

## The First Known Generation

*The past emerges from the dark grave  
and gives us some long lost memories.*

David Benjamin Babenschneider, in spite of his rural background and the time in which he lived, was an educated man. In 1751, he assumed the office of teacher and sexton in Krackow. At that time, probably coinciding with the start of his new occupation, he married Christina Elisabeth Grücher, who died within one year, in July 1752, while giving birth to twins.

To care for the infants, David Benjamin entered in the same year into a second marriage. He chose 19-year-old Maria Elisabeth Panko'en, who became our ancestral mother. As a neighbor in Krackow and as a friend, she already had held the abandoned twins at their baptism.

Eight children resulted from the new union of our ancestor: four boys and four girls. One of the sons, Christian Martin, died in infancy. The unmarried daughter Oehlgard died from melancholy when she was 30 years old.

Following the example of the father, two sons also turned to the education field. The oldest, Carl Gottfried, went to Woltersdorf, near the Uckermark border. The youngest, like his father named David Benjamin, succeeded him in school management and took over as sexton in Krackow. He probably supported his father in his lifetime in office as a second teacher.

David Benjamin (I) not only enjoyed the reputation as a respected patron, but also as a church superior. He appears to have been respected by clergymen because they served as sponsors for his children, including such clergymen as J. H. Projah, Pastor Nadrensis (of Nadrensee), Pastor Schultze from Glasow and theology candidate Gottfried Matthäus Blindow.

The old master sexton David Benjamin Babenschneider died on 5 June 1797, in the evening at 6:00 p.m., at the age of seventy-three years and in the 46th year of his duties, from an apoplectic stroke. Soon after, his wife Maria Elisabeth relocated to Woltersdorf, where she lived the rest of her life in the care of the oldest son, Carl Gottfried. On 5 April 1800, she died at the age of 68 years, from the enfeeblement of old age.

David Benjamin the younger was married in his first marriage to Charlotte Dreblow, the daughter of an owner of a mill in Stolzenburg. She died at the age of 27, leaving three children. Afterwards, he married the maiden Dorothea Maria Gloede, who likewise gave him three children. She was the daughter of the property gardener Philipp Johann Gloede, who was a friend of the family Babenschneider and had served as a godfather (sponsor).

David Benjamin (II), also served for a long time, and trained his son Carl Georg Heinrich, who then assisted him. David Benjamin was an honored sexton and head master, and he died at the age of 65 on 6 September 1831 after a long illness. One of his children, Caroline Wilhelmine, became the wife of the teacher Rinck in Wollin.

One of the sons, Christian Ludwig, became a game keeper. In documentation he is mentioned as a “hunter on the Gümnitz” and as a godfather of a child of his older brother Carl Gottfried in Woltersdorf. He was married for many years to Dorothea Henriette Golzen from Kremmen, and he was the father of six children. What happened to him and his family after leaving the forest warden's office in Gumnitz is not known.

## The Second Generation

The key ancestor of this generation is Carl Gottfried Bavenschneider, the sexton from Woltersdorf, who was born on 8 August 1760 in Krackow, the son of the older David Benjamin.

His first wife was our family's direct ancestor, Louisa Hintze (Hinze), the daughter of a inspector of the manor Brunn, near the village with the same name. Also, her brother Christoph was on that manor serving as the manager of affairs. Louisa died, having had two daughters and the son Carl Gottlob -- the next male of our family.

After her death, Carl Gottfried married Elisabeth Groth (Grothen), who was born in the area of Brunn. The marriage produced two sons and one daughter.

Unfortunately, Carl Gottfried Bavenschneider departed early from his family and died on 20 February 1802, in the evening at 11 o'clock, from pneumonia. He was forty-one years old. He had worked thirteen years in his profession before his death. The church records indicate that "he was an honest and faithful man."

The 35-year-old widow married again in the same year with the successor to her first husband's office, the school teacher and sexton Voigt in Woltersdorf. But he was not a replacement in the paternal welfare of the widow's children. They had to leave the house of the stepfather at a very young age in order to take up simple positions and struggle for survival.

Your uncle Carl Georg Heinrich, as successor to his father David Benjamin (II), remained in Krackow. He died already at the young age of thirty-eight of an apoplectic stroke. His marriage to Caroline Friederika produced a daughter and three sons, but none of them took over the father's position in Krackow. However, there is evidence that one of them went into the teaching profession, because in 1872, the father of the author of this chronicle met a Bogenschneider who was a teacher in Berlin, and whose parents had lived about that time in Krackow. This line of teachers in the Bogenschneider family also continues today in East Prussia, where a teacher named Bogenschneider documents his descent from the village of Krackow in Kreis Randow.