

Where does the Hintermeister family come from?

A short history and report from Dr. phil. Hans Kläui / Saturday September 8, 1951

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The family Hintermeister we have been meeting at the Bänikon farm (ZH Kloten) in the Kloten community since the second half of the 15th century, back then belonging to the parish of Einbrach (Embrach). There was significant vitality there about the Hintermeisters, so that individual branches left the narrow living space: Konrad Hintermeister was sedantary in Kloten in 1530, the brothers Hans and Heini Hintermeister owns in 1540 the "Erblehenhof of the Allerheiligen monastery in Rieden", which their father Ueli already owned. In 1554 the tanner Heinrich Hintermeister von Rieden became a citizen of the city of Zurich, likewise in 1556 Felix, conventual of the preaching monastery in Zurich. In the 17th century, two lines of Hintermeister relocated from Bänikon to the parish of Elsau, namely Konrad Hintermeister-Huber to Fulau, Josias to the church village of Elsau itself. Two of Konrad's sons later lived in Unter-Schnasberg. In this way the Hintermeister became one typical Elsau gender.

Even before 1800 we find representatives of the family Hintermeister in Dietlikon, Neftenbach, Niederhasli and Würenlos (Aargau) citizenship. In the 19th century, individual Hintermeister acquired the home rights in Bülach, Elgg, Illnau, Küsnacht, Lindau and - from Elsau - in the city of Winterthur. It can be assumed that these Hintermeisters are more closely related.

The Historical-Biographical Lexicon of Switzerland names the first residence of the Hintermeister a Grafsbühl farm at Embrach and the year 1370. This information seemed somewhat doubtful, because about sixty years later that Gender in Geerlisberg (municipality of Kloten) is attested. There was probably a Grafsbühl farm on the heights east of the Village of Embrach, which in late medieval times diapered.

The naming of the Hintermeisters from 1370 considered to be around an old, Latin serf sledge of the collegiate foundation of Embrach. A review of the same reveals now resulting that the alleged domicile of the Hintermeister is a misreading assumption. The middle age used certain abbreviations for numerous sound groups in Latin; these same signs are also used for German place-names. So the resolution of the text is not "Grafsbühl" but "Gerlasperg", so **Geerlisberg!** The passage in question is:

1370 "Item Cuonrat Hindermeister de Gerlasperg et frater suus Ruodolfus et sorores et pueri"

("Item Konrad Hintermeister von Geerlisberg and his brother Rudolf and the sisters and the children ")

We have thus determined that the Hintermeister of "Geerlisberg" is the earliest place of residence. A future model of the pen parish of Embrach then reports in 1429 as follows:

1429 "Item Hintermeister gives three quarters of the good in Geerlisberg"

On December 4, 1438 a Ruedi Hindermeister von Geerlisberg appears as a witness in a debt due to the brothers Ueli and Grossruedi Velthen (Veltheim) from Marchlen opposite the Embrach Abbey. In the tax books of the years 1463/69 **no more** Hintermeister are mentioned in Geerlisberg; the Families "Isler" and "Eberhard" have taken their place.

But then the brothers Heini and Ueli Hintermeister now live on the Bänikon (ZH-Kloten) farm with their households; -- from them comes the numerous offspring already mentioned. What does the Hintermeister

like to leave Geerlisberg and moved to the even more remote Bänikon? We suspect the cremation of Geerlisbergs and other "Embracher farms and yards by the Confederates in the "Old Zurich War" around (1444).

The question remains whether we can trace the gender Hintermeister in Geerlisberg, which has been established since 1370 in to more earlier times?

A toboggan run by reign Austria which writes over people who alienated their rightful lord, mentioned around 1300 a "soror dicti Seiler in Gerlosperg" (sister of the *rope maker* in Geerlisberg), which serfs the Embrach church and (illegally) owned by a gentleman von Wagenberg. The same toboggan mentions yet another "Seiler" which means in English (Seiler = rope maker as a craftsman), who was settled in "Wagenberg", probably on the castle courtyard belonging to the Wagenburg (today Unter-Wagenburg).

Now the main question is: Is there any connection between the rope-maker from Geerlisberg around 1300 and the 1370 witnessed by Konrad and Rudolf Hintermeister? A hint, if not absolutely conclusive consists in the fact that both the "Seiler" and the Hintermeister were serfs of the Embrach Abbey.

In this case, the family coat of arms of the Zurich branch of the Hintermeister takes us one step further. This is well preserved, it can already be found in Dietrich Meyer's book of arms from 1605 and in consistent form in the gender book of Fries and Wüst. It can only refer to those mentioned above in the 16th Members of the gender incorporated into the civil rights of the city of Zurich.

The shield in the heraldic coats of arms is somewhat complicated and shows in red over green wire mountain a silver house brand, accompanied by two silver Rope cranks with golden knobs, all accompanied by three golden stars. Where do those Rope cranks in the coat of arms of the Hintermeisters come from ? The choice of this tool, which was used to twist the ropes, as Shield figure, can only have occurred because **the rope-making profession was once practiced in the family of the Hintermeister!**

Thats why it is obvious that the family coat of arms establishes a connection between the Seiler from 1300 and the Hintermeister from 1370, both of whom were settled in Geerlisberg. The first mention comes at a time when the family names on the landscape weren't consolidated. It cannot be said whether Seiler (rope-maker) is the job or it is meant the family name "Seiler" -- in reality it should have referred to both because the "dictus Seiler" is also the craft of rope-maker "Seiler's" exercised.

If the Hintermeister family is called 70 years later as it is, then such a name change was in the 14th century quite common.

Rather, the term "Hintermeister" should also refer to professional activity. As it is known, craftsmen were referred to as "masters" and referred to as such. "Hintermeister" – therefore one of the ropers from Geerlisberg may have been called around him by a professional colleague and close relatives to distinguish. Perhaps he lived "in the back of the village"; to approach the adjectives "behind" (Hinter-) and "front" (Vor-) which defines more like the locations of a village, which was at that time not unpopular in that hilly area. This is also shown by the names like Hinter- und Vordermarchlen and later Hinter- and Vorder-**Bänikon**.

The craftsman job "Seiler" or rope-making was very important in the Middle age. This is also shown by the H. (Heinrich?) dictus Seiler, who was a witnessed in the 1249 at Winterthur Zurich Document Book II, 234); Whether he can be attributed to the rope makers from Geerlisberg or whether it is an independent Winterthur citizen, will probably never be known.

The first secured ancestor of our Family tree is Kaspar Hintermeister, born 1759, Seiler (rope-maker) in Schwamendingen (at that time still an independent municipality, incorporated in Zurich only in 1934). A relationship with the extinct family of the city of Zurich can be assumed. We assume that the circle with the tanner Heinrich Hintermeister von Rieden, who became a citizen of the city of Zurich in 1554, closes again.

The family has also had the civil rights of the city of Basel since January 6, 1904. As a result, my late father has the civil rights of Zurich (Schwamendingen) and Basel.