



# Dollhopf

600 Years in the Baking

## The Dollhopf House

*Mistelbach, Oberfranken, Deutschland*

The “Dollhopf” house, still today owned by a third cousin of ours, is located in Mistelbach, a rural farming village of ~1,600 inhabitants, adjoining the city of Bayreuth in northern Bavaria. The village is one of many in an area of farmland, rolling hills, meadows, and forests, called the Hummelgau. It is thought that the region was first settled in the 8<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> century.

Prior to the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century, Mistelbach did not have street addresses. When travel was by foot, or horse, it had *paths* – houses were more or less randomly assigned numbers. The Dollhopf house was #19. Today the address is Bayreuther Strasse 1 (Bayreuth Street #1).



*House #19 is on the right, built in 1823. Directly in front of the house is the town square; to the right and unseen is the St. Bartholomew church. In 1823 House #13, second from right, was owned by the Schramm family. On August 28, 1822 they were making “kiegla,” a pastry deep fried in lard (ironically, this is probably a type of pastry once called a “tolhopf!”). The lard caught fire and caused a great fire. At least seven houses and their barns were destroyed. These houses, including the Dollhopf house, were rebuilt in 1823. House #12, third house from the right, was owned by the Nützel family. In the 1900s they farmed cooperatively with the Dollhops.*

The house that currently occupies the site was built in 1823 by Eberhard Dollhopf (1789-1843), our 3X-great-grandfather. He was the grandfather of our immigrant ancestor, Johann Bär Dollhopf.

Eberhard was 34 years old and unmarried when he built the house. Living in the house at that time were his father Johann Dollhopf, who was 70, and his mother, Anna Catharina Hagen, age 69. Anna died that winter of 1823 on the 19<sup>th</sup> of February from a cough and “narrow chest” (probably pneumonia). She likely died during the time the house was being built (their former house burned down five months previously in August).<sup>1</sup>

Johann Dollhopf, Eberhard’s father, purchased the original house and farm from his father-in-law, Stephan Hagen, on May 11, 1785. Following is the entry in the court records, made almost 15 years after the transaction. Note that this document was issued by a court of the Kingdom of Prussia. The Margrave of Bayreuth had sold Mistelbach and the surrounding territory to Prussia in 1792. It remained a territory of Prussia until 1806 when it was conquered by Napoleon, who then sold the territory to King Ludwig of Bavaria in 1808. Who knew that for a brief period of time the Dollhopfs were French, then Prussian!

Johann Dollhopf Bayreuth, 4 February 1799

Letter of investiture with farm #19

Staatsarchiv, D-96047 Bamberg: Amtsgericht Bayreuth, Verträge, "D", 2/1808.

We, Friederich Wilhelm III, by the grace of God king of Prussia, prince-elector of Brandenburg, burgrave of Nürnberg, above and below Gebürg, etc., hereby document and confirm to the public, that We lawfully and honestly furnished our dear faithful Johann Dollhopf from Mistelbach with a continuous hereditary fief [right of land tenancy] consisting of a farm thereat, located opposite the church and graveyard, where formerly a home and barn stood, and an orchard, in the size of 1/8 tagwerk<sup>2</sup>; including the field specified on page 341 b, in the size of ½ tagwerk, located in the Warmsreuth district. For changing the quality of a masculine fief and cancelling the case-of-death fee he pays an annual rent of 1.12 guilders to the local treasury.

All of this was immediately transferred to him by his wife Margaretha née Hagen, who had inherited this together with her sister Cunigunda married Hagen after her mother's death, who was the deceased Catharina widowed Hagen, and had taken it over in the succeeding estate distribution. Besides the judicial approval fee in the amount of 60 guilders, that his wife and sister-in-law were jointly liable to, he had to pay the quit-rent and also a fee for the most deplorable death of Our highly-respected Father and Majesty<sup>3</sup>.

We bestow on him, Johann Dollhopf from Mistelbach, this farm and orchard thereat, in the customary way and according to the law, by virtue of this letter, so that he and all of his heirs of male and female sex in the future shall have, take and receive this as a continuous hereditary fief from Us and Our successors, according to custom and law, as often as is necessary, however, without prejudice to Us and Our successors' rights, and the rights of any third party, without malice. Authenticated by the bigger seal of the 2<sup>nd</sup> senate. Our government and the Feudal Court and usual signature.

Done in Bayreuth, February 4 1799

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<sup>1</sup> Johann and Anna had an inauspicious start in life. From the church books, page 43, we learn that they were married under curious circumstances. From the records: “Johann Thollhopff, legitimate surviving oldest son of the deceased Johann Thollhopff, who was a local peasant farmer and inhabitant, and Anna Catharina Hagen, surviving legitimate oldest daughter of the deceased Stephan Hagen, who was a local quarryman and journeyman mason, who in disgraceful manner had had intercourse, after the grant of the most gracious government decree got married in silence on October 20, 1774.”

<sup>2</sup> A *tagwerk* is a measurement of land – tag = day; werk = work. It was literally the amount of land that could be worked in a day by one man, something less than an acre.

<sup>3</sup> He had to pay a fee because King Friederich Wilhelm II had died that year! Such was the life of a peasant.

One more curious fact (which will be the subject of another post): On October 7, 1806, on their way to the Battle of Jena, French troops under the command of Napoleon encamped in Mistelbach and 320 soldiers occupied village houses, including the Dollhopf house. There were four officers and five soldiers in the parsonage across the street from house #19. It is not known exactly how many soldiers “invaded” the Dollhopf house, but, it was reported,



*The Dollhopf house on the left, the school house (now the parish hall) on the right, St. Bartholomew Church in the background.*

they did not cause any damage, although they likely helped themselves to provisions and whatever else they deemed of value. Such “accommodations” were repeated as French troops transited the area continuously *for the next ten years* until 1815. Such was the life of a peasant.

Although Eberhard was the youngest child, he inherited the house. He had two older brothers living at the time – Stephan, a miller, who was 49 and lived at the Finken Mill, one of four mills in Mistelbach, and Johann (yet another Johann), a farmer who moved to the neighboring village of Eckersdorf. Eberhard had two more brothers, both named Johann (yes, really), and a sister Kunigunda; all three died as children.

He inherited the house on April 13, 1808 when he was only 19, even then a young age for an unmarried man to inherit property. We can only guess why that might have been. Perhaps his father was old and tired, perhaps he was broken by the wars, famine, and poverty of the time. There were a series of crop failures in those years resulting in famine; inflation was rampant, and the great migration to America was about to begin.

The house that Eberhard inherited, of course, was not the house in the picture. We will have to guess as to what the houses in Mistelbach looked like before he built the current house in 1823. Houses were typically not built of stone, but rather of half timbers with mud, or solely of wood, with low thatched roofs. They were often shoddily

built, because, after all, these were peasants without significant resources. Peasant houses were typically rebuilt every other generation or so.

The floors were dirt, covered with straw, and the animals lived under the same roof in an adjoining room. Hay was stored in the attic or an adjoining shed. Cooking was done over an open fire, in the main living area; there was no separate “kitchen.”

If you are thinking what I’m thinking – that these houses were serious fire hazards – well...you would be right. Fire was a constant threat.

Eberhard built the house after what one historian labeled, the “great fire of 1822:”



*Photo of a typical medieval peasant house, surviving in central Europe. This photo was taken during WWI.*

On August 21, 1822, between 11 and 12 o'clock noon, a fire broke out in house number 13 due to the igniting of lard. The resulting conflagration consumed 57 buildings, of which 14 residential buildings (houses number 7 to 18, 28, 30, and 31), 16 barns and 27 outbuildings. 11 head of cattle, and five pigs, have been done in by the raging sea of fire devastation.

87 people were suddenly left helpless and robbed of all furnishings and food supplies for man and beast. The city magistrate and many noble humanitarians of the Royal District of Bayreuth brought carts loaded with grain, bread, meat, along with money...other towns brought seed grain, hay, and straw for the cattle. With tears in his eyes Mistelbach Mayor Adam Weydenhammer thanked the beneficent philanthropists, and wished them greater returns.”<sup>4</sup>

Although the records indicate that Eberhard’s house #19 was not consumed by the fire, all of the houses around it were, and given that house #18 was less than ten feet away, almost abutting house #19, it can reasonably be assumed that #19 also suffered considerable damage – if it was still standing.

As mentioned above, cooking was done on an open fire in a pit in the house; there were no ovens or stoves. The great fire was caused by a large pot of lard that caught fire. (I hate when that happens.) Mistelbach was ravaged by fire on numerous occasions since the 1300s. If the fires weren’t caused by cooking or heating, they were caused by lightning or by marauding armies. Such was the life of a peasant.

Most of the houses that surround the town square today date from 1823. As one can see in the photo, they are substantial houses built of sandstone, mined from the quarry about a mile upstream on the *Mistel bach* (Mistel stream). In medieval Europe, village houses were clustered around a square next to the church. The fields were located outside of, and surrounding, the village. One’s house did not sit on the farmland, as in America.

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<sup>4</sup> Königlich Bayerisches privilegiertes Intelligenz-Blatt für den Ober-Mainkreis: 1822.

A typical farmhouse, #19 had a barn located in the rear, along with a small garden and fruit trees. The fields and meadows, as mentioned above, were located outside of the village. The first floor had two “rooms” – on the right side of the house was the living room, the room where meals were prepared and eaten. In 1823 the living room had one table, one chair, a fire pit, and utensils for cooking. We know this because when Eberhard’s son Johann died, his possessions were listed in his “estate” as it were. There were two or three rooms on the second floor for sleeping – I would assume boys in one, girls in the other. Eberhard had *ten* children.



*This is a photo of the rear of the house taken from the church steeple. Note the addition to the rear. This is the kitchen and bath added in 1971 – the first time the house had running water. A garden and small orchard was in the “back yard.” The third floor was used for hay for the animals.*

the front yard was entirely utilitarian.

The stable was converted into a living room when the cows were sold in 1978, after the death of Barbara Schiller Dollhopf at age 84. She and her husband Adam Dollhopf, who died in 1959 at age of 76, were the last owners to actively run the farm.

In 1968 Selden Pearce and Ruth Dollhopf (Uncle SJ and Aunt Ruth) visited the house on one of their tours of Europe. Unfortunately, they did not have the opportunity to visit with the occupants, at that time Barbara Schiller Dollhopf, her daughter Margarethe and husband Bernhard Hammon, and their two boys Gunther and Bernd. Margarethe died in 2018 at age 96; son Bernd now lives in the house alone. I had the great fortune to visit with Margarethe in the house in 2017 before she died.

There was no running water in the house; the village pump was located on the town square about 25 yards from the house. Certain villagers, if they paid the necessary tax, could use the village oven, also located on the square.

There was no bathroom; an outhouse was located directly behind the house. (In the earlier times the humans would have also used the animal dung heap.) As seen in the photo (at left) from the church steeple, a small kitchen and bathroom were added to the back of the house in 1971.

That’s right, the house did not have a bathroom until 1971.

Until 1978, the animal stable was still located in the house. In #19 it was on the left side, facing the front. One walked through a door from the living room/ kitchen directly into the “room” with the cows. The stable door to the outside was to the immediate left of the front door of the living quarters. It is now a window, barely visible behind the ivy.

According to Bernd Hammon, the current owner who was born and raised in the house, the stable had room for ten cows, and the occasional goats, sheep, and chickens. The geese and pigs lived in the barn in the back of the house.

The dung heap was located outside the door in front of the house, behind the hedges to the left of the walkway entrance. Before the days of suburban angst,

Having seen the house, and the enormous dung heap in the front yard, Uncle SJ told us that he always knew the Dollhopfs were full of shit.

Now that's funny.



*The rear of House #19, taken from the church. The small addition in the rear – a kitchen and bathroom – was added c.1971.*

House #19 – and the houses that occupied the site prior to 1823, were owned by a Dollhopf since 1784, but the property had been in the family – on the maternal side, for six generations, beginning in 1622, the first year that ownership records for this house were recorded.

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Following is the list of the owners and the date they acquired, or were known to be living, in the house that occupied site #19. The list includes, if known, their date of birth, date of death, age when they died, relationship to us, and their occupation:

1622 | **Simon Kűfner** (birth and death not known). It is not confirmed, but he is likely our 10x-great-grandfather, since the next owner was our 9x-great-grandfather.

1628 | **Hans Kűfner** (1593-1650, 57), 9<sup>th</sup> great-grandfather. This was the time of the Thirty Years War, and Hans

Küfner was likely killed, died of the plague, or fled the village, because house #19 changed hands after only two years to another ancestor of ours, who was unrelated to Küfner.

1630 | **Hans Ruckriegel** (1565-1634, 69), 9<sup>th</sup> great-grandfather, farmer. Church records indicate he moved to Mistelbach from neighboring Pittersdorf about 1630. He had ten children. He was 65 when he took ownership of the house, an indication that he might have been assuming an abandoned property in the wake of the Thirty Years War. From the church records:

“On September 21, 1632 house #19 was burned to the ground.”

On this date, Croatian mercenaries, hired by King Phillip III of Spain, invaded Mistelbach. This was an incident of the Thirty Years War, a titanic struggle between Protestant and Catholic forces that resulted in more than eight million deaths in Europe – deaths not only from the war, but also the ensuing plague. In this part of central Germany, it is estimated that more than half the local population perished.

Mistelbach was laid waste and largely abandoned. At that time our Dollhopf ancestors owned the Dorfmühle (village mill), which also was destroyed and abandoned for 18 years. Only one Dollhopf would survive the war – obviously it was our ancestor – Cuntz Dollhopf (1581-1636).

Hans Ruckriegel, then owner of #19, died in 1634, probably a casualty of war or the plague. The property was likely abandoned for 12 years until the following owner is listed in 1646.

1646 | **Hans “Johannes der Junge” Hagen** (1633-1713, 80), 8<sup>th</sup> great-grandfather, butcher, farmer, and *Gotteshaus-pfleger* (“church warden”). A church warden was the overseer of the church farm and its possessions, sort of a church manager. He didn’t own it, but was responsible for it. He passed #19 to Simon, his only child.

1674 | **Simon Hagen** (1668-1742, 74), 7<sup>th</sup> great-grandfather. Church records indicate he was a *Wirt* (“innkeeper”) as well as a butcher and farmer. Perhaps he rented out rooms. He sold the property to his oldest son Conradt Hagen on February 14, 1722. Simon had three other children, probably only Conradt survived to adulthood.

1722 | **Conradt Hagen** (1694-1743, 49), 6<sup>th</sup> great-grandfather, stone mason. Conradt had three children, Johann, Stephan and Anna (she died at age four). After he died prematurely at age 49, #19 was inherited by his second oldest son, Stephan. Johann died seven years later in 1750. Margaretha and Stephan died within one month of each other in 1771.

1743 | **Stephan Hagen** (1725-1771, 45), 5<sup>th</sup> great-grandfather, stone cutter, and mason. His widow Catharina Bär and his two daughters inherited the property on May 29, 1772, after his early death in 1771. She, and daughters Anna Catharina and Kunigunde, sold it to Anna Catharinas’s husband Johann Dollhopf.



*In the center is the barn immediately behind #19, probably built around the same time as the house. The greenery around the barn is the site of the former garden and fruit trees. Notice how close the other houses and barns are. Photo is taken from the church steeple.*

- 1784 | **Johann Dollhopf** (1752-1828, 75), 4<sup>th</sup> great-grandfather, farmer. Johann was born in House #55, and moved to #19 when he married Anna. Johann gave it to his 19-year-old son, Eberhardt.
- 1808 | **Eberhardt Dollhopf** (1789-1843, 54) 3<sup>rd</sup> great-grandfather, farmer, church warden, and mayor of Mistelbach. He married Margarethe Graisinger in 1824, and they had ten children.
- 1823 | Current stone house built by Eberhard after “the great fire” of 1822.
- 1843 | **Margaretha (nee Graisinger) Dollhopf**, (1802-1863, 61), 3<sup>rd</sup> great-grandmother, wife of Eberhard. Margaretha inherited the property after Eberhardt died. She sold it to their oldest surviving son Johann in 1857. after he married Margarethe Bär in November of 1856.
- 1857 | **Johann Dollhopf** (1830-1858, 28), 2<sup>nd</sup> great-grandfather, farmer. Johann had the property for only a year. He contracted tuberculosis in the spring of 1858 and died in December. Johann and Margarethe had four illegitimate children before they could afford to marry. His oldest son, Johann, our great-grandfather, emigrated to America in 1871.
- 1858 | **Margarethe (nee Bär) Dollhopf** (1828-91, 61) 2<sup>nd</sup> great grandmother, wife of Johann. Margarethe inherited the property. She remarried and moved to the neighboring village of Oberwaiz in 1859 and rented house #19 to farmer George Zimmerman, a distant cousin, On September 10, 1881, according to a deed made by Notary Skutsch in Bayreuth, Margarethe passed the property to her son Johann Konrad Dollhopf for 10,825 marks. Margarethe died in 1891. Johann Konrad Dollhopf was her second oldest son; her oldest son was our great grandfather Johann who had departed for America.
- 1881 | **Johann Konrad Dollhopf** (1856-1947, 90) great grand-uncle, farmer, and quarryman. Johann had a son, Adam, and two girls, Sophie and Barbara. He married three times after the deaths of his first two wives.
- 1923 | **Adam Dollhopf** (1882-1959, 76) first cousin twice removed, farmer and quarryman. Adam, who was wounded in the ankle in WWI, inherited the farm from his father on March 20, 1923
- 1959 | **Barbara (nee Schiller) Dollhopf** (1894-1978, 84), wife of Adam. After Barbara died, many changes took place at the house. The cows were sold and the first-floor stable was converted to living quarters. The house acquired its first plumbing, and a bathroom and kitchen were added to the rear of the house. Her daughter Margaretha inherited the property because her oldest son Georg lost his arm in WWII and could not farm, and her other son Hans was killed in the same war on the eastern front.
- 1978 | **Margaretha (nee Dollhopf) Hammon** (1922-2018, 96) second cousin once removed and her husband **Bernhard Hammon** 1924-2002, 78), farmer.
- 2017 | **Bernd Hammon** (1959- ) third cousin, son of Margaretha.



*Adam Dollhopf (1882-1959)*

I have visited the house on many occasions, the first time in 1998, with wife Marjo, and children Hans and Conner. At the time, I didn't know if the people living there were related to us. I knocked on the door of the Church across the street and was greeted by a woman who gave us a tour of the Church. She didn't speak English, but her son did, and he served as translator.



Almost 20 years later, in 2017, I was visiting Mistelbach for the second time. On that occasion I did meet the owner of house #19, Margarethe Hammon (*nee* Dollhopf), a second cousin of my father, my second cousin once removed.

She told me, through a translator, that in the late 1990s she gave a tour of the Church to some Dollhopf family from the United States!

Who knew.

I travel to Mistelbach as often as I can since I work in Germany. I wander the streets, the stone pathways, amongst the two- and three-hundred-year-old buildings, along the Mistel, and I wonder what it was like to live the life of a peasant. *Half a millennium* of Dollhopfs played in the square, farmed the fields, roamed the woods. Generations suffered from famine, disease, and war.

But they persevered. What was it like?



*Onkle Hans Dollhopf telling stories in the living room of #19 on May 17, 2014.*

On May 17, 2014 I had the opportunity to visit with Hans Dollhopf and Margarethe Dollhopf Hammon, Adam Dollhopf's son and daughter, in house #19. At the time Hans was a sprightly 90 years old. His sister Margarethe, the current owner, was 92. They were both of the generation of my parents; second cousins to Ed, Ruth, Lois, Rolly, and LaVerne. Both have recently passed away.

"Onkel" Hans, as everyone called him, was born in house #19 in 1924, the third son of Adam Dollhopf and Barbara Schiller. Adam and Barbara had three sons, all of whom fought in WWII. As a boy in the 1930s Hans tended the family's geese, which sold for a handsome sum in nearby Bayreuth.

Hans fought on the eastern front in WWII, was captured in the Battle of Königsberg in 1945, and held in a Russian POW camp until 1949.

A talented musician who played many instruments, after the war he rose to become conductor of the Bavarian State Band that played the anthems for the 1972 Olympics. For 16 years he was a cellist for the Dresden Opera House. He married **Rosa Puchtler** (1922-1995) and had two children: **Jürgen Dollhopf** (b. 1954) and **Ursula Dollhopf** (b. 1956) both of whom live in Regensburg.

On that afternoon six years ago in house #19, he shared with me his history of Mistelbach, stories of his childhood at the house, his war stories, and the photo on the following page, certainly one of the oldest known family photos from house #19.

It was taken circa 1923 in the barn behind the house, not long after Adam Dollhopf inherited the property. Family, relatives, and friends gathered in the barn, which had a threshing floor (for threshing wheat). According to Onkel Hans, the barn was the site for village dances in the years between the wars. He described the people in the photo for me, which I recorded below. Birth and death years, and the age when they died, are in parentheses.



**1 Adam Dollhopf** (1882-1959, 76). Farmer and quarryman (worked in the nearby quarry owned by his father). Adam inherited house #19 and the farm on March 20, 1923; he was the owner when this picture was taken. Quiet man, but strict. Fought in the infantry in WWI. Injured his ankle and never fully recovered. Returned from the war and married Barbara Schiller on February 22, 1917. They had five children: Johann Erhard, Georg Albrecht, Anna Margareta, Hans, and Kunigunde. Three of the children are in this photo. At the time the other two included Hans, who was a newborn, and Kunigunde who was not yet born. Adam's father, the former owner, was Johann Konrad Bär Dollhopf (see below). Adam was grandfather Edward Dollhopf's first cousin – they shared the same grandparents – Johann and Margarethe Bär Dollhopf – but never knew each other. Adam's other first cousin, Albert Dollhopf – Edward's brother, our great uncle – was on the other side of the trenches in WWI, as he was a machine gunner in the US Army. There was no chance that they encountered each other however, since Adam was discharged from the German Army because of his ankle injury before the US troops arrived in Europe in the spring of 1918.

**2 Barbara Schiller Dollhopf** (1894-1978, 84) Adam's wife, 12 years younger than Adam. Outgoing, hilarious, gregarious. Adam was always quiet because she was so loud! In 1971 Barbara added the kitchen and bathroom to the rear of the house, the first time the house had indoor plumbing. Barbara's father Joseph Schiller owned the Dorfmühle (the "village mill," which was owned by the Dollhopfs from 1499 to 1649). After Joseph died, a few weeks after Barbara was born, her mother Katharina Hacker married Johann Erhard Weydenhammer, who then acquired the mill, which remains in the Weydenhammer family today. It ceased operation as a mill in 1980 and was converted to use solely as a house. The Schiller family owned the mill for 263 years after acquiring it from the

Drechsel family in 1662 – only 15 years after the Drechsels acquired it from the Dollhopfs in 1647. We were related to Barbara not only by her marriage to Adam, she was also a fifth cousin by blood.

3 **Johann Erhard “Hans” Dollhopf** (1919-1941, 21) Age ~5 in photo, son of Adam and Barbara. Was a private (*Schütze*) in the 295<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division (*5 Komp Inf Reg 518*) of the German Army (*Wehrmacht*). In June of 1941 his Division spearheaded *Operation Barbarossa* – the German invasion of the Soviet Union. Operation Barbarossa began on Sunday, June 22, 1941. Hans was killed only four days into the operation on June 26<sup>th</sup> in Dąbrówka, Poland, a small village of 120 inhabitants near Poznan, which before 1945 was part of East Prussia. When he was killed his father Adam was 59 and his mother Barbara was 47. Johann and his brothers and sisters were my father’s second cousins.

4 **Anna Margareta Dollhopf** (1922-2018, 96) Age ~3 in photo, daughter of Adam and Barbara. She inherited #19 and the farm because older brother Johann was killed in the war, and older brother Georg lost his arm in the war and couldn’t manage the farm. Her younger brother Hans (Onkel Hans above) was a baby when this photo was taken and is not in the photo. Hans became a professional musician, conductor of the Bavarian State Band. Margareta married **Bernhard Hammon** (1924-2002), farmer, on December 30, 1948. They had two children: **Gunther Hammon** (b. 1949) and **Bernd Hammon** (b. 1959). Bernd, our third cousin, currently lives in #19.

5 **Georg Albrecht Dollhopf** (1917-1975, 57) Age ~7 in photo, son of Adam and Barbara. Lost his arm on the Russian front in WWII. Married **Sophie Weissmeier** (1919-2005, 85) on June 23, 1945. They had one child: **Alfred Dollhopf** (b. 1945) who married **Astrid Rath** (b. 1948). Alfred and Astrid today live in Erlangen. Alfred is also a third cousin.

6 **Johann Konrad Bär Dollhopf** (1856-1947, age 90) Adam’s father, farmer and owner of the sandstone quarry. Big, strong, man who was singing *all* the time. Most of the houses and other structures throughout the region are built of sandstone. He was our great-grandfather John Dollhopf’s brother. They would have last seen each other on October 2, 1871, when our great-grandfather left for America. John was 19 and Johann Konrad was 15. Did they ever communicate with each other? We’ll never know.

7 **Margareta Hartung** (1868-?) Johann Konrad’s third wife. His first two wives predeceased him.

8 **Elizabeth Reuß** (1912-?) daughter of Johann Martin Reuß, owner of the Finkenmühle (“Finken Mill”). She was possibly a young maid working on the Dollhopf farm at the time (a common occupation for young women). She later married Johann Hauenstein, a carpenter from Pittersdorf.

9 **Katharina Keller** (1872-1946) Daughter of Eberhard Keller and Margaretha Stahlmann, a cousin of Adam. She married Simon Hofmann from Haag on 1 Sep 1895 and lived in house #105. She was also a first cousin of our grandfather, Edward.

10 **Johann Opel** (1869-1936) Farmer and musician. He likely belonged to the same threshing cooperative as the Dollhopfs. Lived in house #24 on the village square. He sold it in ~1900 and bought house #60. In 1901 he married Margaretha Pfaffenberger, daughter of a watchmaker from Gubitzmoos.

11 **Lina Leistner** – this might be Katharina Leistner (30 Dec 1899-?). Father Konrad Leistner was a mason (1875-1829, 54). She was a distant cousin.

12 **Unbekannter Knecht** “unknown worker.” A *knecht* was typically a day laborer who did not own a farm. Hans could not identify the remaining two people in the photo. They were likely neighbors who were helping with the threshing.

Be it ever so humble....

Mark R. Dollhopf  
New Haven, CT  
April 26, 2020 (*In anno corona virum.*)