

## THE CZECH ROOTS OF ERDMUTHE DOROTHEA COUNTESS OF ZINZENDORF (1700–1756)<sup>1</sup>

*Von Miloslav Rechcigl, Jr.*

It is an undisputed fact that an ethnic origin and cultural background may influence individuals' attitudes and behavior, as well as their future activities and their work.

When Nikolaus Ludwig Count of Zinzendorf (1700–1760)<sup>2</sup> offered refuge to Bohemian Brethren on his estate<sup>3</sup> at Berthelsdorf in Lusatia<sup>4</sup>, it has been generally thought that his kindness was motivated, in part, by his religious beliefs and the religious upbringing by his pious grandmother Henriette Katharine Countess of Gersdorff (1648–1726)<sup>5</sup>, and, in part, by the receptivity and wholehearted support of his

---

<sup>1</sup> The first wife of Nikolaus Ludwig Count of Zinzendorf. Born as Countess Reuss of Plavno (Plauen), she was a daughter of Heinrich X Count Reuss of Plavno (Plauen) from Ebersdorf and Erdmuth Benigna Countess of Solms-Laubach.

<sup>2</sup> One of the founders and spiritual leaders of the renewed *Unitas fratrum*, universally known as the Moravian (Brethren) Church. An excellent account of Zinzendorf's life and work can be found in Spangenberg, Gottlieb: *The Life of Nicholas Lewis Count Zinzendorf*. London 1838, and Meyer, Gerhard: *Nikolaus Ludwig Reichsgraf von Zinzendorf und Pottendorf. Eine genealogische Studie mit Ahnen- und Nachfahrenliste*. Hildesheim 1966 (Nikolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf. Ergänzungsbände zu den Hauptschriften 1). For the discussion of the origins and the formative years of the Moravian Church, see my recent study, „The Renewal and Formation of the Moravian Church in America“. *Czechoslovak and Central European Journal* 9 (1990) 12–26.

<sup>3</sup> The site where the Brethren originally settled grew into a respectable-size community, known as Herrnhut (in Czech Ochránov). It was located about eighteen kilometers from the Czech border.

<sup>4</sup> Lusatia (in Czech Lužice) had been an integral part of the Kingdom of Bohemia until 1635, when it was ceded to Saxony under the conditions that it would revert back to the Bohemian Crown once the ruling House of Saxony becomes extinct.

<sup>5</sup> A widow of Nicol of Gersdorff (1629–1702), Landvogt of Upper Silesia and Lord of Great Hennersdorf (Grosshennersdorf) – and estate where young Zinzendorf spent most of his youth. Great Hennersdorf belonged to one of the oldest Protestant Church communities in Upper Lusatia which offered haven to Bohemian exiles, after the defeat of the Bohemian armies at the Battle of White Mountain in 1620. Zinzendorf's aunt Henrietta Sophie Baroness of Gersdorff, who inherited Great Hennersdorf from her widowed mother Henriette Katharina, later founded on her estate a Bohemian Brethren community which rivaled the fame of Herrnhut. The local populace kiddingly referred to the Czech community as „Frauenmütz“ to differentiate it from „Herrnhut“, which was only a few kilometers away. For more details on the life of Czech exiles in Great Hennersdorf see Skalský, Adolf: *Z dějin české emigrace osmnáctého století [History of Czech Emigration in the 18th Century]*. Chotěboř 1911, 90–146 and Hresja, Ferdinand: *Česká konfese. Její vznik, podstata a dějiny [The Czech Confession. Its Emergence, Foundations and History]*. Praha 1912.

first wife Erdmuthe Dorothea Countess Reuss of Plauen from Ebersdorf (1700–1756)<sup>6</sup>.

The friendly Erdmuthe's disposition towards Bohemian Brethren who had to flee from their native Bohemia, Moravia und Silesia for religious persecution, may not have been entirely accidental. Just like her husband, Count of Zinzendorf, she was brought up by a deeply religious mother Erdmuthe Benigna of Solms-Laubach (1670–1732) and even more devoted and strong-willed grandmother Benigna Countess of Promnitz (1648–1702). Beyond that, however, she might have been also affected by the knowledge that she had descended from the family of the great Bohemian „Hussite King“<sup>7</sup>. George of Poděbrady (1420–1471), who ruled the Kingdom of Bohemia from 1458 through 1471 and was a steadfast supporter of the Brethrens' ideals and aims, he himself being of Utraquist faith<sup>8</sup>.

That Erdmuthe had to be aware of her ethnic Czech origin is evidenced by the fact that Count of Zinzendorf considered it important enough to make a point of it in the speech<sup>9</sup> eulogizing his wife after her demise in 1756<sup>10</sup>.

Although the ancient Moravian Brethrens' literature makes occasional references<sup>11</sup> to possible family connections between Erdmuthe Dorothea Reuss of Plauen and the family of the Bohemian King George of Poděbrady, no concrete evidence has ever been presented in support of such claim.

Through the kind help of Professor Jan Milíč Lochmann<sup>12</sup>, this author obtained from Moravian Brethren Archives<sup>13</sup> an old ancestry chart showing Erdmuthe Dorothea Reuss of Ebersdorf's descent from George of Poděbrady. The chart is an interest-

<sup>6</sup> For her biography see J a n n a s c h, Wilhelm: Erdmuthe Dorothea Gräfin von Zinzendorf geborene Gräfin Reuss zu Plauen. Herrnhut 1915 (Zeitschrift für Brüdergeschichte 8/1914).

<sup>7</sup> As the Czech historian Otakar O d l o ŝ i l í k calls him in his authoritative book: The Hussite King. Bohemia in European Affairs 1440–1471. New Brunswick 1965. In this connection it is interesting to note that King George's grandfather Boček of Kunštát was one of the first Czech nobleman to follow the teachings of Jan Hus and to join the Hussite movement. Two of his sons Viktorin (King Georg's father) and Hynek were among the most protagonists of the Hussite Revolution. Both of them were close allies of the Great Warrior Jan Žižka and were at his side in some of the most important battles fought during the Revolution. Further on the Hussite movement and the times of George of Poděbrady, see H e y m a n n, Frederick G.: *George of Bohemia. King of Heretics*. Princeton 1965, and H e y m a n n, Frederick G.: *John Žižka and the Hussite Revolution*. Princeton 1955.

<sup>8</sup> In contrast to radical Taborites, the Utraquists belonged to a more moderate wing of the Bohemian Brethren. See H e y m a n n: *George of Bohemia*, passim.

<sup>9</sup> Cited by J a n n a s c h: Erdmuthe Dorothea Gräfin von Zinzendorf 313.

<sup>10</sup> A year following her death, Zinzendorf married as his second wife Anna Caritas Nitschmann (1717–1760) of Kunvald, Moravia who had been for many years his most intimate assistant in church affairs. She was exceptional personality who exerted remarkable spiritual influence in the early days of the renewed *Unitas fratrum*.

<sup>11</sup> Probably attributed to Bishop Spangenberg, as cited by Jannasch: Erdmuthe Dorothea Gräfin von Zinzendorf 313.

<sup>12</sup> Professor of Theology at the University of Basel, Switzerland.

<sup>13</sup> Through the courtesy of Bishop Dr. theol. h.c. Hellmut Reichel of Königsfeld, Germany.

ing document, in its own right, since it is purported to be the work of and handwritten by David Nitschmann „Syndicus“ (1705–1779) himself<sup>14</sup>.

Unfortunately, the alleged genealogical lineage, as depicted on the Chart, could not be verified. According to the proposed scheme, King George's daughter Zdena (1449–1510), from his first marriage to Kunhuta of Sternberg, married Albrecht „Animosus“ (1443–1500), Duke of Saxony and Landgrave of Thuringia. Their son Georg „der Bärtige“ (1471–1539) with his wife Barbara of Poland (1478–1534), had a daughter Christine (1506–1549) who became the consort of Phillip I of Hessen (1504–1567). They had numerous children, including George I of Hessen (1547–1596) who married as his first wife Magdalene of Lippe (1552–1587). Their daughter Christine (1578–1596) became the wife of Friedrich Magnus of Erbach (1575–1618). Up to this point all the information checks out.

The allegation, that the couple (Christine and Friedrich) had a daughter named Anna Maria, the future wife of Johann Georg Count of Solms-Baruth (1591–1632) is incorrect, however, since Erbach's wife Christine died without issue<sup>15</sup>. Anna Maria Countess of Erbach-Fürstenau (1603–1663), who was born seven years after Christine's death, was actually Friedrich Magnus of Erbach's daughter from his second marriage with Johanna Countess of Oettingen (1578–1619).

Undaunted by the apparent lack of success, the present author subsequently undertook a systematic examination of other lines stemming from George of Poděbrady's

<sup>14</sup> There is no question about the authenticity of the document. The chart comes from an original manuscript, authored by David Nitschmann „Syndicus“, bearing the title „Denkwürdigkeiten, die ich mir vor mich, bey meinem Durchgange durch diese Zeiten von Jahre zu Jahr'n angemerckt habe“ [Occurrences which I noted for myself as I passed through my life]. A photocopy of the manuscript is available at the Herrnhut Archives, while the original copy is kept in private archives maintained by Bishop Hellmut Reichel. – David Nitschmann „Syndicus“ (1705–1779), just like his famed namesake, distant cousin, Bishop David Nitschmann (1696–1772), was a native of Suchdol, Moravia, who left his homeland in 1724 and came to Herrnhut on May 12, 1724. Both Nitschmanns were a part of a group of five young Moravian men who sought refuge on Count Zinzendorf's estate. Because of their old family tradition, anchored in the ancient *Unitas fratrum*, the young Moravians fled to Herrnhut with a definite goal of reestablishing the *Unitas fratrum* there. This earned them later the designation “The Five Pillars of the Moravian Church” in recognition of their vision and their role in the formative years of the history of the Moravian Church. See also Biographisches Lexikon zur Geschichte der böhmischen Länder. Band 3, Lieferung 1. München 1985.

David Nitschmann „Syndicus“ was a weaver who early on became Zinzendorf's valet and later on his personal assistant. He frequently traveled on his behalf and consequently had to deal with different governments. It is in this connection that he was given the title „Syndicus“ to give more credibility and weight to his missions. Based on Spangenberg's testimony (see his biography of Zinzendorf, except for his official trips, Nitschmann „Syndicus“ was constantly with Count Zinzendorf) from 1727 until the death of the count (1760). According to Bishop Reichel, referenced above, he maintained the appointments for Count Zinzendorf, kept in 22 volumes, in which there were numerous notes. Using these diaries he made also excerpts for Spangenberg's Zinzendorf biography. Unfortunately the diaries and excerpts were later destroyed. It is fortuitous that in addition to these diaries Nitschmann also wrote his „Denkwürdigkeiten . . .“ which have been preserved in the original form to date.

<sup>15</sup> See Europäische Stammtafeln, Neue Folge. Marburg 1988, Band 5, Tafel 3.

issue. The task was enormous, considering the large size of his family<sup>16</sup> and the fact that no comprehensive genealogy<sup>17</sup> of his descendants exists.

In pursuing our goal there was no alternative but to – in essence – reconstruct the King George's family tree in the span of some 300 years, until the time of Erdmuthe Dorothea's birth. The tedious search was eventually crowned with success and direct line of descendency was established from the Bohemian King to Count Zinzendorf's wife Erdmuthe Dorothea Reuss of Plauen.

The detail lineage with relevant documentations is presented below. As the individual family charts indicate, Erdmuthe was the ninth generation descendant in the direct accession from George of Poděbrady.

Starting with King George and his second consort Johanka of Rožmitál (d. 1475), their daughter Ludmila (1456–1503) married Bedřich I (1446–1488), Duke of Liegnitz and Brieg from Silesia<sup>18</sup>.

The second of their three sons, named Bedřich II (1480–1547), with his second wife Sophie of Brandenburg (1485–1537) conceived three children, i. e. Bedřich III, Jiří II, and Žofie.

Bedřich III (1520–1570) took as his first wife Katharina of Mecklenburg (1518–1581), with whom he had six children, namely Jindřich XI, Žofie, Kateřina, Bedřich, (who died young), Helena, and Bedřich IV. Their daughter Helena (1545–1583) was married to Sigmund of Kurpach<sup>19</sup> from Milíč and Trachenburk (1547–1579).

<sup>16</sup> Of George's known eleven children, six, i. e. Viktorin (1443–1500), Barbora (1444/7–1469), Jindřich „the Elder“ (1448–1498), Jindřich „the Younger“ (1452–1491), Ludmila (1456–1509), and Zdena (1449–1510), all left numerous offspring.

<sup>17</sup> A few abbreviated genealogies of King George's descendants that exist cover only the first generations and, as a rule, are limited solely to male descendants. For listing see Footnote 24. Information concerning the King George's ancestors is also quite incomplete and furthermore most of the standard genealogical sources are full of errors. For recent findings concerning the Kunštát (Kunstadt) family see Hošák, Ladislav/Skutil, Jan/Starha, Ivan: *Príspevky k dějinám Kunštátu na Moravě* [Contributions to History of Kunstadt in Moravia]. Kunštát 1970. – Hošák, Ladislav: *Dějiny Hustopečska do poloviny 14. století* [History of Hustopeč until the first half of the 14th century]. Praha 1948.

<sup>18</sup> Silesia, at that time, was a part of the Bohemian Crown proper and remained so until the forties of the eighteenth century. The region of Kladsko and the principalities of Minstrberk and Frankenstein, which were in the possession of George of Poděbrady and his family, were located in central Silesia, not far from Breslau. King Georg's future son-in-law, Bedřich I of Lehnice, was his long time ally and the marriage with Ludmila was intended to further strengthen the ties between the Duchy of Lehnice and the Kingdom of Bohemia. Bedřich I was a direct descendant of Margareta of Bohemia (1294–1322), a daughter of King of Bohemia Václav II who married Bedřich's ancestor Boleslaw III (1291–1352). He was also a direct descendant of Anna Přemyslovna (1201/4–1265), a daughter of the Bohemian King Přemysl Otakar I (1155–1230). In this connection it is of interest that the entire House of the Dukes of Lehnice descended from Doubravka Přemyslovna (d. 977) – a daughter of Duke Boleslav of Bohemia and wife of Miecislav I of Piasts (d. 992). Doubravka has been credited for converting Miecislav to Christianity and thus bringing Christianity to Poland.

<sup>19</sup> The Kurpachs belonged to an ancient Silesian knight stock, with land holdings in Bohemia, who shared their ancestry and coats of arms with the Bechyněs of Lažany and the Žejdlce of Šenfeld. Sigmund's grandfather, Sigmund I who was married to Dorothea Countess of Helfstein of Moravia, was elevated to Bohemian nobility and held the position of the Counselor to the King Vladislav of Bohemia.

The Kurcpach's only offspring, a daughter Žofie (b. 1572), married Heinrich Anselm Baron of Promnitz from Žarov (Sorau) (1564–1622)<sup>20</sup>, the Landvogt of Lower Lusatia. This union was blessed with a progeny of eight children, including Sigmund Seyfried Count of Promnitz (1595–1654), who was married three times. With his second spouse Katharine Elisabeth of Schönburg<sup>21</sup> (1625–1650) he had three children, namely Benigna, Babiana and Heinrich.

Their first daughter Benigna Countess of Promnitz (1648–1702) was married to Johann Friedrich Count of Solms<sup>22</sup> – Wildenfels (1625–1696), with whom she had seven children: Magdalena, Johann, Erdmuthe, Louise, Friedrich, Carl, and Heinrich. Their second daughter, Erdmuthe Benigna (1670–1732) with her husband Heinrich X Count Reuss<sup>23</sup> of Plauen from Ebersdorf (1662–1701) were the parents of eleven children, including the Countess Erdmuthe Dorothea (1700–1750), the future wife of Nikolaus Ludwig Count of Zinzendorf.

Although the Zinzendorfs did not have the family lineage, as shown in the Nitschmann's chart, quite right, the fact remains that they believed that Countess of Zinzendorf was a descendant of King of Bohemia George of Poděbrady. Having now substantiated with documentary evidence a lineage between Erdmuthe Dorothea and King George, it would be of interest to ascertain to what extent this relationship, and the knowledge of this linkage, actually influenced Erdmuthe's attitude and her deeds, particularly with reference to the affairs of the Moravian Church.

<sup>20</sup> The Promnitz family belonged to one of the oldest Silesian and Bohemian nobility. Heinrich Anselm's father, Seyfried (1534–1597), held the title of a Counselor to the Emperor and „Pfandherr“ of the principality of Zahaň (Sagan).

<sup>21</sup> Sigmund Seyfried's second wife, and the mother of Benigna Countess of Promnitz, Katharine Elisabeth of Šumburk (Schönburg) (1625–1650), descended on her maternal side from an ancient Bohemian noble family of Švamberk (Schwanberg). Her paternal ancestors bearing the name Šumburk (Schönburg) had extensive holdings in Bohemia and Silesia, including Hartenstein, Nový Šumburk, Valdenburk, Gluchov, Žeberk (Seeberg), Borek, Krupka, Ostrov, Piršenstein, etc.

<sup>22</sup> Johann Friedrich's father Johann Georg Count of Solms-Baruth (1591–1632) was a general in the emperor's cavalry and the commandant in Prague. The Baruth branch of the House of Solms belonged to Upper Lusatian aristocracy. Count Johann Georg's mother, Margareta of Šumburk (Schönburg) (1554–1606), was a daughter of Jiří (Georg) II of Šumburk, Lord of Gluchov (Glauchau), Nový Šumburk, and Kraslice (Graslitz) in Bohemia, and Dorothea Reuss of Plavno (Plauen). Jiří II of Šumburk's greatgrandmother Eliška of Gutštein (d. 1507) belonged to an ancient house of Bohemian nobility.

<sup>23</sup> A member of an ancient noble house from Voigtland in Saxony which had extensive land holdings in Northern Bohemia. In 1345 the Lords of Plavno (Plauen) became the vassals of the Bohemian Crown. The progenitor of the Bohemian branch, named Heinrich "the Bohemian" (1274–1302), a governor („Vogt“) of Voigtland, took as his consort Katharina (d. 1333), a daughter of Břetislav IV (Borso) of Ryžmberk. Their descendants intermarried with the leading families of the Czech aristocracy, such as Lobkowitz, Švihovský of Ryžmberk, Trčka of Lípa, Berka of Dubá, Šternberk, Valdštein, Pernštein, etc. One of Heinrich X's ancestors, i. e. Heinrich of Ranneburg (d. 1349), was married to Salome of Hlohov (Glogau) (d. 1350), a descendant of Doubravka Přemyslovna (d. 977) of Bohemia and Miecislav I of the Piasts. Because of some ancient law, which is apparently still in effect, all the male members of the Reuss House are obligated to bear the name Heinrich, in honor of the Emperors Heinrich IV and Heinrich VI.

GENEALOGICAL LINEAGE OF ERDMUTHE DOROTHEA  
 COUNTESS OF ZINZENDORF FROM KING OF BOHEMIA  
 GEORGE OF PODĚBRADY

- 0-1 George of Poděbrady<sup>24</sup> (in Czech Jiří z Poděbrad) (1420-1471), Lord of Kunštát (Kunstadt) and Poděbrady, Count of Kladsko (Glatz), Duke of Minstrberk (Münsterberg), King of Bohemia, Margrave of Moravia and Lower and Upper Lusatia (Nieder- u. Oberlausitz), and Duke of Silesia  
 m. 1. 1441 Kunhuta of Šternberk (Kunigunde v. Sternberg) (1422-1477), a daughter of Smil of Šternberk and Konopiště and Barbora of Pardubice

*Children:*

- 1-1 Boček Lord of Litice (Lititz)<sup>25</sup> (1442-1496), unmarried
- 1-2 Viktorin (1443-1500), Lord of Kunštát and Poděbrady from Kolín, Margrave of Moravia, Duke and later Prince of Minstrberk, Duke of Opava (Troppau), Count of Kladsko  
 m. 1. bf. 1469 Žofie Ptáčková of Pirkštein (bf. 1445-1472), a daughter of Hynco Ptáček and Anna of Hradec (Neuhaus)  
 m. 2. 1472/4 Žofie of Těšín (Teschen) (1449/52-1479), a daughter of Duke of Boleslav II and Anna of Russia  
 m. 3. 1480 Alena Margherita of Monteferrat (1459/64-1496), a daughter of Margrave Johann (Giovanni) and Margareta of Savoy
- 1-3 Barbora<sup>26</sup> (1444/7-1469)  
 m. Jindřich (Heinrich) of Lipý (1415-1469), Chief Marshal of the Kingdom of Bohemia
- 1-4 Jindřich "the Elder" (Heinrich) (1448-1498), Duke and later Prince of Minstrberk, Count of Kladsko, Prince of Frankenstein  
 m. 1467 Ursula Princess of Brandenburg (1450-1528), a daughter of Albrecht Elector and Margrave of Brandenburg and Margaretha of Baden
- 1-5 Kateřina (alias Kunigunde) (1449-1464)  
 m. 1461 Matthias Hunyadi Corvinus (d. 1490), King of Hungary
- 1-6 Zdena (Sidonia) (1449-1510)  
 m. 1459 Albrecht "Animosus" (1443-1500), Duke of Saxony, Landgrave of Thuringia and Margrave of Meissen.

<sup>24</sup> Europäische Stammtafeln, Neue Folge. Marburg 1980, Band 3, Teilband 1, Tafel 22, and 23. - Freiherr v. Procházka, Roman: Genealogisches Handbuch erloschener böhmischer Herrenstandsfamilien. Neustadt a. d. Aisch 1973, 199-204. - Ottův slovník naučný. Praha 1901, vol. 17, 396-398. - Gebhardi, Ludwig Albrecht: Stamm der Könige von Böhmen aus dem Hause Podiebrad. In: Genealogische Geschichte der erblichen Reichsstände. Halle 1785, vol. 3, 96-118.

<sup>25</sup> The famed cradle of the Bohemian Brethren in Bohemia.

<sup>26</sup> There is some uncertainty as to whom Barbora actually married and what issue she left. Although the older literature states that she was married to Jindřich of Lipý and Brod and then to Jan Albert Křiženecký of Ronov, the might have been confused with George of Poděbrady's sister Eliška of Kunštát (d. 1506) whose husbands had similar, if not identical, names.

George of Poděbrady (1420–1471)

m. 2. 1450 Johanka of Rožmitál (bf. 1432–1475), a daughter of Jan Rožmitál (Rosenthal) and Blatná and Ludmila Bavor of Strakonice

*Children:*

1–7 Hynek (Hynco) (1452–1492), Duke and later Prince of Minstrberk, Lord of Poděbrady and Kolín, Count of Kladsko  
m. 1471 Katharina Princess of Saxony (1453–1534), a daughter of Wilhelm III and Anna of Austria

1–8 Bedřich (Friedrich) (1453–1458)

1–9 Jiří (Georg) (1454/5–1459/62)

1–10 **Ludmila (1456–1503)**

see separate entry below

1–11 Jan (aft. 1456–1459)

1–10 Ludmila of Minstrberk (1456–1503)

m. 1474 Bedřich (Friedrich) I (1446–1488), Duke of Lehnice and Břeh (Liegnitz u. Brieg)<sup>27</sup>

*Children:*

2–1 Jan (Johannes) II (1477–1495)

2–2 **Bedřich (Friedrich) II (1480–1547)**

see separate entry below

2–3 Jiří (Georg) I (1481/2–1521), Duke of Břeh (Brieg)

m. 1516 Anna (1492–1550), a daughter of Bogislaw X of Pomerania (Pommern) and Anna of Poland

2–2 **Bedřich (Friedrich) II (1480–1547), Duke of Lehnice and Břeh (Liegnitz u. Brieg)<sup>28</sup>**

m. 1. 1515 Elizabeth of Poland (1482–1517), a daughter of King Kasimir IV and Elizabeth of Austria

*Children:*

3–1 Hedvika (Hedwig) (1517–1517)

Bedřich (Friedrich) II (1480–1547)

m. 2. 1519 Sophie of Brandenburg-Ansbach (1485–1537), a daughter of Margrave Friedrich V and Sophie of Poland.

*Children:*

3–2 **Bedřich (Friedrich) III (1520–1570)**

see separate entry below

<sup>27</sup> Europäische Stammtafeln, Neue Folge, Band 3, Teilband I, Tafel 10 and 11. – D w o r z a c z e k, W.: Genealogia, Tablice. Warszawa 1959, Table 6 and 7.

<sup>28</sup> Ibid.

- 3-3 Jiří (Georg) II (1523-1586), Duke of Břeh (Brieg)  
 m. 1545 Barbara of Brandenburg (1527-1595), a daughter of Elector Joachim II and Magdalena of Saxony
- 3-4 Žofie (Sophie) (1525/26-1546)  
 m. 1545 Johann Georg (1525-1598), Elector of Brandenburg
- 3-2 Bedřich (Friedrich) III (1520-1570), Duke of Lehnice (Liegnitz)<sup>29</sup>  
 m. 1538 Katharina of Mecklenburg (1518-1581), a daughter of Duke Heinrich and Helene of the Pfalz

*Children:*

- 4-1 Jindřich (Heinrich) XI (1539-1588), Duke of Lehnice (Liegnitz)  
 m. 1560 Sophie of Brandenburg-Ansbach (1535-1587), a daughter of Margrave Georg and Emilie of Saxony
- 4-2 Žofie (Sophie) (1541/2-1542)
- 4-3 Kateřina (Katherina) (1542-1569)  
 m. 1563 Friedrich Kasimir (d. 1571), Duke of Tešín (Teschen)
- 4-4 Bedřich (Friedrich) (1543-1551)
- 4-5 **Helena (1545/7-1583)**  
 see separate entry below
- 4-6 Bedřich (Friedrich) IV (1552-1596), Duke of Lehnice (Liegnitz)  
 m. 1. 1587 Zdena (Sidonia) of Těšín (Teschen) (1572-1587), a daughter of Václav III and Katharina Sidonie of Saxony-Lauenburg  
 m. 2. 1589 Dorothea of Holstein-Sonderburg (1569-1593), a daughter of Duke Johann and Elise of Braunschweig-Grubenhagen  
 m. 3. 1594 Anna Duchess of Württemberg (1561-1616), a daughter of Duke Christoph and Anna Marie of Bayreuth
- 4-5 Helena of Lehnice (Liegnitz) (1545-1583)  
 m. 1568 Sigmund II of Kurcpach<sup>30</sup> from Milíč and Trachenburk (Sigismund v. Kurzbach zu Militsch u. Trachenberg) (1547-1579)

*Children:*

- 5-1 **Zofie (Sophie) 1572-?**  
 see separate entry below

<sup>29</sup> Ibid.

<sup>30</sup> Meraviglia-Crivelli, Rudolf Johann: *Der böhmische Adel*. Nürnberg 1886, reprinted in: *Die Wappen des böhmischen Adels*. Neustadt a. d. Aisch 1979, 234 (J. Siebmacher's grosses Wappenbuch 30). - Blažek, K.: *Der abgestorbene Adel der preussischen Provinz Schlesien und der Oberlausitz*. Teil 1. Nürnberg 1887, reprinted in: *Die Wappen des schlesischen Adels*. Neustadt a. d. Aisch 1977, 58 (J. Siebmacher's grosses Wappenbuch 17). - Kneschke, Ernst: *Neues allgemeines deutsches Adels-Lexikon*. Hildesheim 1973, Band 5, 339-340. - *Stammtafeln zur Geschichte der europäischen Staaten*. Marburg 1957, Band 4, Tafel 89b. - *Ottův slovník naučný*. Praha 1900, vol. 15, 389.



- 5-1 Žofie (Sophie) of Kurcpach (Kurzbach) from Milíč and Trachenburk (Militsch u. Trachenberg) (1572-?)  
 m. 1590 Heinrich Anselm (1564-1622), Baron of Promnitz<sup>31</sup> from Žarov (Sorau) and Pština (Pless) and Landvogt of Lower Lusatia (Niederlausitz)

*Children:*

- 6-1 Ursula Benigna  
 6-2 Anna Sophie (d. 1624)  
 m. Adam Johann of Myensky  
 6-3 Sigmund Seyfred (1595-1654)  
 see separate entry below  
 6-4 Clara Buselia (d. 1627)  
 6-5 Polyxena Elisabeth (1599-1650)  
 m. 1635 Hans Pückler of Hradec (Gröditz) (1576-1638)  
 6-6 Heinrich Christian  
 6-7 Bibiana (1605-1632)  
 6-8 Maximilian (d. 1624)
- 6-3 Sigmund Seyfried (1595-1654), Count of Promnitz<sup>32</sup>, Lord of Žarov (Sorau) and Pština (Pless) and Landvogt of Lower Lusatia (Niederlausitz)  
 m. 1. 1623 Anna Margarethe Putbus (1604-1645), a daughter of Erdmann and Sabine Hedwig Countess of Eberstein

*Children:*

- 7-1 Sabina Sophie (b. 1624)  
 7-2 Maximilian Rudolf (b. 1626)  
 7-3 Anselm (1627-1629)  
 7-4 Eleonore (1629-1688)  
 m. Julius Count Sunnegk (d. 1670) of Jesennitz from Budetin  
 7-5 Erdmuthe (1630-1650)  
 m. 1645 Joachim Heinrich Baron of Schulenburg (1610-1665)  
 7-6 Erdmann Leopold (1631-1679), Count of Promnitz  
 m. 1654 Eleonore of Racknitz (1636-1679), a daughter of Moritz and Katherina of Dietrichstein  
 7-7 Julius (b. 1632)

<sup>31</sup> Stammtafeln zur Geschichte der europäischen Staaten, Band 4, Tafel 90. - Boetticher, Walter v.: Geschichte des Oberlausitzischen Adels und seiner Güter 1635-1815. Oberlößnitz bei Dresden 1913, Band 2, 502-507. - Blažek, K.: Der Adel von oesterreichisch Schlesien. Nürnberg 1885, reprinted in: Die Wappen des schlesischen Adels 60-61. - Blažek, K.: Der abgestorbene Adel der preussischen Provinz Schlesien und der Oberlausitz. Teil 2. Nürnberg 1890, reprinted in: Die Wappen des Schlesischen Adels 94-96.

<sup>32</sup> Ibid.

7–8 Otto (1634–1663)

7–9 Ulrich Hipparch (1636–1695)

m. 1. 1663 Magdalena Sidonia Baroness of Putbus (1645–1684), a daughter of Erdmann Ernst and Ursula Baroness of Einsiedel

m. 2. 1678 Regina Isabella Countess Rueber of Pixendorf (1641–1720), a daughter of Count Ferdinand and Anna Jörger Baroness of Tollet

Sigmund Seyfried of Promnitz (1595–1654)

m. 2 1647 Katharina Elisabeth of Šumburk (Schönburg) (1625–1650), a daughter of Georg Ernst of Šumburk (Schönburg) from Liechtenstein and Benigna of Švamberg (Schwanberg)

*Children:*

7–10 **Benigna (1648–1702)**

see separate entry below

7–11 Bibiana (1649–1685)

m. 1. 1674 Zdeněk Berka of Dubá and Lipý (d. 1680)

m. 2. 1680 Rudolf Friedrich, Duke of Holstein-Norburg (1683–1767)

7–12 Heinrich (1650–1693)

m. 1. Anna Katharina of Uechtritz (1643–1673), a daughter of Julius Ludwig and Juliana of Planitz

m. 2 1676 Juliana Louise Countess of Roedern, a daughter of Heinrich and Johanna Elisabeth Countess of Colonna

Sigmund Seyfried of Promnitz (1595–1654)

m. 3. 1651 Agnes of Racknitz (1634–1693), a daughter of Moritz and Katharina of Dietrichstein, Lady of Hollenburg

*Children:* none

7–10 Benigna Countess of Promnitz (1648–1702) from Žarov (Sorau)

m. 1667 Johann Friedrich (1625–1696), Count of Solms-Wildenfels and (s. 1676) Count of Solms-Laubach<sup>33</sup>

*Children:*

8–1 Magdalena Wilhelmina (1668–1719)

m. 1705 Samuel Plönnies

8–2 Johann Siegmund (1668–1672)

8–3 **Erdmuthe Benigna (1672–1732)**

see separate entry below

---

<sup>33</sup> Neues allgemeines deutsches Adels-Lexicon 523–526. – Genealogisches Handbuch der fürstlichen Häuser – Fürstliche Häuser B. Glücksburg/Ostsee 1956. Band 4, 283–320. – Geschichte des oberlausitzischen Adels und seiner Güter, Band 2, 890–895.

- 8-4 Friedrich Ernst (1671-1723), Count of Solms-Laubach  
m. 1709 Friederike Charlotte Stolberg-Gedern (1685-1739), a daughter of  
Count Ludwig and Christina Baroness of Mecklenburg-Güstrow
- 8-5 Louise Bibiana (1672-1694)
- 8-6 Carl Otto (1673-1743), Count of Solms-Laubach  
m. 1703 Louise Albertine, Countess of Schönburg-Waldenburg (1686-1740), a  
daughter of Count Ludwig and Sophie Magdalena, Countess of Leiningen-  
Westerburg
- 8-7 Heinrich Wilhelm (1675-1741), Count of Solms-Wildenfels  
m. 1. 1703 Helene Dorothea, Countess Truchsess of Walburg (1680-1712), a  
daughter of Joachim Heinrich and Maria Eleonore of Heydeck  
m. 2. 1713 Sophia Albertina of Dohna-Wartenberg (1674-1748), a daughter of  
Governor of Orange Friedrich and Esperance du Poy
- 8-3 Erdmuthe Benigna Countess of Solms-Laubach (1670-1732)  
m. 1694 Heinrich X (1662-1711), Count Reuss of Plavno (Plauen)<sup>34</sup>, Lord of  
Greitz, Cranichfeld, Gera, Schleitz and Lobenstein from Ebersdorf

*Children:*

- 9-1 Benigna Maria (1695-1751)
- 9-2 Frederike Wilhelmine (1696-1698)
- 9-3 Charlotte Louise (1698-1698)
- 9-4 Heinrich XXIX (1699-1747)  
m. 1721 Sophie Theodora (1703-1777), a daughter of Wolfgang Dietrich, Count  
of Castell-Remlingen and Dorothea Renata of Zinzendorf
- 9-5 **Erdmuthe Dorothea (1700-1765)**  
see separate entry below
- 9-6 Henriette Bibiane (1702-1745)  
m. 1741 Georg Adolf Baron Marschall of Biberstein
- 9-7 Sophie Albertine Dorothea (1703-1708)
- 9-8 Ernestine Eleonora (1706-1766)
- 9-5 Erdmuthe Dorothea (1700-1756) Countess Reuss of Plavno from Ebersdorf  
m. 1722 Nikolaus Ludwig, Count of Zinzendorf<sup>35</sup> and Pottendorf (1700-1760)

<sup>34</sup> Stammtafeln zur Geschichte der europäischen Staaten, Band 1, Tafel 172. - Behr, Kamill: Genealogie der in Europa regierenden Fürstenhäuser nebst der Reihenfolge sämtlicher Päpste. Leipzig 1854, Tafeln 143 und 144.

<sup>35</sup> Kimbauer v. Erzstätt, Johann Evang.: Niederösterreichischer Ständischer Adel. In: Die Wappen des Adels in Niederösterreich. Teil 2. Neustadt a.d. Aisch 1983, 640, (J. Siebmacher's großes Wappenbuch 26). - Meyer: Nikolaus Ludwig Reichsgraf von Zinzendorf 228-261. - Geschichte des oberlausitzischen Adels und seiner Güter, Band 3, 210-214.

*Children:*

- 10-1 Christian Ernst (1724-1724)
- 10-2 Henriette Benigna Justine (1725-1789)  
m. 1746 Johannes Michael of Watteville (1718-1788)
- 10-3 Christian Renatus (1727-1752)
- 10-4 Christian Friedrich (1729-1729)
- 10-5 Theodora Caritas (1730-1732)
- 10-6 Johann Ernst (1732-1732)
- 10-7 Christian Ludwig Theodor (1733-1736)
- 10-8 Anna Theresia (1734-1738)
- 10-9 Maria Agnes (1735-1784)  
m. 1767 Moritz Wilhelm, Burgrave and Count of Dohna (1737-1777)
- 10-10 Johanna Salome (1737-1742)
- 10-11 David (1738-1742)
- 10-12 Elisabeth (1740-1807)  
m. 1768 Friedrich Rudolf of Watteville (1738-1811)