

Wiederhold from Udenhausen, district Hofgeismar

The genealogical table of Hans Wiederhold who married Elizabeth Matthies in 1643 is nearly complete. It extends over 11 generations and contains those Wiederhold descendents which spread the name. Up until 1985 this includes in Germany around 270 persons. Only one of them, Samuel, immigrated. Samuel, of the 6th generation, married Lisette Zwernemann and went to America in 1853. Two of his sons and two of his daughters grew to adulthood. One of his sons, George, who married Bertha Weber in 1880, had 348 descendents. In the American manner the female descendents are also counted who after marriage carry the name of the husband. It can also be assumed that Samuel's other children multiplied just as much. That would be altogether around 1400 descendents mostly in Texas. We had at first the intention to include the existing 348 descendents in our genealogical table but to that end it would come to be 3 times so great. This exceeds our strength now and is also not necessary. The Mormon Branch of the family already has a large part in list form. We can in place of this concern ourselves with the origin of the other lines of the family.

As a first name Uidarolt is already documented in the 9th century, to be sure in 827 and 838. The form Widerold occurred since the beginning of the 13th century and was soon thereafter taken as a family name. Almost in the middle of this 400 year gap of time fits a discovery that was made a few years ago that a Widerold was the Bishop of Strassburger Munster from 991-999. As such he carried on the work of reconstruction of the closter church of Eschau, about 12 km south of there.

In 1987 a book appeared as a reprint which had come out already between 1788-1791. It contains a description of the property and claims of the count William IX and is not easy for a German speaking person of today to understand. Some of it from this book will interest us. In short:

The inhabitants reached a high age. At least one out of every 100 burials reached the age of 70-80. - In 1318 and 1321 Udenhausen first became names. - They had to perform (besides taxes and harvest payments) hunting services and road building services. - A "Hufe" (60-100 acres) contained as much land as was necessary to support a farmer together with his family. It was loaned out to them as feudal tenure. Hereditary land from forefathers is mostly

fruitful land. That means they have rooted out or cleared the land. - In 1787 there were 466 inhabitants, 300 dwellings and a mainstreet which had pavement. - Udenhausen was and is still a sister congregation of Hombressen.

I have therefore searched in the oldest church records of Hombressen and found something. In 1650 the sister of the previous ancestral father Hans, namely Elizabeth, married Johann Geule. Beside that in 1653 the mother of Hans and Elizabeth was buried there without name and age recorded and the father, Heinrich, was buried also. If I had read correctly, and this is very difficult, the father died at the age of 74 years. That's all the church books tell.

In 1570 the brothers Hermann and Albert W. paid a clearing tax and a garden tax for land on which the family had cleared the forest. One of the brothers could have been the grandfather of Hans and Elizabeth. In 1570 Trina paid taxes also and she was the mother of Hermann and Albert in Hombressen. A Henrich in Helmarshausen is only mentioned to the extent. He was a lawyer and judge. Only on the margin stands also Johannes who in 1568 in nearby Deisel in the office of Trendelburg made payments and in 1537 also a Heinrich did likewise.

Through the laterally divided outline page with the Headline "Wiederhold out of Helmarshausen" will the aforementioned become clearer. Pay attention though that only those relationships be considered secure which are connected with interesting lines.

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