

The German Blattenberger - Plattenberger Families

1549 - 1993

The long research concerning our family history made us think of compiling the so far collected information.

Reading an article about Raymond Blattenberger in 1956, we were very surprised to hear of Blattenberger families in the United States. But it lasted until 1980, when we were lucky to get in touch with Mildred Donley who had been tracing her ancestry for a long time, that we became finally familiar with the American branch of the family.

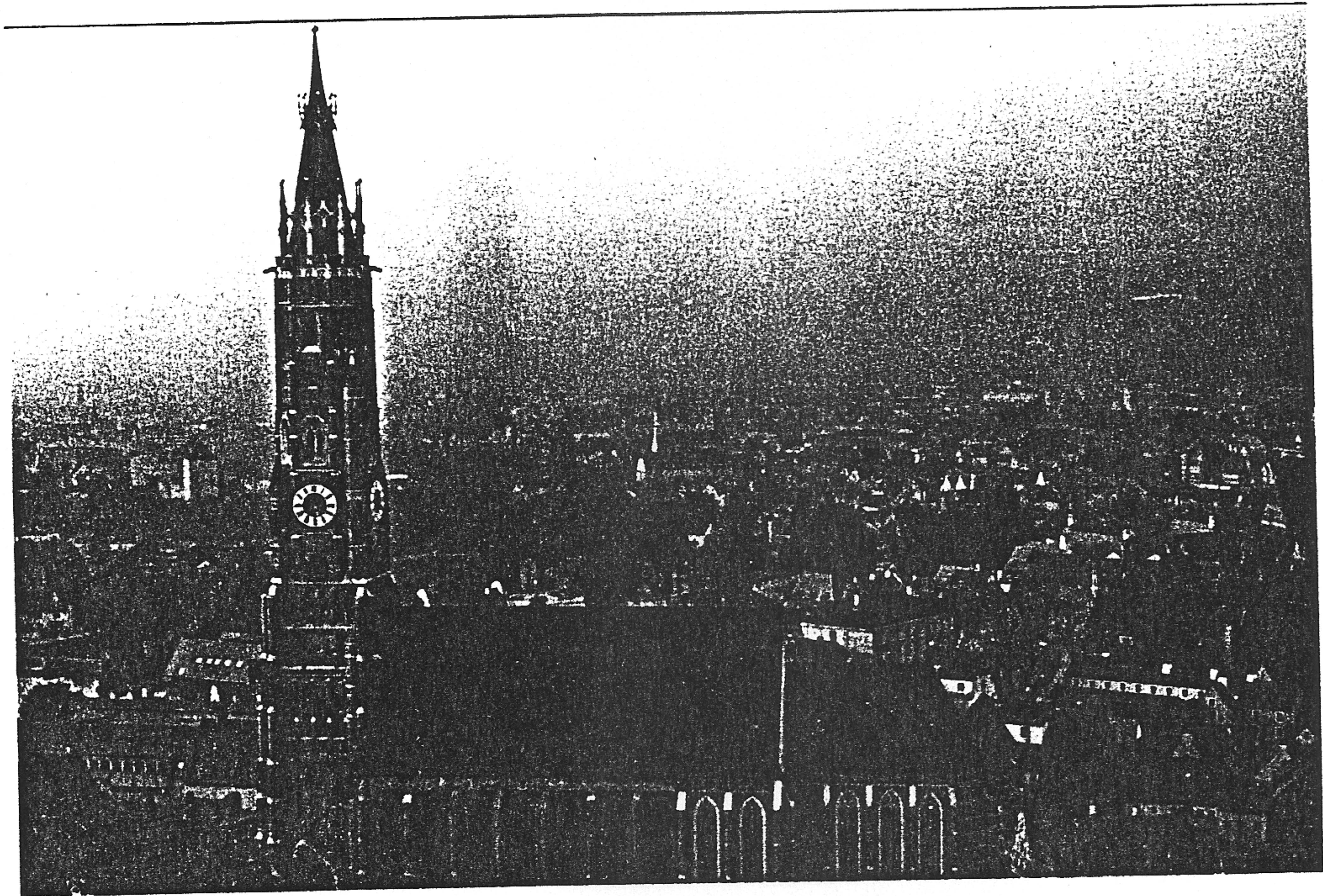
Our idea is to show a short version of the German Family History at "The Blattenberger 250th Anniversary Reunion".



An American - German "Trio"

1984 in the Bavarian mountains
near Mittenwald.

The oldest news we found concerning the name is in a house register of Landshut, the capital city of Lower Bavaria. Plattenbergers with the first names Georg, Christoph, Paul, Wolfgang and Hans are listed throughout the entire 16th century until the middle of the 17th century. They worked in different trades, such as painter, butcher, baker, distiller, shopkeeper, merchant and shoemaker. They all belonged to one family probably. It is possible that after the 30 years war an epidemic disease like the plague extinguished the family



Landshut

Medieval town with the highest brick steeple in the world.

The church records in Buchbach, the Catholic Parish church the Plattenberg farm belongs to, begin in 1611. The first entry about a Plattenberger is June 2, 1611 in the birth register, a Georg Plattenberger, father's name Johannes. A Johannes is to be found in almost all the following generations.

After 1770 the name Plattenberger disappears in the records.

In 1770 Maria Plattenberger marries a Weixelgartner; her brother Johannes dies two years old and brother Michael leaves the farm.

He is the ancestor of the Detroit/Mi. Plattenberger families.

The wedding documents at the Landshut archives show heavy debts; so probably Maria's husband had the money to take over the farm and to pay off the claims of creditors. Our great - great - great grandfather Anton, Maria's uncle, was named as creditor, too. This Anton spelled his name with a "B" after having left his home.



church Buchbach



statue of the Holy Mary

Barbara Plattenbergerin, nee Palmerin

It was on the 26th of January, 1758 when our 1st, Sister Barbara Plattenbergerin, nee Palmerin, passed away. She was born in Sinsheim in the Palatinate (Germany) in 1712. Her parents were Mennonites and she was brought up according to their faith. Growing older she turned more and more to the Reformed Church.

It was in 1734 when she married Johannes Plattenberger who is a widower now. It was with him and their 2 children that they came to this country in 1743. She had been thriving since her childhood to become a good Christian - but she had not found peace until the day when she heard Brother Nyberg preaching here of the Mercy and Blessing that can only be given to sinners by the Blood of Jesus Christ. She then became a member of our congregation and was strengthened in her faith by talking to sisters and brethren such as the Neiberts and Heinrichs.

From that time on Jesus Christ became the center of her life; she turned to him with her sins and felt greatly relieved.

It was in November 1749, when the synodal preacher was in Warwick, when she was officially admitted to our congregation and on the 5th of July, 1750 she was admitted to Holy Communion. From that time on she was a faithful Christian, a caring mother and house-wife and a busy worker for our congregation.

She must have felt in advance that the end of her life was approaching for she prepared the shroud for herself a week ahead of her death.

On the 14th of this month she took the Holy Communion for the last time and on the following days she was so gay and in such good spirits that all her brothers and sisters with whom she had to do daily, wondered at her gaiety.

She fell ill on the 16th and from that day on she did not seem to notice anything going on around her and she did not even seem to recognize her children.

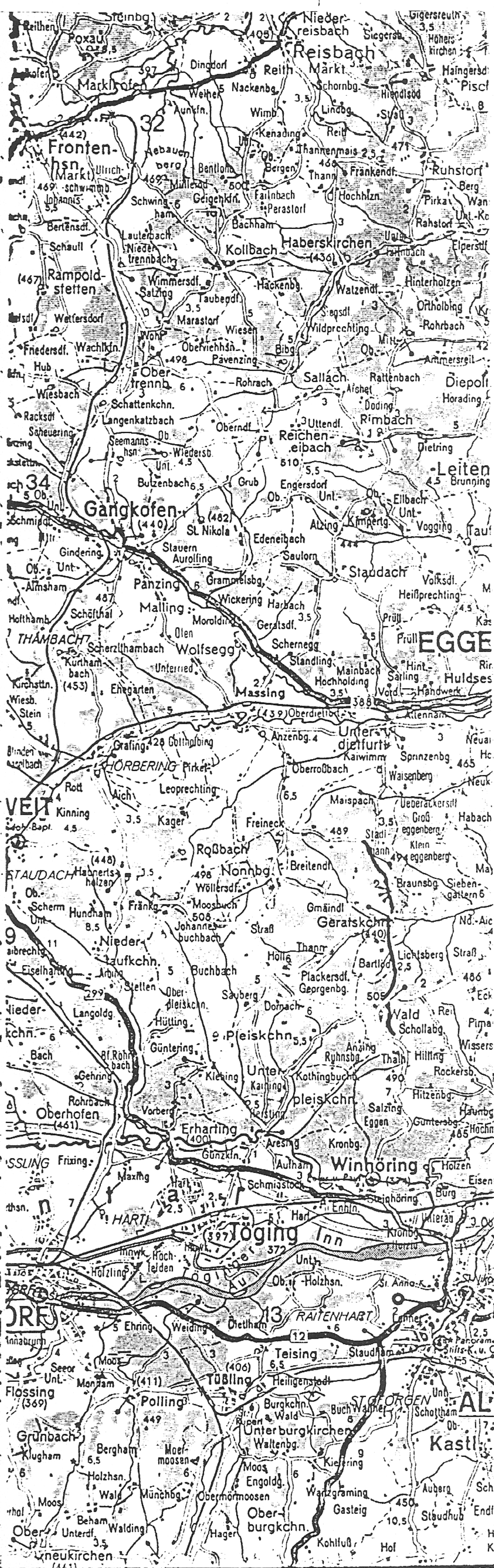
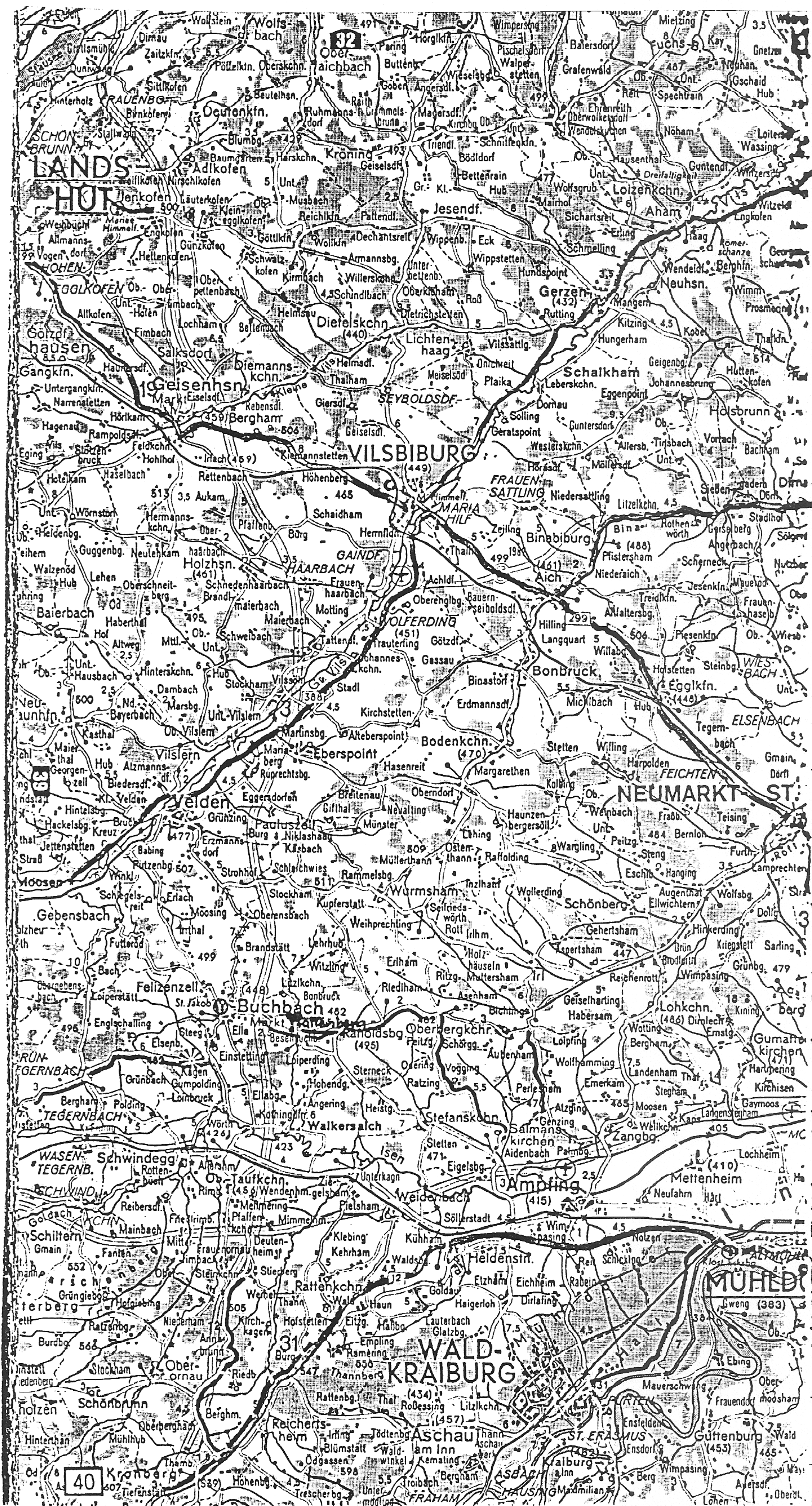
She only talked to her brother, about whom she was worried deep in her heart, once. Apart from that she did not show an interest in life any more and she only muttered of her deep desire to join Jesus Christ in Heaven.

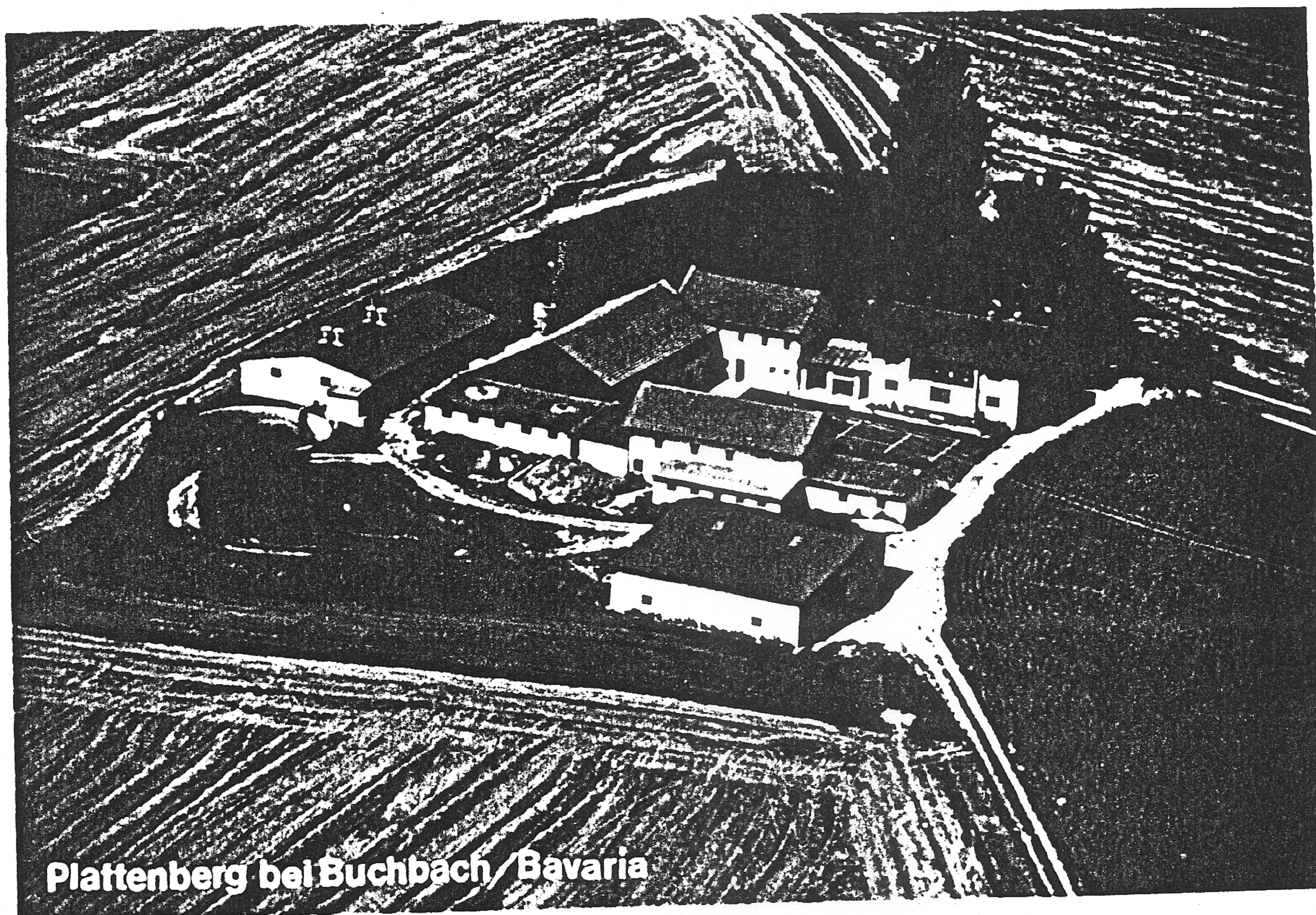
On the 23rd she said to Sister Neiberin, who went to visit her, I am a poor and sinful little worm and when I go to Jesus Christ, I shall have nothing at all to show. But I will trust in His Blood and His Mercy and I will go to Him when He calls me.

She was 46 years old when she passed away on the 3rd day thereafter. We will keep her memory in our hearts.

She was a mother of 9 children of whom 4 sons and 2 daughters are still alive. The eldest daughter named Annemarie is in the House of Sisterhood in Bethlehem.

Barbara Plattenberger herself was buried on the 30th and a large funeral procession of all her relatives, neighbours and friends and many others followed her coffin.





The name of the farm is still Plattenberg and the present owners with the name Bauer are called "Plattl" by the locals.



Heiratsurkunde:

Heiratsregister Jhr: 1633, Seite 103.

Bräutigam: Ratemberger Christoph, Häusersohn von Ratenberg
ledig, Katholisch.

Bräut: Eder Barbara, Häuserstochter von der Öd, Pfarr Ranolds-
berg, ledig, Katholisch.

Heiratsdag: 7. Juni 1633 zu Wüchbach.

Eltern des Bräutigams: Johannes u. Elisabeth Ratemberger,
Katholische Häuserscheleute zu Ratenberg.

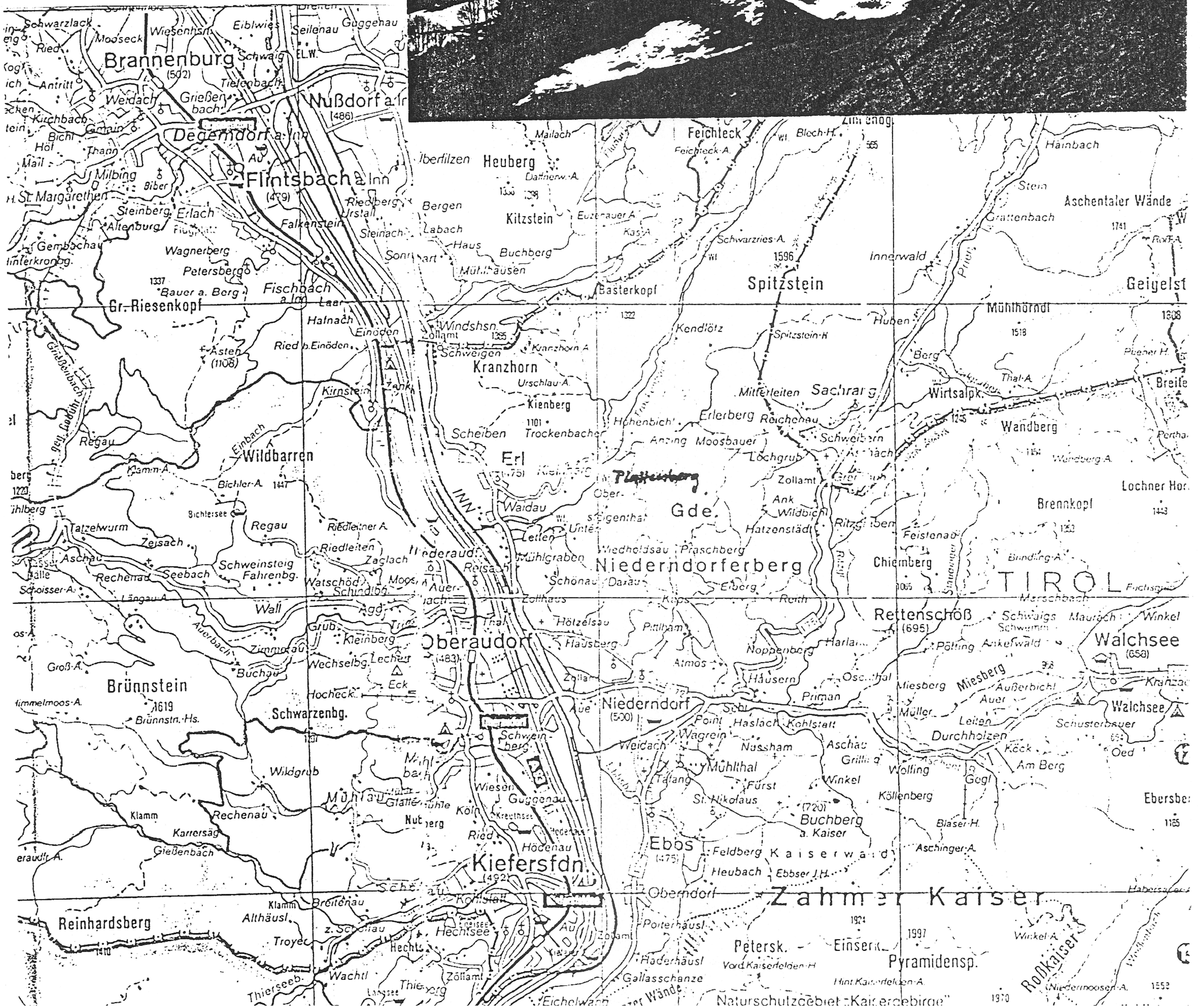
Eltern der Bräut: Simon Eder in der Öd, Pfarr Ranoldsberg
Katholisch; (seine Ehefrau ist nicht genannt.)

Kath. Pfarramt Wüchbach, den 25. Februar 1938.
J.v. Coop. Ernst Pfeilschifter



Geb. 060 u

In Erl, a village in northern Tyrol in Austria, not very far from the Bavarian border, we discovered a farm with the name Plattenberg in the hills.



An old book of the Erl community mentions the owner in 1800,
a Martin Plattenberger.

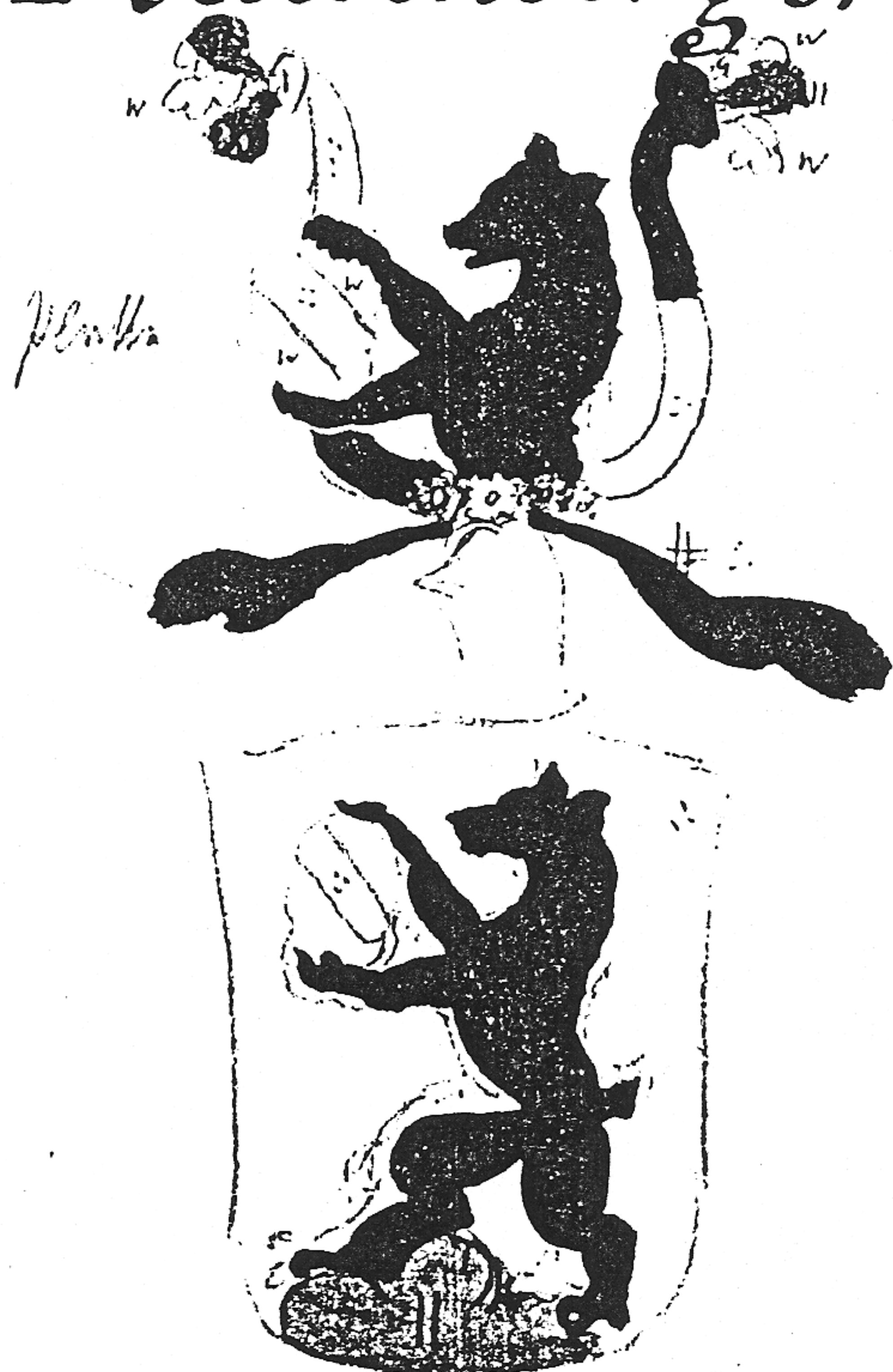
"Do you know a Mr. Napoleon?" was the priest's question whom we
asked for family information in Erl. Why Napoleon? The Bavarians
together with the soldiers of the great Emperor burnt the church
and vicarage in Erl in 1805. They were the Austrians' enemies and
all church records were destroyed.

The documents at the Innsbruck archive (Innsbruck is the capital
city of North Tyrol) mention the Plattenbergers several times,
from 1626 to 1797, but it has been impossible to set up a straight
line. The names listed are: Paul, Georg, Martin, Joseph, Christoph,
Andre, Leonhard, but not Johannes.

Our research in the Innsbruck archive concerning the Austrian
Plattenbergers led us to a notice about the coat of arms that
was given to Peter and Georg Plattenberger by the archduke Ferdinand
in 1578. Peter and Georg Plattenberger lived in Altenburg/Eppan in
South Tyrol. South Tyrol has belonged to Italy since 1918.

All we know about the South Tyrol branch is that the family left
their home due to differences with the Catholic Church and
probably moved to North Tyrol in 1600. This was the time of religious
intolerance after the Reformation.

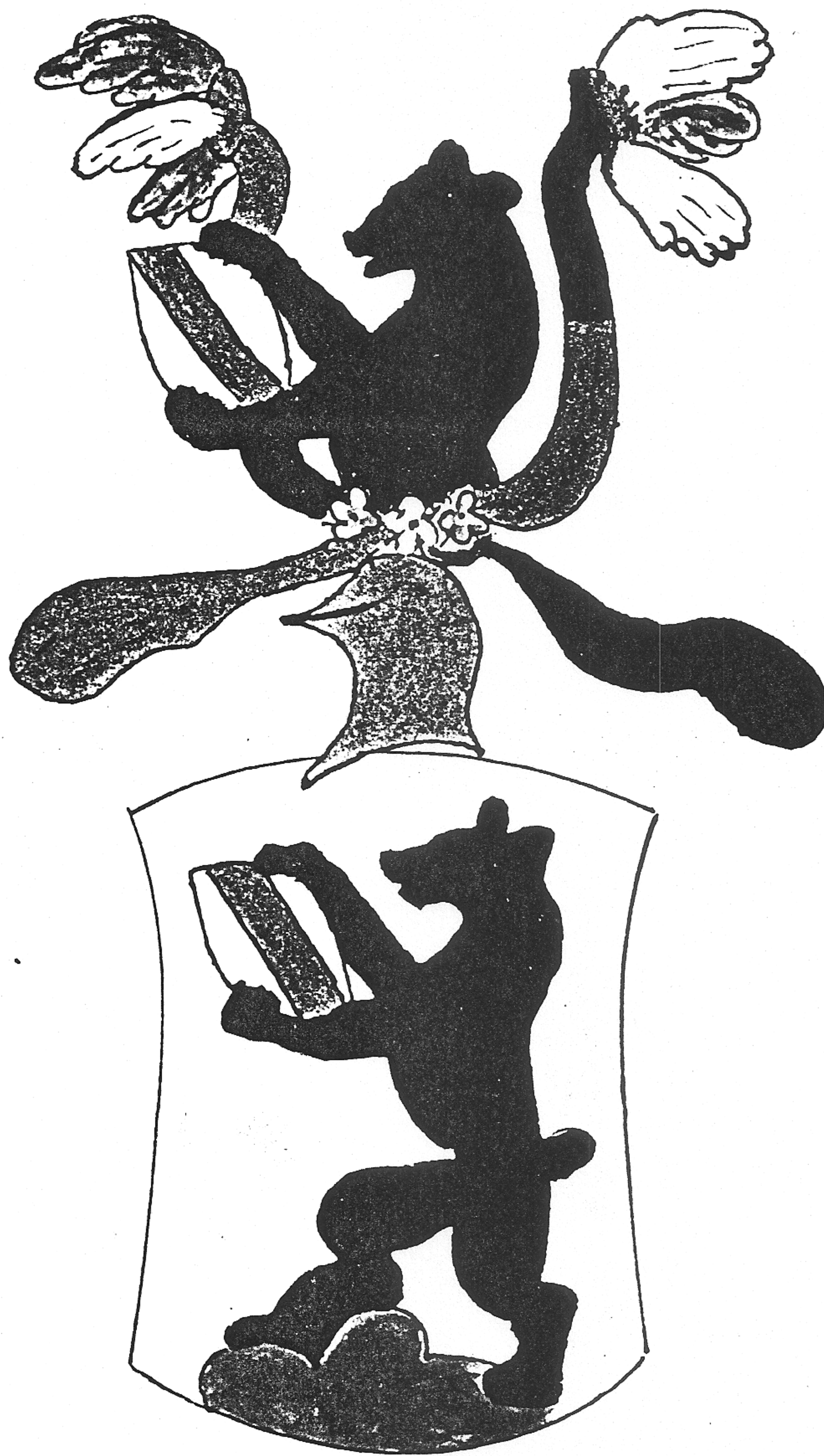
*Plattenberger Georg u. Petter, gewettern, im Gericht
Altenburg sesshaft. Wp. Innsbr., 6. Febr. 1578.*



Tir. Wp. B. Bd. IV

P. 345. G. 404.

Plattenberger



In Altenburg Gericht 1578*

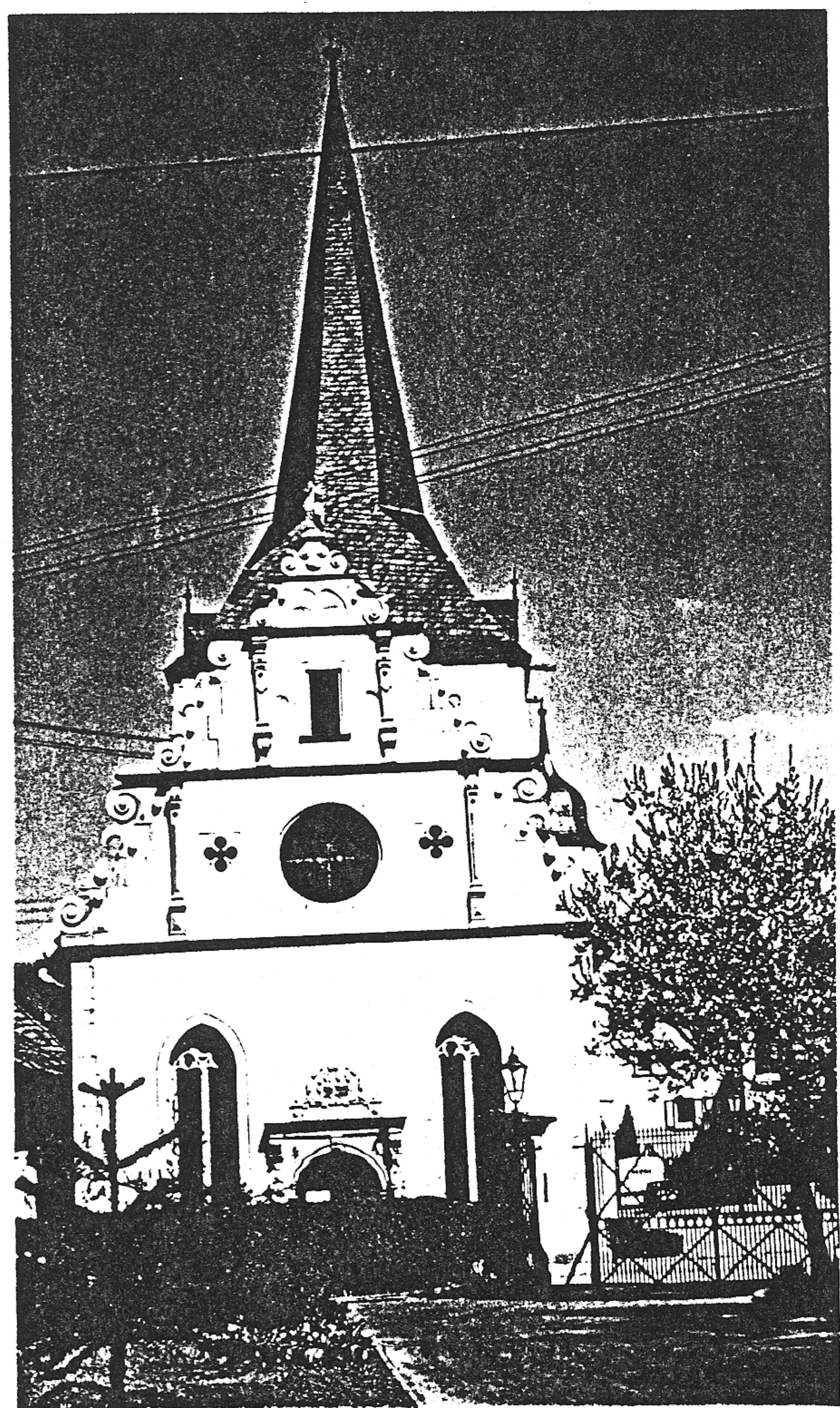


We were anxious to learn where Johannes Plattenberger / Blattenberger, the first Plattenberger in America, and his wife, Barbara Palmer, met. From her curriculum vitae we know that Barbara Palmer was born near Sinsheim in 1712.

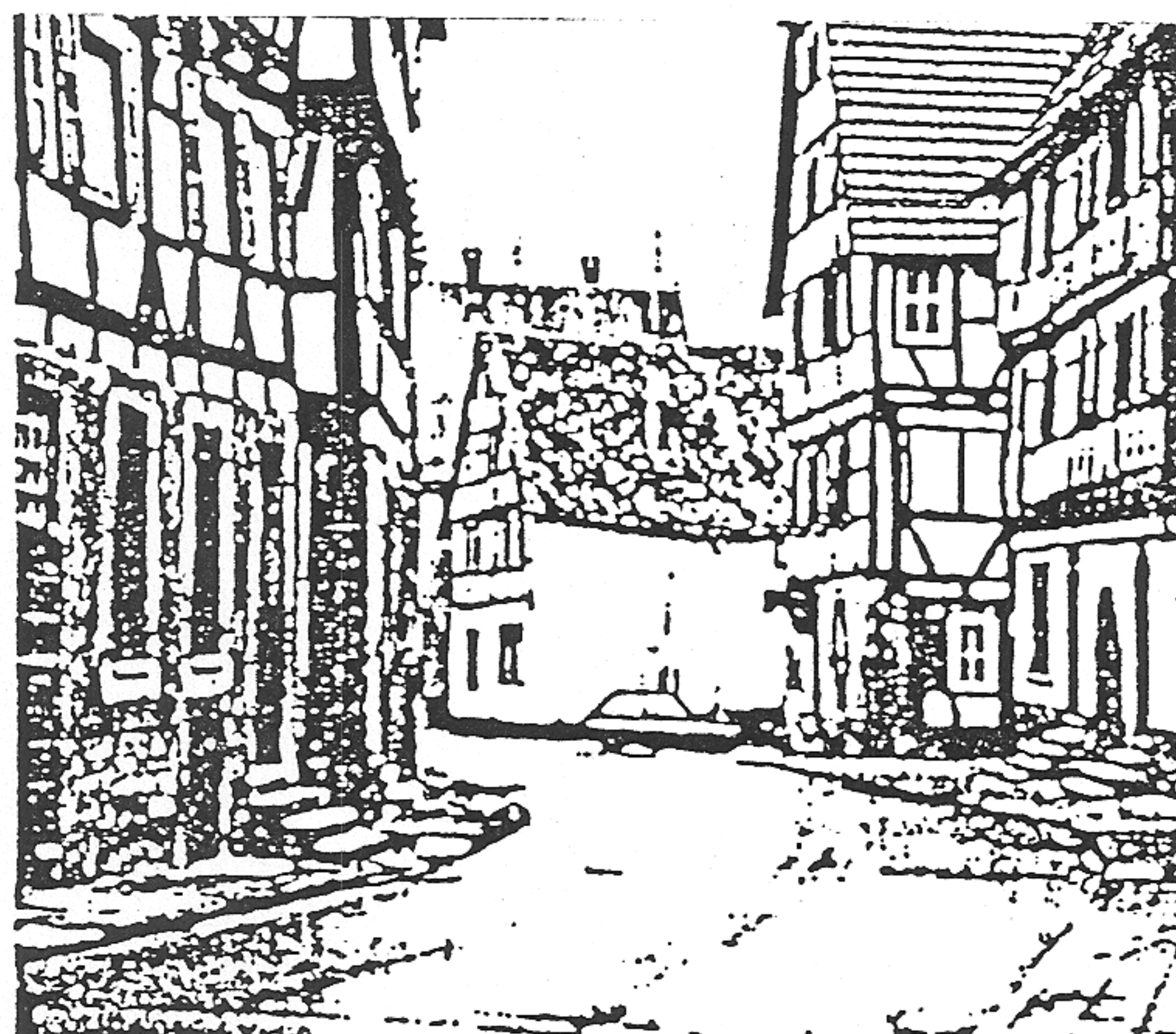
We travelled to Sinsheim (near Heidelberg) and searched in various church records. In spite of great helpfulness of the various Catholic, Lutheran and Mennonite priests, our research was in vain.

Barbara was a member of the Mennonite community. The Mennonites had no birth, marriage or death register. These events were taken down in family bibles. That is why they are so difficult to trace.

We have been in contacts with some Mennonite searchers around the Sinsheim area and they put down the names (B) Plattenberger and (B) Palmer / Balmer in their register. All they have found so far is a short notice in the book: "Eighteenth Century Emigrants from Northern Kraichgau".



church of Neckarbischofsheim,
constructed in 1612,



Eppingen's narrow streets lined with *Fachwerk-Gebäude*—half-timber constructed buildings—look much like they did when the pioneers left there in the eighteenth century.

Photo: J. Godshal

NECKARBISCHOFSSHEIM LUTHERAN KB:

bp. 8 June 1721 two Anabaptists (Mennonites); one was 22 years old and the other was 18 years. The father was Johann Balmer, tenant farmer at the Büchelhof (Biegelhof), and the mother was Christina nee Majer, a Mennonite from Switzerland. The sons were named:

1. Carl Friderich
2. Christian Eberhardt

Pennsylvania records:

WARWICK MORAVIAN KB, LITITZ, LANCASTER CO.:

Carl Palmer, infant, bu. in 1750.

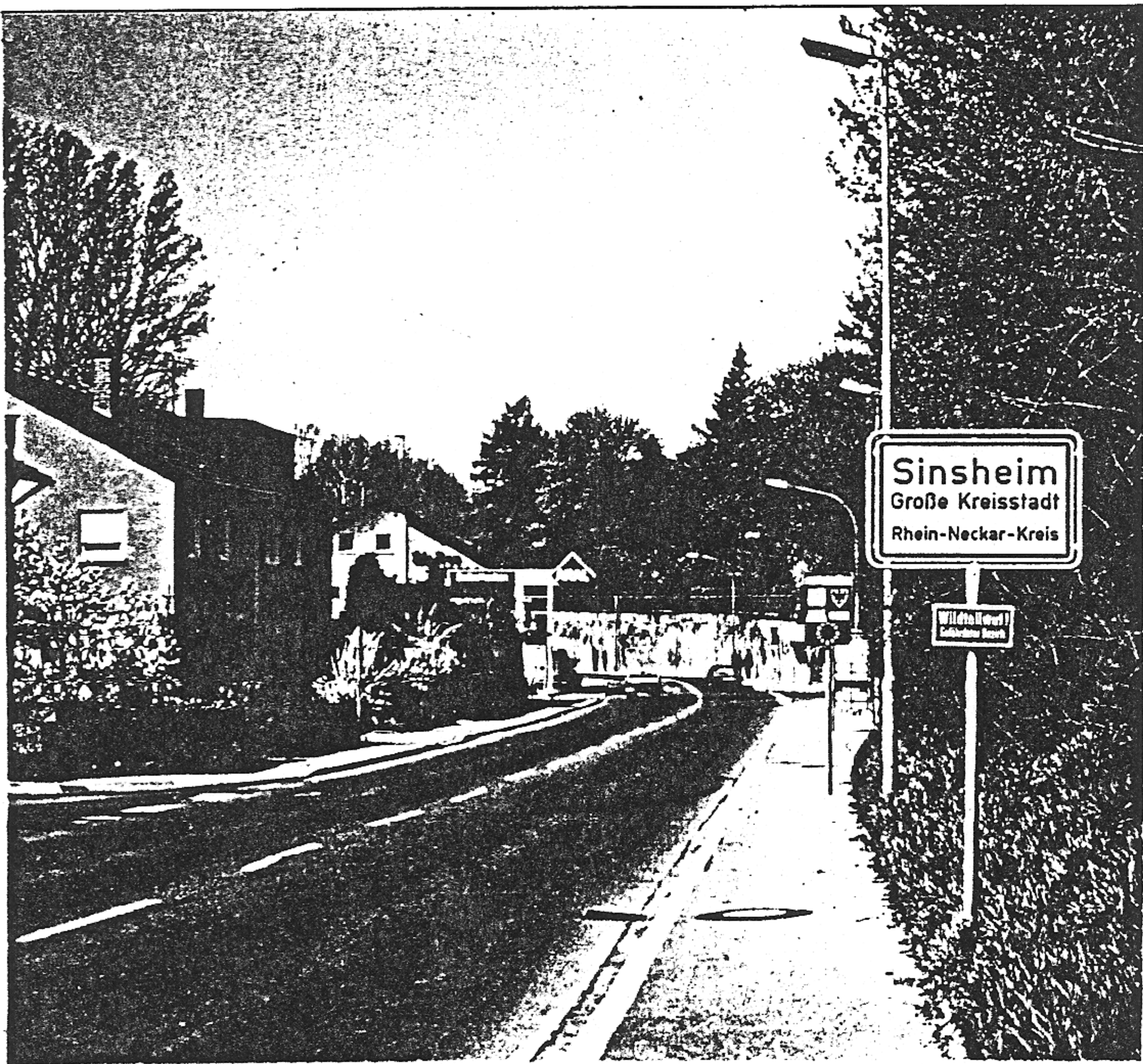
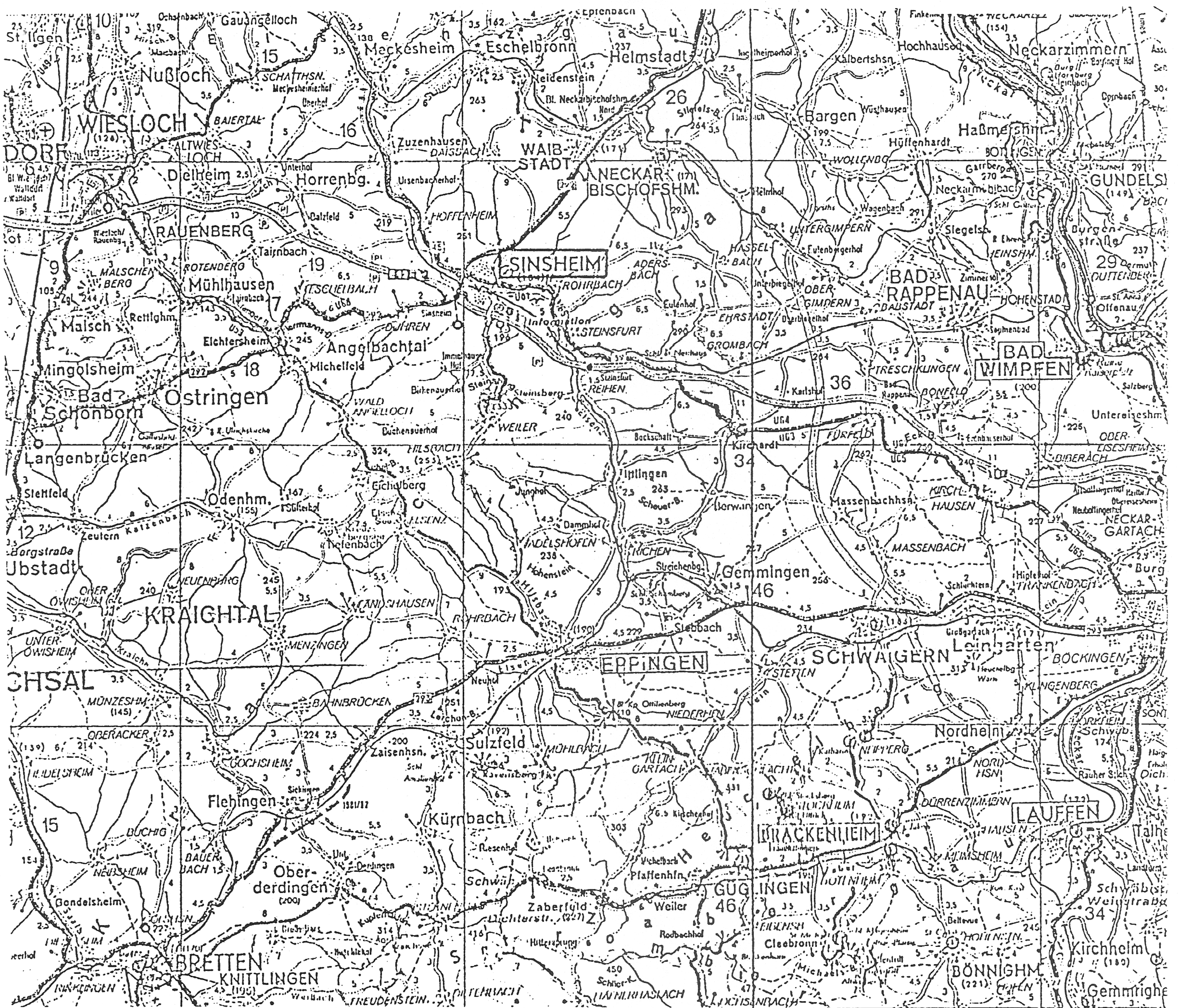
Carl Frederick Palmer, age 10 mo., bu. in 1757.

Andrew Palmer, infant, bu. in 1764.

Eberhard Palmer, son of Christian and Barbara, d. 1769, age 11 y.

Christian Palmer, b. Aug. 1703 near Sinsheim, came to this country 1733 and m. widow Susanna Brunck. They had 6 children. He m. (2) widow Barbara Pichler and they had 7 children. He d. 8 Mar. 1778, age 74 years.

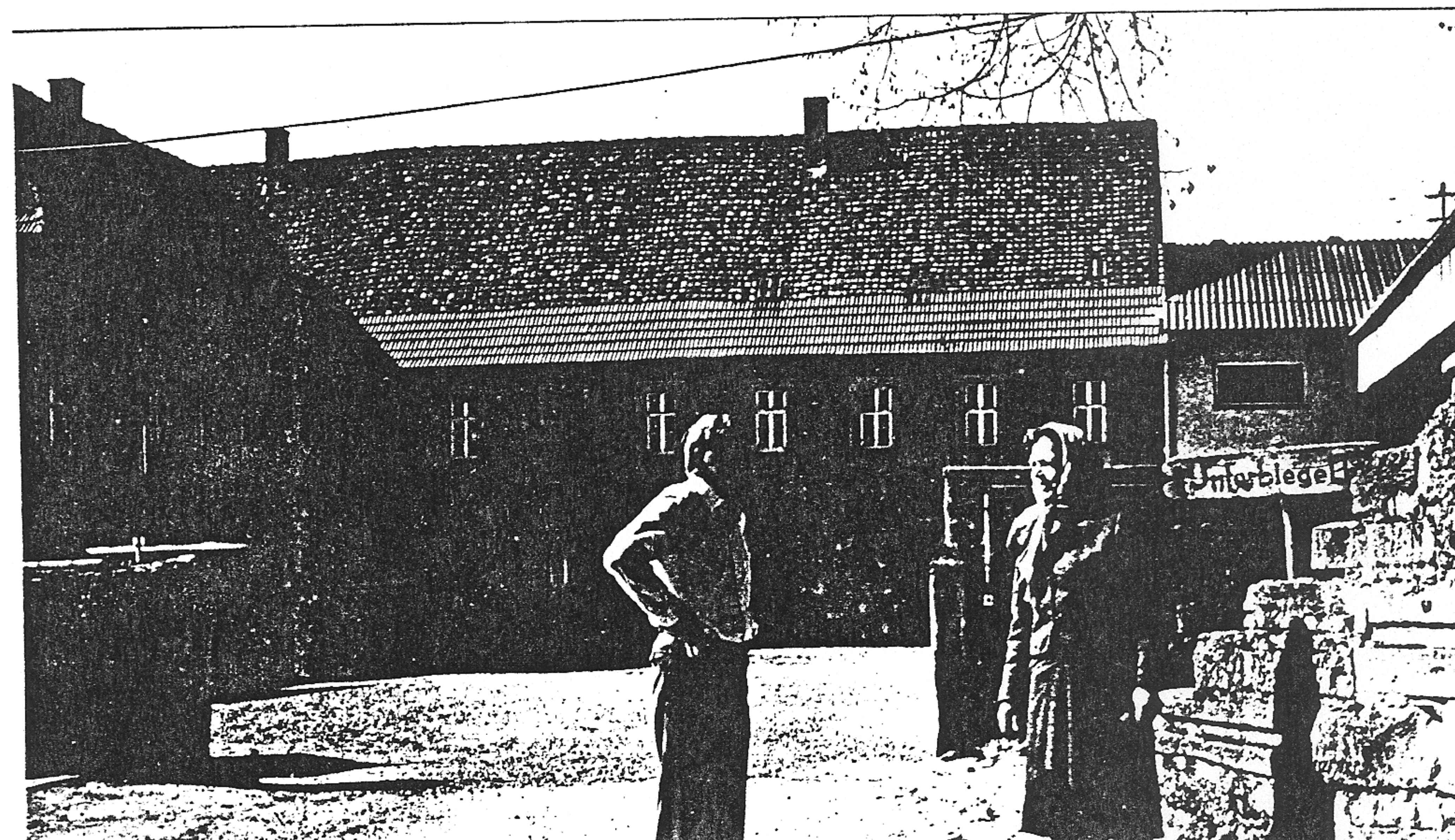
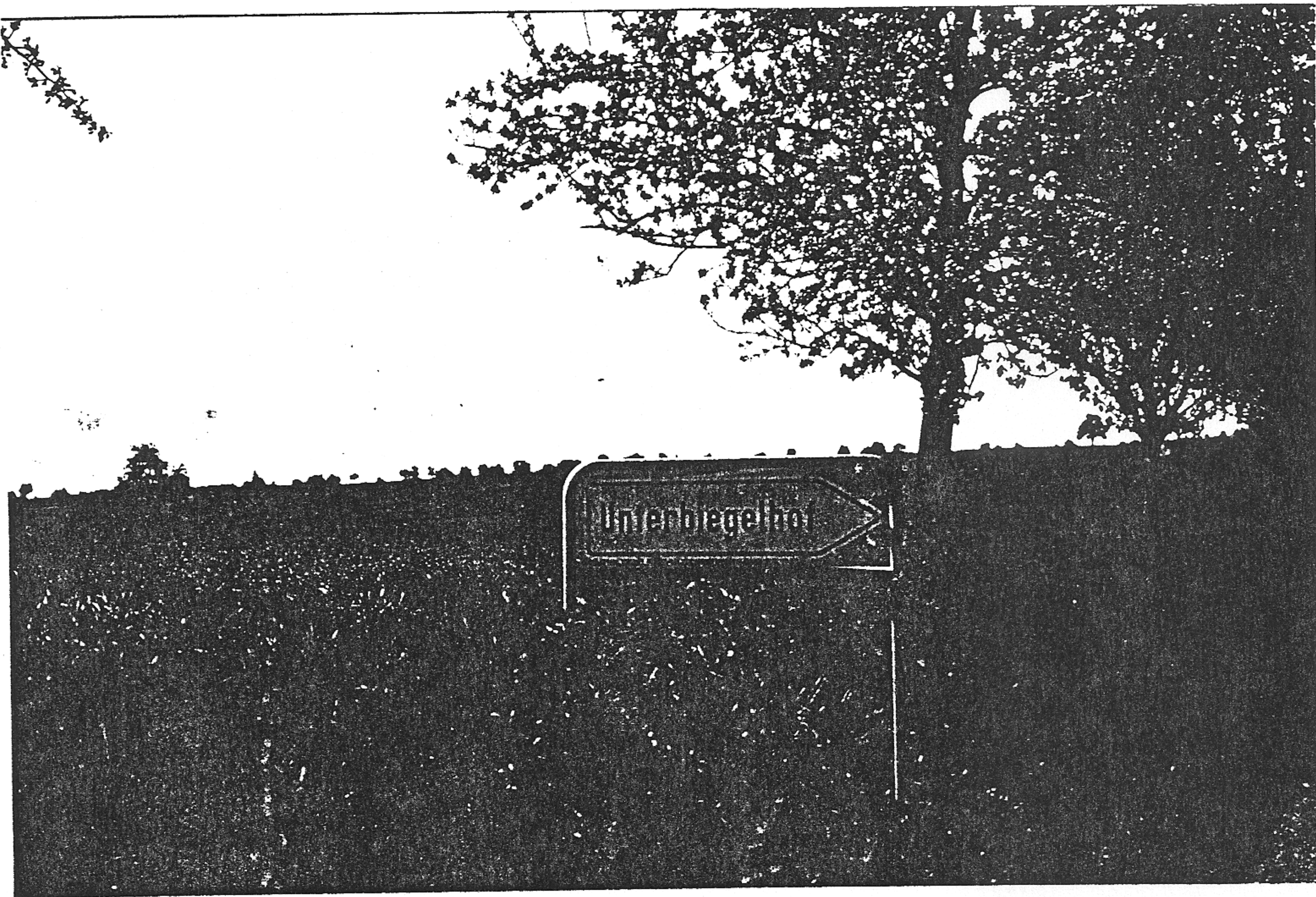
WARWICK LUTHERAN KB, LANCASTER CO.:





Today

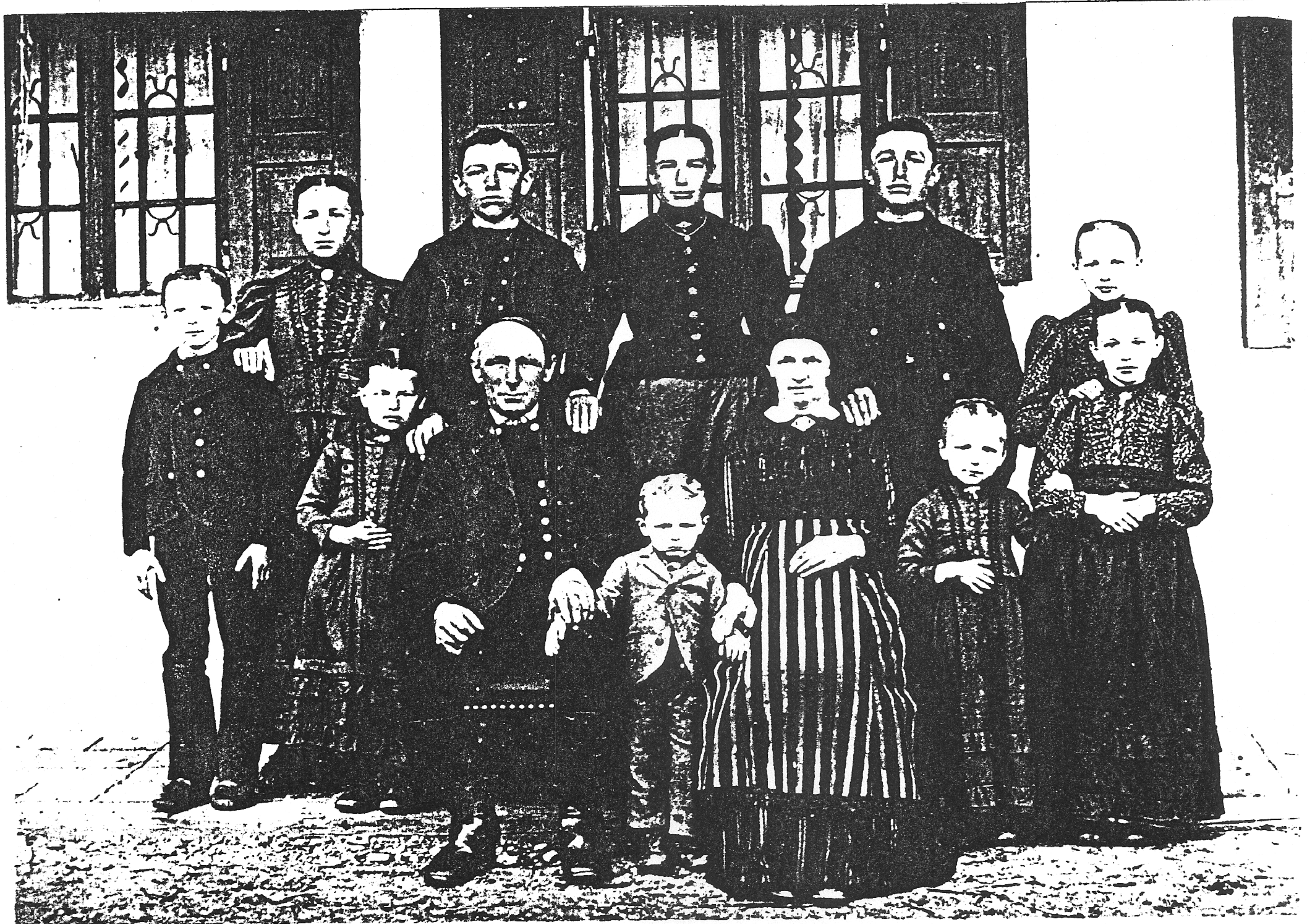
Oberbiegelhof



Mennonites
are still working
at the Unterbiegelhof
Owner of the farm
is an earl.



7th February 1909 - Wedding-day of my parents
Barbara Maier - Josef Blattenberger



My mother's family

Barbara
on the right first line

At present, we do not know of any Blattenberger/Plattenberger families in German speaking countries outside Bavaria and here there are only 14 of them. We are, however, hopeful to establish the links between the Bavarian and Tyrol branches of the family one day.

Georg Blattenberger
Graf Seinsheimstr. 30
85461 Grünbach

Franz Blattenberger
Heubergstr. 10
83543 Rott am Inn

Martin Blattenberger
Birkenweg 5
82362 Weilheim

Josef Blattenberger
Graf Seinsheimstr. 30
85461 Grünbach

Michael Blattenberger
Pegasusstr. 2
85716 Urterschleißheim

Georg Blattenberger
Erdingerstr. 14
85447 Fraunberg

Ludwig Blattenberger
Ammerstr. 18
82383 Hohenpeißenberg

Xaver Blattenberger
Bahnhofstr. 5
86415 Mering

Martin Blattenberger
Aham No. 9
84416 Taufkirchen

Günter Blattenberger
Kreuzstr. 17
82383 Hohenpeißenberg

Robert Blattenberger
Bürgerm. Widemannstr. 2
82278 Althegnenberg

Martin Blattenberger jr.
Aham No. 9
84416 Taufkirchen

Franz Blattenberger
Ulmenstr. 1
85435 Erding

Rudolf Blattenberger
Alte Römerstr. 111
85435 Erding



Rott am Inn - Bavaria - Germany

83543 - →

FRANZ BLATTENBERGER
Heubergstr. 10
ROTT am INN
Tel. 08039 / 40 12 15



My parents and their 10 children in 1934.

Second line from left:

Therese, Magdalena, Josef (lost his life in Russia in 1943), Elisabeth († 1992),
Barbara, Georg (took over the bakery in Grünbach from his father) Johann († 1955)

First line from left:

Franz, Anna Maria, Martin.



The Blattenberger bakery in Grünbach today.

