# **Genealogy - Kurzweil**

### You and your ancestor CHARLEMAGNE

CHARLEMAGNE lived in the year 800, 1200 years ago. We genealogists say, that one generation in average takes 30 years, thus he lived 40 generations ago. Each of us

has two parents, four grandparents, eight

greatgrandparents, and 16 Greatgreatgrandparents. That means our parents are  $2^1$ , our grandparents  $2^2$ , our greatgrandparents  $2^3$ , our Greatgreatgrandparents  $2^4$  etc..

40 generations backwards, i.e. at the level of the year 800, we have 2<sup>39</sup> ancestors. This is nearly 550 billions. But at that time only about 50 million humans lived in Central Europe. Thus in our ancestor tree, each one of us, finds everyone living in the year 800 ca.10000 times as ancestor. The probability that CHARLEMAGNE is our ancestor only ten times instead of 10000 times, is far less than 1 per



thousand. The probability that CHARLEMAGNE is not at all an ancestor of each of us, in fact is zero.

So we can assume that each one of us is a descendant of CHARLEMAGNE. The only question that has to be solved, is which one of the 500 billion lines to the ancestors is a line to CHARLEMAGNE. To find such a line, is your task for the next years.

I apologize, if I destroyed the romantic idea that some of you (as well as my own wife) may have had, to be special because of your descent from CHARLEMAGNE.

Some people think that ca. 50 percent of us don't have CHARLEMAGNE as an ancestor, and the others on average have him 20000 times, because there was strict separation of people into nobility and commoners. But looking at the ancestors of my wife, 40 generations back she had CHARLEMAGNE manifold, but at the same time she had hundreds of ancestors, who were day-labourers, maids etc.. I find many marriages of a day-labourer's daughter and a farmer, then of their grandchild with a person of the nobility, etc. From these data I strongly contradict the idea that anyone of us could **not** have CHARLEMAGNE in his ancestry.

Other people think that CHARLEMAGNE instead of having 21 grandchildren only had two and consequently had a below average number of descendants. Even in this case CHARLEMAGNE is everyone's ancestor still 1000 times, and the probability that CHARLEMAGNE is not at all an ancestor of each of us, in fact still is zero.

# "Ancestor loss" and intermarriages

The fact, that, looking backwards from today, instead of 500 billion ancestors there are only 50 million different individuals, is sometimes called "ancestor loss" (Ahnenschwund).

Vice versa, with the view from the year 800 towards today, only 50 million represented 500 billion ancestors, thus they had to have children with each other throughout many generations again and again, many intermarriages. The less nice term is incest. We are the result.



### "Meeeeklenburg", with long "eeeee" [me:klənbuRK]

If you ignore the stretched "e" in Soest or Coesfeld and in one of these towns say "Söst" [zø:st] or "Cösfeld" [kø:sfɛlt], you will be executed immediately. Please notice that in a similar way the "c" in Mecklenburg linguistically is a stretch "c". Thus our state (Bundesland) is called "Meeeeeklenburg".

### Mecklenburg never was Prussian

The structures of this conference seem to be actually clear and easy. But Mecklenburg was never Prussian. (It was subservient directly only to the German Emperor; the fact that he was coincidentally also a king of Prussia doesn't matter.) It wouldn't be apt for Mecklenburg, if everything would run in a Prussian and correct way without breakdowns. Some of you did already notice this in our months of preparation. Others will observe this in the course of this conference. Please accept each management error and each instance of chaos as indications of aliveness and of the non-Prussian Mecklenburg. In this sense we pray for at least 3 breakdowns daily. Otherwise we, as the preparatory team of a non-Prussian conference, will be sad indeed.

Mecklenburg



#### Websurfing

All of you know, that on the web the genealogy pages are the 2<sup>nd</sup> most frequented sites, after the sex pages. Let's all work for becoming the first.

# Vertical versus horizontal research

You can do genealogy as a vertical research only for dead ancestors. Or you are a horizontal researcher, interested to find alive 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> cousins. Of course the horizontal researchers also need a few generations of ancestors backwards, as a vehicle to go down towards today again.

I, primarily being such a horizontal researcher, nevertheless enjoy going back vertically several generations, because some of my 5<sup>th</sup> cousins really are not at all interested in contact with me. But when I promise to give them their ancestors back through many generations, they suddenly wake up. Thus I like to have several generations of dead ancestors just as a bait, although for me the research only for dead ancestors is stupid and boring, and moreover the lines often are wrong, as mentioned above.

# The genealogy mania

Some non-genealogists are surprised at this "genealogy mania". These amusing people who are called genealogists try to identify in their scarce spare time a horizontal relative, or a vertical dead ancestor. We genealogists are similar to people, who at 10 p.m. see a cross word puzzle in the newspaper, think they can complete it within half an hour but then realize that it is much more difficult than expected.

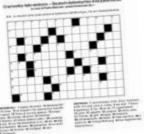
Many of these people stick to the puzzle and go on until they have finished it at 2.30 a.m., although they have to get up for work at 5.30 a.m.. We genealogists feel this way, but there are two

1.

differences to the cross-word puzzle:

Particular pieces of the puzzle researcher.

These living pieces of our puzzles visit our beautiful Mecklenburg genealogical research I visited Costa Rica, Argentina, Peru and invitations for Brazil, one each for Hawaii, where a cousin runs an Pacific; he comes from Boizenburg/



Our cross-word puzzle is endless. 2. become alive - if you are a horizontal

can be called by phone, they can and we can visit them. Via horizontal relatives in England, USA, Canada, Israel. At the moment I have four South Africa, New Zealand and ecological farm with a view of the

Mecklenburg. I enjoy looking forward to

following up on these invitations within the next few years.

#### Research online

Our progress in research is very different. Many researchers had the experience that after going "on-line", and using the World Wide Web for family research, it takes one month for the same results, for which they needed one year before. Thus I appeal to those of us, who are not yet online, to realize this soon. This is more urgent, if you have less time for your genealogical life project. Thus the older you are, the more urgent it is. I connected my mother to the internet at her 88<sup>th</sup> birthday, secretly the evening before. Now I can send mail to her and she gets messages from her American cousins.

#### Related surnames

The surnames in Germany were fixed only in the year 1874. Before everyone could speak and spell his name in a variety of ways. Only in 1874 did the Prussian "Standesämter" suddenly fix the names by law. That's why you find MEINCKES and MEINEKES and MAINKES in one same family.

#### Genealogy versus "Ahnenforschung"

The terms "genealogy" and "family research" include vertical and horizontal research. The German term "Ahnenforschung" - ancestor research - does not include horizontal research (Ahne =VOR-fahr). No Anglo American would use the term ancestor research instead of "family research", except when he indeed means only the backwards-turned dead-research without looking for alive relatives. Nevertheless today 90% of all German genealogists look for the term "Ahnenforschung" on the web, even if they mean "family research". This is one of the persisting successes of Hlitler - he wanted to reduce genealogy to ancestor research because the aim was to find the people with "bad ancestors" in order to eliminate them.

Auszüge zum Nachweis der arifchen Abstammung für Treue der registermäßig Vilhelu belegten Kurzaus züge Ite. aus den Ricchenbüchern Stem der Evangelischen Pfarrei arb. 12.5.1806 in hele geft. 16. 3. 1874 in Lahr, ben II. Stiftopfarrei Lahr (Baden). Lal. a Saufregifter b Totenregifter Der Pfarrer Tab. 9tr. 2201 82 297/39 2 Bieler Betraut : Carl Wilhelen Herrenkult Let theisting Thursdermith take Barbarg T. the arb. 15.1. 1283 Bem. in delt. stb. 17.5. 1768 in 7.6.1805 hale a Toufregijier geit. 4.8.1814 in hele b Totenregifter c Trauregifler a Saufregifter b Totenregifter (Another persisting

success of HITLER is the elimination of the real gasoline car inventor Siegfried MARCUS 1865/1867 from current knowledge and the replacement of him by DAIMLER, BENZ and OTTO, who invented it only 20 years later. Siegfried MARCUS, a Mecklenburg Jew, is related to me.)

# Disseminating versus hiding data

The same old story: Someone falls in love with his compiled data, thus he can't give anyone a copy, but rather sits on his data. And after his death, some descendant thoughtlessly throws the data away. So his life-work has vanished - like someone taking his own children into the grave. Thus don't sit on your data, but give copies to as many people as possible!

#### Home feeling and speech dialect

Usually speech dialect is determined in secondary school years, homeland feeling in puberty.

# Mecklenburg and BISMARCK

Germany's chancellor BISMARCK stated (1885), that on Doomsday he would go to Mecklenburg, because there everything happens after a delay of a hundred years. The historical background was, that Mecklenburg still had a constitution of 1755 ("Landesgrundgesetzlicher Erbvergleich"), and moreover this constitution was not up-to-date already in 1755, e.g. specifying complete exemption from taxes for nobles and knights. Mecklenburg today, as e.g. the active tourism shows, obviously is rather in advance of the rest of the world.

### BISMARCK and EMPEROR WILHELM I A Mecklenburg anecdote

The TZAR OF RUSSIA once visited EMPEROR WILHELM II. They both were guests of the GRAND DUKE OF MECKLENBURG in Schwerin. When they were tired of discussions,

they went for a stroll through the fields. It was hot and after some time they became very tired, these gentlemen, who normally were driven in a carriage. They began looking for any possibility of being transported, but there was none.

Suddenly there came a farmer with his horses and an open carriage. The GRAND DUKE simply held the horse at its halter and stopped the farmer.

The farmer got very angry: "These are my horses. Don't touch them! Who in hell are you?" The GRAND DUKE was frightened: "You should know me. I am your GRAND DUKE!"

The farmer was not impressed at all, he was just

smiling a bit. He pointed with his whip to the EMPEROR: "And who is that??" The GRAND DUKE: "This is your EMPEROR - O u r EMPEROR!"

The farmer was not impressed yet. He only smiled more: "And who is the third one there???" The GRAND DUKE: "That is the TZAR OF RUSSIA!!!"

Now the farmer began laughing very hard: "I like you three very much. Then I am the SHAH OF PERSIA. Please jump in my carriage."

I thank you for your attention.

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