

Geradstetten Family Names in Early Times

Only a few family names from the times before the Reformation survive to this day [in Geradstetten]. We find actual lists of names only in the 16th Century in connection with tax records and the registration of property. The first complete recording of all inhabitants appeared at the end of the Thirty Years' War [1618-1648], when the church register, which was lost in the town hall fire, was again restored.

Individuals in Old Records

In a Schorndorf purchase record of 1291, the name *Rufoni de Gerhartstetin, alias dicto Wingarter*, that is, Rufo from Geradstetten, known also as Vineyarder, appears among a list of witnesses. Nothing more is known about him. A good 200 years later we find two more Geradstetten names on a parchment document. Deeming it no longer needed, Pastor Vochenzer cut up the document and used it for the cover of his 1532 revenue records book [*Zinsbuch*]. Preserved in this way, two more names come to us, partners in a retail business: Linhart Scheckeler and Merklin Stulhart.

Name Lists in the 16th Century

As you might expect, an exact recording of tax records brings us the first list. The so called *Herdstättenlisten* served, after the expulsion of Duke Ulrich, to reestablish equitable tax lists, after his poor administration had brought matters into disorder. The survey took place in 1525 and encompassed a register of all **AHerdstätten**,^o that is buildings. In total, 110 houses were counted, of which 73 were under Württemberg administration and 37 under Zillhardt administration. [Geradstetten was then divided between land under the dominion of the Duke of Württemberg, and the independent holdings of the Zillhardt family.]

In the **Türkensteuerhebungen** of 1545 [Tax Surcharge Assessment because of the threat of the advancing Turks], the assets of all inhabitants were evaluated. A half percent was to be paid by all town-s people. These lists are still intact, but in contrast to the above, they are not easy to read. About 100 people were assessed, from which one concludes that Geradstetten had then about 500 inhabitants.

In 1588, the landlords of the Zillhardt family ordered from a Gmünd notary an accounting of all their land. The document closed with an alphabetical index of the names of all Geradstetten tenants. In the preamble to this account book, the magistrates of the town were cited by name. They were Georg Bannholz as mayor of the Württemberg lands, Michael Wechteler as mayor of Zillhard lands, and as town council, Michael Hoft, Georg Lederer, Hans Hockstul, Michael Schilling, Hans Eisenbraun* and Claus Wolleben.

The Oldest Church Register of Geradstetten

This book was established by Pastor Joh. Brand (1656-61) after the Treaty of Westphalia [which ended the Thirty Years War]. In his introduction he maintained that the old book was lost or destroyed by the town hall fire of 1638. Pastor Brand counted 57 families with 183 souls [Seelen]. War and epidemic had done their job.

For comparison with the current day family names of Geradstetten, the table at the end of this section also shows the name tabulations from the 1996 census.

Pastor F. Drehmann's Work on the Oldest Church Register

Pastor F. Drehmann worked on a restoration of the oldest Church Register during his service as pastor (1882-97). He was occupied intensively with town history and planned a publication of the town chronicle. These facts appeared to be well known to his superior authorities. In 1897 he was transferred to Giengen on the Brenz, and there he restored and completed the lost family register from 1808 back to 1650!

Using baptismal, marriage, and death registers, Pastor Drehmann compiled so far as possible all the vital statistics of people who lived in Geradstetten until the beginning of the 19th Century. The Church Register is thus a true treasure trove for those with historical interests. An index at the end of the volume helps the user find specific people.

He wrote the results of his research in the empty pages of the original book, and these are thus unfortunately hard to follow. The last page [shown in Rilling's book] of the Register gives the reader an impression of this difficulty. It is concerned with Bader Bartholmäus Barchet.

Bader or Balbierer [Barber, and as well a kind of homespun surgeon, medical man.] B. Barchet was born in Geradstetten in 1611, shortly before the beginning of the Thirty Years War. He lost his first wife after a short marriage, and then fate brought him to the Alsace, where in 1638 he married his second wife. The three oldest children were born in France, the son stayed in Verdun, the daughter married a Grunbach vineyardman. Along with many of his fellow Wüttembergers (including the Duke), Barchet fled ahead of the war disorders to Alsace. After his return to the Rems valley, six more children were born.

First Mention of Geradstetten Family Names in the Oldest Geradstetten Church Register of 1661

The reader should observe in the listings below that Pastor Drehmann in many cases had to confine himself to the short hand remark "non liquet" (unknown, not traceable).

Bader*, Hanns, vineyardman, from Kernerhof and sometimes also Rollhof, born 27 April 1617

in Grunbach, died 5 Nov. 1691

1. Married in 1643 to Maria, legitimate daughter [eheliche Tochter] of Martin Kuntz from Korb, four children.

2. Married in 1673 to Catharina, surviving widow of Melchior Bästlin from Endersbach, two sons.

The name shows up already in Geradstetten in 1525.

Bauer, Jacob, vineyardman, born about 1619, died 12 March 1662.

1. Married 1639 to Maria, Hanns Lederer's daughter, George Eisenbraun's widow, raised two children.

2. Married 1647 to Barbara, Hanns Ruoffen's legitimate daughter. Two Children

The name is known in Geradstetten since 1525

Beck, Johann Leonhard, *Ochsenwirth* (Innkeeper of the Ox Inn), born around 1689, died 24 February 1725

Married to Johanna, two children

The name is known in Geradstetten since 1525

Bühler, Matheus, member of town council, mayor, vineyardman, owner of the current town hall, born 20 Dec. 1626, died 2 March 1688.

1. Married 1647 to Margreth, Hanss Bäurer's legitimate daughter, nine children

2. Married 1676 to Katherina, nee Barchet, four children

The name is known in Geradstetten since 1588.

Eheman* (Ehmann), Wendel, administrator, vineyardman and school master from 1675-81, born 1625 in Hauperbronn, son of school master there, died 10 June 1693.

Married here in 1650 to Margarethe, Michael Weber's surviving legitimate daughter.

Four children.

A resident since 1650.

Eisenbraun*, Peter, vineyardman and bailiff since 1641/42. Born 3 March 1594, died 2 April 1677.

1. Married in 1612 to Anna, Hanns Balmer's legitimate daughter. One son.

2. Married Catherina, daughter of Michael Schwarz of Grunbach, Conrad Hampers widow, lived with her for one and three-quarters of a year, no children.

3. Married here on 14 March 1647 to Dorothea, Jacob Daudel's legitimate daughter from Königsbrunnhof, in Ruderberger Stab. Three children.

The name is known in Geradstetten since 1588.

Franck, Wilhelm, Bürger and Tailor, born 1588, died 9 Dec. 1657.

Married Maria. [Evidently Wilhelm died, and Maria] remarried with Christoph Rau, tailor, moved to Cannstatt

The name shows up in Geradstetten since 1545.

Fritz, Hans, vineyardman, born about 1641, died 4 Dec. 1715.

1. Married 1664 to Maria, nee Thoni. 14 children.

2. Married 1704 to Elisabetha *vidnota* Heermann of Weiler. One child

The name shows up in Geradstetten since 1545.

Glaser*, Jacob, schoolmaster and stonemason or painter (Maurer or Maler) born around 1593, died 18 July 1677.

1. Married to Euphrosina, who died in 1658. Two children.

2. Married 1659 to Anna *vid dest verst.* [widow of] Joseph Rümer from Schorndorf, town councilman in Grossheppach, no children.

Resident in Geradstetten since 1641.

Hasert*, Jacob, vineyardman from Hebsack, born 1615 or 1622, died 5 March 1692.

1. Married 1649 to Barbara, surviving daughter of Hanns Palmer from Schnait. Six children.

2. Married ? To Agnes, no children.

3. Married here in 1678 to Catherina, Hanns Nähers surviving daughter. Four children

Born in Hebsack, moved to Geradstetern before 1649.

Kurz* [Kurtz], Georg?, vineyardman born 1600, died 26 December 1670.

1. Married to Anna, legitimate daughter of Hanss Mayerle of Winterbach. Four children.

Kurz*, ? Town councilman, church treasurer, tailor, born 1606, died 18 July 1688.

1. Married in 1631 to Margreth, legitimate daughter of Fritz Stofel. Two Children.

2. Married in 1635 to Margreth, Hanns Andress Villinger-s widow, Johannes Braitmayer-s daughter. One child.

3. Married in 1639 to Maria, Georg Ran... s legitimate daughter, Hanns Nuding-s widow. Two children.

4. Married in 1678 to Elisabetha *vit.* Haisch

The name appears for the first time in Geradstetten in 1588.

Lederer*, Michael, vineyardman, born Dec. 1607, died 29 June 1691

1. Married 1640 to Anna, legitimate daughter of Hanns Schwägler of Beutelsbach. Six children.

2. Married 1658 to Kungundis, legitimate daughter of Bartholomaj Barchet, Burger and Balbierer . Five children.

The name appears in Geradstetten since 1588.

Mack*, Andreas. Vineyardman of Bauersberg, born 1628 in Grunbach, died 20 May 1702, son of Hans Mack of Laichingen?

1. Married 1655 to Catherina nee Hohl from Grunbach. In Geradstetten since 1768 [sic]. Eight children.
2. Married to Gertrude nee Hoheysen from Hösslwart. Two children.

Resided in Geradstetten since 1680.

Mayerle, Georg *Der Kieffer*, Mayor of Zillhardt lands since 1677, before that member of town council, born 2 Sept. 1612, died 2 March 1699 in Geradstetten.

1. Married 1633 to Catherina, legitimate daughter of Georg Kurtz of Grunbach. One child, died immediately.
2. Married 1636 to Barbara, Fritz Stoffel's widow. N.B. She was known as Mayerlin in the War, kept herself away for a time in foreign lands, and was given up for dead. The marriage courts then gave permission for a third marriage:
3. Married 1644 to Apollonia, legitimate daughter of Andreas Fritz. 12 children.

The name Mayerle is known in Geradstetten since 1640

Nuding*, Georg, of Bauersberg, farmer, vineyardman, bailliff [Büttel] born 1628 at Schnait, died 13 Jan 1709, married 1651 to Anna, daughter of Johannes Baur of Hösslinswarth. 13 children. The name is known in Geradstetten since 1640.

Palmer*, Jacob, administrator, mayor [Bürgermeister] since 1641, mayor [Schultheiss] of the Württemberg part of Geradstetten 1660-1668. Born 1608, died 24 Dec. 1676

1. Married 1632 to Anna, daughter of Mayor Johann Braitmaier. Three children.
2. Married 1654 to Anna Maria, daughter of Matthias Rosch from Buoch, four children.

Palmer*, Hanns, Mayor of the Württemberg part of Geradstett, 1669, before that administrator, 1661. Born 1620 here, died 23 Sept. 1677.

Married 1647 to Maria, daughter of Jacob Banholtz of Hebsack, 14 children.

Palmer*, David, vineyardman, born 1624, died 12 March 1694.

Married 1647 to Anna Maria, legitimate daughter of Jacob Glaser, the schoolmaster. Ten children.

The name Palmer appears since 1525 in many documents.

Retter*, Jacob, Mayor of the Zillhardt part of Geradstetten, for a time simultaneously Bürgermeister, born Dec. 1610, died 5 Oct. 1692.

1. Married 1635 to Barbara, David Müller's legitimate daughter, lived ten days in marriage.
2. Married Margreht, Michael Laihle's legitimate daughter. One child.
3. Married 1640 to Margreht, legitimate daughter of Hanss Schwägler of Beutelspach, seven children.
4. Married 1669 to Margrehta, Michael....'s legitimate daughter. Five children

The name is known in Geradstetten since 1588.

Rommel, Steffan, vinyardman, born 1594, died 20 Jan. 1670.
Name is known in Geradstetten since 1588.

Schaal*, Georg, vinyardman, born 1614, died 28 August 1688
1. Married in 1636 to Maria, legitimate daughter of Jacob Kurtz, eight children
The name is known in Geradstetten since 1588.

Schmid, Jacob, Bauersberg, farmer, born ? here, died ? unknown.
1. Married in 1655 to Maria, daughter of Bernhard Heppeler of Strumpfelbach, 1 child.
2. Married in 1660 to Eva, daughter of Hans Brecht of Eichenkirnberg, 5 children.
The name is known since 1525.

Seibold, Hans, vineyardman, birth and death dates unknown, alive in 1690. [Translator's note:
born 14 Feb. 1639 in Grunbach, according to ÄtKB]
1. Married to Catharina, born Wieland, 13 children.
Lived in Grunbach after his marriage there in 1661.

Sigle, Stephan, vineyardman, born 1625 in Buolbronn, Adelberger Ampts, (moved to
Geradstetten in 1650), died 14 March 1694.
1. Married in 1650 to Afra, George Weber's daughter from here, 5 children.
2. Married in 1687 to Margarethe, born Retter, 0 children.
Moved here after 1650.

(Thoni), Dohni, Michael, butcher, *Amptverweser*, member of town council, apparently also
innkeeper, born 1615, died 22 October 1693.
Married 1638 to Cartharina, legitimate daughter of Hanss Vogel, 11 children,

Dohni, Jacob, vineyardman, born 1620, died 12 January 1691.
1. Married in 1647 to Anna, widow of Hanss Jacob of Steinen an der Murr.
2. Married 1664 to Anna Maria, daughter of Johann Dietrich Hahn from Franconia. No
children.
The name is known since 1661.

Walther, Michael, vineyardman, born at Aurbach in 1595, died 22 Feb. 1660.
1. Married in 1623 to Appolonia, widow of Zwicker, no children.
2. Married in 1634 to Margreht, widow of Jacob Bühler from Hebsach
3. Married in 1638 to Anna, legitimate daughter of Georg...from Aurbach
4. Married in 1640 to Anna, daughter of Endress Meinle from Aurbach, 3 children from
this marriage.
Lived here since 1645

Weber*, Jacob, shopkeeper, born at Grunbach 10 August 1606, died 24 Dec. 1666.

1. Married in 1633 to Catherina, no children.

2. Married in 1636 to Catherina, legitimate daughter of Leonhard Sauele? of Buch, 7 children.

The name is known since 1525.

From all of the above, it can be determined that the family names Ba(ä)der, Palmer and Weber were found in the earliest times, in addition to certain names like Hockstul, Barchet, Laihle, Schechterle, Scheckterler, Wechteler, Hoff, Schilling and Wolleben, that no longer exist in Geradstetten. The common names of today, Beck(er), Mack and Siegle appear first in the 17th Century.

Compilation of the 16th Century Common names in Geradstetten

Name	HstL	TueStl	Zillh. LB	Ält KiB	EWVerz	
	1525	1545	1588	1661	1996 Ger.	Rhldn.
Bader, Bäder	1	3	1	1	14	17
Bauer, Bur, Pur	1	1	2	0	19	41
Beck, Becker	2	0	0	0	9	35
Eisenbraun	0	0	2	1	1	13
Hockstul	5	4	2	0	0	0
Kurz	0	0	2	5	31	72
Lederer	0	0	2	3	59	65
Laihle, Loehle	1	2	6	1	0	1
Loss, Loess	1	2	2	1	0	0
Mack	0	0	0	1*	19	23
Maier, Mayerlin	1	1	2	4	34	86
Palmer	4	0	6	6	45	58
Schechlerle	0	0	2	0	0	0
Scheckerler	1	1	1	0	0	0
Schuh, Schuch	4	2	0	0	3	3
Siegle	0	0	0	1*	55	71
Vogel	3	1	1	1	8	11
Vollmar	4	1	0	0	3	4
Weber	5	6	0	3	11	37
Wechteler	3	0	3	0	0	0
Ziegler	2	2	6	0	2	8

*Move in 1650

HstL =Herstätten list of 1525, Tax Survey of Buildings

TueStl =Asset Survey for the Turkish War Tax

ZillhLB =Zillhardt Record of 1588, description of the land holdings of the Zillhardt and Württemberg Land Owners

ÄtKB =Oldest Geradstetten Church Register of 1661. First complete record of all the inhabitants after the Thirty Years War

EWVerz =Census of the Community of Remshalden

Ger = Geradstetten

Rh = Remshalden