

descriptions, including kings, counts, dukes, landgraviates, and archbishops, to name a few. Many of these units, particularly the smaller ones, were treated more like family property than sovereign states, and their boundaries and owners changed frequently. Indeed there is evidence that in 1454 much of the land around Pfaffen-Beerfurth was pawned by its then owner. Apparently, in 1478 the region came into the possession of an ecclesiastic group in Heidelberg. According to some sources, beginning around the 15th century, Pfaffen-Beerfurth came under the control of the Count of Erbach, who held it in fief to the Palatinate. Apparently in 1739, it was sold by the Palatinate and then repurchased 15 years later. Historical maps from around 1635 and as late as 1789 show that the area around Reichelsheim was part of Grafschaft Erbach (County Erbach), under the control of the Count of Erbach.

The Palatinate itself spanned the Rhine River, with the bulk of the territory on the left, or west, side of the Rhine. Near the end of the 18th Century, most of the Palatinate west of the Rhine came under French control. In 1806, after the hereditary line of Palatinate rulers died out, much of the Palatinate on the right, or east, bank of the Rhine was divided between Hesse –Darmstadt and Baden. At that time, the area around Reichelsheim along with Erbach became part of Hesse-Darmstadt.

In the first half of the 16th Century, much of what is now Hesse was under the control of Philip the Magnanimous (1509-1567). After Philip's death, his Hessian lands were divided among four heirs, with the largest two portions being Hesse-Kassel and Hesse-Darmstadt. Following some consolidation with smaller states, Hesse-Kassel to the north and Hesse-Darmstadt to the south comprised most of what is now the State of Hesse.

According to a number of sources, the Klinger name appears in Beerfurth as early as 1483. Similarly, a number of sources trace the ancestry of Peter Klinger and his father Philip back to Georg Klinger, a mayor of Beerfurth, who was born about 1618 and apparently died before 1694. This ancestry is given below.

Ancestors of Peter Klinger

--- 1st Generation ---

1. Johann Peter Klinger was born on 3 Nov 1773, Reading, Berks County, PA. He married Catharina Steinbruch, daughter of Adam Steinbrecher and Anna Margaretha Hoffman, circa 1791, Lykens Twp., Dauphin County, PA. He died on 10 Aug 1858, Lykens Twp., Dauphin County, PA, at age 84. He was buried at Klinger's Church, Erdman, Dauphin County, PA.

--- 2nd Generation ---

2. Johann Philip Klinger was born on 11 Jul 1723, Pfaffen-Beerfurth, Hesse, Germany. He married Anna Elizabeth Heist on 22 Oct 1744, Reichelsheim. He married Eva Elizabeth Beilstein, daughter of John Jacob Beilstein and Anna Elizabeth Rettich, on 21 May 1754, Neunkirchen, Germany. He died on 30 Sep 1811, Schuylkill County, PA, at age 88. He was buried at Klinger's Church, Erdman, Dauphin County, PA.

3. Eva Elizabeth Beilstein was born on 27 May 1730, Brandau, Germany. She was baptized on 29 May 1730. She married Johann Philip Klinger, son of Johannes Klinger and Agatha Heist, on 21 May 1754, Neunkirchen, Germany. She died circa 1815, Lykens Twp., Dauphin County, PA.

--- 3rd Generation ---

4. Johannes Klinger was born on 18 Nov 1694, Pfaffen-Beerfurth, Germany. He married Agatha Heist, daughter of Johann Leonhard Heist and Anna Rosina Meister, on 6 Nov 1720, Reichelsheim, Germany. He died on 22 Sep 1774, Pfaffen-Beerfurth, Germany, at age 79.

5. Agatha Heist was born on 2 Apr 1699, Pfaffen-Beerfurth, Germany. She married Johannes Klinger, son of Johann Georg Klinger and Elizabeth Göttman, on 6 Nov 1720, Reichelsheim, Germany. She died on 10 Apr 1780, Pfaffen-Beerfurth, Germany, at age 81.

6. John Jacob Beilstein was born in 1696. He married Anna Elizabeth Rettich, daughter of John Martin Rettich and Otilla (--?--), on 22 Jun 1723.

7. Anna Elizabeth Rettich was born in 1705, Brandau, Germany. She married John Jacob Beilstein, son of George Beilstein and Eva Kohl, on 22 Jun 1723.

--- 4th Generation ---

8. Johann Georg Klinger was born on 6 May 1655, Pfaffen-Beerfurth, Germany. He married Elizabeth Göttman, daughter of Philip Gottman, on 5 May 1680, Reichelsheim, Germany. He died on 25 Mar 1693/94, Kirch Beerfurth, Germany, at age 38. He was buried on 28 May 1694.

9. Elizabeth Göttman was born in 1663, Kirch-Beerfurth, Germany. She married Johann Georg Klinger, son of Georg Klinger and Christina (--?--), on 5 May 1680, Reichelsheim, Germany. She married Hans Johann Simon Ripper, son of Adam Ripper and Anna (--?--), on 3 Jan 1698/99, Reichelsheim, Germany. She died on 4 May 1743, Beerfurth, Germany. She was buried in 1743, at Kirch-Beerfurth, Germany.

10. Johann Leonhard Heist was born on 22 Jan 1672/73, Pfaffen-Beerfurth, Germany. He married Anna Rosina Meister, daughter of Georg Meister and Euphrasina (--?--), on 19 Feb 1695/96. He died on 12 Mar 1737/38, Pfaffen-Beerfurth, Germany, at age 65.

11. Anna Rosina Meister was born on 16 Feb 1673/74, Pfaffen-Beerfurth, Germany. She married Johann Leonhard Heist, son of Hans Johannes Heist and **Kunigunda Groh**, on 19 Feb 1695/96. She died on 29 Oct 1746, at age 72.

12. George Beilstein was born in 1661. He married Eva Kohl in 1695, Neunkirchen, Germany. He died on 9 Jan 1736/37, Lutzelbach, Germany.

13. Eva Kohl married George Beilstein, son of Johann Balthasar Beilstein, in 1695, Neunkirchen, Germany.

14. John Martin Rettich was born circa 1661. He married Otilla (--?--) on 11 Aug 1723. He died before 1761.

15. Otilla (--?--) was born circa 1663. She married John Martin Rettich on 11 Aug 1723. She died before 1763.

--- 5th Generation ---

16. Georg Klinger was born on 9 Jan 1617/18. He married Christina (--?--) in 1638. He died before 1694, Pfaffen-Beerfurth, Germany.
17. Christina (--?--) was born in 1614, Beerfurth, Germany. She married Georg Klinger in 1638. She died on 31 Oct 1695, Pfaffen-Beerfurth, Germany. She was buried on 1 Nov 1695, at Pfaffen-Beerfurth, Germany.
18. Philip Gottman.
20. Hans Johannes Heist married **Kunigunda Groh**, daughter of Heinrich Groh and Elizabetha (--?--). He was born in 1644, Pfaffen-Beerfurth, Germany. He died on 14 Nov 1709, Reichelsheim, Germany.
21. **Kunigunda Groh** married Hans Johannes Heist, son of Conrad Cuntz Heist and Margaretha (--?--). She was born in 1646, Hessen, Germany. She died on 26 Apr 1702, Hessen, Germany.
22. Georg Meister married Euphrasina (--?--).
23. Euphrasina (--?--) married Georg Meister.
24. Johann Balthasar Beilstein was born circa 1641, Herchennode, Germany.

Some sources suggest that Georg Klinger (number 16 in the foregoing list), a mayor of Pfaffen-Beerfurth, may have been born around 1610 in Rielingshausen, linking him with a child named Georg or Georgius, born to an Eberhard and Ursula Klinger, part of a line of Klingers in Rielingshausen, Württemberg (now Baden-Württemberg). Rielingshausen is about 20 to 25 km (about 12 to 15 miles) northeast of Stuttgart and about 90 km (about 56 miles) south of Beerfurth. These sources usually trace Georg Klinger's ancestry to a Jacob Klinger, born in Rielingshausen, in about 1520. None of these sources, however, offer any documentary evidence to prove that the Georg Klinger who died in Pfaffen-Beerfurth was the same person as the Georg Klinger who was born in Rielingshausen. While there is much speculation about such a connection, that connection, at least in this writer's opinion, has not been proven. It must also be remembered that, at that time, Rielingshausen, in Württemberg, was effectively in an entirely different country or kingdom from Pfaffen-Beerfurth.