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Posting on Shoemaker Family Genealogy Forum

Posted by: Andreas Frohnhaus (ID *****6679) Date: May 01, 2010 at 04:41:03
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Hello Schumacher researchers!

I am from Niederdollendorf (Germany), a little village at the eastern bank of the river Rhine. Niederdollendorf has been the birth place of Peter Schumacher, and two years ago I came upon the fantastic story about the life of the Schumacher family – from Niederdollendorf (Rhine valley) via Kriegsheim (Palatinate) to Germantown (Pennsylvania).

One of my first sources to research this splendid story was the Benjamin **Shoemaker** book. But the often times quoted text of Benjamin **Shoemaker** requires some little corrections and explanations:

Excerpt from Benjamin **Shoemaker**'s book "The Schumacher pioneers":
„In the Staats Archiv Dusseldorf is found the following "On the 15th February, 1655, there came before the rent controller, Agnes, widow of Arnold Schumacher, to state that she appoints Eithumb, her son-in-law, as trustee for Peter and **George**, both of age and guardian for her minor children:- Arnold, Treinchen (Catherine), and Adelgen (Adele)". This family had sold its possessions at Niederdollendorf, including many meadows, vineyards, and lands in and around the Siebengebirge, cooling equipment, stable and furniture to Gerhard von Bonn and his wife, Catherine Benders von Bonn, for 1440 taler. From this money they had to take 300 taler for debts, but the rest was divided among the children. They received free transportation to Mainz. Arnold **Shoemaker**'s widow was Agnes Roesen, and the family estate was from the mother's not the father's side. Agnes died soon after 1655. Of the minor children mentioned above, Arnold was the son of Arnold and Agnes; Adele was the daughter of Theiss (Matthias) Bonn, son-in-law of Agnes; about Catherine there is a question, although Peter **Shoemaker** did have a daughter, Catherine, who could have been named for Peter's sister.”

This is not completely correct. I own the original document which has the following content concerning the persons and their names, which appeared before the rent controller (Translation see below):

1. (Literal excerpt from the original document)

Wir Michael Heister Dinger unnd Rentmeister deß Ampts Lewenbergh unnd Gerharth Köhnen, Thiellen Diechman unnd Wallraff Vinckelß alle drey Scheffen deß Gerichtz und Dingstuls Oberdollendorff, unnd vorth wir ander Scheffen daselbst gemeinlich thun kundt unnd hiemitz öffentlichen bekennen daß vor unß persöhnlich kommen und

erscheinen sein Nießen W: Arndten

Schumechers nachgelassene Witib zu besagtem Dollendorff, unnd Theiß Bon dero Eithumb alß Liebzüchtere vörth Peter unnd Georgen ihre Großjährig Kindter dan auch Daniell Behren unnd Petter Rößen alß verordnete Vormündere so woll über Arendten Reußen alß Theißen Bönn deßen Eidumbh under jährigen Kinderen benentlich Berndten Arnolden Freuchen unnd Adelgen [...]

2. (German transscript)

Wir, Michael Heister, Dinger und Rentmeister des Amtes Löwenberg, und Gerhard Köhnen, Theill Diechmann und Wallraff Vinckels, alle drei Schöffen des Gerichtes und Dingstuhls Oberdollendorf, und weiterhin wir (vier?) andere Schöffen tun gemeinschaftlich kund und geben hiermit öffentlich bekannt, dass vor uns und persönlich gekommen und erschienen sind: Nießen („Agnes“) W., Witwe des verstorbenen Arndt („Arnold“) Schumecher und Theiß („Matthias“) Bonn, ihr Schwiegersohn, als Erben, weiterhin Peter und Georg, ihre volljährigen Kinder, sowie Daniel Behren und Peter Rößen als verordnete Vormünder sowohl über die minderjährigen Kinder sowohl von Arndt Rößen als auch Theiß Bonn, dessen Schwiegersohn, namentlich: Berndtgen („Bernhard“), Arnold, Freuchen („Veronika“) und Adlegen („Adelheid“) [...]

3. (English)

We, Michael Heister, judge and rent controller of the department Löwenberg, and Gerhard Köhnen, Theill Diechmann und Wallraff Vinckels, all the three of them jurymen (lay assessors) of the court and tribunal of Oberdollendorf, and, in addition, we (or „four“?) other jurymen (lay assessors) commonly declare and hereby publicly declare, that in front of us and personally have come and appeared: Nießen („Agnes“) W., widow of the deceased Arndt (=„Arnold“) Schumecher, and Theiß (=„Matthias“) Bonn, her son-in-law, as inheritors, furthermore Peter and Georg, her full-aged children, as well as Daniel Behren and Peter Rößen (or Reussen) as assigned guardians for the under-aged children as well of Arndt Rößen (or Reussen) as of Theiß Bonn, his son-in-law, by name: Berndtgen („Bernhard“), Arnold, Freuchen („Veronika“) and Adelgen („Adelheid“) [...]

Regarding the text of Benjamin Schumacher, this means in particular:

- There exists no person with the name “Eithumb”. “Eithumb” or “Eidumbh” is not a name but is an archaic german word for “Schwiegersohn”(german) = son-in-law
- There exists an additional child named “Berndgen” = (little) Bernhard
- There is no child named “Treinchen” = (little) Catherine. Instead of her there is a child named “Freuchen”=(little) Veronica. “-gen” and “-chen” are german suffixes for “little”. This was probably a transcript error of a researcher with the name Walter Risler, who published an extract of the document in 1956. Note: This makes sense: Peter Schumacher had a daughter “Veronica” – later on called “Francis”
- It is not certifiable whether the 4 (!) minor children are from Arnold Schumacher and Agnes Rößen, the parents of Peter and **George**, or they – or some of them – are from Theiss (Matthias) Bonn, the son-in-law.
- Certainly there existed another Schumacher daughter – the wife of Theiss Bonn -. It is not identifiable, why she did not appear at the court with the other persons. Perhaps she was already dead at that time or she belonged to the under-aged children (which is not

very probable).

- Certainly Peter and **George** were children of Agnes Roesen and Arnold Schumacher, but the assumptions of Benjamin **Shoemaker** concerning the relationships of the children are altogether very questionable. Furthermore there is no historic proof for them.

Many greetings to America
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