father worked in Liberia. Common ancestor with the South Africans is the missionary's greatgrandfather [J0705a].

Emigrants in modern days to southern France and Spain are [J1481d] and [J1473b], [J1503b] is living in Italian Southern Tyrol. In 2008 [J1463d] returned to Europe (Hertfordshire/England) with her husband; a visit of [Ä1426b] to them in 2014 was the first meeting of African and German Blomeyers ever. Her grand-cousin [J1459d] lived some time by chance in the same county in California as [Ä1435a] and his family without knowing of each other's existence, but has now moved to Southeast England as did [J1556b] and [J1561a], and also the brothers [J1457a-c], whom their old father [J1360a] followed to spend his last days with them. On the whole about a quarter of the over 300 Blomeyers worldwide lives ten thousand kilometers away from the home of their ancestors. As long as Kim Leslie [J1459a] stays in Brisbane, they are present on four of six continents. Nowhere had they settled before the expulsion of native peoples by other whites was completed; none participated in the conquest of the Wild West or possessed slaves.

## 7.6. Summary and Outlook

Since a *Blommeyge* had been mentioned first, Germany changed its constitution six times, hereditary serfdom has passed. The Ledeburs have left the county, the Münch have perished, prince-bishops and counts have lost power. Ecclesiastical corporations have been abolished, but thousands of country communities like Wallenbrück and Neuenkirchen haven been ripped off autonomy, the province was fused with the northern Rhinelands by British authorities. The rulers of the county Ravensberg respectively German governments went to war sixteen times, four times resulting in defeat. Today, the Federal Republic's rulers do not insist to have a combat-ready army any more.

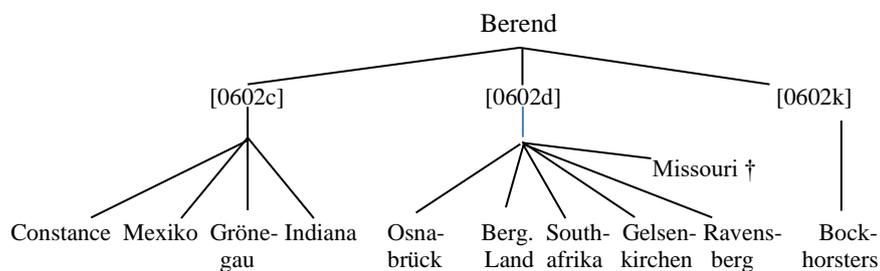
The comprehension of mosaic-pieces from five centuries into a wider frame permits to gain a likely clear image even of families who spend their existence in the shadow of greater events. Thus past turns into history. The source-situation for the first generations with one liberation-patent and three letters of exchange (all perfectly conserved), five entries into protocol-books, six into bondsmen-lists and tenure-books and ten into a church-book is satisfying. A handful documents concerning the Bockhorsters can be added. In ca. twenty books mostly on local, regimental and emigration history individual family members are mentioned. To know details about the lineage and individuals as is the case of the Blomeiers is still rare for non-aristocratic families, despite popularization and facilitation of genealogical research by electronic devices, exemplary supplied by the Lutheran Church of Westphalia. The ever more numerous population of the Federal Republic from countries without tradition of written administration will never possess such knowledge. To demonstrate the dimension of immigration: City and district of Osnabrück were home to less than 400 foreigners among 80.000 Germans according to the census of 1905, half of them Dutch<sup>140</sup> - meanwhile the number of immigrants is more than a hundred times as high, while the number of natives only doubled. In Bielefeld, officially more than thirty-seven percent of its inhabitants are foreigners, their share of the population annually growing by one percent. In the new town of Spenge alone live more refugees, asylum-seekers, guest-workers, emigrants from the former Soviet Union etc than the whole of Wallenbrück comprises inhabitants. Within fifty years, Westphalia faced four times as many immigrants than had left it in 200 years.

However, a *libellus vitae* like this, even when containing some 1800 names, can only display an intermezzo. And it reminds simultaneously, how transient the existence of individuals is. To sum up, the history of the Blomeyer family is not much different from that of a thousand of other families from the same region; evidence to

<sup>140</sup> See Gemeindelexikon X, p. 118ff. Among the 10.000 souls of Enger bailiwick at some 1900 fireplaces in 1785 164 foreigners were counted; the expression then included non-prussian subject from other German states such as the Hessian county od Hannover electorate. See R. Gudermann/M. Nitsch (Eds.): *Agrarstatistik der Provinz Westfalen 1750-1880*, Paderborn et al. 2009, p. 41-43.

prove methodical coherence in research finds place in two files<sup>141</sup>. Such congruency of their histories forms families to nations. In revolving around birth, marriage and death, around work, soil and war it is exemplary. We might assume that the ancestors' farm in hamlet of Helligen near Wallenbrück was dependent to duke Widukind, from which ca. 1550 a small-holding was separated off. From its owner Johan Blommeier all Blomeyers/Blomeiers around Bielefeld and Osnabrück as well as their consanguines abroad are offspring. For centuries they walked behind the plough or sat at the spinning-wheel before they specialized their professions and enlarged spatial mobility during industrialization. More than a dozen family members from the two main branches emigrated to oversea countries after 1850. Silk weavers [Ä1327a/e] were the last working in traditional textile industry. From the 13<sup>th</sup> generation onwards, more and more family members entered the army of officials, academics and social workers, some became businessmen. The most successful among them certainly are Mark and his two brothers [J1458a-c] from Pietermaritzburg/KwazuluNatal, whose companies (e.g. *Blomeyers' electrical*) employ some sixty workers. Others are in the motor vehicle branch [Ä1428b/c], dealing with estates [Ä1427a], sweets *en gros* [Ä1437a] and scrap metal [Ä1526b]. [B1393a] runs a small building company. Spenge's machinery construction, founded in 1945 by Johann Franz [Ä1210f] had to be sold in 2018. Also Prof. Dipl.-Ing. Dirk Reiner [J1551c], teaching architecture at a Berlin university college. Dierk [J1553a] from Osnabrück shall be exposed, who was living for fifteen years in the Arctic region working for the Norwegian Polar Research Institute and gave lessons at the most northern university of the world. Together with [J1573b] and [J1459a-d] he shall be the Blomeyer who travelled the most. Michael Paul [Ä1538b] and [Ä1338a] were professional baseball-players in Minor Leagues in their early years. To be mentioned in a family chronicle in our days it does not take impressive commercial, academic or scientific achievements however. Everybody who breeds children to conserve the family is a blessing and serves it well. Also childless testators acquire a claim to be remembered if they do not let their heritage fall to the state or to distant affines of other families. In this context we might reflect about founding a family association or some sort of similar organization.

Members of the main branches emigrated to North America, two to Mexico, one to South Africa. Including its oversea branches the basic family-tree looks as follows:



Families are not mere social constructions, which can be changed to one's caprice. They are biological and historical facts. Until ca. 1950 Blomeier women on the average gave birth to three children. Nine men had ten or more children. To have more than ten with the same wife was exceptional. In the course of generations we observe an increase of births by the half from the well recorded seventh to tenth each, as in the twelfth one. In the eleventh generation there was a doubling. In the thirteenth generation our number is balanced at ca. 250 births as the highest number so far only to decline following general demographic trends massively, thus returning to the level of the eleventh generation with ca. 130 births in the fifteenth generation. Different child mortality in the past has to be taken into account. With regard to the ecological capacities especially in now densely populated Westphalia, where already a fourth (!) of the soil is covered with asphalt and concrete - an eternal legacy of the 20<sup>th</sup> century - this would be a development to welcome, would not peoples from all over the world replace the locals. In the former, even more densely populated Rhine-Westphalian industry-zone ca. thousand pumps have furthermore to be active permanently to prevent the deeply intoxicated grounds, of which a fifth already sank below

<sup>141</sup> *Setting standards*: E. Timm: *Reverenz und Referenz. Zwei Weisen der populären Genealogie seit dem 19. Jahrhundert und ein neuer genealogischer Universalismus ?*, in: Chr. Fertig/M. Lanzinger (Eds.): *Beziehungen, Vernetzungen, Konflikte. Perspektiven historischer Verwandtschaftsforschung*, Köln u.a. 2016, S. 209-232. *Paradigmatic also* A.E. Imhof: *Die verlorenen Welten. Alltagsbewältigung durch unsere Vorfahren - und warum wir uns heute so schwer damit tun*, München 1984.

ground water level to be swamped by upcoming stinking, salt, sulfur and poisons containing mine waters. No Blomeier of the first eleven generation would recognize his former country. Yet, as western half of the Soest plain this once was the most fertile soil of entire Westphalia. Foreigners will hardly take root there. Despite this and the possibility of extinction of the »Bockhorsters«, who suffered more than half the victims of the last world war and of whom Vico [B1494b] from Lübbecke is the known only male in the 14<sup>th</sup> generation, the family will certainly celebrate its 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2048.

Twenty-two times twins<sup>142</sup> were born, twice a triplet [Ä1325d-f and Ä1513a's children]. This is exactly the number to be expected statistically before introduction of artificial fertilization for humans as well. Curious only the birth of the twins [Ä1426a/b] on two successive days. Fairly complicated the offspring of [Ä1111d] and his wife who both had children from first marriages and produced some more together. Golden marriage jubilees were so rare in the past that they were noted in the church records. It seems that [Ä1006a] celebrated this feast first. In the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> generation some female Blomeyers of the cadet branch decided to prefer relations to other women. Divorces apparently still are less frequent than on the average; for unknown reasons they are most common among the Osnabrückers. Also curiously, brothers [Ä1330a/c/d] all deceased at the same date.

Coats-of-arms are symbols of common origin. Many thousands of non-noble families have registered coats-of-arms in Germany, as did the Grönegreß (1963) and Wehrenbrecht (1972) from Wallenbrück, also the Lower Saxon Blomeyers<sup>143</sup> and those from Upper Palatine. An aristocratic monopole on coats of arms contrary to public opinion never existed. In Westphalia non-gentry families are known to have bore them since high middle-age<sup>144</sup>. Coats-of-arms became common together with family names. Colours *gules* and *argent* of the county Ravensberg, Westphalia, Osnabrück diocese and the Ledebur barons alike fit best for any variation of a Blomeyer coat of arms<sup>145</sup>. A rose makes it »telling«, its six foiles represent the three major branches and three oversea branches and transfer the family history into a symbol<sup>146</sup>. The division of the shield (*per bend*) reminds of the Ravensberg and the Ledebur chevron. Installing the *Blommeyge* farm was the origin of our family, probably we also owe our name to the Ledeburs. A red chief *per bend* has been refrained from, it would distract of the main motive; many alternative options to display a chevron are already occupied on many different coats-of-arms. The black horse (*nag's head sable*) as crest derives from above mentioned *dux* Widukind and is part of Herford district arms, part of which the original home area of the Blomeiers now is. For the ancient saxons horses were sacred animals. The devise »*Ex unitate vires*« sounds very general a motto, but is adequate to all kinds of extent social groups as genealogical ones. The English version »Union is strength« is engraved as regimental motto into Sergeant Robert Herman's [J1248g] tombstone, who like all world war II victims died a premature and unneces-

<sup>142</sup> [0602, Ä0902, J0920, Ä1008, J1009, Ä1111, Ä1117, J1119, Ä1230, J1242, Ä1319, Ä1327, Ä1338, Ä1342, J1345, J1346, J1368, B1399, Ä1426, J1481, Ä1507, J1553].

<sup>143</sup> DWR LXIV, No 10283/27.04.1999. Colours azure and argent, shield per pale charged with house and farmer figure, crest three poppies.

<sup>144</sup> F. Philippi: *Wappen. Versuch einer gemeinfaßlichen Wappenlehre*, ed. Limburg/Lahn 1967, p. 46ff. Noble and non-noble families are easy to differentiate by the model of the helmet.

<sup>145</sup> Registered in the Lower Saxon Herald Roll (NWR) no. 16-2068 in 2016, published Kleeblatt 2/34 (2017), S. 47. Not at South Africa's state herald, which is an official authority different to German associations because in South Africa only arms for individuals can be registered. Entitled to carry are descendants from [0501d] who continue the family name, the descendance of the »Bockhorsters« is mediated by [0301c], [Ä0802e] and [0823a]. The McDonald-Watsons can carry it if they add B. to their name. Draft by Volker [J1426b], who also wrote this essay. After officer training and studies in history and geography he lived in Münster for thirty years near the state archive, became member of the history association, home preservation association etc and was motivated by Griese's and Nolden's (architect in Bielefeld, husband to [J1429b], who had collected a third of the family-tree before) richly with photographes equipped work to continue their efforts 2014ff. On Ledeburs' arms see fn. 144, p. 96.

<sup>146</sup> Richmond is called »Rose City«, for formerly flowers were produced here at large scale; an annual »Rose Festival« remembers this trait of local history. In addition the peony-rose is one of Indiana's state symbols. If one likes, one can also interpret it as an allusion to the Osnabrück wheel or a spinning wheel. In Latin, from which »-meier« stems, our name is »*flos maior*« (»greater flower«); a heraldically not prescribed big motive would be another allusion. Also cf. blossom, or ancient nordic »vollr«/meadow and hethit. »*welu*«/meadow etc. Symbolic charging should then be exhausted.

sary death and is buried thousands of miles away from both his South African and German kinship<sup>147</sup>. Remembering his fate in particular should shape the consciousness, how much more reasonable the world would run, if those links would be more respected, which are older and should be closer than those who tie people to governments and states.

Names also are important carriers of identity. Double names are a new innovation in Germany, but common in the English world and obligatory in Hispanic law since the 18<sup>th</sup> century. B is the letter most German family names begin with. Most Blomeiers in Germany at least will have faced more or less funny situations when a single letter of the name has been changed. The more important is the choice of a first name. Among male Blomeiers for centuries Johann/ John and Heinrich/Henry dominated, both often in combination. At least a third of the Blomeier men in the first twelve generations was named Henry. Among females it was the classic biblical Anna, Elizabeth and Mary. And which name sounds more down to earth than »Heinrich« or »Henry«, a name nevertheless familiar in all European languages ? Of particular importance for obvious reasons is also the name Berend/Bernhard, though it had been given only four times. Fashionable Prussian names such as Wilhelm/ William and Friedrich/Frederick occur from the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century onwards, to be replaced by the fashion of Erikas and Reinhardts from the 1920s onwards. The second names for [Ä1406b] and [J1443b] hardly were chosen without consideration. Postwar Blomeyers are called Michael, Uwe and Jürgen. Lately newborns were given first names as exotic as short-lived and never used before. Yet nobody can know in advance whether they will ever be capable to fulfill or even wish to execute the grade of exclusivity their names force upon them. This aspect had to be mentioned finally as bygone generations leave nothing as lasting as their names. We already have given up their Low German dialect, their crafts and customs<sup>148</sup>, and their capacity to stand odds, also probably their piety. To express nevertheless that more than biological roots connect someone to his ancestry and his homely soil, few things are of better use than names.

*(To be continued)*

<sup>147</sup> Also former state motto of the South African Union and Natal province; engraved into the sword of Westphalian national hero Arminius (»Hermann the Cherusker«) at his Detmold monument is »German unity, my strengt; my strength, Germany's force«).

<sup>148</sup> An idea of the lost provides the booklet of Wissmann, *passim*, see also Weddigen, p. 47ff.

## 8. Literatur- und Quellenverzeichnis

### Nichtedierte Quellen

1. **Landesarchiv Münster:** Fürstabtei Herford, Akte Tiemann 1509ff.
2. **Landesarchiv Münster:** Fürstabtei Herford, Wechselbuch 1595ff.
3. **Landesarchiv Münster:** Stift St. Mariä auf dem Berge Herford, Freikäufe und Wechsel 1550ff.
4. **Landesarchiv Münster:** Stift St. Mariä auf dem Berge Herford, Stiftseigenbehörige 1673ff.
5. **Landesarchiv Münster:** Kollegiatsstift St. Mauritz vor Münster, Hörigenverzeichnis und Wechselbuch 1576ff.
6. **Landesarchiv Münster:** Kollegiatsstift St. Mauritz vor Münster, Auffahrtenverzeichnis Lenzinghausen 1709ff.
7. **Landesarchiv Münster:** Kollegiatsstift St. Mauritz vor Münster, Hofsprachebuch Lenzinghausen 1710ff.
8. **Landesarchiv Münster:** Gut Benkhausen, Akten.
9. **Landesarchiv Münster:** Amt Sparrenberg, Dienstregister 1646-1728.
10. **Landesarchiv Münster:** Vogtei Enger, Visitationsregister 1720.
11. **Landesarchiv Münster:** Markenteilungskommission Minden-Ravensberg 1799.
12. **Landesarchiv Münster:** Kgl. Preuss. Regierungs-Commission für die Grafschaft Ravensberg 1814ff., Akten.
13. **Landesarchiv Detmold:** Regierungsbezirk Minden, Katasterbücher Wallenbrück u. Spenge 1861ff.
14. **Landesarchiv Detmold:** Armeeverlustlisten Preußen, Feldzüge 1864-71.
15. **Landesarchiv Detmold:** Personenstandsregister Kreis Herford, Gelsenkirchen, Gladbeck u.a. 1875ff.
16. **Landesarchiv Detmold:** Erbgesundheitsgericht Bielefeld, Akten Blomeyer 1936ff.
17. **Landeskirchliches Archiv der Ev.-Luth. Kirche Westfalen Bielefeld-Bethel:** Kirchenbücher Wallenbrück 1655ff., Spenge 1765ff., Enger 1679ff. u.a.
18. **Landeskirchliches Archiv der Ev.-Luth. Kirche Westfalen Bielefeld-Bethel:** Zivilregister Wallenbrück 1808-13.
19. **Landeskirchliches Archiv der Ev.-Luth. Kirche Westfalen Bielefeld-Bethel:** Militärkirchenbücher.
20. **Landeskirchliches Archiv der Ev.-Luth. Kirche Westfalen Bielefeld-Bethel:** Sammlung Kenter.
21. **Archivamt Landschaftsverband Westfalen-Lippe:** Haus Brincke (Altbestand), Prozeßakten Kerßenbrock 1694ff.
22. **Stadtarchiv Bielefeld:** Personenstandsregister Stadt u. Kreis Bielefeld 1875ff.
23. **Stadtarchiv Bielefeld:** Stadt Bielefeld, Meldekartei 1893-1930.
24. **Kreisarchiv Herford:** Kriegs- und Notwirtschaft 1939-42, Verschiedenes (Blomeyer).
25. **Kirchenbuchamt Ev. Kirchenkreis Osnabrück:** Kirchenbücher Neuenkirchen 1767ff. u.a.
26. **Landesarchiv Osnabrück:** Gut Sondermühlen, Urkunden.
27. **Landesarchiv Osnabrück:** Gut Sondermühlen, Eigenbehörigenbuch.
28. **Landesarchiv Osnabrück:** Gut Sondermühlen, Protokollbuch 1655ff.
29. **Landesarchiv Osnabrück:** Konskriptionslisten 1808.
30. **Landesarchiv Osnabrück:** Landdrostei Osnabrück, Auswandererkonsense 1857 und 1867.
31. **Landesarchiv Osnabrück:** Stadt Osnabrück, Gesindebuch A-B, 1857-64.
32. **Landesarchiv Osnabrück:** Stadt Osnabrück, Melderegister 1870-1930.
33. **Landesarchiv Osnabrück:** Personenstandsregister Altkreis Melle u. Stadt Osnabrück 1875ff.
34. **Landesarchiv Osnabrück:** Geheime Staatspolizei Osnabrück, Kartei 1928-1945.
35. **Landesarchiv Osnabrück:** Schutzpolizeikommando Osnabrück, Akte Blomeier 1940-45.
36. **Landesarchiv Osnabrück:** Entnazifizierungsausschüsse Osnabrück u.a. 1946-49.
37. **Landesarchiv Hannover:** Königlich-Hannoversche Armee, Stammrollen 1807ff.
38. **Landesarchiv Hannover:** Entnazifizierungsverfahren Hermann Blomeier 1946ff.
39. **Landesarchiv Bückeburg:** Obernkirchen, Urkunden 1565ff.
40. **Landesarchiv Duisburg:** Entnazifizierungsakten 1945-1949.
41. **Landesarchiv Duisburg:** Justizvollzugsanstalt Remscheid-Lüttringhausen: Gefangenenakte Blomeier 1939-45.
42. **Landesarchiv Duisburg:** Staatsanwaltschaft Düsseldorf, Ermittlungsverf. Kunz, Tippkötter, Blomeyer 1952-55.
43. **Stadtarchiv Essen:** Personenstandsregister Altkreis Essen 1875ff.
44. **Bundesarchiv Berlin:** Zentrale Personenkartei Deutsche Dienststelle (WASt), Karten Blomeier/-meyer 1939ff.
45. **Stadtbibliothek St. Louis:** Letztwillige Verfügungen 1891ff.

46. **Service historique de la Défense Vincennes:** Matrikel 128., 129. u. 151. Linien-Infanterie-Regimenter 1812/13.

### Edierte Quellen

1. **Bauen und Wohnen.** Zeitschrift für das gesamte Bauwesen, Ravensburg 1946ff
2. **Georg Wilhelm Christoph Consbruch:** Medizinische Ephemeriden nebst einer medizinischen Topographie der Grafschaft Ravensberg, Chemnitz 1793, ND in: Ravensberger Blätter 1/1981, S. 19ff.
3. **Ernst A. F. Culemann:** Geographische Beschreibung der Grafschaft Ravensberg (1745), in: 54. Jahresbericht des Historischen Vereins für die Grafschaft Ravensberg (1947), S. 85-187.
4. **Franz Herberhold:** Das Ravensberger Urbar von 1556, Band I Text (Veröffentlichungen des Historischen Vereins Ravensberg 29,1), Münster 1960.
5. **Historischer Verein für die Grafschaft Ravensberg** (Hrsg.): Ravensberger Regesten 785-1346, 2 Bände, bearb. v. Gustav Engel, Bielefeld u.a. 1985.
6. **Bernd Hüllinghorst** (Bearb.): Protokolle der Vogtei Enger des Amtmanns Consbruch 1650-1654 u. 1669-1675 (Herforder Geschichtsquellen 3), Herford 1993.
7. **Paul Kienecker** (Hrsg.): Das Kirchspiel Werther und der Krieg 1914-1918. Zum dankbaren Gedenken an unsere Gefallenen und Kriegsteilnehmer, Werther i. W. 1920.
8. **Königlich Preußisches Central-Polizei-Blatt XLII**, Berlin 1860.
9. **Kriegerverein Werther** (Hrsg.): Die Kriegesopfer des Amtes Werther 1939-1945, o. O. 1958.
10. **Dieter Meyer** (Hrsg.): Tumult in Spenge. Acta specialia über den Tumult in Spenge d.d. 22./23. März 1848 (Quellen zur Regionalgeschichte 14), Bielefeld 2008.
11. **Ernst Friedrich Mooyer:** Verzeichnis der Einkünfte der Kirche zu Enger vom Jahre 1362. Nebst einem Fragment eines Todtenbuches desselben, in: Westfälische Zeitschrift 6 (1843), S. 153-167.
12. **Franz Overkott:** Eine Verlustliste aus dem Rußlandfeldzug Napoleons (1812), in: 65. Jahresbericht des Historischen Vereins für die Grafschaft Ravensberg (1962/63), S. 48-58.
13. **Patriotismus im Kriege.** Ein Gedenkblatt Westphälischer Treue und Tapferkeit mit besonderer Rücksicht auf die Thaten des 2. Westphälischen (jetzt 15.) Landwehr-Regiments, Minden 1854.
14. **Protokoll** der kirchlichen Visitation der Grafschaft Ravensberg vom Jahre 1533. Nach den Akten des königlichen Staatsarchivs zu Düsseldorf mitgeteilt von Pastor A. Schmidt in Vlotho, in: Jahrbuch des Vereins für evangelische Kirchengeschichte Westfalens 6 (1904), S. 135-169.
15. **Johann Moritz Schwager:** Über den Ravensberger Bauer (1786), in: Ravensberger Blätter 1/1981, S. 5-18.
16. **Franz von Vincke/H. Haarlage:** Eigenthums-Ordnung für das Fürstenthum Minden und die Grafschaft Ravensberg vom 8. November 1669 und 26. November 1741, Minden 1841.
17. **Peter Florenz Weddigen:** Historisch-geographisch-statistische Beschreibung der Grafschaft Ravensberg, 2 Bände, Leipzig 1790.

### Blomeierania

1. **Heimat-Rundschau Gelsenkirchen-Buer.** Amtliches Bekanntmachungsblatt v. 21./22.06.1958.
2. **Hermann Blomeier KG** (Hrsg.): 50 Jahre Hermann Blomeier KG Straßen- und Tiefbau, Osnabrück 1959.
3. **Gelsenkirchener Stadtanzeiger** v. 14.05.1960.
4. **Annette D. Kachel:** Der Architekt Hermann Blomeier: 1907-1982, Freiburg i. Br. 1992 (2 Bde., Ms.).
5. **Klaus Krug:** In Memoriam Ursula Blomeier, in: Der Leierkasten 38 (2/2005), S. 24-28.
6. **Dieter Nolden:** Familienbuch Blomeier, Bielefeld 2013.
7. **Universität Siegen** (Germ. Seminar): Gutachten zu den Namen Blomeier, Helligen u. Holm(e)ke, Siegen 2014.
8. **Stammtafeln der Familie Blomeyer.** Hofbesitzer Johann Christoph Blomeyer (1761-1823) aus Wiensen und seine Nachkommen. Aufgestellt nach gesammelten Unterlagen und Angaben durch Dr. jur. Friedrich Blomeyer, Haus Beck bei Löhne. Nach des Verfassers Tode herausgegeben von Eduard Blomeyer, Paulsdorf, Görlitz 1927.
9. **Edward F. Blomeyer:** The Blomeyer Book, Bethesda/Maryland 1957 (Msch.).

## Hilfsmittel

1. **Georg Abeler:** Schwierigkeiten der Familienforschung im Rheinisch-Westfälischen Industriegebiet, dargestellt am Beispiel Gelsenkirchens, in: Beiträge zur westf. Familienforschung IX,2 (1950), S. 47-51.
2. **Adreß- und Einwohnerbücher** Bielefeld (Stadt u. Landkreis), Bielefeld 1823ff.
3. **Adreßbücher** Essen (Stadt u. Landkreis), Essen 1896ff.
4. **Adreßbücher** für die Stadt Osnabrück, Osnabrück 1866ff.
5. **Stanley A. Arbingast u.a.** (Hrsg.): Atlas of Mexico, 2. Aufl. Austin/Texas 1975.
6. **Hans Bahlow:** Niederdeutsches Namenbuch, Walluf 1972.
7. **Eugen Binder von Krieglstein:** Die Kriege des deutschen Expeditionskorps in China und ihre militärischen Lehren, Berlin 1902 (ND Bremen 2011).
8. **Wolfgang Bockhorst:** Adelsarchive in Westfalen. Die Bestände der Mitgliedsarchive des Vereinigten Westfälischen Adelsarchivs e.V. sowie die in staatlichen, kommunalen u. sonstigen Archiven verwahrten Adelsarchive, 3. Aufl. Münster 2012.
9. **Rudolf vom Bruch:** Die Rittersitze des Fürstentums Osnabrück, Osnabrück 1930 (ND ebd. 2004).
10. **Guido von Büren u.a.** (Hrsg.): Herrschaft, Hof und Humanismus. Wilhelm V. von Jülich-Kleve-Berg und seine Zeit, Bielefeld 2018.
11. **Deutsche Wappenrolle bürgerlicher Geschlechter**, hrsg. v. Verein für Genealogie und verwandte Wissenschaften zu Berlin (Herold), Leipzig/Neustadt a. d. Aisch 1935ff.
12. **Emil Dösseler:** Inventar der Quellen zur westfälischen Geschichte im Staatsarchiv Düsseldorf. Mit besonderer Berücksichtigung der Personen- und Höfegeschichte, Düsseldorf 1952.
13. **Dietrich Ellger (Hrsg.):** Die Ausgrabungen in der Stiftskirche zu Enger (Teil 1), Bonn 1979.
14. **Anton Fahne:** Geschichte der westphälischen Geschlechter unter besonderer Berücksichtigung ihrer Übersiedlung nach Preußen, Curland und Livland, o. O. 1853 (ND Osnabrück 1966).
15. **Marianne Fasse:** Von Flachs und Leinen in alter Zeit. Berichte und Bilder, Dokumente und Überlieferungen, Rheda-Wiedenbrück 1989.
16. **Gemeindelexikon** für das Königreich Preußen, hrsg. vom Statistischen Bureau Berlin. Heft IX Provinz Hannover, Heft X Provinz Westfalen sowie die Fürstentümer Waldeck und Pyrmont, Berlin 1908f.
17. **Geschichtlicher Handatlas** von Westfalen, hrsg. vom Provinzialinstitut für westfälische Landes- und Volkskunde beim Landschaftsverband Westfalen-Lippe, 1. u. 3. Lfg. Münster 1975.
18. **Hans Grusemann:** Die Frühgeschichte des Geschlechts Ketteler (Kettler) im 12.-16. Jahrhundert, hrsg. u. bearb. v. Karl-Josef Frhr. von Ketteler, Münster 2004.
19. **Rita Gudermann/Meinolf Nitsch** (Hrsg.): Agrarstatistik der Provinz Westfalen 1750-1880, Paderborn u.a. 2009.
20. **Klaus Günther:** Steinzeit und Ältere Bronzezeit im Landesmuseum für Vor- und Frühgeschichte Münster, Münster/Westf. 1970.
21. **Harald Haarmann:** Auf den Spuren der Indoeuropäer. Von den neolithischen Steppennomaden bis zu den frühen Hochkulturen, München 2016.
22. **Luis Hernández:** Geografia de Estado de Nuevo León, Monterrey 1971.
23. **Artur E. Imhof:** Die verlorenen Welten. Alltagsbewältigung durch unsere Vorfahren - und warum wir uns heute so schwer damit tun, München 1984.
24. **Franz Jostes:** Westfälisches Trachtenbuch. Volksleben und Volkskultur in Westfalen, die jetzigen und die ehemaligen und Schaumburgischen Gebiete umfassend, 2. Aufl. 1961 Münster/Westf.
25. **Wilhelm Kohl:** Kleine westfälische Geschichte, Düsseldorf 1994.
26. **Konrad Kunze:** Namenkunde, 5. Aufl. München 2004.
27. **Landesamt für Geoinformatik und Landesentwicklung Niedersachsen** (Hrsg.): Karte Osnabrücker Land, Maßstab 1:50.000, 4. Aufl. Hannover 2004.
28. **Wolfgang Leesch:** Schatzungs- und sonstige Höferegister der Grafschaft Tecklenburg 1494-1831 (Veröffentlichungen d. Histor. Kommission Westfalen XXX), Münster/Westf. 1974.

29. **Ders.:** Personenlisten der Grafschaft Ravensberg und des Fürstentums Minden vor 1815, in: Beiträge zur westfälischen Familienforschung 36/37 (1978/79), S. 3-102.
30. **Fritz Lünsmann:** Die Armee des Königreichs Westfalen 1807-1813, Berlin 1935.
31. **Birgit Meincke:** Die Ortsnamen des Kreises Herford, Bielefeld 2011.
32. **Roger P. Minert/Jennifer A. Anderson u.a.** (Hrsg.): German Protestant Immigrants in American Church Records, Bd. 1 Indiana, Rockport/Maine 2005.
33. **Friedrich Müller:** Westfälische Auswanderer im 19. Jahrhundert. Auswanderung aus dem Regierungsbezirk Minden (1814-1900) Teil I, in: Beiträge zur westfälischen Familienforschung 38/39 (1980/81) S. 3-711; Teil II ebd. 47/48 (1989/90), S. 4-762.
34. **Ottfried Neubecker:** Großes-Wappen-Bilder-Lexikon der bürgerlichen Geschlechter Deutschlands, Österreichs und der Schweiz, Augsburg 1992.
35. **Nordrhein-Westfälisches Staatsarchiv** (Hrsg.): Das Staatsarchiv Münster und seine Bestände. Bd. 5: Territorialarchive von Minden, Ravensberg, Tecklenburg, Lingen und Herford, bearb. v. W. Reininghaus, Münster 2000.
36. **Stefan Pätzold/Wilfried Reininghaus** (Hrsg.): Quellenkunde zur westfälischen Geschichte vor 1800 (Materialien der Historischen Kommission für Westfalen 6), Münster/Westf. 2019.
37. **Thomas Penners** (Hrsg.): Übersicht über die Bestände des Niedersächsischen Staatsarchives Osnabrück (Veröffentlichungen der Niedersächsischen Archivverwaltung 36), Göttingen 1976.
38. **Friedrich Philippi:** Wappen. Versuch einer gemeinfaßlichen Wappenlehre, 2. Aufl. Limburg/Lahn 1967.
39. **Reader's Digest Association South Africa** (Hrsg.): Atlas of Southern Africa, Kapstadt 1982.
40. **Wilhelm Redecker:** Werther (Westf.). Ein Streifzug durch die über 1000-jährige Geschichte, Halle/Westf. 2009.
41. **Wolfgang Ribbe** u.a.: Taschenbuch für Familiengeschichtsforschung, 11. Aufl. Neustadt/Aisch 1995.
42. **Eric Rosenthal** (Hrsg.): Encyclopedia of Southern Africa, London u.a. 1961.
43. **Dietmar Sauermann/Gerda Schmitz:** Alltag auf dem Lande. Bilder und Berichte aus dem Archiv für westfälische Volkskunde, 6. Aufl. Münster/Westf. 1995.
44. **Leopold Schütte:** Wörter und Sachen aus Westfalen 800-1800 (Veröffentlichungen des Landesarchivs Nordrhein-Westfalen 17), 2. erw. Aufl. Münster 2014.
45. **Hans-Jürgen Seraphim:** Das Heuerlingswesen in Nordwestdeutschland, Münster/Westf. 1948.
46. **Hans Spethmann:** Das Ruhrgebiet im Wechselspiel von Land und Leuten, Wirtschaft, Technik und Verkehr, 5 Bde. 1933ff. o. O. (ND Essen 1995).
47. **Staatsarchiv Osnabrück** (Hrsg.): Internes Findbuch zum Bestand „Quellen zur Hof- und Familienforschung“, Osnabrück 2015.
48. **Stadt Enger** (Hrsg.): Enger. Ein Heimatbuch zur Tausendjahrfeier der Widukindstadt, Gütersloh 1948.
49. **Gisbert Strottdrees:** Im Anfang war die Woort. Flurnamen in Westfalen, Bielefeld 2017.
50. **Ernest Thode:** German-English Genealogical Dictionary, 6. Aufl. Baltimore 2006.
51. **Leonard Thompson/Monica Wilson** (Hrsg.): The Oxford History of South Africa vol. II 1870-1960, Oxford 1971.
52. **Edmund von Uslar-Gleichen:** Beiträge zu einer Familiengeschichte der Freiherren von Uslar-Gleichen. Ausgedruckten und ungedruckten Quellen, Hannover 1888.
53. **Fritz Verdenhalen:** Alte Maß- und Währungssysteme aus dem deutschen Sprachraum, Neustadt a.d. Aisch 1998.
54. **Matthias Vollmer:** Die Flurnamen der Stadt Spenge, Bielefeld 1996.
55. **Werner Freitag:** Spenge 1900-1950. Lebenswelten in einer ländlich-industriellen Dorfgesellschaft, Bielefeld 1988.
56. **Rudolf Zoder:** Familiennamen in Ostfalen, Bd. 1 Hildesheim 1968.

## Literatur

1. **Gertrud Angermann:** Volksleben im Nordosten Westfalens zu Beginn der Neuzeit. Eine wachsende Bevölkerung im Kräftefeld zwischen Reformation und Renaissance, Obrigkeit und Wirtschaft (Minden, Herford, Ravensberg, Lippe), Münster/Westf. u.a. 1995.
2. **Hermann Aubin:** Das westfälische Leinengewerbe im Rahmen der deutschen und europäischen Leinwand-erzeugung bis zum Anbruch des Industriezeitalters, Ardey 1964.
3. **Stefan Brakensieck:** Agrarreform und ländliche Gesellschaft. Die Privatisierung der Marken in Nordwestdeutschland 1750-1850 (Forschungen zur Regionalgeschichte 1), Paderborn 1991 (Diss. Bielefeld 1990).
4. **Frederic B. Brand:** Die Heldenschlacht. Das 129e régiment d'infanterie de ligne »d'Oldenbourg« im Rußlandfeldzug Napoleon I 1812/13, Oldenburg 2003.
5. **Klaus Dehne:** Deutsche Einwanderer im ländlichen Süd-Indiana (USA). Eine historisch-geographische Analyse, Passau 2003.
6. **Christine Fertig:** Familie, verwandtschaftliche Netzwerke und Klassenbildung im ländlichen Westfalen 1750-1874 (Quellen und Forschungen zur Agrargeschichte 54), Stuttgart 2012 (Diss. Münster 2010).
7. **Gustav H. Griese:** Heimatgeschichte des Amtes Spenge, o. O. 1926.
8. **Ders.:** Die Meierhöfe und ihre Entstehung: Ein Beitrag zur Siedlungsgeschichte Ravensbergs, in: 45. Jahresbericht des Historischen Vereins für die Grafschaft Ravensberg, Bielefeld 1931, S. 107-122.
9. **Ders.:** Wallenbrück. Ein Heimatbuch deutscher Geschichte, Herford 1932.
10. **Ders.:** Die ersten Kirchenbücher in Ravensberg, in: Ravensberger Blätter 6 (1949), S. 50.
11. **Rita Gudermann:** Der Take-off der Landwirtschaft im 19. Jahrhundert und seine Konsequenzen für Umwelt und Gesellschaft, in: Karl Ditt (Hrsg.): Agrarmodernisierung u. ökologische Folgen. Westfalen vom 18. bis zum 20. Jahrhundert (Forschungen zur Regionalgeschichte 40), Paderborn u.a. 2001, S. 47-84.
12. **Georg Haccius:** Hannoversche Missionsgeschichte, Bände 1-3, Hermannsburg 1905ff.
13. **Christine Hartmann** u.a. (Hrsg.): Spuren der Geschichte in Wallenbrück und Bardüttingdorf, Bielefeld 1992.
14. **Karl Hauck:** Das Wissen Widukinds von Corvey von der Neubildung des sächsischen Stammes im 6. Jahrhundert, in: H. Stoob (Hrsg.): Ostwestfälisch-Weserländische Forschungen zur geschichtlichen Landeskunde, Münster/Westf. 1970, S. 1-16.
15. **Heraldischer Verein »Zum Kleeblatt« von 1888 zu Hannover e.V.:** Kleeblatt. Zeitschrift für Heraldik und verwandte Wissenschaften Nr. 34/2 (2017), Hildesheim 1984ff.
16. **Frank Heuwinkel:** Die Grafschaft Ravensberg im Mittelalter – Probleme der Herrschaftsbildung, Ms. Bochum 1977.
17. **Werner Hillebrand:** Besitz- und Standesverhältnisse des Osnabrücker Adels 800-1300 (Vorarbeiten zum histor. Atlas Niedersachsen H. 23), Göttingen 1962 (Diss. Kiel 1955).
18. **Heinrich Hirschfelder:** Herrschaftsordnung und Bauerntum im Hochstift Osnabrück im 16. und 17. Jahrhundert (Osnabrücker Geschichtsquellen und Forschungen 16), Osnabrück 1971.
19. **Walter D. Kamphoefner** u.a.: Von Heuerlingen und Farmern. Die Auswanderung aus dem Osnabrücker Land nach Nordamerika, Bramsche 1999.
20. **Ders.:** From Germany to Missouri, Princeton 1987; dt. u. d. T.: Westfalen in der Neuen Welt. Eine Sozialgeschichte der Auswanderung im 19. Jahrhundert, Göttingen 2006.
21. **Kreisheimatverein Herford** (Hrsg.): Amerikaauswanderer aus den Ämtern Spenge und Enger, in: Wittekindsland. Beiträge zu Geschichte, Kultur und Natur des Kreises Herford, Heft 1, Löhne 1987.
22. **Hans-Jörg Kühne:** Augenzeugenberichte: Der Großangriff auf Bielefeld am 30. September 1944, in: 89. Jahresbericht des Histor. Vereins für die Grafschaft Ravensberg (FS Reinh. Vogelsang), Bielefeld 2004, S. 449-466.
23. **Ledebur, Gerhard Freiherr von:** Die Ledeburs. Geschichte der Uradelsfamilie Ledebur, Kiel 1984 (Msch.).
24. **Rüdiger Liedtke:** Die neue Skandalchronik. 40 Jahre Affären und Skandale in der Bundesrepublik, Frankfurt a.M. 1989.
25. **Horst Lohmann:** Die siedlungsgeographische Entwicklung der Gemarkung Spenge (Msch.), Bielefeld 1971.

26. **Edmund E. Lyon** (Hrsg.): Indiana. Crossroad of America, Dubuque/Iowa 1978.
27. **Wolfgang Mager** (Hrsg.): Geschichte der Stadt Spenge, Spenge 1984.
28. **Hermann Machenhauer** (Bearb.): Das Metzzer Infanterie-Regiment Nr. 98. Nach den amtlichen Kriegstagebüchern, Oldenburg u.a. 1923.
29. **Otto Merker**: Das Werden des Territorialstaates am Beispiel des Amtes Grönenberg, in: Verein für Geschichte u. Landeskunde Osnabrücks (Hrsg.): Osnabrücker Mitteilungen 74 (1967), S. 1-36.
30. **Susanne Meyer**: Schwerindustrielle Insel und ländliche Lebenswelt: Georgsmarienhütte 1856-1933, Münster 1991 (Diss. Osnabrück 1989).
31. **Uwe Plaß**: Meller Auswanderung im 19. Jahrhundert (Grönenberger Heimathefte 24), Melle 2006.
32. **Charles van Ravensway**: The Arts and Architecture of German Settlement in Missouri. A Survey of a vanishing Culture, Columbia u.a. 1977.
33. **Werner Frhr. Rinck von Baldenstein u.a.**: Das Infanterie-Regiment Freiherr von Sparr (3. Westfälisches) Nr. 16 im Weltkriege 1914-18, Oldenburg 1927.
34. **Donald M. Royer**: The German-American Contribution to Richmond's Development 1833-1933, Richmond/In. 1983.
35. **Konrad Salge**: Der Dreißigjährige Krieg in der Grafschaft Ravensberg, in: 36. Jahresbericht des Historischen Vereins für die Grafschaft Ravensberg (1922), S. 1-55, Bielefeld 1922 (Diss. Münster 1921).
36. **Hartmut Schürbusch/Alfred Winter**: Nacht über Wattenscheid. Chronik des Krieges in unserer Stadt, Essen 2009.
37. **Leopold Schütte**: Schulte und Meier in (Nordost-)Westfalen, in: A. Mayr/K. Tenlitz (Hrsg.): Bielefeld und Nordost-Westfalen. Entwicklung, Strukturen und Planung im Unteren Weserbergland, Münster 1995, S. 211-226
38. **Karl Schreiber**: Das Urbar der Grafschaft Ravensberg vom Jahre 1550, Münster 1906.
39. **Karl Schmid**: Die Nachfahren Widukinds, in: Deutsches Archiv 20 (1964), S. 1-47.
40. **Rolf Spilker**: Von der Industrialisierung bis zum Ersten Weltkrieg, in: G. Steinmascher (Hrsg.): Geschichte der Stadt Osnabrück, Belm 2006, S. 453-467.
41. **Hans Georg Steltzner**: Die Deutschen und ihr Kolonialreich, Frankfurt a. M. 1984.
42. **Maria Stemme-Sogemeier**: Bielefeld und seine Industrie, 2. Aufl. Trautheim u.a. 1953.
43. **Gisbert Strottdrees**: Höfe, Bauern, Hungerjahre. Aus der westfälischen Landwirtschaft 1890-1950, Münster-Hiltrup 1991.
44. **Erich Storck**: Der Hofname in der Grafschaft Ravensberg, in: Ravensberger Blätter 8 (1949), S. 63-67.
45. **Bärbel Sunderbrinck**: Revolutionäre Neuordnung auf Zeit. Gelebte Verfassungskultur im Königreich Westphalen: Das Beispiel Minden-Ravensberg 1807-1813, Paderborn 2015 (Diss. Hagen/Westf. 2012).
46. **Gustav Tafel**: Die Neuner. Eine Schilderung der Kriegsjahre des 9ten Regiments Ohio Vol. Infanterie, vom 17. April 1861 bis 7. Juni 1864, Cincinnati 1897.
47. **Elisabeth Timm**: Reverenz und Referenz. Zwei Weisen der populären Genealogie und ein neuer genealogischer Universalismus ?, in: Chr. Fertig/M. Lanzinger: Beziehungen, Netzwerke, Konflikte. Perspektiven historischer Verwandtschaftsforschung, Köln u.a. 2016, S. 209-232.
48. **Wilhelm Upmeyer**: Die Minden-Ravensberger Eigentumsordnung von 1741, Hildesheim 1906 (Diss. Göttingen 1905).
49. **Lutz Volmer**: Von der westphälischen Bauart. Hausbau in Ravensberg zwischen 1700 und 1870, Essen 2011 (Diss. Münster 2005).
50. **August Wehrenbrecht**: Die Werburg. Aus 500 Jahren ihrer Geschichte, Bielefeld 1994.
51. **Wolfram Wehrenbrecht**: Spenge im Mittelalter, in: W. Mager (Hrsg.): Geschichte der Stadt Spenge, S. 39-72.
52. **Wilhelm Wissmann**: Neunhundert Jahre Wallenbrück. Festschrift zur 900-Jahrfeier, Spenge 1952.
53. **Dirk Ziesing**: Das Minden-Ravensberger Landwehr-Infanterie-Regiment (2. Westfälisches) in den Befreiungskriegen 1813-1815, Münster 2016.
54. **Rudolf Zoder**: Die niedersächsischen Meier. Eine sozial- und agrargeschichtliche Studie anhand der Familiennamen auf „-meier“, in: Niedersächsisches Jahrbuch für Landesgeschichte (NF) 23 (1951), S.1-88.

## Weblinks

[www.wggf.de](http://www.wggf.de)  
[www.hv-ravensberg.de](http://www.hv-ravensberg.de)  
[www.hf-gen.de](http://www.hf-gen.de)  
[www.osfa.de](http://www.osfa.de)  
[www.genza.org.sa](http://www.genza.org.sa)  
[www.mrlinfo.org](http://www.mrlinfo.org)  
[www.archiv-ekvw.de](http://www.archiv-ekvw.de)  
[www.tim-online.nrw.de](http://www.tim-online.nrw.de)  
[www.stadtarchiv-bielefeld.de](http://www.stadtarchiv-bielefeld.de)  
[www.nla.niedersachsen.de](http://www.nla.niedersachsen.de)  
[www.data.matricula-online.eu/de](http://www.data.matricula-online.eu/de)  
[www.essen.de/stadtarchiv](http://www.essen.de/stadtarchiv)  
[www.westfaelische-geschichte.lwl.org](http://www.westfaelische-geschichte.lwl.org)  
[www.hcgsohio.org](http://www.hcgsohio.org)  
[www.memoiredeshommes.sga.defense-gouv.fr](http://www.memoiredeshommes.sga.defense-gouv.fr)  
[www.facebook.com/groups/468518346655161/?fref=ts](http://www.facebook.com/groups/468518346655161/?fref=ts)

[www.archion.de](http://www.archion.de)  
[www.ancestry.de](http://www.ancestry.de)  
[www.familyearch.de](http://www.familyearch.de)  
[www.genealogy.net](http://www.genealogy.net)  
[www.myheritage.de](http://www.myheritage.de)  
[www.graebersuche-online.de](http://www.graebersuche-online.de)  
[www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com)  
[www.nw-trauer.de](http://www.nw-trauer.de)  
[www.widukind-museum-enger.de](http://www.widukind-museum-enger.de)  
[www.werburg-spenge.de](http://www.werburg-spenge.de)  
[www.ledebur.de](http://www.ledebur.de)  
[www.zum-kleeblatt.de](http://www.zum-kleeblatt.de)  
[www.altertumsverein-muenster.de](http://www.altertumsverein-muenster.de)  
[www.blomeyer-ev.de](http://www.blomeyer-ev.de)