Mistelbach in 1850

Above is a map of Mistelbach as it appeared in 1850 with numbered houses and fields. In 1850 our 2nd great-grandfather Johann Dollhopf was 20 years old and living in house #19 with his mother, Margarethe Graisinger Dollhopf (age 48), and a younger brother, also named Johann (age 18). He had three older sisters who had likely already moved out of the house. Johann's father, Eberhard, died seven years earlier in 1843. His mother Margarethe did not remarry; she was running the farm. Eberhard and Margarethe had ten children but only five survived to adulthood.

Johann inherited the house and farm in 1857. Sadly, with three young children in the house including our great-grandfather, he died the following year of tuberculosis at the age of 28.

Key

#1 House #57 Dorfmühle ("village mill") was acquired by our 14x-ggf (ggf = *g*reat-*g*rand*f*ather) Dietrich Übelein Dollhopf in 1499. The Dollhopf family lived here *for 133 years* until the mill was destroyed in 1632 in the Thirty Years War. Today the mill is a renovated house. [Continued next page.]

Key (continued):
In 1980, after nearly 500 years, the mill ceased operations, one of the last, if not the last, mill in the region to do so.

#2 House #55 was built by our 9x-ggf Cuntz Dollhopf in 1662. Our family lived here for *122 years* until 1784. The original house no longer exists; it was replaced in the 1950s.

#3 House #19 was acquired by our 4x-ggf Johann Dollhopf in 1784 from his father-in-law Conrad Hagen*; 236 years later* it is still in the family today (in 2020). A house on this lot had been in the Hagen family since 1646, so a Dollhopf ancestor has lived continuously on this lot *for 374 years*. The current structure was built by Eberhardt Dollhopf in 1823. The numbers 19 circled in red in various places on the map are the fields and meadows owned in 1850 by Eberhard's wife, Margaretha Dollhopf. Note that the fields and meadows were not contiguous. After centuries of *partible inheritance*, (inherited property was split up and shared among all heirs, not given to the eldest son as one parcel) farmer's fields were scattered and patchwork.

#4 House #64 Schnörleinsmühle ("flour mill"). Our ggf Johann (John) Dollhopf was born here in 1852 because his parents were not married at the time. The mill was owned by Peter Bär, father of Margarethe Bär, Johann's mother. The mill still stands today and remains in the family, likely converted fully to a house in the 1970s.

#5 **The Mistel Brook**, which powered the mills. It is not a large stream; near the mill it is about 20 feet wide. It flows for nine miles and empties into the Red Main River in Bayreuth. Note that at numerous points it was diverted by a system of races, or artificial channels, built to divert water from the stream to the mills. The water turned the wheels necessary to grind grain. The races were likely built of wood.

#6 Dorfmühle Race. Note that it runs a fair distance and then bends sharply, immediately to the side of the mill and returns to the Mistel.

#7 Schnörleinsmühle Race built to supply the Schnörleinsmühle. Note the dam built immediately downstream below the race, pooling the needed water to channel to the mill.

#8 St. Bartholomäus Kirche (church). The stone foundation dates from the 1300s, the tower and spire from 1680.

#9 Mistelbach Castle. The earliest castle dates from the 1100s, but was destroyed and rebuilt several times, the last time in 1763. By 1850 it had been converted to a house and the fields sold off to other farmers. In later years there was a weaving operation with looms on the first floor. Today it is an apartment building.

#10 Schoolhouse, built in 1873. In 1990 it was converted to the parish administration building.

#11 Dam, built to collect water for the mill races.

Extreme Poverty

The years leading up to 1850 were some of the most impoverished in Mistelbach's history. Crop failures, inflation, wars, disease, and heavy taxation led to extreme poverty and hopelessness. In a span of 27 years, from 1839 to 1866, Mistelbach lost more than a third of its population.

From the church book: "The first emigrant who left his home on June 29, 1839, was Johann Weidenhammer. He was followed by at least 180 villagers, and from 1840 to 1866 frequently by whole families, and even some with eight children. Different families are no longer present– Bickel, Rogner, Roßner, Schabtach, Gehauf, Weigel, and Birkel. So the population decreased to 450."

In 1851 the Pastor reported, "The number of the poor grows with each year, which is very difficult for the community, which is not very well-paid. Therefore, the view into the future is not pleasing. The saddest state is that the church does not have any charitable endowments from the past to benefit the community…"

History of the Dollhopf Properties

Following is a list of properties that at one time were owned by the Dollhopfs. Cited are the owners of the properties and the dates when they assumed ownership. This list was compiled by Mrs. Ingrid Jakob in 1970 as an appendix to her thesis *Mistelbach History of a Village in the District of Bayreuth*, prepared for the first examination for the teaching profession at elementary schools. Published in the *Chronicle of Mistelbach*.

The list includes the date the property was acquired (according to court records), followed by the owner.

 # 19: 1622 Simon Küfner, 1628 Hans Küfner, 1630 Hans Ruckriegel, 1646 Hans Hagen, 1674 Simon Hagen, 1722 Conrad Hagen, stone mason, 1784 Johann Dollhopf, 1811 Eberhard Dollhopf, 1854 Margarete Dollhopf, widow, 1914 Konrad Dollhopf

 # 55: 1662 Cuntz Dollhopf, 1712 Hans Dollhopf, 1727 Johann Dollhopf, 1785 Albrecht Stephan Dollhopf, 1849 Johann Conrad Dollhopf, 1914 Johann Pfaffenberger

 # 57 Dorfmühle: 1499 Dietrich Tolhopf, 1682 Georg Schiller, 1692 Hans Schiller, 1742 Hans Schiller, 1759 Hans Schiller, 1811 Johann Schiller, 1854 Conrad Schiller, 1914 Georg Albrecht Weydenhammer

 # 64 Schnörrleinsmühle: [The mill was never owned by a Dollhopf, but our great-grandfather was born here. It was owned by the Bär family, our maternal ancestors.] 1421 Fritz Snörl, 1499 Hans Grünauer, 1662 Hans Niltzel, 1744 Johann Schramm, 1757 Johann Kauper, 1792 Conrad Kauper, 1811 Conrad Kauper, 1854 Peter Bär, 1914 Wolfgang Bär

 # 63 Zeckenmühle (not pictured on the map as it was situated further downstream from the Schnörrleinsmühle): 1398 Hermann Mülner, 1499 Jorg Fichten-Müller, 1705 Nützel von Creez, 1705 Stephan Dollhopf, 1725 Georg Dollhopf, 1758 dessen Erben, 1819 Anna Dollhopf, 1820 Johann Christian Dömhöfer, 1914 Lorenz Dömhöfer

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