



Research June 2014 in Dierdorf - Westerwald for Berger and Zickenheiner 1744

What did we know?

Our client Dale had send us a copy of the book "Westerwald to Amerika" where names of his ancestors Berger and Zickenheiner were listed. These families had lived in Dierdorf in the early 18th and emigrated to America around 1750. So we knew the ancestors names from this time.

What did we find?

We went through all our ancestry networks, contacted the local archive as well as the protestant church. We found the shipping document for Anna Elisabetha Berger and her four children who had followed her husband Georg Wilhelm to Philadelphia in 1744. We also found far related relatives from the Zickenheimer family who still lived in the same place but unfortunately these descendants were not at all interested in the family tree (which is very unusual).

All Berger ancestors had left the country so there were no more descendants from the Berger family.

What else?

I met our clients Dale and his wife Nancy at the train station and we went on a walk to the protestant church. The priest of the church was already waiting for us and took us into the church to which the Berger ancestors once belonged. Some of the old houses still exist so that our clients could get a quite good impression of the former hometown of their ancestors.

I was amazed when Dale talked to me in German. It was the German of 18th, so much different from our language today. This is because the ancestors kept their dialects and forwarded this German to their children and grand-children. It is a kind of "German-Dutch" and very rare nowadays.

Here is our dear client's feedback to their ancestry-tour:

*"Hello Marion,
we would like to thank you so very, very much for spending the day with us...we had an amazing time...we enjoyed all the Berger history you were able to provide us with, showing us the church and area where the family lived...it was more than we could have asked for,,,*

We thoroughly enjoyed the Midevil castle tour, winery, and dinner in the lovely town of Eltville...we did walk around after dinner....(I had the white asparagus....yummy.)

When we arrived in Munich we walked around the downtown, shopped, saw the Glockenspiel & having dinner there...we also saw the Hofbrauhaus & the other history in the area....the following day we took a tour to the Lindendorf castle & a visit to the small village of Oberammergau with the local artisans & wood carvers....

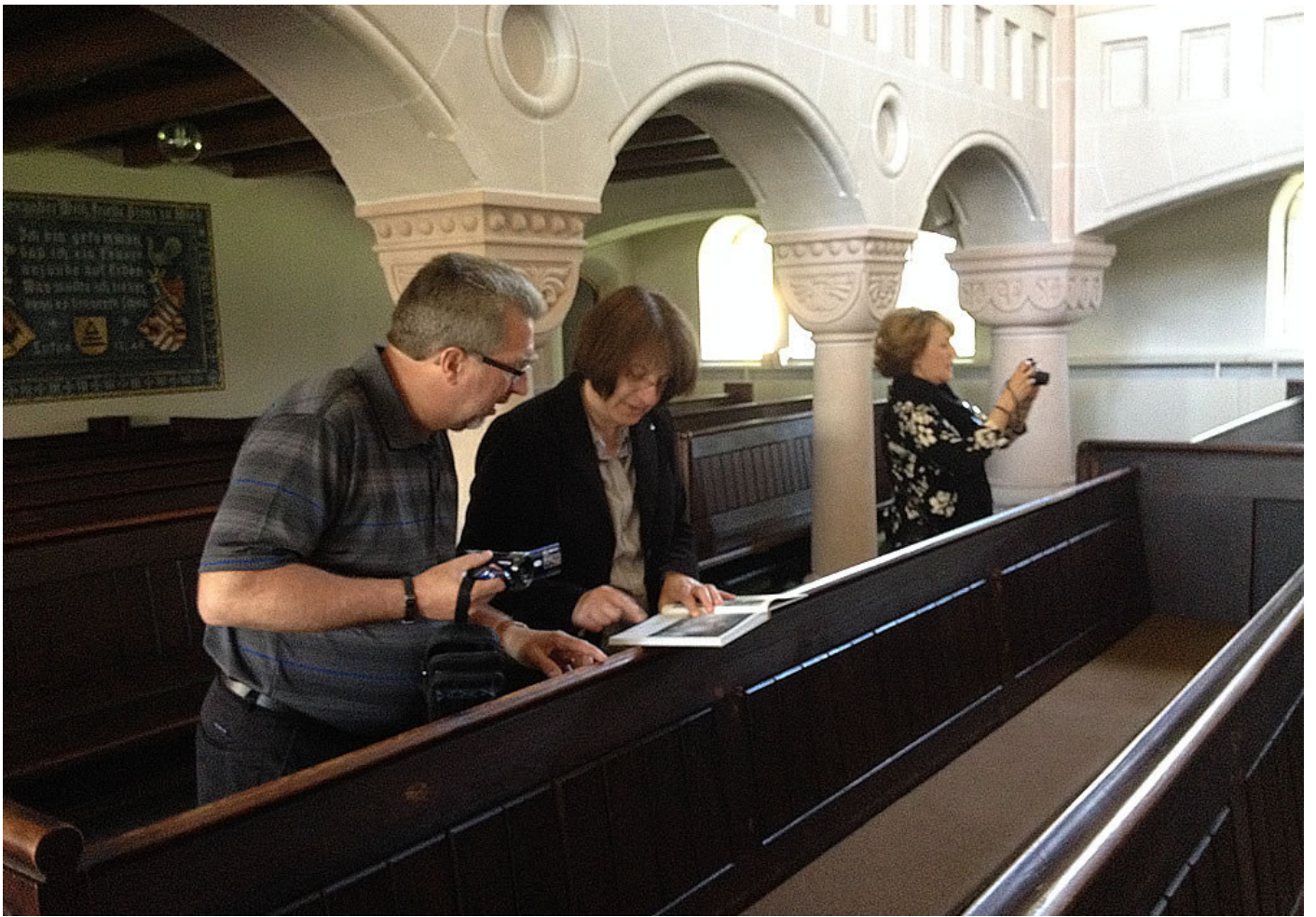
We then took the train to Zurich...upon arriving there we did a city tour...the following day we took a tour to Luzerne and then a wonderful trip to the top of Mt. Titlis....

We had a wonderful trip and you were a great part of making our trip memorable with the family history....

Thank you again....

*Sincerely,
Dale & Nancy Berger"*





GEORG WILHELM BERGER
JOHANN CHRISTIAN BERGER
(Aurora, 1744)

These emigrants were found at 5419 Dierdorf (16 km. n.e. of Bendorf; Chbks. begin 1676, Ref.). Sp. strongly suggest that
 ✦ Georg Wilhelm¹ Berger was s/o Johann Immet Berger of Dierdorf (HJ/AKB). Georg Wilhelm Berger md. Anna Catharina (no surname mentioned) 10 June 1722. Anna Catharina, w/o Georg Wilhelm Berger at Wienau, d. 15 Dec 1741. "Joerg Wilhelm Berger" and "Johan Christian Berger" were listed next to each other on the *Aurora* in 1744 (S-H, I, p. 352). Georg William Berger sp. a child of Conrad Wirt (Wirth) and Juliana (Berger) in 1751 (Blue Mountain Ref. Chbk., Strausstown, Berks Co.). The will of Georg Wilhelm Berger of Tulpehocken was dated 15 June 1759 and probated 26 Nov 1767; he named ch. John Christ, John Herwart, and Juliana, and grandson Georg William Wirt (Berks Co. Will Bk. 2, p. 38). The ch. of Georg
 ✦ Wilhelm¹ Berger and Anna Catharina were:

1. Johann Christianus², b. 22 Jan and bpt. 22 Jan 1724 at Brückrachdorf - sp.: Peter Berger (prob. q.v.), Joh. Christian Zickenheimer, and Anna Elisabetha - d/o Johan Imet Berger (Dierdorf Ref. Chbk.). He appeared on the *Aurora* with his father. He and his wife sp. a child of his sister Juliana Berger Wirth in 1754 at Blue Mountain. Christian Berger of Bern Twp., Berks Co. was nat. 10/11 April 1761 (Pa. Nats.). Papers in the estate of Christian Berger, late wheelwright of Bern Twp., were issued to Maria Elisabetha Berger, the widow, 18 Nov 1774 (Berks. Co. Wills & Administrations). Various documents in the Berks Co. Orphans Court Records dated 28 Nov 1774, 20 Feb 1775, 12 May 1775, and 11 May 1784 provide names of the ch. of
 Johann Christian² Berger:
 - i. Maria³, md. Philip Hehn.
 - ii. Johann Wilhelm³, called over 14 Yrs. old in Nov 1774.
 - iii. Georg Wilhelm³ (may be "Johann Wilhelm", #ii above).