

Genealogy of the Bogenschneider Family

History and Family Tree

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City Secretary of Berlin

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Translated from German to English by Duane Bogenschneider

Summer 2013

Dedicated to the memory of my dear mother and my dear father, to whom I owe the basis of this family genealogy. But I cannot, as was my hope, place this completed work in their hands.

Sources

For the Family Name:

- J. und W. Grimm, *Deutsches Wörterbuch*, Leipzig 1854
- A. Heintze, *Die deutschen Familiennamen*, Halle 1903.
- A. F. Pott, *Die Personennamen*, Leipzig 1853 -- Anmerkung Seite 284: Beneken
- A. Bähnisch, *Die Deutschen Personennamen*, Leipzig 1910.
- Personal Instructions by: Professor Dr. Pallmann, Oberlehrer zu Berlin, 1886; A. Bähnisch, Gymnasialdirektor zu Kreuzburg in Schlesien, 1910; Professor Dr. Cascorbi, Hannoverisch - Münen, 1911.

For the Family Tree:

- Professor Dr. Lorenz: *Lehrbuch der gesamten wissenschaftlichen Genealogie*, Berlin 1898.
- Church Books and Civil Registers

For the Family History:

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- Notices in the church books of the evangelical parish of Nadrensee-Krackow, Woltersdorf und Völschendorf in Kreis Randow. Also materials from the Königlichen Konsistoriums of the Province of Pomerania.
- Discussions of everyday life and family with my great-grandmother Charlotte Bogenschneider born Lenz, my grandparents and parents.

Foreword

On winter evenings and on walks, I often looked forward to conversations with my father. He loved to tell of the "good old days," of his parents and grandparents and of his youth, which seemed particularly happy in the transfiguring light of memory.

It occurred to me to write down some of the stories and summarize them for our family in a modest chronicle. To supplement the stories about our older ancestors, an examination was done of their home church records.

This expanded the information through a stimulating search. I added information about our surname, and so the present family genealogy developed.

It takes us back to days long since faded away, showing us pictures of happy events, as well as those that speak of suffering and travail. By nature, there is no claim to be exhaustive, but rather it covers only direct family history, and such events that were deemed to have more interest.

May this work be suitable to preserve the memory of our ancestors. May we the carriers of the common family name see ourselves belonging to people who in simple and ordinary conditions honestly struggled in their lives.

Berlin, Kaiser-Friedrich-Platz Nr. 2, in the Summer of 1913.

Hans Bogenschneider

English Translation

It is indeed an honor to offer a translation of *Stammbuch der Familie Bogenschneider In Chronik u. Stammtafel* in English in this the centennial year of its original publication. Hans Bogenschneider probably never envisioned that one hundred years after offering his wonderful family history that another Bogenschneider would present his work in another language.

An electronic copy of this work was obtained from the German National Library in Leipzig. We thank the Interlibrary Loan Department at the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee and the Interlibrary Loan Department at the Deutsche Nationalbibliothek at Leipzig for their assistance in obtaining this work.

In translating the text, every attempt was made to stay true to the original meaning of the text despite the translator's imperfect knowledge of German. In translating the work, a decision was made to use an idiomatic style rather than a pure literal translation. This was done to produce a less stilted and more flowing text for the modern reader.

The translator has added a "Glossary" to help explain the immediate context of some of the events, places and people to assist the reader in more fully understanding the *Weltanschauung* or understanding of the world at that time and a "Name Index" to provide access to the individuals mentioned in the book.

It is with deepest gratitude and appreciation that this translation is dedicated in honor of the original author, Hans Bogenschneider. It is through his efforts that we today have better insights into the history of the Bogenschneider family. As was his goal, he indeed has provided us with a greater memory of our family, and a greater understanding of what those who walked before us experienced in their lives.

Duane Bogenschneider
Summer 2013

Our Name

*You are looking for people to name
And believe by the name you will know them,
Anyone who sees deeper, remains free
It is what is Anonymous.
(Goethe: Gereimte Sprüche)*

Our oldest ancestors called themselves Babenschneider, Bavenschneider and Bawenschneider, and only occasionally Bogenschneider. These four spellings of the name were used until 1797, and only then Bogenschneider became the fixed spelling.

The origin and the meaning of our name, which at first glance appears clear, may not be that clear.

One of my teachers, the German scholar and historian Professor Pallmann, related the name to a maker of weapons. He thought Bogenschneider was a bow maker (bow and arrows).

Parzival 188, 5: "bow and arrow, he cuts with his own hand."

The name should then be synonymous with today's surnames Bogner and Boegner. These are derived from the Middle High German bogenaere and are related to the manufacture of weapons by a proficient craftsmen.

Hans Sachs V 361 b: "What does your shooting cost you in a year? The best shot has a bowmaker."

The linking of the words bow and maker does not occur often in literature. Were that the case in the Middle Ages, the name would appear quite often. But the fact is the name is rarely used and is not represented in many families.

In all likelihood, Pallman's interpretation, based on another time, is not correct.

Bahnisch, a newer name historian, is inclined to believe that our name is related to a place. In his view the inhabitant of a Bogenschneid named Bogenschneider, was possibly a single farmstead or a settlement with several pieces of land. Like all place names with the suffix "schneid", the area is characterized by an area of land with boundaries. For example, Schneid or Schneid, even today in rural usage, refers to a defined area of land. Beneken also defines Schneid (cited in Pott: personal names): "as pieces of land defined by boundary markers, such as hills, stones, or streams." The Bogen describes our border as "bending." Perhaps it was a road or a brook, or the winding (bends) in land by the sea.

Bahnisch holds it as insignificant that locations with specific names no longer exist. He sees the name as a distortion of a field name, which was particularly coined in older times by landmen and used among each other, without the name being officially noted or specified in geographical books. Such field names or groups of dwellings, namely in areas where the farmsteads lay separately and unnoted, and where nearly each had a peculiar situation and condition, could from it receive a name.

The proposed explanation is acceptable, but it does not say anything about the names in conjunction with Baben and Bawen (Baven). Also, it attaches unnecessarily to the existence of a settlement or a property. I believe that the name derives from a place, the words relating to Bawen and boundaries.

Schneid meant, as we saw, a piece of land. The resident of a Schneid was called a Schneider. (Seven: Pott.) When neighbors tried to identify it more specifically, then this was done via reference to the place or the area, where an individual resided. In Low German or Plattdeutsch, "baben" refers to above. Neighbors referred to them as "baben." Later one may have called it Schneider of Baben or briefly babenschneider. Most likely the name existed for a long time in this form before it was changed to Bogenschneider.

How did this happen?

Here it must be noted that it involved a rural family, which used the Low German dialect. In indistinct articulation the name was also spoken as Bavenschneider or Bawenschneider. Further investigation shows that Bawen (spoken as Boawen) is the Low German form of the standard German word "Bogen." If a member of the family wanted to change the name to standard German, the name was changed from Bawenschneider to Bogenschneider. With this change the original meaning of the name was lost and replaced with a new meaning. (This type of change happened with a great many German surnames.) As the family turned to the standard German language, it used the new form of the name Bogenschneider, and it became the only form of usage.

The spelling of the name changed easily in church record entries; "in the old times, since so few could write, the posting of the names was not certain; one scribe would write it one way and another scribe in a different way." (Bähnisch, chapter VII).

Considering everything, our name can't be interpreted with full certainty. This would only be possible if it could be pursued through the various changes in the name back to its beginning. This is not possible because documentation is only available from the mid 18th century, and the name was created long before this.

With high probability, however, we may assume that the first user of the name Babenschneider was called so by his neighbors, because he was "baben of the schneider," and lived up on the hilly part of a section of land.

Introduction

The ancestors from which our family descended were located in Pomerania, west of the Oder River in the silver ribbon area of the Randow River that separates Uckermark and the blessed Mecklenburg. They immigrated to this area in the middle of the eighteenth century, and their original home was probably east of the Oder River in the area of the Madüsee located between Stargard and Pyritz down to the Neumark. Even today, families with the names Bogenschneider and Babenschneider live there, and their heritage dates back to the peasant earthiness of the past centuries. They are all Protestants.

Progenitor of the family in Kreis Randow is David Benjamin Babenschneider, whom we identify as our oldest known ancestor. He first appears in the year 1750 in the village of Krackow near Penkun as an employee of Mr. von Ploetz on the manor Krackow. According to the church records in Krackow, his birth year is calculated as 1724, but otherwise there is no information about his birth and origin. This justifies the assumption that David Benjamin immigrated to Krackow.

Both the Captain von Ploetz and his wife were from eastern Pomeranian noble families. The latter is identified as "the highborn wife Amalia Eliesabetha of Küssow, the daughter of Captain Georg Ehrenreich of Küssow, owner of the manors at Klücken and Kloxin." As these manors were located in Kreis Pyritz, David Benjamin probably had his home there and already held a position in the service of the noble house of Ploetz. Having gained the confidence of the family Ploetz, they summoned him to Krackow, where in 1750 he established his home at the age of twenty-six and still unmarried.