

The 10 from the Mill

("Von den Zehn (Luepferts) in der Kellermuehle", by Karl Zeissig,

Dresden 1935; translated by Christian Luepfert, Sydney 2000

Source: Family history, 1998 edition, pages 59-66)

Christian Gottlieb Luepfert, miller of the mill "Kellermuehle", descended from the Family farm in Niederelsdorf, which borders to Lunzenau. His great-grandparents, Susanne (1718-1766) and Michael (1703-1767) Luepfert, had 11 children, 3 of them survived. His grandparents, Regina (1748-1821) and Samuel (1748-1829) Luepfert, could raise 4 of 7 children. 7 of the 8 children of his parents Regina (1783-1856) and Gotthold (1779-1860) Luepfert grew up. The family was a real farmers family, they were very much attached to their land. The sole daughter married the farmer and judge ("Lehnrichter") Fritzsche in Niederelsdorf, the sons married farmers' daughters and widows, the youngest finally took over his fathers farm. The father probably made the oldest son learn a trade in Penig, since he bought him a house in Penig in the street "auf dem Topfanger" before he was 18 years old, it was owned by the son from 1824 until 1830. In that year he threw away his tools, followed his heart, married and moved to a farm in Seifersdorf near Narsdorf.

Christian Gottlieb became a miller. Where and with whom? It's impossible to know. There is also nothing known about his time as a journeyman. It is doubtful that he enjoyed travelling and learning in several mills, as suggested by the song "Das Wandern ist des Muellers Lust", because he early fell in love with two rosy cheeks and two bright eyes. It was Johanna Rosine Pfefferkorn, daughter of the farmer Tobias Pfefferkorn in Oberelsdorf, his 10th child. Gottlieb and his love sat too long and too often together behind the house. Therefore father Gotthold looked around for a mill for his son. Since father Pfefferkorn was prepared to pay a substantial dowry, a larger mill could be considered. The Andrae family owned the town mill in Lunzenau at this time, and the mill "Kellermuehle" as well (Lunzenau, Altenburger Str., today Boettger family). It is a water mill, situated on the boarder of Lunzenau towards Niederelsdorf. Around it was a nice pleaseant valley with a clear, running river "Elsbach", which drove the mill. The buildings were well maintained. The main house and the houses for storage, cattle and machinery were made in the lower parts of stone, upper parts

half-timbered, the beams dark, the filling white, the barn's lower part was made of stone as well. Great flocks of cattle and fertile fields belonging to Lunzenau bounds, and a big forest belonging to Rochsburg bounds belonged to it. This was all right with the young Gottlieb, so father Gotthold took the chance and bought the mill on the 6th of October 1832 at the town court in Lunzenau. It was 4500 Taler(2). 1000 Taler were paid immediately, 3500 Taler were on loan and attracted 3% interest. These had to be paid off in seven yearly increments a 500 Taler. Not only today, also in these days there were taxes due on property sales. They were not marginal, but went into other pockets than today. The reverend of Burgstaedt received 5% of the amount paid according to a several hundred year old right, i.e. 225 Taler. The count of Rochsburg got 5% of the value of the forest as well, that were 65 Taler. Ms. Johanne Rosine Andrae born Zwicker confirmed the sale with the consent of her nuptial guardian Gottlob Andrae on the 29.1.1833 at the Count Schoenburg Justice Office in Penig, and so the 22 year old Gottlieb became owner of the great mill "Kellermuehle".

Now the young couple moved into their new home, where Rosine - besides her dowry - brought little Christine and in her womb Wilhelmine. They lived and worked together three quarters of a year, before they got married on the 12th of January 1834. The dowry of Johanne Rosine consisted of 1027 Taler cash, 2 cows, 1 pig, 60 Globen(1) flax. Rosine gave birth to altogether 12 children, one of them was stillborn in 1843, one died in 1844 aged 5. The other ten children grew up.

It happened on the 16th of July 1851, that Gottlieb died without illness, aged 40. This had to be a disaster for the big family and the business. The loan on the mill had been paid off a long time ago, but there were 1500 Taler of debt to father Gotthold, 1000 Taler to brother Gottlob in Seifersdorf, 200 Taler to brother Gotthold in Niederelsdorf, 265 Taler to pub-owner Walther and 100 Taler minor debts.

What should be done? Should the mill be kept by the family? Was there someone who was energetic and experienced enough? Noone. The mother too did not feel up to the challenge. The mill had to be sold, but since there was no buyer at hand, there was an auction. The old father was appointed guardian by gentlemen's agreement. In the following days, the house properly, the fields, the living and dead assets were valued, and the auction was announced in 4 newspapers. It took place on the 3rd of September 1851. Nine buyers gathered. The value of the mill together with the fields and the forest had been assessed to 10064 Taler 17 Groschen 5 Pfennige altogether. This high

value is not so much due to improvements of the mill rather than an increase in property value in general, nearly 6000 Taler more than in 1833. The doctor and major Jahnke from Lunzenau got the property for 9055 Taler. He had bid for Mr. Haertig, the next owner. The whole inventory, which consisted of 479 items, was auctioned on this day as well, including 2 horses, 5 cows, 2 heifers, 2 calves, 9 pigs, 22 pieces of poultry, 5 bee hives. This yielded 775 Taler.

This was the end of the peaceful life for the Luepfert family in the "Kellermuehle". The widow Johanne Rosine moved to Altenburger Strasse in Lunzenau. She had been reimbursed for her dowry, 1107 Taler in cash, and received 21 Taler from the sale of the inventory. She had her six youngest children with her and received their interests. The former well-off wife of the miller now had to make ends meet. She was probably also not able to do needlework or other services for other people, because several children were still young and needed supervision and care. In addition she got an abdominal illness, which got worse quickly. Her strength deteriorated; the care of the oldest daughter, who had been called back home, didn't help; no medicine could stop the disease: She died on the 23rd of February 1856, aged 45.

Around the grave of the still much needed, good mother there stood the children, the youngest aged 6, and her relatives, and those of the dead father. There was the old grandfather Gotthold, aged 76, and his sons, and their sympathy in this hour changed into continuous care and successful help for the orphans. The two uncles of the children, Gotthold jun. and Friedrich Luepfert, who lived in Niederelsdorf, became the legal guardians for all the children. They agreed to quite a task regarding the care for the children and the administration of the inheritance, but fulfilled their duty faithfully, happily and altruistically in remembrance of their early deceased brother and in affection to his children. They had to report every second year, and the report usually was: Is healthy and behaves orderly. For the siblings who had finished school, the places of stay were added.

Every child inherited from the father ca. 370 Taler, from the mother ca. 100 Taler and from grandfather Gotthold 100 Taler as well, so the overall means of every child amounted to ca. 570 Taler. The older siblings received it soon in 3 instalments, the younger ones got it later at once together with interest and savings. This amounted to ca. 700 Taler. This was quite a lot of money at this time, and a businessman could start a project with it.

Now let's see how the particular siblings fared until they got married or founded a business.

The oldest daughter, Christine, probably started working as a maid before her father died. When she was serving in Wuenschendorf, she was called home by her meanwhile severely ill mother. She now was her dedicated carer, and is said to have repeatedly walked from Lunzenau to Altenburg and back (ca. twice 25 km) in one day, in order to bring medicines. After that she served with the furrier Heinig in Penig, where she met the ropemaker Carl Otto Lenkersdoerfer. They got married in 1856 and bought a hardware store in Altpenig, near the bridge.

The second daughter, Wilhelmine, after having finished school, served in several places in Chemnitz. She married the baker Friedrich Moritz Schreckenbach, who lived in the Zimmerstrasse in Chemnitz, on the 26th of January 1856. Their business thrived and they made progress; their house became a home for the younger siblings of Wilhelmine. Here they found a sympathetic ear and fatherly advice. Not only Eduard, but also Emil learned here. Emma and Anna had the opportunity to learn house work and tailoring. Nathalie was offered a place as well, although she could hardly help with the business.

Franz was an apprentice when his father died, he became a carpenter in Penig, with whom is unknown. Like many young man of this time he became determined to go to the "New World". He got 105 Taler of his inheritance and went to America. Another 160 Taler were left behind, maybe for his return, which seemed possible. He did not arrange for the money to be sent to him, instead he has sent small amounts several times, once also the fare for one of his siblings to come to his place, but none of them resolved to go, and the money is said to have been transferred by him to the frail Natalie. Franz himself found a home and a wife in Clarksville in the state Virginia.

Eduard became a baker with his brother-in-law Schreckenbach in Chemnitz; whether he started his apprenticeship already in 1850 is questionable. Anyway, he worked as an apprentice until 1862, and probably founded his own business in Penig on the 1st of February 1862. At this time he bought the house which is on the corner of the streets "Enge Gasse" and "Auf dem Topfanger". This can be inferred from the fact that the guardians lent him money of the younger siblings which they in turn got paid from the mortgage of the mill "Kellermuehle". At about this time he got married as well.

The siblings mentioned up to now were no longer at home when their father died, or went away soon afterwards; because the documents state that only the six younger ones stayed with the mother.

Rosamunde did probably not stay at home until her mother died. In 1858 she became a tailor in Leipzig, and later moved to Dresden, where she got a job, and only occasionally visited her home. She stayed single and died around 1870 in Dresden.

Emma was an 18 year old seamstress in Chemnitz in 1859. She also went to Dresden, where she learnt to know the tailor Wallrath, who opened a big shop in the street "Schlossstrasse"; it had a very good reputation for a long time. Unfortunately Emma became ill for many years.

Anna was 7 years old when her father died. After her mother's death, when she was 12 years old, she was raised with Gotthold Luepfert at the family farm in Niederelsdorf. But in 1859 she was already learning to tailor in Chemnitz, probably together with her sister Emma. She got employed afterwards by her uncle Pfefferkorn at the privileged farm ("Rittergut", (3)) in Penig.

She got an eye disease at the end of 1861, therefore she needed to see a skillful doctor. Dr. Gleissner in Sahlis near Kohren was famous as such. So she stayed with relatives in Sahlis, later with her uncle Teichmann in Meusdorf, where she met her younger brother Emil.

Finally she returned to uncle Gotthold Luepfert in Niederelsdorf. Dr. Leo in Rochlitz and Dr. Zoellner were her doctors. cupping glasses were placed in her face, a method outdated today. Finally her condition improved, and Anna was employed in the old part of Penig ("Altpenig") by Mrs. Advokat, the widow of Mr. Boerner. There she met the young watchmaker Gustav Zeissig, and married him on the 27th of April, 1865. *(Their son Karl Zeissig is the original author of this report. Rem. of the translator.)*

Emil, who was aged 4 when his father died, and 9 when his mother died, met with a warm reception from the lord of the manor Mr. Teichmann in Meusdorf, as mentioned above. After finishing school he went to his brother in law Schreckenbach in Chemnitz, to become a baker. Of all siblings who stayed at the Schreckenbach family's, he was the one who kept the closest contacts. He probably worked as a helper at several places. When he applied for a position as head of the journeymen at a bakery in Hainichen and introduced himself to the baker's widow, who would probably have liked to marry him herself, there was the widow's step-daughter visiting, who

worked somewhere else. She was a child of the late bakers first marriage, and still quite young. But Emil decided quickly, refused the position at the bakery, took the young miss, Anna Selma Schoenbach that is, and settled with her in Waldenburg, Saxony. They were very hospitable.

Nathalie was two and a half years old, when her father died, and aged 7.5 at her mothers death. She probably was paralysed since birth. Her illness is already mentioned at the testamentary in 1851, and an allocation of 25 Taler has been put down in order to get her treated by the famous Doctor Helmke in Jena. He was an orthopaedic. No doctor could help her. She had to walk on two crutches. Her condition might have dragged her down, but she was strong willed, became a milliner during her stay in Chemnitz, and lived on that in the street "Leipziger Strasse" in Penig. Her siblings felt strong sympathy for her and donated a lot. She married the worker Gottlieb Landgraf in Penig.

Otto was the youngest of the siblings. 9 month old at his fathers death, he was 6 when his mother died. He met with a warm reception by the farmer Fritzsche, who also acted as a judge ("Erblehngericht"), who in turn was an uncle of Otto because of his wife. Otto spent a pleasant youth there. He learned with the master smith Landgraf in Wechselburg, from Michaelis 1865 until Johannis 1866. He left this training and immediately took up another with master smith Weber in Altschillen. He finished his apprenticeship on Michaelis 1868. He worked in the smithy in Lunzenau and probably elsewhere as well. He was a soldier of the regiment 107 in around 1874. There I saw him one morning in a manoeuvre among the special tall soldiers, the "langen Kerls" of the 10th company, marching vigorously. Later he owned a smithy in Limbach for a short time, but then turned to his home town Lunzenau, where he became landlord of a pub with much industry, but with much success as well. His pub with hotel "Saechsischer Hof" Lunzenau became a new home for his siblings and their offspring in later years, thanks to his and his wifes goodness and kindness.

Today, all these siblings are dead, and the outsider might consider it useless to retrieve and elaborate on the fate of their youth. But the descendent will welcome this, and can continue from there with the lives of his parents or grandparents. But there's more: He sees how his parents inherited a healthy core, let it grow, how they were supported by the friendly hands of their relatives and holding each other, so that none of the 10

siblings got lost, but all strived for progress powerfully. They deserve the deep respect and love of their descendents.

Remarks:

(1) Globen ... old measure; probably big sheaf

(here: sheaves of flax to produce linen)

(2) Taler ... old cash unit

(3) privileged farm ("Rittergut"): Farm with special additional privileges (e.g. to hunt, to fish, no conscription)