

The Lohmeyer families

by Carl Theodor Lohmeyer (1852-1914)¹

Reflecting on the meaning of the surname, it is possible that different Lohmeyer families arose simultaneously and independently from each other in different places. "Loh" means 'forest', specifically 'oak forest'. Lohmeyer is therefore the farmer whose farm is located in or at the forest edge. A thousand years ago, the land on the lower Weser river was all covered with forest. When the Saxons came to cultivate the land, they first needed to burn and clear the forest before the land could be made arable. In northern Westfalia, even today², there are often no closed villages, but every farm is located centrally to its landholdings, often ½ hour from his nearest neighbour. Certainly, the word "loh" is purely of lower saxon origin³. The families named Lohmeyer, Lohmeier and Lomeier must therefore all originate from the Provinces Westfalia and Hannover and I have been successful in localising most of the families to that area, eight families even to the region close to Minden on the Weser. It is therefore not impossible that, had church records survived the time of the 30 Years War and had they existed before the 'Bauernkriege'⁴, one might be able to prove a closer linkage between some of these families. To date, I am aware of the following 16 Lohmeyer families:⁵

1. MY father was originally '*königlich dänischer Landbauinspektor*' and later '*königlich preussischer Baurat für das Herzogtum Lauenburg*'⁶, not to be confused with Carl Lohmeier, who was '*Landbauinspektor*' of the Grand-Duke of Mecklenburg-Strelitz, lived about 40 years earlier and who belonged to Family 7. My grandfather Wilhelm Lohmeyer⁷ was a pharmacist in Arensburg, later in Oldesloe in Holstein, and hailed from the Lohmeyer estate at Stendern near Hoya on the Weser. The Stendern estate, which has been in our Family since 1670, is now owned by a cousin of my father, the '*Landschaftsrat*' Hermann Lohmeyer⁸. The

¹ The original was written in German around 1905 and entitled 'Familie Lohmeyer'. The autor is not named in the original, but has been identified based on the information provided on his family and ancestors. The original comprises three closely typewritten pages. The text has been translated and footnotes added by Dr. Matt. Lohmeyer, Sydney.

² N.B. This document was written ca. 1905.

³ The matter is not quite as clear cut, because localities, farms and villages called 'Loh', beginning with 'Loh-' or ending in '-loh' are found throughout Germany (see my webpages on the the subject of the Lohmeyer family name).

⁴ The term 'Bauernkriege' refers to a series of insurrections and revolutions in Germany during the early 16th and 17th centuries, in part inspired by the religious reformation of Martin Luther.

⁵ Lohmeyer actually lists 17 different Families.

⁶ Carl August Wilhelm Lohmeyer (1824-1883) was a government official with expertise in construction, charged with inspecting and supervising public building works, initially under the Danish crown and later under the authority of the Prussian king in the Duchy of Lauenburg.

⁷ Johann Hermann Wilhelm Ludwig Lohmeyer (1789-1854)

⁸ Johann Dietrich Hermann Lohmeyer (1824-1912); the title Landschaftsrat was sometimes awarded to senior landholders who also had advisory roles to local government.

Lohmeyers of Stendern are a side branch of the Lohmeyers from the Lohof near Hoya. The last owner of the Lohof, Carl Lohmeyer⁹, was unmarried and sold the Lohof 30 years ago to Senator Hesse in Verden, who has leased it for farming. Carl himself retired to Verden and with his death two years ago, the branch of the Lohmeyer family on the Lohof near Hoya has died out in the male line. Apart from the current owner and myself, part of the Lohmeyer branch from Stendern include my son Carl Lohmeyer¹⁰, Lieutenant in the 58. Regiment of field artillerie in Minden, my brother Viktor Lohmeyer¹¹, Director of the Berliner Norddeutschen Hagelversicherungsgesellschaft in Halle / Saale, the '*geheime Medizinalrat*' Prof. Dr. med. Ferdinand Lohmeyer¹² in Göttingen and his son, the local court judge Wilhelm Lohmeyer¹³ in Berum near Hage in Ostfriesland.

2. One Lohmeyer family originated at the end of the 17th Century from the farming community of Lohbusch near Rahden, 3 miles from Minden. To this family also belong 3 current owners of large factories in St. Johann near Saarbrücken, in Simmern in der Pfalz and in Langenberg near Elberfeld. They had also owned large factories in Barmen for 100 years.
3. One Lohmeyer family originates from the village of Ströhen near Rahden, 3 miles from Minden, where this family provided the village schoolmaster for three consecutive generations at the end of the 17th and the beginning of the 18th century. Their descendents include the Pastor in Enger near Herford, in Exten near Herford, in Hartum near Minden und in Hilbeck near Soest, all in Westfalia. The current Pastor Lohmeyer in Levern near Lübbecke, 3 miles from Minden, also belongs to this family.
4. The descendents of Wilhelm Martin Lohmeyer, born 1679 in the village of Nordhausen near Rahden, 3 miles from Minden, later '*preussischer Steuerrat*'¹⁴ in Rastenburg (East-Prussia) include: the deceased author Dr. Julius Lohmeyer in Charlottenburg; his brother Adolf Lohmeyer, formerly factory owner in Gleiwitz, Silesia and now retired in Charlottenburg and the latter's son, pharmacy owner Alfred Lohmeyer in Gumbinnen, East Prussia; Carl Lohmeyer, history professor at the University of Königsberg in Prussia, who was born without an arm; the hotel owner Carl Lohmeyer in Prussia and his 3 brothers, Max Lohmeyer, Professor in Bukarest, Paul Lohmeyer, trainee postal worker in Berlin und Dr. jur. Hans Lohmeyer, '*Gerichtsreferendar*' (law clerk) in Thorn.
5. Friedrich Lohmeyer, who died in 1655, was mayor of the village of Hausberge an der Porta Westfalica, 5 kilometres from Minden. His descendents include three greats of the 17th century: Johann Georg Lohmeyer, until 1650 Professor of Greek at the University of Rinteln, 1650-1675 Director of the Gymnasium Andreanum in Hildesheim and until his death Director of the Domgymnasium in Magdeburg (he was very famous in his time). Then, there were his

⁹ Johann Hermann Karl Lohmeyer (1833-1903)

¹⁰ Fedor Victor Heinrich Carl Lohmeyer (1884-1915)

¹¹ Victor Fritz Dietrich Lohmeyer (1855-1909)

¹² Carl Ferdinand Lohmeyer (1826-1911); a senior doctor who also advises government in matters of health policy

¹³ Wilhelm Ferdinand (1870-1955)

¹⁴ A senior taxation consultant to the Prussian administration

two sons: Philipp Lohmeyer 1674-1679 Professor of '*Naturlehre*' (physical science) in Rinteln and until his death in 1680 tutor of 'Beredsamkeit' (eloquence) at the Gymnasium in Lüneburg, and Georg Lohmeyer who was Director of the Gymnasium Andreanum in Hildesheim between 1683-1684. Johann Ernst Lohmeyer, Pastor Primarius in Elze near Hildesheim between 1663-1680, was also a son of the mayor of Hausberge. A great-grandson of the mayor married the daughter of a brewery owner in Rinteln. They founded a branch of the Lohmeyer Family which still exists in Rinteln and to which belong the present Dr. Eduard Lohmeyer, Director of the Landesbibliothek in Kassel; Dr. Karl Lohmeyer, Director of the German School in Brussels; and Pastor August Lohmeyer in Schlangen near Detmold.

6. In 1692, a male Lohmeyer was born in the village of Eidinghausen, close to Bad Oeynhaus, 2 miles from Minden. He later moved to Derenburg near Halberstadt, where one of his sons proceeded to lease three royal estates ('*Domänen*') and had 18 children whose descendents are now very widespread in the Province of Saxony. The other son was the father of Dr. Lohmeyer, surgeon general ('*Generalstabsarzt*') of the Prussian Army in Berlin who lived 80 years ago. The descendents of the royal estate manager ('*kgf. Domänen-Amtmann*') of Derenburg include: the present '*Geheime Regierungsrat und Baurat*'¹⁵ Ludwig Lohmeyer at the railway directorate in Frankfurt / Main; estate owner Emil Lohmeyer in Pfeiffhausen near Halle / Saale; Julius Lohmeyer, director of a sugar factory in Minsleben near Wernigerode; Hermann Lohmeyer, estate owner in Reussen near Halle / Saale; chief paymaster ('*Oberzahlmeister*') Max Lohmeyer in Meiningen; two '*Oberappellationsgerichtsräte*'¹⁶ Lohmeyer in Halberstadt who died 20 and 30 years ago, respectively; the present merchant Lohmeyer in Magdeburg; as well as various other Lohmeyers in the Province of Saxony.
7. The '*Kanzleirat und Lohnfiskal*'¹⁷, Johann Heinrich Lohmeier in Herford, 4 miles from Minden, died around 1780. He had 2 sons: one was '*Kriminalrichter*'¹⁸ Karl Heinrich Lohmeier in Halle / Saale, whose line of descendents has died out, I believe. The other was Carl Lohmeier, who was '*Landbauinspektor*' of the Grand-Duke of Mecklenburg-Strelitz. The latter should not be confused with the '*Landbauinspektor und Baurat*' Karl Lohmeyer from Ratzeburg.¹⁹ As far as I am aware, all members of these families write their name 'Lohmeier'.
8. A Lohmeyer farmstead near Gütersloh in Westfalia²⁰ has been lost since the expansion of Gütersloh. Originating from there are Pastor Lohmeyer in Vlotho on the Weser; his brother Professor Theodor Lohmeyer, former head teacher at the grammar school in Altena / Lenne, now retired in Marburg / Lahn; their deceased brother, a doctor in Aplerbeck near Dortmund

¹⁵ A senior government official with expertise in construction, charged with inspecting and supervising building works

¹⁶ Senior judges at the court of appeal

¹⁷ A 'Kanzleirat' was an advisor to the sovereign, ranked below the 'Justizrat' and an official of the sixth rank at court. A 'Lohnfiskal' denotes a senior public official with responsibility for looking after the interests of the state in matters of wages, disputes and finances.

¹⁸ Judge specialising in criminal law

¹⁹ There is some confusion about surname spelling in this paragraph. The author wrote all of the surnames in this para with a 'y', in spite of the final sentence. He also spells Carl with a K, even though in family 1. the same person is 'Carl'.

²⁰ Hof Nr. 27 in Pavenstädt near Gütersloh.

and his two sons Adelbert and Eduard Lohmeyer, owners of a commission and export business in London, as well as various families in the area around Gütersloh.

I have researched the above eight families in some detail. I am also aware of a further eight families whose earlier ancestors I have not yet been able to research more closely.²¹

9. Hermann Lohmeyer, owner of a linen and fabrics factory in Bielefeld and apparently his son and a shareholder Friedrich H. Lohmeyer.
10. Fritz Lohmeyer in Bielefeld, whose ancestors, until 4 generations ago, had a farmstead in Nammen, 5 kilometres from Minden.
11. One Family, which has provided four generations of clock makers in Osten on the Oste, District of Stade, Province Hannover and their ancestors, which family tradition suggests originated in the southern part of Hannover on the middle reaches of the Weser river.
12. Descended from a merchant Lohmeyer born 1750 in Rechtenfleth near Bremen was Dr. med. Lohmeyer in Lesum near Bremen. This Family exists in the male line only in North America.
13. '*Sanitätsrat*'²² Dr. Karl Lohmeyer in Emden was born in the hamlet of Greetsiel.
14. In the Province Schleswig-Holstein, I could only identify one Lohmeyer: the master tailor in Gross Wittensee near Eckernförde, who participated in the Schleswig-Holstein Wars of 1848-1851 and perhaps his son, who served in the Holsteinischen Infanterie-Regiment Nr.85 and later as Sergeant in the Kaiser's Guard for South-West Africa, where he was badly wounded on 7.7.1905 near the Maltese Heights ('*Maltahöhe*') whilst on Horse-Guard duties. Otherwise, I know of noone.
15. A family of labourers (Lohmeyer) lived for 3 generations in Gross Salze²³ near Magdeburg.
16. The grandsons of the cloth manufacturer Lohmeyer in Calbe / Saale who died 80 years ago are the retired Chief Inspector Franz Lohmeier in Bonn and his son Sohn Friedrich, first town councillor ('*Beigeordneter*') of the city of Oberhausen in the Rhineland. With the latter, this Family will die out in the male line. The wife of Chief Inspector Franz Lohmeier, Mrs. Margarethe Lohmeier, née Schmidt, was much talked about at the time as a children's book author and she published the children's magazine "Lachtaube" for many years. As a result of family disputes with his step-brothers and sisters, his father changed the spelling of his Name from Lohmeyer to Lohmeier.
17. A family of shoemakers in Halle / Saale, whose father was also a master shoemaker and the grandfather of whom was a master saddlery maker in town. This Lohmeyer family originates in the fourth generation from the farmstead Dobergast in the district of Weissenfels, Saxony.

²¹ If the obviously extensive research files of Carl Lohmeyer are still in existence today is unknown to me. It is an active aspect of my research.

²² Honorary title for doctors and medical men who have been practicing medicine for more than 20 years

²³ Today's town of Bad Salzelmen, comprises the villages of Gross Salze and Elmen.

This map illustrates the distribution of Lohmeyer families as described by Carl Theodor Lohmeyer in his Report.



My own ancestors originate from Veltheim near Hausberge. Hans Henrich Lohmeyer (c1686-1762) married Ilse Maria Kölling in 1725. Theirs was the first recorded marriage in the oldest surviving Veltheim church book. The Farm after which the Family is named still exists today and was established between 900 and 1200 AD. If there is a relationship between the Veltheim family and the Mayor of Hausberge, who died in 1655 (Family 5.) is unknown to date. The villages of Hausberge and Veltheim are only about 8km apart.

I have further information about some of the above families. I am looking forward to hearing from any researchers with new information on the subject of 'Lohmeyer families'.

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