

Two Documents from the Middle Ages

First Mention of the Town Name of Geradstetten 1291

According to old writings the town name Geradstetten first appeared in the year 1238, but for this there is no documented proof. In the *Annales Svevici* of Mr. Crusius [Swabian historian] of 1595, a purchase agreement for a vineyard in Schorndorf is referenced in which Rufo de Gerhartstetin, *al dictus Wingarter* [aka vineyardman] is listed as a witness. The cited document of 1290 (WUX IX Nr. 3933) is no longer to be found.

Geradstetten was first mentioned in [an extant] document on 8 Jan. 1291. Count Eberhard I “Der Erlauchte” [“The Illustrious”] of Württemberg sold a farm in Schorndorf and prepared a purchase document in connection with this. Again “Rufoni de Gerhartstetin” was mentioned as one of the witnesses.

The document, now presented, is dated 8 January 1291. It is written in Latin and reads:

*Eberhardus de Wirtenberc comes literarum inspectoribus universis salutem cum notitia subscriptorum. Recognoscimus pagina presenti et simpliciter confitemur, quod curiam nostrani apud Schorndorf sitam, quam excolebat dictus Hovesaze, viris discretis Cunrado quondam sculteto, **Rufoni de Gerhartstetin, Al. dicto Wingarter, Hanrico filio dicti Junge, Cunrado dicto Blankeli, Cunrado dicto Bernhart, Gernoto fratri Engellini, Hainrico sutori et Sifrido cerdoni** civibus nostris de Schorndorf et eorum heredibus universis utriusque sexus pro centum et viginti libris denariorum Hallensis monete nobis ab eisdem integraliter exsolutis cum omnibus suis pertinentiis nec non cum vero dominio vendidimus et venditionis tytulo traditimus ac donavimus libere ac absolute ita, quod nec nobis aut aliquibus nostris successoribus vel civibus de Schorndorf aliqua stiura vel servitia de predicta curio et eius attinentiis impendantur, nullam etiam nobis spem recuperande possessionis nichil iuris vel occasionis in prefata curia aut eius pertinentiis reservantes. Renuntiamus insuper exceptioni deceptionis ultra dimidiam partem iusti pretii doli malitie pacti conventi actioni in factum et generaliter omni exceptioni seu defensionis, ex quibus posset tractatus prefatus vel instrumentum inde confectum aliquialiter vitiari vel quibus mediantibus principaliter vel incidenter tacite vel expresse directe vel etiam indirecte de iure facto vel consuetudine coram quocunque iudice vel extra iudicium quicquam posset in prefactorum civium aut heredum ipsorum aliquale preiudicium attemptari. Ad habundantem vero cautelam sepefactis civibus et eorum heredibus ab evictione cavebrimus in suprascripto casu iuxta terre consuetudinem generalem. Et in evidens omnium premissorum testimonium literas presentes ipsis dedimus sigilli nostri munimine roboratas.*

Datum Schorndorf, anno domini MCCLXXXI, VI idus Januarii

(Seal lost)

Concerning the persons mentioned in the document, we can report:

Rufo De Gerhartstetin, *alias dictus Wingerter*, that is Rufo of Geradstetten, also known as vinyardman. The Swabian occupations and family names of the witnesses are evident to the attentive reader in the Latin text.

Count Eberhard I of Württemberg (1265-1325) “The Illustrious,” also called “*Der Zänker*” [The Quarrelsome], was the son of the first Württemberg Count Ulrich I, the seller in the purchase document. A powerful figure, of whom his contemporaries already said: God’s friend and enemy to all others in the world! Together with his father he created the basis for the later Duchy of Württemberg.