

Johann Adam Lederer 1692-1774

Ducal Counsel and Abbot of Maulbronn

Ducal Counsel Johann Adam Lederer* was a native of Geradstetten. He was born the son of the then Buergermeister and later mayor [Schultheiss] Johannes Lederer* on 11 Sept. 1692. These were hard times. The French Army had pressed its advance forward to Stuttgart and ravaged the Neckarland and the Palatinate in the succession war of the Grand Alliance. Johann's entry in the Geradstetten Baptimsal, Marriage, and Death Record Book announces:

[Here Herr Rilling's original reproduces the entry in that book]

His professional vitae in short:

After studies in Theology at Tuebingen,

Assistant Dean in Goeppingen	1728
Dean in Bietigheim	1738
Dean in Vaihingen/Enz	1748
Probst in Herbrechtingen	1759
Abbot and General Superintendent in Maulbronn	1761-73
Assistant Judge of the Citizen District Board	1765 -?
Member of the Select Board	1773-74

[Dean and Probst are church hierarchy titles, the former still in use in the British Isles.]

In 1728 he married Anna Margarthe Hopfenstock, and after her death in 1740 entered a second marriage with Rosine Dorothea, born Eisenkraemer, the widow of his dead brother Matthias Friedrich*. The latter likewise studied theology and worked as secretary in the Ducal Church Council. His son Carl Friedrich worked later as Bailiff and Storageman in Lauffen a. N. [Translator's note: Matthias appears to be Georg Lederer's son, not Johann Adam's brother.]

Johann Adam Lederer's contributions are to be seen in the context of Wuerttemberg history. Since 1744, the young Duke Carl Eugen officially ruled the Duchy. On the basis of the civil reforms of 1567 the district citizens [bueugerliche "Landschaft], however, had considerable consultative rights. The officials and magistrates of the towns and villages elected 70 delegates to represent them. The monastery officials were represented through their prelates, acknowledged as a second estate alongside the district citizens.

Next to these were a Board of Selectmen ["Engerer Ausschuss"] consisting of two prelates and six delegates, which could be further enlarged by additional delegates of the district citizens and two more prelates to the Greater District Board ["Grossen Ausschuss"] These Boards were a permanent standing body for protection of district citizen rights. As legally constituted advisory councils, the citizen boards were a consultative district body that had major influence.

The Duke remained in possession of his extensive and profitable ducal holdings, whose revenues were freely at his disposal. For all other state obligations independent of these, he needed the approval of the Boards for additional taxes.

In 1759 Duke Carl Eugen unjustly incarcerated his civil counselor Johann Jakob Moser at Hohentwiel. The citizens turned therefore to the imperial court in Vienna, which succeeded in compelling the Duke to agree to the so-called “Hereditary Resolutions” [“*Erbvergleich*”; Note we are concerned here with the evolution from a feudal to a modern civil state]. With this the Duke had to come to terms with the Board of Selectmen [“*Engerer Ausschuss*”], which thus continued to strengthen its influence on Wuerttemberg politics.

Johann Lederer was a member of this Board in his capacity as Prelate of Maulbronn. The year after the Hereditary Resolution, the “*Serenissimus*” [His serenity, the Duke] complied and convened the Board of Selectmen.

I. N. D

d. 23 Nov. 1773

Nachdeme Serenissiums per Rescriptum clementissimum of 23 Oct. same year, it is nobly resolved to call to order the Select Board on the 23rd of this month, the Greater Board six days later, namely the 29th, to assemble here. So have the following respectfully found

Herr Praelat Stockmayer of Bebenhausen

Herr Praelat Lederer of Maulbronn

On 28 June 1774 Johann Adam Lederer died during a meeting of this board. A gravestone in the southern wing of the Maulbronn Monastery commemorates this native son of Geradstetten.