



Dollhopf

600 Years in the Baking

Dollhopf Women

This is the 14th essay in a series addressing the life and times of our Dollhopf grandmothers.

9th Great-Grandmother NN NN (abt 1605-abt 1636)

First wife of four of Cuntz Dollhopf.

[Abbreviations: NN stands for "no name." In this case we don't know her first or name. In the dates below abt = about; aft = after; bef = before; c = circa]

Birth: Unknown, abt 1605/10

Place of birth: Oberpreuschwitz (4 miles from Mistelbach)

Parents: Unknown

Marriage: abt 1627

Husband: Cuntz Dollhopf (27 Jul 1607–30 Dec 1683, 76), tailor

Age at marriage: ~20

Number of known children with Dollhopf: 2

Residence: most probably House #23, the former house of Hans Vogel

Death: abt 1636

Age at death: ~26

Cause of death: Unknown

Note: Cuntz acquired and built House #55 in 1662.

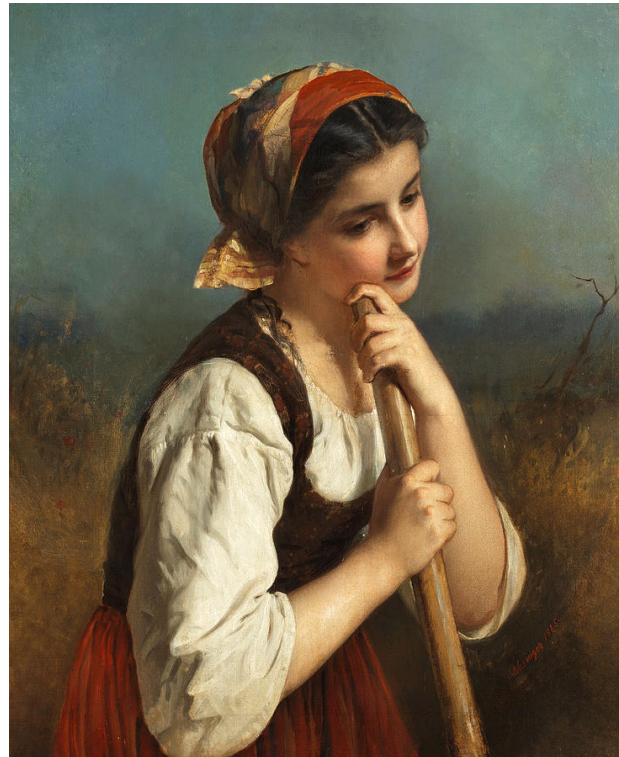
She was the youngest of our great-grandmothers when she died.

Or was murdered. From the Mistelbach Chronicle, describing the years following the events of 1634:

1638 to 48: Sad times, the country is teeming with devastating, wild thieves and gang members who chase each other back and forth incessantly. Friend or foe, they were all the same now. Everyone robbed the villagers, treated them with hostility; the people were in constant flight, even the forests no longer provided security since enemies flushed them out with dogs. There was a great lack of people in Mistelbach, even fewer cattle and livestock; the land remained largely desolate.

That she died at the young age of ~26 suggests that it was a fatal disease, a serious accident, complications from childbirth, or a casualty of the ongoing conflict.

She was alive after Mistelbach was destroyed by the Croats. I suspect she and husband Cuntz were living at house #23, the house owned by Hans Holl, the first husband of Cuntz's mother Maria Sporrer. House #23 was located on the Mistelbach square, a block from the church. Because of its central location, it was certainly torched on Sunday, May 4, 1634 (see previous blog), with almost every other house in the village. The official



Peasant Woman, Carl Schlesinger, Swiss, (1825-1893). Our 9th great-grandmother, whose name we don't know, was the youngest of our great-grandmother when she died at the age of 26. She died during lawless times in the post Thirty Years War era. Was she murdered?

court registry in Bayreuth reported that the house owned by Hans Holl was destroyed, but I don't have proof that she and Cuntz were living there at the time.

On that fateful May spring day in 1634 the family included Hans, age five, and Ursula, age three. Where did they flee? How did they survive?

Imagine the terror: watching your house burn to the ground as soldiers chased your friends and neighbors, killing many of them. Perhaps they were chased and managed to get away. Perhaps they fled in advance to another village or hid in the woods.

If they were living in the woods, steeling themselves against severe weather, she might have died of exposure or pneumonia. If they were harassed by dogs unleashed by roving gangs, she might have died in an assault. In the desperate search for food, perhaps she died of hunger.

Maybe, thinking positively, they found refuge in another village.



Soldiers plundering a farm during the thirty years' war, 1620, by Sebastiaen Vrancx 1573-1647. In this contemporary painting of the horrors of the Thirty Years War, note the women trying to stop the soldier from killing the farmer; a soldier threatening a woman with his sword; a soldier killing a goose, a dead farmer on the floor in a pool of his own blood...and of course a terrified child witnessing the scene. Was it like this in the Cuntz Dollhopf house? Deutsches Historisches Museum

But she died in 1636 in an unexpected, and no-doubt tragic way.

Sadly, we do not know her name. Several years of church records were lost during this time, no doubt a casualty of the war. It could be that there was no one present to record the events, since many inhabitants including the Pastor fled the village. Mistelbach was largely abandoned for some time.

We do know that she was from Oberpreuschwitz, a tiny village 4 miles north of Mistelbach. She married Cuntz Dollhopf, one of our more interesting great-grandfathers. We don't have the date of their marriage; an indication that they probably were married in 1627 or 1628, the two years that marriage records are missing from the church books. Cuntz was 20 or 21 at the time.

She and Cuntz had two children:

1. **Hanss der Ältere** ("the older") (09 Mar 1629 – 16 Mar 1710, 81), our 8th great-grandfather. He married Dorothea Neukam; his son was called Hanss *der Junge* ("the younger"). He was known as the "older" after he had a child also named Hanss. His given name was Johannes; why they spelled Hanss with two "s"'s I don't know.
2. **Ursula** (22 Dec 1631 – 05 Dec 1639, 7)



Pillage scene in a village, c. 1620, by Sebastiaen Vrancx 1573-1647. Soldiers chase the fleeing peasants, note the soldier bent over in the foreground emptying the pocket of a slain peasant. Flames leap from a burning house in the background to the left, filling the air with smoke. Eight houses were left standing in Mistelbach because they were hidden by the smoke of the other burning houses.

At the time of her death, she had been married to Cuntz for eight years. Her son Hanss (our 8th great-grandfather) was 8, her daughter Ursula was 5. Ursula died three years later on December 5, 1639, from a cause unknown, although I can imagine). Her mother-in-law Maria, detailed in the previous blog, died only two years earlier (her funeral was interrupted by the soldiers). Everyone was living in the same house, so the children Hanss and Ursula lost their mother and grandmother in a short period of time.

They had to have been living a nightmare. While the paintings shown here are indeed vivid, especially for the time, they probably don't begin to convey the horrors witnessed by these children. During this time Mistelbach lost more than half of its population. That's a lot of friends and neighbors in a small village. Cuntz buried all four of his wives.

Cuntz married his second wife in 1638, when Hanss was ten and Ursula seven. We know that her first name was Margaretha, and that she was born in 1614 in Mistelbach, but her maiden name was not recorded. They were married when Cuntz was 31 and she was 24. It was Margaretha's first marriage.

Margaretha and Cuntz had two children:

1. **Georg** (23 Feb 1639 – 22 Jul 1640), died as an infant at 16 months.
2. **Anna** (09 May 1643 – 24 Dec 1676, 33). Anna's first husband was Hans Hacker ~1632–1685, our 9th great grandfather, although she was not our 9th great grandmother. Anna and Hans Hacker had two children before she died at the age of 33; Hans then married Margaretha Herath with whom he had four children, one of whom, Johannes Hacker, was our 8th great grandfather.¹

Second wife Margaretha also met an untimely death on November 26, 1662, at the age of 48. She and Cuntz had been married 24 years. Cuntz's only son Hanss was 33 and already married living at the Zeckenmühle, his daughter Ursula died at the age of 7 after Cuntz and Margaretha had been married for only a year. Margaretha's son Georg died at the age of 16 months when she was 26. Her daughter Anna was 19 and not yet married when she died.

Cuntz had four children, two with our great-grandmother with no name and two with Margaretha. When Margaretha died, only two of his children were living – Hanss (our 8th great grandfather) and Anna.

It was during the year of Margaretha's death, 1662, that Cuntz obtained a fief (lease) of a small plot of land – about ½ acre – from the Bayreuth Hospital.² This plot abutted the Dollhopf mill. By this time, however, the Dollhopfs had abandoned the mill, and it was now owned by George Schiller (abt 1634-1691), who was our 8th great grandfather through a maternal line, but unrelated to the Dollhopfs at the time.

On this small plot Cuntz built a house, identified as #55. Sadly, he was building the house for Margarethe when she died.

But he wasted no time. The following year, on 28 Oct 1663, he married for the third time. The third Frau Dollhopf was Margaretha Zimmerman (we know her name!), who was born in 1607 in Mistelgau, a nearby village; they were both 56. This Margaretha was recently widowed as well, and living in Mistelbach. She had been married to Lorenz Nützel, the schoolmaster, and before that she was married to Hanss Beyerlein from the village of Eckersdorf. Thus, her name was Margarethe *nee* Zimmerman Beyerlein Nützel Dollhopf. Whew. It is not recorded that she had any children.

Alas, she died eight years later on September 17, 1671, when she and Cuntz were both 64.

¹ Did you follow that? It gets complicated.

² The Bayreuth Hospital was a Church institution, and in the Middle Ages the Church owned land just as nobles owned land.

Cuntz was not finished, and again he didn't wait long. *Four months later* he married for a fourth time on January 21, 1672. His fourth wife was Barbara *nee* NN Wolff Glöser. She was born in 1630, but we don't know her maiden name or where she was born. She also had been previously married twice – to Friedrich Wolff, and then to Gangolff Glöser (that's a mouthful). It was also not recorded that she had any children, but the records were incomplete in these years, so both his third and fourth wives might have had children by previous marriages.

Because of the terrible toll that war and disease took on the village, people married many times in these years.

In April of 1679 Cuntz and fourth wife Barbara sold house #55 to their *grandson*, Hanss *der Junge* ("the younger") Dollhopf, who was 22 years old at the time and married for only six months. It was highly unusual for Cuntz to sell the house to his grandson and not his son. The sale price was 50 guilders (a very good price) with the stipulation that Cuntz and Barbara could continue to live there until they died. Cuntz's son "Hanss the older," father of Hanss "the younger," had married the daughter of owner of the Zeckenmühle ("Zecken Mill"), and apparently had no interest in inheriting his father Cuntz's house since he and his wife inherited the mill. Their son Stephan Dollhopf in turn inherited the mill and they were able to live out their days there.



Photo of Mistelbach taken around 1904, from a field that was purchased by Hans Tolhopf in the 1430s, known as the "Heide." The Dorfmühle ("village mill"), owned by the Dollhopfs from 1499 to 1648, is in the foreground labeled No. 57. The house in the photo labeled No. 55, built by Conrad Dollhopf in 1662, is to the immediate left. Although the photo is severely faded, it is clearly a two-story house, squeezed tightly between other houses. The plot was only ½ acre. The stable was on the first floor. This house was owned by a branch of the Dollhopf family for 252 years until 1914. Because it was such a small house and plot the Dollhopf families who lived here were poor. At the time this photo was taken in 1904 the house was owned by Johann Konrad Dollhopf, a second cousin four times removed. There were at least four Dollhopfs born in this house (from that Dollhopf branch) who immigrated to America, including Conrad Dollhopf, who bought a house a few blocks from our great-grandfather John Dollhopf on Spring Hill in Pittsburgh. Conrad's grandson Ewald lives in McCandless T87ownship.

Barbara died in July of 1682 at the age of 52. Cuntz was 75 and apparently through with marriage. He did not marry again and died a year and a half later in December of 1683.

On January 30, 1684, his estate was distributed among his two heirs – his son Hanss “the older” and his granddaughter Magdalena Hacker, the daughter of his daughter Anna Dollhopf. The estate included 6 parcels of land worth 200 guilders, 60 guilders in receivables (owed by his son Hans and grandson Hans), and 20 guilders cash. His funeral costs of 8.15 guilders were deducted from the 20 guilders cash.

Death was a constant companion in these times, the cause of the high turnover in marriages. Cuntz and his son Hanss were the only two Dollhopfs in 17 generations to have more than one wife – not because of divorce, but because of death. (Divorce was rare in peasant villages.)

Mistelbach was constantly suffering the indignities of desperate thieves and roving gangs – most of whom were homeless and searching for food. Once our peasant ancestors rebuilt their houses, perhaps returning from the woods, they were still under constant threat. Their houses were often raided, their food stores and livestock stolen or destroyed. These harsh living conditions continued for *decades*, contributing to widespread disease and hunger.

For 18 years, during Cuntz’s lifetime, the Dollhopf mill, next to his house, which had been owned by his grandfather and destroyed in the war, sat abandoned, as did many of the remaining houses in Mistelbach.

What did our grandmothers endure? We don’t even know the name of our 9th great-grandmother. She died at the age of 26 at the height of these incivilities. Was she brutalized as depicted in the above paintings? Did she disappear in the fog of war?

Did this happen to any of the Dollhopf wives in this generation? Most likely. These were chaotic, cruel, deadly, and uncertain times.

Our 9th great grandfather Cuntz Dollhopf served as the sheriff during these times in the 1660s. How hard was his job?!

Next in the series on Dollhopf women: 8th Great-grandmother Dorothea Neukam

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