

WOLFF SCHNEPFF

WOLFF SCHNEPFF, “von Niedershaeffheim,” [Niederschaeffolsheim] married **Elsbeth Veltin**, daughter of Hans, at Illkirch, 18 May 1579. Elsbeth, wife of Wolff Schnepff sponsored baptism of a child in June 1580 along with Georg Ammel. Wolff and Elsbeth had a son:

JOHANNES SCHNEPFF, baptized at Illkirch, 14 February, 1582,
sponsored by Georg Ammel “der Württ” (Wirt- Innkeeper).

Elsbeth apparently died soon after that and Wolff married **Barbara Mersch**, daughter of deceased Diebolt Mersch, 26 May, 1583. Wolff or his wife, Barbara, appear as baptismal sponsors in the records at Illkirch from that point on until 1594. Following are some of those records:

Wolff Schnepff sponsored Wendling, a child of Hans Ammel, 29 Nov. 1584, along with Wendling Meyenkuckel.

Wolff Schnepff sponsored Wolff, a child of Hans Mersch in January 1587.

Wolff Schnepff sponsored Hans, a child of Hans Ammel, 14 January 1588.

Wolff Schnepff sponsored Agnes, daughter of Hans Ammel, 15 April 1590.

Wolff Schnepff sponsored Susanna, daughter of Diebold (Theobald) Ammel, Sept. 1591 and Jacob Gatt (?), 25 Nov. 1591.

Barbara, wife of Wolff Schnepff sponsored a daughter of Jacob Gatt (?), 9 Sept. 1593.

Wolff Schnepff and Barbara had no children baptized at Illkirch.

Records from 1594-1620 are missing and after 1620 there is only one reference to Wolff Schnepff in the Illkirch-Graffenstaden records. On the 18th Sunday after Trinity (October 24) 1625, Adolph Ernst, *der Gannherth zu Gravenstad und Anna Jungfr. Anna, Wolff Schnepffen der Eisenman genannt, alhier hinterlassene Tochter* were married. This was the first of two marriages for Anna. She had three children by Ernst, a gardener and goose tender, who died in 1637. On 21 May 1638 she married Wendling Schertzer and had two children. Anna died at Graffenstaden, 23 March 1643, age 43. Anna and her husband were close to the family of Martin Schwing and wife, Martha, and sponsored baptism of several of their children, including Brigitta, (born 28 February 1630), who married Hans Schnepf in 1656 (below). The children of Anna Schnepff/Schnepf were:

MATTHIAS ERNST, born 20 Feb. 1627.

ANNA ERNST, born Nov. 1627, m. Andreas Michdorfer, and Michael Kurtz.

MARIA ERNST, born 1 Nov. 1629, died as a child.

MARIA SCHERTZER, born 20 Jan. 1639.

DIEBOLDT SCHERTZER, born 1 Nov. 1639, d. 15 Mar. 1689, m. Elisabeth Erb.

The next record of Schnepff / Schnepf in the Illkirch area is the marriage of Hans, shepherd in Haegen, son of Hans, day laborer in Plobsheim, to Appolonia Mauser, 16 November, 1629 at Plobsheim (a few kilometers south of Illkirch). Their son Hans, born 1633, married Brigitta Schwing (god-daughter of Anna Schnepff- above) in 1656. Brigitta died 5 December 1663 and Hans married as a second wife, Maria Ammel, daughter of Hans Ammel of Illkirch in 1664. Hans Ammel’s father, Hans, was the child sponsored at baptism 14 January 1588 by Wolff Schnepff. Hans and Maria Schnepf had a son, Georg, baptized at Illkirch in 1665 but moved from the area a year or two later.

Other possible descendants or relatives of Wolff Schnepff / Schnepf:

Hans Schnepf of Waltenheim and wife, Margaretha, have a daughter, Apollonia, baptized at St. Pierre-le Vieux (Protestant church) in Strasbourg, 14 May 1633. (St. Pierre le Vieux, Paroisse protestante, B, 1625-1644, p. 241. Strasbourg Parish Registers, Archives de Bas-Rhin)

Jacob Schnepf of Waltenheim and wife, Otilia, have a daughter, Margaretha, baptized at St. Pierre-le Jeune (Protestant church), in Strasbourg, 1 December, 1633. (St. Pierre le Jeune, Paroisse protestante, B, 1631-1638, p. 128)

Wendling Schnepf, of Waltenheim und wife, Apollonia, have a daughter, Otilia, baptized. 3 December 1633 at the Protestant Church in Schiltigheim. Schiltigheim is on the outskirts of the city of Strasburg, about twelve miles southeast of Waltenheim. (Schiltigheim Paroisse protestante BMS, 1575-1636, p. 262)

Hans Schnepf, citizen of Plobsheim, and wife, Apollonia, have a son, Georg, baptized at St. Nicolas (Protestant church), in Strasbourg, 28 June 1635. St. Nicolas Paroisse Protestante, B, 1623-1639, p. 60.

This Hans is the one listed above as “son of Hans Schnepf day laborer of Plobsheim”, when he married Apollonia Mauser at Plobsheim in 1629. Hans and Apollonia had two children baptized at Plobsheim: Maria, 1631 and Hans, 1633. This record of a son, Georg, is new information. In 1638 they had a daughter, Christina, born at Plobsheim. Apollonia died in 1640, Hans remarried and moved to further north and west away from the Illkirch area. (This Hans is ancestor of our family.)

The years 1632-1636 were the worst years of the Thirty Years War (1618-1648) for Alsace, a time when many villages were deserted. It would appear that these families fled Waltenheim and took refuge in Strasbourg or vicinity. Waltenheim is five miles from Niederschaeffolsheim, the home of Wolff Schnepff before he settled at Illkirch.

The following baptism took place after the war:

Hans Schnepf of Waltenheim and wife, Anna, had a son, Michael, baptized at St. Guillaume, in Strasbourg, 8 Mar. 1649. (St. Guillaume Paroisse protestante, B, 1643-1678, p. 54). A Jacob and a Hans (Johannes) Schnepf had families who appear in both Catholic and Protestant records of Waltenheim and nearby Mommenheim, but the records only begin with 1682 and it is hard to determine accurate family configurations.