

THE PAUL KIEFFER FAMILY IN SOUFFLENHEIM

There are two Kieffer families mentioned in the earliest Soufflenheim records: The family of Hans Kieffer, the principle original Kieffer, whose descendants in Soufflenheim include three mayors, and Paul Kieffer, whose family is mentioned in various records from 1659-1757.

Paul's relationship to Hans Kieffer, if any, is unknown. Paul could have been his younger brother or cousin. What can be said for certain is they both appear in the Soufflenheim records about the same time, when there may have been only 40 or so families in the village, increasing the chance that anyone with the same last name was related. Both were solid citizens: Paul a prosperous landowner and Hans a small landowner and the Heimburger in 1665. Both were Catholic, and both passed away within a few years of each other, Paul about 1680, and Hans in 1687. Both had four children. Despite passing away seven years after Paul, Hans appears to have been the older of the two, as his children seem likely to have been born circa 1640-1655, whereas the children of Paul were probably born circa 1655-1675.

Paul Kieffer is first mentioned in a land sale record in 1659 and was probably a farmer. He owned a number of properties and paid more taxes than most, so was well established and perhaps around 55 years old when he passed away. He was probably born in the 1620's and passed away about 1680. Paul may have been married more than once. His widow is mentioned in various inventory land records as "Paul Kieffer's widow" as late as 1711, so was probably still alive at this time. Paul's wife seems to have lived 30 or more years longer than him, so was perhaps much younger, and possibly his second wife.

Paul appears to have had one son and three daughters. His son Hans Martin is only known to have had one son, Jacob, who does not appear to have married, and is mentioned for the final time in 1757.

DESCENDANTS OF PAUL KIEFFER

- 1 Paul KIEFFER b: Circa 1626 d: 1680 Soufflenheim
 - .. +Maria BANDT m: Bef. 1659 d: Aft. 1719
 - 2 Hans Martin KIEFFER d: Aft. 1701
 - 3 Jacob KIEFFER b: Bef. 1707 d: Aft. 1756
 - 2 Barbera KIEFFER d: 1724 Soufflenheim
 - +Hans George METTEWEEG m: Bef. 1693 d: 1724 Soufflenheim
 - 3 Othilia METTEWEEG d: 1735 Soufflenheim
 - +Joseph HASSER d: Aft. 1735
 - 4 Margaretha HAASSER b: 1725 Soufflenheim

..... 3 Anton METTEWEEG b: Abt. 1705 d: Aft. 1724

.... 2 Catherina KIEFFER d: Bet. 1693 - 1724 Soufflenheim

..... +Hans Jerg BEHR m: Bef. 1693 d: Aft. 1693

... 2 Maria Kuffer? d: Aft:1692

..... +Sebastian Halter m: 12 October 1692, Roeschwoog