

Striking Gold in Steinwenden

By Eric Dysinger
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Genealogy research has its rewards when new information is found and sometimes the reward is a gold mine. I was hoping to find new information, any new information, about Barthel Deissinger and his family in Steinwenden, Germany. After gaining access to the church records in Steinwenden, I did not realize what I was getting myself into in my research but the church records became a book I could not put down.

Frank Disinger of Lockport, NY, who had been researching Deissinger records for 40 years before retiring, wrote a monograph in 2006 called *Das Deutsch Cereindung* (The German Connection) and in the last paragraph of that monolith he wrote this message: “Naturally my conclusion must be that somewhere in Germany Bathel's parents can be documented. Possibly through our improved computer technology that will become a reality and of course the ever growing Deissinger "Tree" will continue to expand.” At the Disinger reunion in July 2013 in Lockport, NY, I humbly presented Frank with the answer to his monograph and then some.

Barthel's Father

- Johan (Hans) Georg Deissinger is the name of Barthel's father. His name is recorded in the marriage record of Barthel and Maria Magdalena (fig. 1)
- Hans Georg died in Steinwenden on Jan. 23, 1710 at the age of 65 years
- Hans Georg's death record indicates his profession as a baker and a burger (recognized citizen)

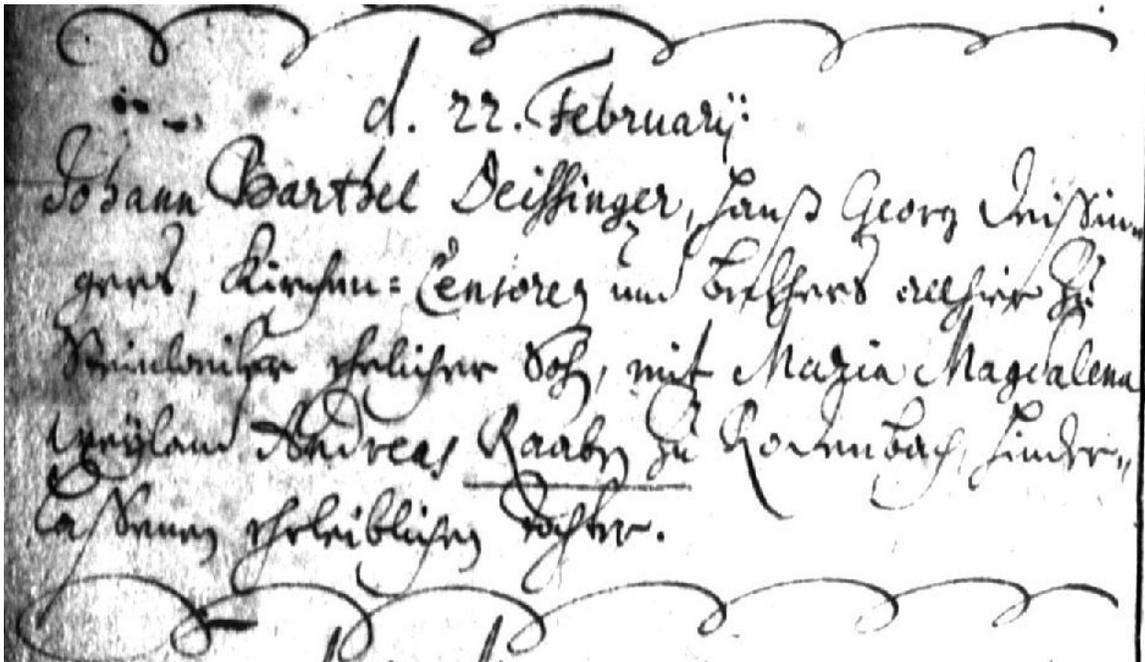


Fig. 1 Barthel Deissinger and Maria Magdalena Raab marriage record

Barthel's Mother

Once Hans Georg was located, my research turned to finding Barthel's mother. I needed to see if I could find the marriage record of Hans Georg and I found it in the church records in another town outside of Steinwenden.

- Johan (Hans) Georg Deissinger married Catharina Seyler in May of 1672 in the town of Wolfstein, Germany
- Catharina was born on Sept. 29, 1656 in Beinstein, Germany to Ludwig and Anna Seyler
- Catharina died in Steinwenden on Aug. 4, 1726

This is an important find because it gives the first clue where the Deissingers resided prior to Steinwenden.

Barthel's Brothers and Sisters

Hans Georg and Catharina Deysinger had 9 children in total that I have been able to find researching the Steinwenden church records.

- Catharina – Unknown Birth but eldest child
 - Married Peter Lud on Jan. 8, 1697 in Steinwenden
 - Johan Henrich Lud bapt. on Oct. 27, 1697 in Steinwenden
- Susanna – Bapt. 1680 and died Jan. 2, 1694 in Steinwenden
- Johan Barthel – Born 1681 or 1682 in Steinwenden – Emigrated to America
- Abraham – Bapt. Oct. 20, 1685 and died Nov. 21, 1693 in Steinwenden
- Anna Margretha – Bapt. Aug. 10, 1687 in Steinwenden
- Eva – Bapt. Jul. 15, 1689 in Steinwenden
- Johan Michael – Bapt. Sept. 8, 1691 and died Jan. 15, 1694 in Steinwenden
- Johan Jonas – Bapt. Jan. 9, 1695 in Steinwenden
- Johan Samuel – Bapt. Jul. 22, 1696 in Steinwenden

Barthel's Grandfather

Just as I had found Barthel's father on Barthel's marriage record to Maria Magdalena, there was a father's name listed on the Hans Georg and Catharina Deysinger marriage record. Theobald Deissinger (fig. 2) is the father of Hans Georg and the grandfather of Barthel Deissinger.

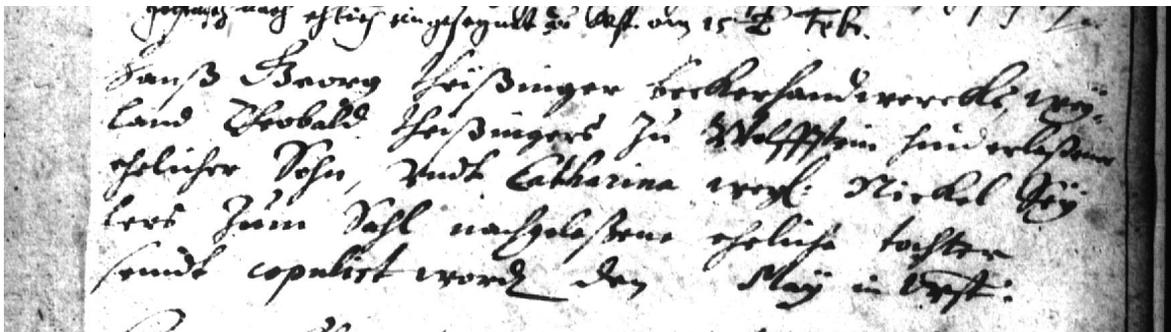


Fig. 2 Marriage record of Hans Georg Deissinger and Catharina Seyler in Wolfstein, Germany. The second line shows Hans Georg's father as Theobald Deissinger.

Final Thoughts

While this are awesome finds to extend our Deissinger family back two generations in Germany, it creates new avenues of research. We know there are Deissingers currently residing in Germany today and it is interesting to see where this connection is to them. However, we are one branch of the Deissingers and the research I am doing is close to the edge of written records in Germany. The connection may exist prior to written history, which would be unfortunate and unsolvable, but hopefully I can find the connection and have another gold strike moment as I did finding Barthel's family.