

Summary of Information Sent by Manfred Raker Pertaining to the Family Förtmeier in Loccum and Münchehagen as Stated in the Church Book of Loccum

By the systematic research in the church book of Loccum/ Münchehagen I could prove the presence of the family Förtmeier between 1732 (beginning of the church book recording) and 1835 (death of the last Förtmeier = tailor Friedrich Förtmeier). Loccum was thus the penultimate seat of the family in Germany before Lavelshoh/Bohnhorst and the following emigration to the USA.

Loccum:

The center of the village is an ancient abbey founded in 1163 as a Cistercian monastery.

<http://www.kloster-loccum.de> From 1200 a monastery church is built.



Around 1300 the monastery had its greatest economic prosperity. From 1500 the economic decline begins. Around 1593 it became Lutheran, which was a peculiarity in Germany. The former women's chapel becomes a village school during this time.



Frauenkapelle

So all Förtmeiers of Loccum went to this school there.

During the Napoleonic era (1807-1811), the monastery was not dissolved like almost all other monasteries, but remained in existence. Since 300 years, Protestant priests were trained at Loccum. Today there are no more monks living in the monastery. However, it is one of the most important historical building complexes in northern Germany.

The church book begins in 1732 and is kept simultaneously for the villages of Loccum and Münchenhagen. However, this separation was not maintained continuously. In the first years the entries are kept extremely spartan. So only the name of the child and the first name of the father are mentioned with birth entries. Depending on the typeface (and presumably also the age of the priest), the entries can be read differently. There was already a register of names from the 1930s. I first used this overview and later systematically searched individual years for Förtmeiers.

So far, I have found 24 different people under the name Förtmeier. The family was obviously first resident in Münchenhagen. Later, entries from Loccum were added (possibly erroneously). The oldest reference comes from a Johann Harm Förtmeier, who was born in 1732 and whose father was called Hinrich.

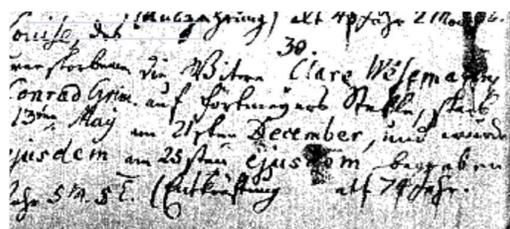
A Hans Harm Förtmeier marries Anna Bredemeier in 1735. I could find 2 daughters. A Jakob Förtmeier marries 1744 for the 2nd time and dies 1752. I could find 2 daughters and a son as descendants.

1726 Hans Jürgen Förtmeier is born. The father is not indicated. I could prove 7 children. The 4th child, Johann Friederich Förtmeier was born on 07.04.1764. He was a tailor and was later also called a master tailor.

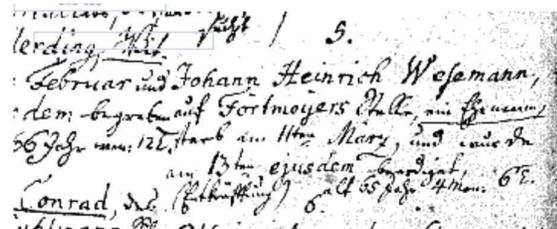
On 21.02.1798 Diederich Friedrich Wilhelm, the later school teacher and ancestor of the American Förtmeiers, is born. He was followed by 2 more children, who died at the age of 4 and 2 years. Diederich was confirmed in Loccum in 1812.

I have discovered three more death entries. On March 11, 1820 Mr. Johann Heinrich Wesemann dies in Münchenhagen at the age of 65 and on December 21, 1823 his widow Clare Wesemann dies. The place of residence of both is "Förtmeier's Stelle", which means as much as Förtmeier's place or estate. As a rule, the place of residence in the church book was a place and a house number (e.g. Münchenhagen No. 12).

With some entries the owner is called. I think that here two subtenants of a Förtmeier.



Gräbe, des (ausgehörig) alt 79 J. 21. Dec. 1823.
30.
war vorher in Witwe Clare Wesemann
Conrad Wm. auf Fortmeyers Stelle, starb
13ten May um 21ten December, und wurde
jensdem am 25ten ejusdem begraben
J. 5. M. S. E. (Hilfsbuch) alt 79 J.



terding, alt 65 J. 1. 5.
Februar und Johann Heinrich Wesemann,
dem Begraben auf Fortmeyers Stelle, am Feuarung,
56 J. am 12. starb am 11ten März, und wurde
am 13ten ejusdem begraben,
Conrad, des (Hilfsbuch) alt 55 J. 4. M. S. E. 6. J.

Another hint can be found in the 3rd obituary. It concerns Friedrich Förtmeier. He died in Loccum on 23 January 1835. His profession is indicated with "Häusling und Schneider". The age of the dead person is indicated with 66 years, the cause of death was tuberculosis.

I think this Friedrich Förtmeier was the father of Diedrich Förtmeier, the school teacher from Bohnhorst. The age is not correct, because I have the definite birth announcement from 07. April 1764. Friedrich was thus with his death 70 years. The profession tailor is probably correct.

Remains the entry "Häusling". This means tenants of a small rural house. The Förtmeier family probably had no property of their own in Münchehagen.

These people had to earn their living outside of agriculture, e.g. as school teachers or craftsmen. In the social hierarchy they stood among the full farmers but above the dispossessed peddlers.

After the death of the tailor his wife Catharine Elisabeth Mell-Förtmeier probably moved to her son (the only surviving child) to Bohnhorst. Diedrich had started there as a school teacher in the new school and probably also had more space in the house.

Thus, 1835 the last Förtmeier from Loccum has disappeared. This is also the last entry of a Förtmeier in the church register.

I have found three more Förtmeier family members, who lived from the middle to the end of 1700. Here I could not find any assignment.

It is strange that except for Johann Friedrich of his two surviving brothers there are no descendants or marriages to be found.

They have either moved away or remained unmarried and childless.

There are some church books in the area which also have lists of names. I looked at them, but nowhere found a Förtmeier. Also, in Lavelsho and surroundings there is only the family of Diederich, who finally emigrated completely to the USA.

So, we have to keep looking for the origin of the Förtmeiers. After all, 100 years from Loccum have already been added.

The Entries Church Book Loccum-Münchehagen

FÖRTMEIERS FOUND IN LOCCUM GERMANY

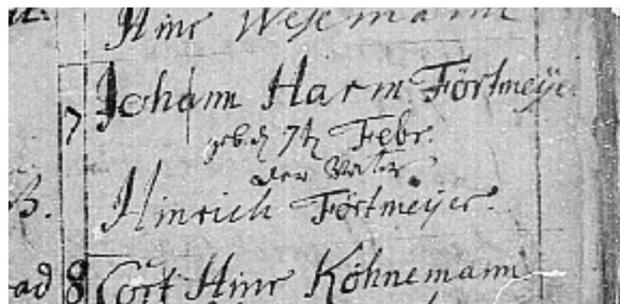
All are probably related to us, but many are unknown to us

Church book Loccum-Münchehagen from 1732

Johann Harm Förtmeyer

born 7 February as father:

Hinrich Förtmeyer



Church book Loccum 1733

Trine Margarethe Förtmeyers born on 5 February, father Jakob.

Church book Loccum-Münchehagen from 1736

Trine Marie

Förtmeyers born 20

March as father: Hanns

Church book Loccum-Münchehagen from 1735

Hans Harm Förtmeyer married Anna Elisabeth Bredemeier

on 17 April

Church book Loccum-Münchehagen from 1744

Cathrine Margrethe Förtmeyers

born 8 June as father: Hanß

Church book Loccum from 1744

Cathrine Margret Trumes, Jacob Fortmeiers wife died on 8 January, 52 years old

Church book Loccum from 1744

Jacob Fortmeier with

Sophie Wieskings

Marriage 6 June

Handwritten church record from Loccum, 1744, showing a marriage entry. The text is written in cursive and includes the names of the couple and the date of the marriage.

cop. d. 19^{te} Maj.
Jacob Fortmeyer mit
Sophie Wiesking
geb. 6. Dec. cop. d. 4^{te} Jun.
Jaust Amrode Wiesking

Church book Loccum 1746

Johann Harm Förtmeier born on 18 August, father Jakob.

Church book Loccum 1749

Clare Margarethe Förtmeyers born on 10 February, father Jakob.

Church book Loccum 1750

Anna Catharina Maria Förtmeyers born on 22 March, father: Jakob Förtmeier

Mother: Sophia Wiebking

Godfathers: Maria Wiebking

Church book Loccum-Münchehagen from 1756

Cathrine Margretha Förtmeyer **

born 2 September

Father: Hans Jürgen Förtmeier

Mother: Clara Elisabeth Rust

Godfathers: Catharina Rust, Margret Förtmeier

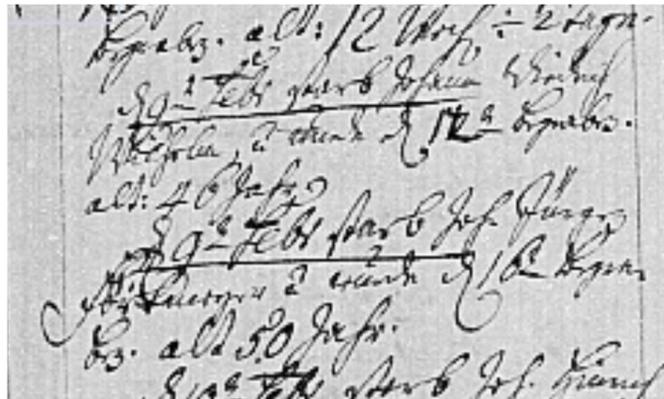
** Sister of Johann Friedrich Förtmeier

** Parents of Johann Friedrich Förtmeier.

They are my thrice great grandparents.

Church book Loccum 1776

on 9 February dies Hans Jürgen Förtmeier, old 50 years



Church book Loccum 1886

Clara Luise Förtmeier is confirmed.

Church book Loccum 1786

on 16 December died Johann Harm Förtmeier, old 40 years, 3 month, 28 days

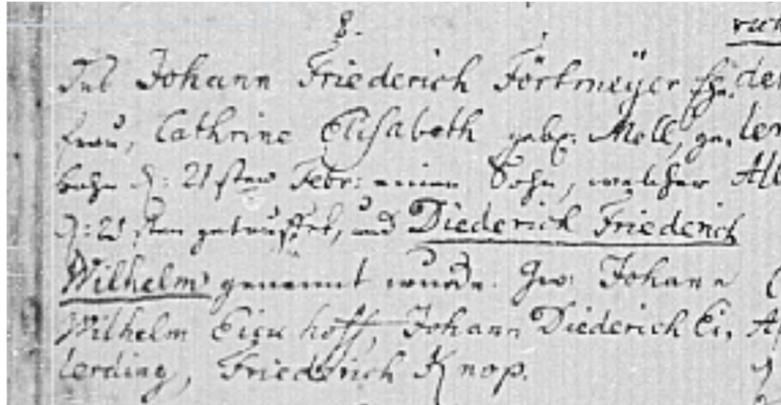
Church book Loccum 1798

The Johann Friederich Förtmeyer together with his wife Catherine Elisabeth nee Mell **, was born on 21 February a son, afterwards ... and named Diedrich Friederich Wilhelm **.

Godfather: Johann Wilhelm Eigenhoff, Johann Diederich Eilerding, Friedrich Knop.

** My third great grandfather and grandmother

** My twice great grandfather who married Ilsa Dorothea Georges



Church book Loccum 1802

Johann Friederich Förtmeyer together with his wife Cathrine Elisabeth nee Mell, was born on 6 January a son, ... baptized on 10 January and named **Heinrich Friedrich Conrad ****. Godfather of baptism: Heinrich Wilhelm, Friedrich Langhammer, Heinrich Wilckening. Died Sept. 11, 1806.

**** My third great grandfather and grandmother**

**** Brother of Dietrich Friedrich Wilhelm Förtmeier, my twice great grandfather, who married Ilsa Dorothea Georges**

Church book Loccum 1803

Clare Marie Luise Förtmeyer died on 15. October and was buried on 17., (...) old 31 years, 9 months

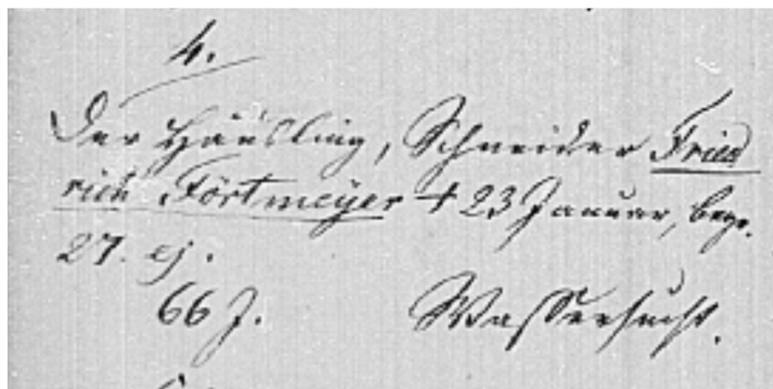
Church book Loccum 1804

The tailor **Johann Friederich Förtmeyer together with his wife Catherine Elisabeth nee Mell ****, was born on 20 February a daughter ... baptized on 5 March and named Clare Charlotte Margarethe Elisabeth. Godparents: Charlotte Stolze, Margret Brinkmann, Elisabeth Knop née Wahren, Clara Droste née Poland. Died 1806.

**** My third great grandfather and grandmother**

Church book Loccum 1835

The cottager, tailor Friedrich Förtmeier died 23 January, 66 years



**** My third great grandfather**

Witch trials

I found a list of people documented in Loccum in the 17th century as accused in witch trials. A total of 33 people were executed in Loccum after witch trials.

In 1634 the name Gesche Vortmeier, called the great Gesche, appears from Loccum. Perhaps also an ancestor of the Förtmeiers. I don't have any further information yet. The name does not appear in a 2nd list of convicted people. Maybe she was acquitted. The church book unfortunately does not go back far enough. One would have to look in archives of the monastery....

LOCCUM WITCH TRIALS

In the abbey area Loccum about 33 people were in witch trials in the 17th century executed. In the jurisdiction of the monastery it had between 1581 and 1661 a total of 54 proven procedures for witchcraft. Of 28 women and six men is the place of residence known. With 15 women and five men, the lion's share of the accused of persons with Wiedensahler community affiliation.

Most of the convicts were burned on the "Rosenbraken", a parcel of land between Klosterforst and Bundesstraße 441. In the Loccum tradition is the small pond on a slope above Bachteich and Fulde as a so called witch's pond, where the water samples supposedly took place.

A special role was played by the Protestant pastor Heinrich Rimphoff (1622 - 1638 in Wiedensahl), later superintendent in Verden, 'great witch-hunter' and 'witch-screamer', published the book "Dragon King - This is: True german christian and highly necessary complaining of highly fused witches and magic devil ", 1647 in Rinteln.

Loccum list of names of the victims of the witch hunt

1581

Cathrin Spanuth, executed in December, from Wiedensahl

1628

Margarethe Wulfs from Münchehagen

Magdalene from the paddock from Loccum

Gerke Barnewolds from Loccum

Metke Rummelmanns

Anneke Törnau from Münchehagen

Metke Vischers from Wiedensahl

Elysabeth Nolten

Margaret Brinckmans

Margarethe Schaperneister

Aleken Strohmeyers

Man of Aleken Strohmeyer

Agnese, the

Dolmetzersche Aleke

Kleuekers the old

Wilhelmesche

1631

Margarethe Denkers from Wiedensahl

Ursula Botterbrodts from Wiedensahl

Katherine Buers from Wiedensahl

(Monastery A Loccum, XXIII C 2 10 1st part, file Denkers, Botterbrodt, Buers, death sentences of 15.10.1631)

1634

Anne Ernstings or Botterbrodts

Gesche Vortmeier, called the big Gesche, from Loccum

Bernd Höpner's wife

the Knoopesche

Grethen Dahlings

1638

Alheit Beckersche or the Raselersche

Marie Schurnacher from Münchehagen

Alheit von Haaren from Wiedensahl

Kathrine Ernstings from Wiedensahl

Gesche Hornemanns from Loccum

Johann Seggebruch from Wiedensahl

Diedrich Wilhelm Heerhorst from Loccum

Salomon's Hille from Loccum

1660 – 1661

Heinrich Heimann from Wiedensahl

Gesche Spannuths, his wife [19. June 1660]

Gese [Gesche] Köllars, widow Weimar from Wiedensahl. On the 1st of September, 1659, the Wiedensahler community prosecution at the Loccum Stiftsgericht. Execution on June 2, 1660 by the sword in the abbey place. 1634 took place despite death sentence in Herford the release in Minden; In 1638 she escaped death by escaping. Detailed cost accounting from the trial to the sale of their farm for "160 Thaler" in two installments.

Women from Rehburg-Loccum and Wiedensahl have the fate of the Gese Köllars in 1987 taken as a reason to deal with the role of the woman and the witch hunts deal. It was rated as particularly positive that the evangelical Heimvolkshochschule in Loccum at that time took up the topic and this dark side self-critical of the beginning of modern times. At that time, the Loccumer women's group wanted to Anniversary of the accusation against Gese Köllars with the memory of her and her sufferings too set signs of reconciliation.

The intention of reconciliation pursued the Frankfurt artist Eva-Gesine Wegner in 1985 with their attempt, the small pond near the new cemetery as the center of a Memorial to "the many known and unknown killed women" during the witch hunts. There, so it was the artist 's idea, could stand the plastic „The Blessing“ offered by her as a gift. Makes against this desire Dept. Eduard Lohse expressed considerable misgivings and finally informed the

artist "that the monastery of those women and men, the witch hunt of that time to the victim fallen, thought in the only possible way, namely, that the essay of Mr. Hirschler was printed in the "Stories from the monastery Loccum". What at that time it really happened, which connections existed, how one differentiates judges, the villagers and the experts. This can only be done in describe a careful essay, but do not depict a monument presentation of the artist, either in the community or on another ground of the Loccumer church facilities with a monument to the victims of the to remember Loccumer witch hunts, was after lengthy discussions in the rejected the committees concerned. Thus, the monastery Loccum one rejected Installation in Klosterforst with indication of imminent "ground mysticism".

<http://www.satyroi.de/> Menu item local history [2001]

<http://www.satyroi.de/download/stift-loccum.pdf> [2001]

<http://www.razyboard.com/system/morethread-hexenverbrennung-in-loccum-witchi-444269-5546552-0.html>

<http://www.sn-online.de/Nachrichten/Kultur/Kultur-lokal/Das-Ende-der-Hexenjagd-Derspaete->

Glory of the Gesche-Koellars [11.06.2010]

Horst Hirschler, books: "Wiedensahl before and today" and "Stories from the monastery Loccum "

Wiedensahler Pastor Albert Hahn "History of the Lokkum abbey district Fleckens Wiedensahl ", 1898

Peter Beer, "Hexenprozesse in the monastery and monastic area Loccum", volume 41 of the "studies to

Church History of Lower Saxony "

www.gbv.de/dms/spk/sbb/recht/toc/525980253.pdf

Joachim Lehrmann, Also in Wunstorf the madness once flourished

Joachim Lehrmann: Witch pursuit in Hannover-Calenberg: 2005

<http://www.klosterloccum.de/pages/monastery/>

[kloster_loccum_2013 / archive / subpages /](http://www.klosterloccum.de/archive/subpages/)

[prof_dr_inge_mager_univ](http://www.klosterloccum.de/prof_dr_inge_mager_univ)

[ersitaet_hamburg__evangelische_theorie / index.html](http://www.klosterloccum.de/ersitaet_hamburg__evangelische_theorie/index.html)

Prof. Dr. Inge Mager, University of Hamburg, Protestant Theory, Word to the Monastery Loccum