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Dear Sir,


Please find attached the English translation of the "Gerlinger" document.

I hope it will be useful to you and help you with your investigations.

I am at your entire disposal in case you have any questions concerning this document.

Yours sincerely,

Friederike Moinard



GERLINGER 4

of Weitersweiler (district of Lützelstein), Alsace

Protestant. In several US American towns; not yet entirely explored branches in Mülhausen and Lembach, Alsace, as well as in the Palatinate.

The genealogical relation with the above discussed lineages "Gerlinger 1-3" from Franconia cannot be proved, but is very likely.

The ancestor of the Alsatian family, Christoph Gerlinger (I), having been pensioned off by the army, settled down in Weitersweiler just before 1657 with his wife Catharina from Frauenbreitungen, Thuringia. The marriage had already been performed in an unknown place around 1650 and the first children were born before the family settled down in Weitersweiler. The following registration of Catharina Gerlinger's death in the Weitersweiler church records gives several important indications of the ancestors' life:

"In 1686 Catharina Gerlinger, born in Frankenbreiting (Frauenbreitung), Thuringia, married in her 20th year during wartime to a soldier by the name of Christoph Gerlinger who afterwards became a citizen of this very village, with whom she lived as a wife for nearly 33 years, whom she has borne 7 children (5 sons and 2 daughters), has been buried here today, on February 19th, with Christian Consecration, in her 63th year and her 10th year of widowhood, as testified by the signatures of her own sons, Hans Michel Gerlinger, citizen of this village; Michel Gerlinger, citizen of this village."

Investigations of the registers of the Protestant church in Breitung (Frauenbreitungen), Thuringia, have so far not been successful.

The following line of descent can only be considered as the beginning of comprehensive investigations which have not yet been concluded. It essentially describes the lineage of a family branch established in the USA and has been drawn up at the request of Mister Alfred C. Gerlinger, manufacturer in Salem (Oregon).

Published in 1964 in Strasbourg, the history of Weitersweiler (which in the 17th century belonged to the dominion of Fleckenstein) mentions two school masters in Weitersweiler by the name of Gerlinger as early as 1700 - 1740 ("Un village du canton de la Petite-Pierre WEITERSWEILER", published in French and German by the Society of History and Prehistory of Zabern and surroundings).

The Alsatian Gerlinger line has brought forth farmers, foresters, clergymen, school masters, craftsmen, merchants and manufacturers.

For additional information, please refer to the introduction of "Gerlinger 1".

GERLINGER 1

of Münster (district of Mergentheim)

Protestant; in more recent times some branches have become Catholic by marriage. In Berlin, Bad Mergentheim, Creglingen (district of Mergentheim), Dortmund, Erlabronn (district of Schreinfeld), Frankfurt am Main, Gaggenau im Murgtal, Hartershofen near Ansbach, Heilbronn am Neckar, Ichenhausen near Günzburg, Leutershausen near Heidelberg, Ludwigshafen am Rhein, Mainz, Mannheim, Mörlbach near Ansbach, Munich, Niederrimbach (district of Mergentheim), Oberndorf near Rudersberg in Württemberg, Reudern (district of Nürtingen), Schönaich (district of Böblingen) Schriesheim near Heidelberg, Sesselbach (district of Mergentheim), Steinbach im Taunus, Viernheim an der Bergstraße, Wachbach, Waldmannshofen (all district of Mergentheim), Welzheim (district of Waiblingen), Wiesbaden, Würzburg as well as Vienna and Zurich.

There are no common armorial bearings and so far, no ancient family coat of arms has reliably been identified in any of the family branches. A more recent, coloured armorial drawing existing in two families (in Seldeneck and Schwarzenbronn, district of Mergentheim) represents a coat of arms which the Emperor Wenzel supposedly conferred on the "Franconian Gerlinger family" around 1400; it shows a golden tower with three pinnacles against a black background. Crest: 2 red-silver alternated buffalo horns. This coat of arms is probably a draft without any authentic foundation drawn by non-professionals in the middle of the 19th century.

Another coat of arms is used by a Swabian Gerlinger line whose possible genealogical relation with the Franconian line has so far not been established. This is the coat of arms of the Provosts of Gerlingen (also referred to as *Gerlinger* or *Gerringer* in the documents) whose male line has supposedly become extinct and who owned estates near Stuttgart (Holzgerlingen) and on Lake Constance. The coat of arms shows two red batons opposed to each other against a silver background. Crest: a demi-maiden holding a baton outstretched in each hand. No sufficient genealogical indications exist.

In 1935 the manufacturer Georg Carl Gerlinger from Berlin (Xe) finally adopted a new coat of arms for himself and his male descendants. It represents a golden mill-wheel with three spokes and twelve shovels against a black background. Helmet:

black-golden mantlings with a diagonally divided black-golden flight. The coat of arms was registered on November 20th, 1939 at the request of his son Heinz G. (submitter of the line of descent) under the number 3048/39 in the "German Book of Heraldry".

The American branch of an Alsatian-Palatine Gerlinger line (see line of descent "Gerlinger 4") has also adopted a new coat of arms during this century. The drawing of the coat of arms which does not indicate any colours shows a divided shield. In the upper part a star with five points, in the lower part two intertwined rings. Crest: three ostrich feathers. So far, no relation between the Alsatian Gerlingers and the Franconian main line can be proved.

According to the latest investigations, the oldest family seat known so far of the Franconian main line, located in Münster near Creglingen (district of Mergentheim), is mentioned for the first time in documents written in 1411 in relation to a Contz Gerlander or Gerlender. Contz Gerlander is referred to in the so-called "Register of the House of God" kept by the Münster priest K e c k (original in the Archives of the Princes of Hohenlohe in Neuenstein) as a land owner in Münster and the neighbouring hamlet Wieset which disappeared at the beginning of the 16th century (see copy in "Württembergisch Franken", Almanac of the Historic Society of Franconian Wurttemberg, Schwäbisch Hall, 1958, p. 33 ff.).

At the beginning of the 16th century, the name appeared outside Münster in the following villages of the present district of Mergentheim: Schirmbach (1553), Klingen (1538), Standorf (1547), Niederrimbach (1555), Creglingen (1563) and Streichenthal (1572). The orthography of the name varies significantly until around the middle of the 17th century. Besides the present spelling, there are *Gering*, *Gehring*, *Geringer*, *Gerringer*, *Gerling*, *Gärlinger* and so forth.

The significance of the name does not indicate that the family comes from a village called Gerlingen which exists in southern Germany as well as in Westphalia. The name is more likely to be related to the old German stem *ger* (= spear) and is possibly derived from the corresponding short names (Gero, Gerung, Gernand, Gerland) to which the suffix -ing has been added. Less probable, but not to be excluded is the derivation from *erl* (Anglo-Saxon: earl = free man) which might also be the origin of the root-words *Karl*, *Kerl*, *Kerling*. The family name *Kerlinger* can be

proved as early as the 14th century in Middle-Franconia (amongst others in Nordenberg and in Hartershofen, district of Rothenburg od der Tauber) but so far, no genealogical relations can be established (see "Monumenta Boica", Feudal Register of Gerlach von Hohenlohe 1344-88).

There is no reliable answer to the question as to whether all Gerlinger lines established in the Tauber valley descend from a common ancestor. However, in most cases a certain probability exists, given the proximity of the different villages where the name is first mentioned in the documents. The "Gerlinger 2" and "Gerlinger 3" lines of descent joined to this publication are part of this broad group.

Besides the Franconian Gerlinger lines, the following lines have been discovered, with which no genealogical relation can so far be proved:

- a. *Gerlingers of Weitersweiler, Alsace* with branches in Weißenburg (Alsace), Bergzabern (Palatinate), Groß-Bundenbach (Palatinate) and other villages in the Alsatian-Palatine border region as well as in the United States since the 19th century. The "Gerlinger 4" line partly discussed in the appendix to the main line of descent goes back to a Christoph Gerlinger who, having been pensioned off by the army, settled in Weitersweiler just before 1657 with his Thuringian wife Katharina. His descendants were amongst others farmers, forestry officers, manufacturers and theologians (investigations conducted by Christian Wolff, curator of the State Archives Administration in Strasbourg, 5 rue Fischart, and Heinz Gerlinger, Dortmund).
- b. *Gerlingers of the Swabian line*: Extensive investigations are yet to be conducted. At present, persons with this name live essentially in Stuttgart, Freiburg im Breisgau and Munich. It can be supposed that this line does not come from the Franconian region. In this case, the name could designate the place of origin. Examples of earlier mentions in documents which apparently do not concern members of the above line of the Provosts of Gerlingen: on November 12, 1481 Eberhard the Younger of Württemberg sold a farmstead in Eßlingen to the Stuttgart citizen Thomas Mutschler, called 'The Gerlinger' (source: "Urkunden und Akten des Königlich Württembergischen Haus- und Staatsarchivs", part 1-3, Stuttgart, 1916).

c. *Gerlingers of the Low-Bavarian line (Lanquaid, Abensberg)*. So far, this line has not been investigated. At the beginning and in the middle of the 19th century it brought forth philosophers, apothecaries, merchants and craftsmen (amongst others in Munich and Trèves).

The ancestor of the here-discussed Franconian line can be considered to be Mathäus G e r l i n g e r of Münster (district of Mergentheim) who is said to have died before the marriage of his daughter Margarethe in 1578 to Mathäus E r c k e r t , citizen of Creglingen. Thus, Margarethe G e r l i n g e r became one of the ancestresses of the still flourishing Franconian line E r c k e r t and v o n E r c k e r t , a family of officials and officers, to which the famous german colonial pioneer Captain Friedrich v o n E r c k e r t belonged.

The direct lineage between Michael G e r l i n g e r (II) and Hans G e r l i n g e r I (III) has not been proved by any document; nevertheless its probability is testified by the list of official position holders which forms part of the Münster "Village Regulations" dated 1584, as well as the so-called "Village Register" dated 1598 ff. Besides general chronical recordings, the "Village Register" mentions the names of persons occupying honorary offices in the village until the beginning of the 18th century, and thus completes the registers of the Protestant church of Münster which only go back to 1690. This source also indicates amongst others that during the hundred years from 1598 to 1698, members of the line have fourteen times held the position of mayor (village mayor). To a larger extent we find them during the same time period holding other offices (such as quartermaster, village valuer and others).

The sheep farm in Creglingen which Hans G e r l i n g e r II. (IV a) acquired by marriage in 1663 was originally the sheep farm of the Margraves of Ansbach (documented 1471). Since around the middle of the 16th century it has been in private hands, including the sheep-farming privileges. Up to the middle of last century, sheep-farming was the main source of income on the farm which in former times (until 1792) has been amongst the biggest estates of the Margraves' town. The importation of cheaper foreign wool made sheep farming less profitable and so the estate has changed to regular agriculture and stock-farming.

Up to the 19th century, the Franconian G e r l i n g e r lines were essentially made up of farmers. Only in recent times have

family members established themselves in craft, commercial and academic professions as well as in officialdom.

Several brief remarks on the history of the region where the family originated from: Located approximately three kilometers from Creglingen, Münster was mentioned in documents for the first time in 1232; however it is certainly among the most ancient villages of the Tauber valley and is considered as the residency of a so-called original parish. The village was essentially owned by the Counts of Hohenlohe-Brauneck or Weikersheim. Besides, the Masters of Rosenberg in Haltenbergstetten (at present in the district of Mergentheim) had owner rights until their extinction around the middle of the 17th century. In 1806 Münster finally transferred to Wurttemberg.

Since the beginning of the 13th century, Creglingen also belonged to the Counts of Hohenlohe-Brauneck. In 1349, at the instigation of Count Gottfried III., the Emperor Karl IV conferred the city rights on Creglingen. In 1448 the town was bought together with the dominion of Brauneck by Margrave Albrecht Achilles von Brandenburg-Ansbach. The Margraves' rule lasted until 1792. The Prussian authority which followed lasted only until 1806, after which time Ansbach-Bayreuth was divided between Bavaria and Wurttemberg, which transferred Creglingen and several other villages to Wurttemberg.

In 1963 (from September 27th to 29th), the Gerlinger line celebrated 300 years of ownership of its family estate (the sheep-farm) in the presence of many local and foreign family members as well as representatives of the State Government and other public offices. A brochure published on that occasion gives a series of important contributions to the family history (at present, out of stock).

The submitter of the line of descent has published the following studies on family history: "Ahnenliste der Geschwister Gerlinger" (List of ancestors of the Gerlinger brothers and sisters), in "Deutsches Familienarchiv", vol. 13, Neustadt a. Aisch, 1960; "Ein Fränkisches Soldatenschicksal aus der Zeit des Nordamerikanischen Unabhängigkeitskrieges (1777-83) (The destiny of a Franconian soldier during the North-American War of Independence), in "Familie und Volk", 6th year, 1957, p. 396 ff.)