

#1649

Name Catharine B. Weilder
Male or Female Female
Color White
Age 88 years 19 days
Married or Single Married
Place of Birth Lancaster Co. Pa.
Occupation Tailor
Date of Death April 17
Place of Death John Yoe's
Cause of Death Asthma
Duration of last Illness 4 weeks
Place of Interment Spring Hill Cemetery
Date of Interment Apr. 20
When Recorded May 26, 1896

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA :
 : SS:
COUNTY OF CUMBERLAND :

I, Mary C. Lewis, Clerk of Orphans' Court in and for
the County and State aforesaid, do hereby certify that the
foregoing is a true and correct copy of the Death Record of
Catharine B. Weilder, so full and entire as the
same appears in Register of Death Docket A Vol. 1,
No. 1649.

Witness my hand and official seal of

Mary C. Lewis
Mary C. Lewis *Seal*
Clerk of Orphans' Court
Cumberland County, Pa.

WOHLGEMUTH

According to the village register on 10 December 1656 Hans Jacob Wohlgemuth, a Mennonite, was admitted to citizenship in Kirchardt [Baden, Germany].¹ He probably came originally from the canton of Bern in Switzerland. It is likely he was accompanied by his wife Margretha² as no marriage was found for them in the Kirchardt Reformed church book. On the other hand perhaps no marriage appeared there because Jacob was a Mennonite. Their first known child, Samuel, was born about 1658.

The first mention of the Wohlgemuths in the Reformed Church book of Kirchardt is a record 5 January 1678 of the death of Hans Jacob Wohlgemuth, aged 50.⁴ Later on that year two more Wohlgemuth deaths were recorded,⁵ that of Samuel and his mother Margretha. Samuel died December 7th at the age of 20, and Margretha died just over a week later on December 15th at the age of 44.

The following April a most unusual occasion was noted in the church book, so unusual that reference to it appears in the *Geschichte der Gemeinde Kirchardt (History of the Community of Kirchardt)*.⁶ The surviving children, three daughters and a son ranging in age from twelve to eighteen, of the deceased Hans Jacob Wohlgemuth were baptized into the Reformed Church after rejecting their Mennonite faith.⁷ One can only speculate on how much pressure was placed on these young people to forsake their own religion and embrace the Reformed Church.

The children were Susanna, born about 1661; Anna Barbara, born about 1663; Anna Salome, born about 1665; and George Jacob, born about 1667.⁸ Anna Barbara Wohlgemuth married 3 February 1681 Hans Weidler,⁹ who was to become mayor of Kirchardt and Kurpfalz Anwaldt.¹⁰ She died 1 November 1716 in Kirchardt.¹¹

¹ Gustav Neuwirth, *Geschichte der Gemeinde Kirchardt und der Ortsteile Berwangen und Bockschaft* (Karlsruhe, 1978), p. 251.

² Reformed Church Book of the Community of Kirchardt (Baden, Germany), 1650-1785, deaths, col. 10. Family History Library, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Salt Lake City, UT. Film #1189145.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid., deaths, col. 9.

⁵ Ibid., deaths, col. 10.

⁶ *Geschichte der Gemeinde Kirchardt*, pp. 250-251.

⁷ Reformed Church Book of the Community of Kirchardt, births, p. 21.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Ibid., marriages, col. 8.

¹⁰ Ibid., deaths, p. 19.

¹¹ Ibid., deaths, p. 17.

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August, 1996

FAMILY GROUP

Chart No. WOHLGEMUTH-1

HUSBAND: WOHLGEMUTH, Hans Jacob

Occupation:

Event	Day	Month	Year	Town(ship)	Canton/State	Country	Misc. Information
Born:		abt	1628		Bern?	Switzerland	Became a citizen of Kirchardt 10 Dec 1656. ³
Mar:							
Died:	5	Jan	1678	Kirchardt	Baden	Germany	
Cemetery:							Religion: Mennonite
Father:				m.		Mother:	
b.		d.				b.	d.

WIFE: , Margretha See Note 1.

Occupation:

Event	Day	Month	Year	Town(ship)	Canton/State	Country	Misc. Information
Born:		abt	1634		Bern?	Switzerland	
Died:	15	Dec	1678	Kirchardt	Baden	Germany	
Cemetery:							Religion: Mennonite
Father:				m.		Mother:	
b.		d.				b.	d.

The order of children may not be correct.

CHILDREN & spouses	Event	Day	Mo	Year	Town(ship)	State	Country	Misc. Information
1. Samuel WOHLGEMUTH	Born:			abt 1658	Kirchardt	Baden	GER	See Note 1.
	Mar:							
	Died:	7	Dec	1678	Kirchardt	Baden	GER	
2. Susanna WOHLGEMUTH	Born:			abt 1661	Kirchardt	Baden	GER	See Note 2.
Hans Michael KLEIN	Mar:			9 Sep 1679	Kirchardt	Baden	GER	
bpt 24 Apr 1656	Died:	24	Aug	1719	Kirchardt	Baden	GER	
*3. Anna Barbara WOHLGEMUTH	Born:			abt 1663	Kirchardt	Baden	GER	See Note 2.
Hans WEIDLER	Mar:			3 Feb 1681	Kirchardt	Baden	GER	
bpt 19 Jul 1657	Died:	1	Nov	1716	Kirchardt	Baden	GER	
4. Anna Salome WOHLGEMUTH	Born:			abt 1665	Kirchardt	Baden	GER	See Notes 2 and 3.
Clemens/Clementz REINHARDT	Mar:			30 Jan 1684	Kirchardt	Baden	GER	
bpt 13 Jan 1659	Died:							
5. Georg Jacob WOHLGEMUTH	Born:			abt 1667	Kirchardt	Baden	GER	See Note 2.
Anna Maria MOHR ¹	Mar:			1691 ¹	Grombach	Baden	GER	
b.	Died:							
6.	Born:							
	Mar:							
b.	Died:							
7.	Born:							
	Mar:							
b.	Died:							
8.	Born:							
	Mar:							
b.	Died:							
9.	Born:							
	Mar:							
b.	Died:							
10.	Born:							
	Mar:							
b.	Died:							
11.	Born:							
	Mar:							
b.	Died:							

Additional children, if any, and references may be found on the following page.

**Not Proven

REFERENCES - Chart No. WOHLGEMUTH-1

All unannotated information was extracted from the church books of the Reformed and Lutheran Church of Kirchardt, Baden, Germany. Film No. 1189145. Family History Library, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Salt Lake City, UT [hereinafter FHL].

1. Records of the Catholic Church of Grumbach, Baden, Germany. Film No. 1049277. FHL.
2. Gustav Neuwirth, *Geschichte der Gemeinde Kirchardt und der Ortsteile Berwangen und Bockschaft* (Karlsruhe: n.p., 1978), p. 167. [List of citizens of Kirchardt for the year 1696].
3. Ibid., p. 251.

NOTES

1. Margretha Wohlgemuth and son Samuel are proven mother and son in their combined death record in the Kirchardt Reformed church book. As Margretha is of an age to have been Hans Jacob Wohlgemuth's wife and as there never were any other Wohlgemuths recorded in the church book nor any other known Wohlgemuth families in the area, it seems safe to assume that Hans Jacob and Margretha were husband and wife. Accepting this, then Margretha would have been the mother of all the surviving Wohlgemuth children as all were born between Samuel's birth and Margaret's death.
2. The children of this family living at the time of their mother's death were baptized in the Reformed Church of Kirchardt, Baden, Germany, the following April [1679].
3. Clemens Reinhardt was deceased by 7 January 1705 when his daughter Anna Maria was confirmed.

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REFORMED BAPTISMS OF THE WOHLGEMUTH CHILDREN, 1679

Die Pfarrkompetenzen waren damals noch recht unergiebig, da viele Ländereien unbestellt waren. Daher ist es verständlich, daß die vier reformierten Gemeinden von einem Pfarrer versorgt wurden. In welcher der vier Gemeinden Pfarrer Hirtzel seinen Wohnsitz hatte, ist nicht bekannt.

Von November 1670 bis 12. 4. 1671 wurde der Pfarrdienst durch Johann Meier interimistisch versehen.

Im Jahre 1671 wurde Johann Georg Hilspach zum reformierten Pfarrer hier bestellt und blieb 13 1/2 Jahre bis 1684. In dieser Zeit hat er in Kirchardt 146 Kinder getauft (im Jahresdurchschnitt also 11 Kinder).

Aus einem Vermerk im Kirchenbuch ist zu entnehmen, daß das Buch Anno 1693 nebst anderen Büchern und Sachen von den plündernden Franzosen zerrissen worden ist und mühsam wieder zusammengeleimt wurde.

Vom 12. 11. 1684 bis 1699 war Joh. Philipp Reiz reformierter Pfarrer hier. Ihm folgte Meinhardt Gestemann bis 1705. Dann zog Johann Jakob Petri auf. Um diese Zeit wurde die reformierte Kirche zu Reihen Mutterkirche und Kirchardt eine Filiale. Der reformierte Kirchenrat bestellte Johannes Winz von Mannheim gebürtig und Bürger zu Stein am Rhein in der Schweiz zum ordentlichen reformierten Pfarrer auf die Filiale Kirchardt. Recht eigenartig der Vermerk: Bürger zu Stein am Rhein in der Schweiz. Er war also Ausländer.

Nahezu 70 Jahre blieb Kirchardt Filiale von Reihen, bis sie 1773 wieder getrennt und zu einer eigenen Pfarrei wurde.

Mit Carolus Helfenstein bekam 1774 die reformierte Gemeinde Kirchardt wieder einen eigenen Pfarrer. Ihm folgte im Jahre 1785 sein Neffe David Ludwig Helfenstein, der vorher Pfarrer zu Schönau war. Der Kirchenbuch-Eintrag bestätigt das, wo es heißt: anstelle meines verstorbenen Oheims.

Als ein besonderes Ereignis in Kirchardt wurde festgehalten, daß am 11. Juni 1735 auf die Fluren von Kirchardt ein fürchterliches Hagelwetter niederging. Die Feldfrüchte und die Weinberge wurden gänzlich zerschlagen. Einträge darüber finden sich im reformierten und lutherischen Kirchenbuch.

Man sah in diesem Naturereignis eine Strafe Gottes. Seither wird am 11. 6. ein Bußtag mit einer Predigt gehalten (gefeiert ist nicht der rechte Ausdruck, aber so steht es im Kirchenbuch).

Anmerkung: Ein besonders herausgehobener Eintrag durch Pfr. Johann Georg Hilspach. Am 6. 4. 1679 wurden 3 Töchter und 1 Sohn des verstorbenen Wiedertäufers Hans Jacob Wohlgemut in reformierter Weise getauft, nachdem sie zuvor das Glaubensbekenntnis abgelegt hatten. Nach dem gemeinsamen Abendmahl wurden sie in die reformierte

Glaubengemeinschaft förmlich aufgenommen. Es ist erstaunlich, daß sich die Wiedertäufer so lange halten konnten. Aus dem Dorfbuch von Kirchart ergibt sich, daß sich am 10. Dezember 1656 Hanß Jacob Wohlgemut hier mit Erlaubnis des Amtskellers Joh. Bapt. Paravicini bürgerlich eingelassen hat. Zu jener Zeit drückte man bei der Bürgerannahme beide Augen zu, denn man brauchte Menschen, die die öde liegenden Güter wieder bebauten.

Translation

Note: An unusually prominent entry by Pastor Hilspach. On 6 April 1769 three daughters and one son of the deceased Anabaptist Hans Jacob Wohlgemuth were baptized in the Reformed manner after they had renounced their earlier confession of faith. After the general Holy Communion they were formally accepted into the Reformed fellowship of believers. [The following sentence appears to be an editorial comment as it is not in the church book.] It is amazing that the Anabaptist was able to endure so long. It is cited in the village register of Kirchardt that on 10 December 1656 Hans Jacob Wohlgemuth was admitted to citizenship by the magistrate John Bapt. Paravicini. People overlooked this [Wohlgemuth's religion] because men were needed to reestablish and cultivate the desolate surrounding fields.

Extracted from: Gustav Neuirth. *Geschichte der Gemeinde Kirchardt und der Ortsteile Berwangen und Bockschaft*. Karlsruhe, 1978.

