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Soufflenheim Genealogy Research and History

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New Soufflenheim Research : March 30, 2025



Leon Elchinger, Ceramics Elchinger, Soufflenheim

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## LÉON ELCHINGER

Léon Elchinger was born in Soufflenheim on 3 December 1871 and died on 8 February 1942 in his native village. The artist comes from a line of potters and tile makers active in Alsace since the middle of the 18th century.



Léon Elchinger

In 1888, the craftsman began training in the Villeroy and Boch workshops in Saarland, then became a student at the Höhr-Grenzhausen School of Ceramics near Koblenz in Germany. Then, went to the Ecole des Beaux-Arts de Nancy, in the modelling and sculpture section, where he obtained a second prize for his studies in "Antiques and Nature".

Among his creations, we can retain, in addition to the panels of the School of Decorative Arts of Strasbourg, now classified, the Dolphin and the Monkey made with RINGEL D'ILLZACH at the Orangery Park of Strasbourg, the Gockelsbad fountain of Haguenau, restored to the family in 1910, the great Sainte-Cène de Oelberg de Soufflenheim (1932), the great Stations of the Cross of Mont Sainte-Odile (1934), that of Notre-Dame de Lourdes in Nancy, awarded at the National Exhibition of Christian Art in 1935 and in Paris in 1937.

## **REFUGEES IN THE WAR OF THE AUSTRIAN SUCCESSION**

Contributed by Todd Farmerie.

The date of these records, in July 1744, during the War of the Austrian Succession (1740-1748), fall between the arrival of the Austrian army in early July 1744 and their expulsion as a consequence of the Battle of Pandours, fought at Soufflenheim on the 23rd of August, retreating across the Rhine on August 26, 1744. There are no mentions of refugees from Soufflenheim in the Haguenau parish registers from June 15 through about the end of August.

### **JOHANNES OBERMEYER, SON OF PHILIPP OBERMEYER & MARGARETHA DECKER**

#### **Hanhoffen, Saint Nicolas 20 July 1744 (Image 12/76) Baptism record**

Joanne, son of Philippi Obermeyer, burgher of Soufflem and Margaretha Deckerin his legitimate wife, in Bischweiller due to the war [of Austrian Succession]

Razimus Bitschi (godfather, mark), burgher in said Sufflem; Catharina Mesnerin (godmother, mark), also of Sufflem

### **MARIA BARBARA HARTER, DAUGHTER OF JOSEPH HARTER & EVA WAGNER**

#### **Hanhoffen, Saint Nicolas 20 July 1744 (Image 12/76) Baptism Record**

Maria Barbara, daughter of Josephi Parter [sic] (mark) burgher of Sufflem, and Eva Wagnerin, his legitimate wife, living in Bischwiller because of the war [of Austrian Succession].

Godfather is Adam Müller (signed) and godmother Barbara Kumännin (mark) both of Soufflem

## **BARBARA HARTER, DAUGHTER OF JOSEPH HARTER & EVA WAGNER**

### **Hanhoffen, Saint Nicolas 28 July 1744 (Image 46/76) Burial Record**

Barbara, eight days old, daughter of Josephi Harter (mark), burgher in Soufflem, living in this parish because of the war [of Austrian Succession], and Eva Wagnerin, his legitimate wife.

## **RECORDS IN OTHER VILLAGES**

Contributed by Todd Farmerie.

## **ANTONIUS MUTTERER**

### **Hanhoffen, Saint Nicolas 20 January 1759 (image 25/76) Baptism Record**

Antonius, son of Antony Mutterer and Marhta Domin of Oberhoffen, . . . godmother is Ursula Kölhoferin wife of Sebastiani Burger, of Sufflenheim.

## **MARTIN JUD & [ANNA] OTTILIA [GLÖCKLER]**

### **Göcklingen, Diocese of Speyer, Palatinate 25 April 1747 Marriage proclamation**

Martin Jud (groom), widower of Catharina Wölfin of Souffleheim

Ottilia (bride), widow of deceased Friderici Wild, burgher of this place

Bartholomaeus May (testator)

Todd Farmerie comments: This matches a 24 April 1747 Soufflenheim marriage. The bride previously married at Göcklingen, 25 January 1739, to widower J. Fridericus Wildt, as Anna Ottilia Gloechleriin, daughter of Mathia and Anna Angela Gloeckler of Clingenmünster (Klingenmünster) and Göcklingen. Testator Bartholomaeus May was apparently the Soufflenheim man who married in 1746 to Anna Maria Glöckler, widow of Johannes Haas. <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSZT-751R>

## **DEED OF SALE: ANTON NUWER, JR. AND MARGUERITHE LUDWIG**

Contributed by Michael J. Nuwer.

This notary document is the deed of sale for a parcel of land in Soufflenheim identified in the cadastral land survey of 1836 as Section D, Number 1272. The parcel was recorded as 810 square meters of class 5 plowed land.

The sale took place on August 30, 1844 at the Soufflenheim town hall. The sellers were Anton Nuwer, Jr. and his wife Marguerithe Ludwig. The buyer was Georg Uhry, “a day labor residing in Soufflenheim.” The parcel of land was sold for the price of 200 francs, payable in “four equal installments” on Saint Martin’s Day (November 11), 1845, 1846, 1847, and 1848. Notice that Georg Uhry was given more than a year before his first installment was due. The document states that “interest at the legal rate” accumulated over that four-year interval.

In addition to the terms of the sale, this 1844 notary document tells us something about the history of the farmland. It states that the land was inherited by Anton Nuwer, Jr. from “the estate of his father, Antoine Nuwer” (he died in 1818).

A separate document recorded the purchase of the land by Antoine Nuwer, Sr. He acquired it on 13 Frimaire year six (December 3, 1797) for the amount of 59 livre, 4 sols. (For most purposes, the franc and livre exchanged at par. A franc was equal to 4.5 grams of silver while a livre was equal to 4.505 grams of silver. A livre divided into 20 sols. Thus, 59.2 livres was equal to 59.27 francs.) To avoid confusion, it should be noted that the 1844 deed stated the date this 1797 transaction was recorded and the recording fee, not the sale date and price.

Anton Nuwer, Jr. was only one year old when his father purchased this piece of land. The family owned it for 46 years. Information about the selling price reflects the inflation in land prices that prevented small farmers from acquiring enough land to feed their family but made it possible for them to move to North America. Liquidating land at the higher prices could fund a journey across the Atlantic and, in many cases, fund a larger farm in North America.

Because Georg Uhry did not pay cash for the land, and because Anton Nuwer and Marguerithe Ludwig were emigrating from Soufflenheim days after the sale, Anton sold the rights contained in the contract—the legal term is “assigned” the contract—to “Mr. Isaac Weill, oil manufacturer and property owner residing in Haguenau.”

Georg Uhry could not borrow money from a bank to pay for the land he was acquiring—such a bank did not exist. Instead, he used an installment payment plan to pay for the land. This meant that Anton Nuwer did not have cash to pay for his family’s journey to North America. To address the problem of illiquid assets, (assets that have value but cannot be readily turned into cash) the notary added a third party to the sales contract. This additional party was Isaac Weill—a rich man from the big city. Weill paid Anton Nuwer 200 francs in cash on the day the contract was signed and received the right to collect the installment payments plus interest from Georg Uhry. In short, finance was personal, not institutional.

Cadastre records show that Georg Uhry owned this parcel of land until 1863 (folio 728).

## **Document 1 : English Text of Land Sale and Transfer**

Office of Master Eugène Kauffeisen, notary in Bischwiller, Bas-Rhin. Deed N° 1029.

Archives d'Alsace, site de Strasbourg, cote 7 E 5.1/129

August 30, 1844.

Sale & transfer of 200 francs

Before Maître Eugène Kauffeisen, Notary residing in Bischwiller, undersigned, and in the presence of the witnesses named below,

Appeared: Sieur Antoine Nuwer, carrier, and Marguerithe Ludwig, spouses residing in Soufflenheim, the wife of her husband duly authorized. The sellers declare by these presents that they have sold, transferred, and assigned with full legal and factual guarantee,

To Georges Uhry, a day labor residing in Soufflenheim, who is present and accepting.

Approximately ten ares of land, located in Soufflenheim in the area called im Mittelfeld, on one side Georges Weber, on the other Jacques Fritz, at both ends of the road. [In the metric system, an are is equal to 100 square meters. There are 100 ares of land contained in a hectare.]

Said property is conveyed as it stands, with no reservation or exception, but without guaranteeing the stated area, for any difference in size will be at the buyer's gain or loss.

It belongs to the Nuwer covendor for having inherited it in the estate of his father Antoine Nuwer so declared, and the latter has acquired it, from the children of Bernard Muntzinger, by private deed which was registered in Roeschwoog on the eighth of Ventôse year six [26 February 1798] received four Livres & five Soles, signed Rossé.

The buyer is free from this day to use, enjoy, and dispose of the said property as they see fit, as a fully owned asset, with responsibility for all future taxes.

The present sale has been made for the sum of two hundred francs, which the buyer promises and binds themselves to pay to the sellers' order in four equal installments, with the first due on St. Martin's Day, November eleven, one thousand eight hundred forty-five, and each of the three others on the same date of the three immediately following years, each time with interest at the legal rate, starting from today.

As security and guarantee for these payments, the heritage sold shall remain privileged, secured, and mortgaged.

The sellers then declared that they have assigned and transferred, with joint guarantee to ensure and secure,

To Mr. Isaac Weill, oil manufacturer and property owner residing in Haguenau, present and accepting,

The above sale price, along with two hundred francs, an amount which the assignors acknowledge having received from the assignee at this time at the sight of the Notary and witnesses, as a full discharge. For this purpose, they grant and subrogate the assignee in all their rights and actions without exception or reservation, notably including the full effect of the resolutive action.

This will allow the assignee to receive the assigned sum and its accessories by simple receipts or to otherwise use and dispose of it.

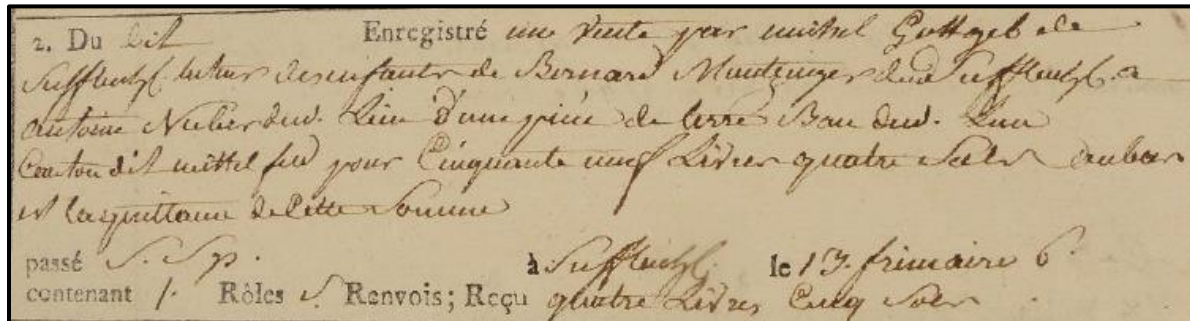
Which Act, for the execution of which the parties elect domicile at our office.

Executed and passed at Soufflenheim, at the Town Hall, in the year one thousand eight hundred forty-four on the thirtieth of August, in the presence of Wolff Braun, merchant residing in Schirhoffen, and Bernard Hess, property owner residing in Soufflenheim, as witnesses.

After reading and interpretation, the parties, witnesses, and Notary signed.

## Document 2 : Tax Record

Tax record for the land sale from Michel Gottgeb to Antoine Nuwer, Sr.



From the said: a recorded sale for Michel Gotteb of Soufflenheim, tutor of the children of Bernard Muntzinger, of Soufflenheim, to Antoine Nuber of the same place, of a piece of land in the said commune in the canton called Mittelfeld for Fifty-nine livres and four soles, the receipt of this amount noted at the bottom.

Executed as a private deed at Soufflenheim on 13 Frimaire [year] 6, [December 3, 1797] containing one role, annotations without; received four livres and five sols.

### Transcription in French

Du dit Enregistré une pour Michel Gotteb de  
Soufflenheim tuteur des enfants de Bernard Muntzinger du dit Soufflenheim à  
Antoine Nuber dudit lieu d'une pièce de terr Ban du dit lieu  
Canton dit Mittelfeld pour Cinquante neuf Livres quatre Soles au bas  
Est la quittance de cette Somme

passé S[ous] S[eing] p[rivé] à Soufflenheim le 13 frimaire [An] 6  
contenant 1 Rôles S[ans] Renvois ; Reçu quatre Livres cinq Soles.

## ALTAR FROM THE OLD CHURCH OF SOUFFLENHEIM

The altar given to the new catholic church of Saint Augustine in Bischwiller, circa 1836, is from the old church of Soufflenheim, completed in 1766.

<https://www.ville-bischwiller.fr/tourisme-patrimoine/les-monuments/>

## Saint Augustine Church, Bischwiller

The first stone of the church of Saint-Augustin (current nave) was laid and blessed on July 15, 1835. The church was inaugurated two years later, on August 28, 1837, by the Vicar General of the Diocese of Strasbourg, Bruno François Léopold Liebermann, in the presence of all the notables of the canton, with Father Joseph Voltz.

The altar comes from the old church of **Soufflenheim** and the pulpit from the old church of Brumath. Both elements were donated free of charge by the two parishes. The organ was purchased in 1824 by the Catholic inhabitants of Bischwiller for the church of Hanhoffen. The painting of Saint Augustine, painted by De Rudder, was a gift from the government (1840), and the painting of Saint Peter was donated by a private individual from Haguenau.