

CONTRIBUTED BY

Julius C. Druding

LOUISIANA

(now deceased)

THE GENEALOGY OF THE DRUDINGS AND DRUEDINGS OF CLOPPENBURG, GERMANY

The research into the genealogy of the Drudings of Cloppenburg covered a period of five years and all leads were pursued to their ends.

In order to present a genealogy of the Drudings and Druedings of Cloppenburg, it is thought best to first give a condensed history of the Saxons and Franks insofar as it relates to the Drudings and Druedings. Their ancestral origin was Saxon. The Saxons were a strong tribe.

THE SAXONS

The Saxons were first mentioned by Ptolemy the geographer in the 2nd Century and he revealed that there were in the southern part of the Cimbrician (Danish) Peninsula and spread southward. They were a confederacy tribe about 150 AD in Holstein south of the Angles who lived in Sahleswig. They moved south and Westward and absorbed the greater part of Chaucii (German Chauken) later Oldenburg and the Angreveris which were south of the coastal area of the North Sea known as Fristil which they did not enter. They held the area west of the Elba river as far south as Osnabuck and West to Holland about 300. They went westward and were joined by the Cheruscii and settled on the Flemish coast about 410. Large groups joined the Angles and Jutes in the English conquest after 450. (The Angles did not settle in Northern Germany). They also expanded southward to the north shores of the Lippe river and westward to the Rhine river. They were of Germanic origin.

They were of four groups, Westphalians which included Westphalians, Angrarians and East Nordbalginginas. The name of the fourth group was not determined. These included Saxons.

Otto I, son of a Saxon Noble named Ludolf was the first Duke of Saxony, 880-912. Luneburg (near Hamburg) was the Center of Lower Saxony. Oldenburg is now a part of lower Saxony. Oldenburg existed from the 12th Century and since World War II is a part of Lower Saxony. Prussia included Saxony and Westphalia. Otto and Charlemagne were of two separate and distinct empires. Otto was a king of Germany and later a Holy Roman Emperor, called the Great. 962-973.

THE FRANKS

"Franks" is a generic name of uncertain origin for a group of Germanic tribes dwelling north and east of the middle and lower Rhine in the 3rd Century AD.

Mitchell's atlas shows that the Franks started their movement from an area including Cloppenburg and crossed the Rhine at Cologne and went past Aachen (aix la Chapelle) to the west central part of Gaul (France) to the north of Paris to form the states known as Neustria and Austrasia. At Aachen they had their headquarters.

The Franks were a leading confederacy of West Germanic tribes first mentioned in 241 AD and included western Chaucii, the Ampsivarii and the Chamavi. They later formed the Salian Franks, Bructeri, Sugambri, and the Chattenarii (later the Ripuarians Franks) and Chatti. They fought against the Romans in 253. The Ripuarins dwelt on both sides of the Rhine, near Cologne.

THE FRANKS (continued)

The Salians were permanently settled in the region occupied by the modern Flemish and Dutch Netherlands by 410 and the Ripuarians and Chatti settled in the Rhine Land, and Hesse and northern Bavaria by 450. They founded the kingdom of France under Charlemagne in the 9th Century. France derived its name from Franks. The Franks were in Mainz and Frankfurt in 241 and went east as far as northern Bavaria principally around Middle Franken and near Nurnberg. They crossed the Rhine to invade the Roman Empire as early as 253. During the 8th Century Charlemagne christianized the Saxons.

COAT OF ARMS

The Truding coat of arms (shown as a part of this genealogy) came into being at Court Heidenheim which is very close to Gunzenhausen about 15 miles southwest of Nurnberg in the north central part of Bavaria. In north Germany the spelling was Druding. Since the "D" was generally unknown for commencing names or was not used to commence names the letter "T" was substituted to read Truding. The name Truding in southern Germany is evidence that the Saxons were among the Franks and involved in their migrations and activities. Heidenheim is in Middle Franken. Heraldry came into being during the Holy Crusades 1096-1270. The lower part of the coat of arms has a Torteaux (or wastell): roundels of Gules (red) and said to represent a cake of bread or Wastell cake. Originally they were supposed to have been consecrated cake used by the church on festive days, such as the cross-buns of Good Friday or the Passover cake of the Jews. There was some feeling that they represented the Eucharistical wafer. At Heidenheim the Trudings settled to live and named the place "Truding."

THE GENEALOGICAL RECORDS

The tax records were obtained by Victor Stukenberg, a school principal of Cloppenburg during 1947. The St Andreas Church (Catholic) records at Cloppenburg were searched from 1613 when they start to 1702 by Hellmuth Rehme, a researcher at Cloppenburg. The church records are considerably deteriorated and many of the sheets are stuck together which made research difficult. Also, there are some gaps. It may be that the religious wars and Thirty Year's War from 1618 to 1648 had a bearing on how well the records were kept. After the wars, the records are in better condition. Following are the tax and church records for Cloppenburg and surrounding.

The genealogical chart shows the lines of Drudings descended from the V and von Elstens below listed and heavily underlined. The others are brothers, sisters, uncles and aunts, etc. who are related.

DRUDE THE ELSTEN: This was a small court (district) where families of the same name lived. Sometimes a family moved from one court to another. In 1545 Drude the Elsten owned only a few cattle. There is no doubt that Drudinck derived from Drude during the centuries before 1545 and that the name Drude originated in the lower Danish peninsula. Source 22 Frankfurter a.m. 1912 shows a v. Drudicke, researched by Alex Schwartz of Ottendorf, West Germany.

Thole Drudinck- Court (Thole-Tholen. It is believed this is the line of the Drudings. No date shown.

1498 Tole Drudinck, 3 persons (The "ck" ending was apparently from Dutch influence, and "g" was later used as end letter for the name "ck" is equal to "g".

1535 Tole Drudinck, One half Gg.

1535 Werncke Drudinck, One half Gg.

1535 Tole Drudinck, 2 Gg, 2 Schrickenberger

1538 Oldenburg Invasion, Tole Drudinck from Jurgen van Holle. Purchased one ox 3 Daler.

1545 Tole Drudinck has 6 milk cows, 4 horses, 2 oxen, 7 goats, 8 cattle, 13 pigs, 20 sheep, 2 beehives, appraised at 108 Gg. (of it taxes) one half Gg 11 Doit

1545 Werncke Drudinck, 2 milk cows, 4 horses, 3 oxen 6 goats, 6 cattle, 11 sheep, 14 pigs, 6 beehives - 130 Gg--one fourth Gg 3 Schillings one and one half deit. The first place is larger and has more livestock, but they owe allegiance to the landlord and therefore had to pay higher taxes. The second place owned by Werncke Drudinck is smaller but is higher appraised because they do not owe allegiance.

1548Greta Borchgrevesche and daughter Alheidt lived in Cloppenburg. Their were named Borggreve. (This record is from the Staats Archive at Oldenburg)

1549 Tole Drudinck, Greta wife, Dirich son, Swaneke, Gesse, (5 persons)

1562 Toeie Drudinck, gehele erus, egen

1564 Borchardt Drudinck, one Schilling pay for farmhand

1576 Borchardt Drudinck one fourth service pay

1576 Thole Drudinck gave one bushel rye and 4 barrels oats and Desumsgefalle.

1578 Thole Drudinck one and one fourth Gg.

1597 Barend Drudinck 1/4 Gg household taxes

1609 Tole Drudinck gives Desgumsgefalle.

(From 1594 to 1616 we find no tax records. The church records start in 1613)

1616 Sept. 18, Borchardt v. Elsten appears as a godfather for-- (not clear) Was grandfather of Thole Von Elsten. Wessel v. Elsten was a godfather 1616 (small "v" means a noble von)

- 1618 Tole Druding gives Desgumsgefalle
- 1627 Sept. 26. Thole von Elsten married Grete. Name of baptized not entered or clear but must have been a son. Sponsors: Judge Pille, Wessel v Elsten, Greta Meyers zu Sevelten. Born in Cloppenburg. Thole was bro. of Wessel v. Elsten. Thole who married Anna Margareta Borggreve was a son of Wessel v. Elsten (it appears that von Elstens in this report all stemmed from Borchardt Johann v. Elsten. Wessel v. Elsten was godfather in 1616. He was the father of Thole von Elsten. (Line descendants also are classed as noble "von." or "v.")
- * Note: (Grete: Greta = Gretchen- Gertrude - pearl = Alheidt = Alice)
- 1630 Here is where the birth of Anna Margareta Borrgreve should appear according to her age when she died in 1728, Feb. 16. according to church record - At age 98)
- 1631 Oct. 16 Thole von Elsten, solider of the city hall of Cloppenburg married Margaretha, child named Wubbecks. Sponsors: Matthias Fischer of Cloppenburg, Takeke the Waichs.
- 1646 Johan zu Nieholt and Wubbecke von Elsten were married.
- 1650 Feb. 13, Dietrich von Elsten and Lucke von Cappeln, Witnesses Gotfried von Cappeln, Wessel Windhauss, Jost Zurmeyer and others.
- 1650 Dietrich von Elsten and Lucke had a child named Gerdt Arnold. Sponsors: Arnold Volbier, Treasurer and Margaretha Gerdraus Duvell. Diedrich von Elsten was from the Burg Cloppenburg because his lord, the Treasurer Volbier and the wife of the law writer were godparents of his child.
- 1652 March 10, Diedrich von Elsten and Lucke had a child named Gerdt Arnold.
- 1657 Sept. 10, Wessel v. Elsten was a sponsor for Hackmann zu Stapelfeld.
- 1658 April 8, Dietrich Burggreffe and Annecke had a daughter named Anna Dorothea Clara. Sponsors: Anna Dorothea born von Weix, wife of the High Bailiff, and Clara Volbier, wife of the treasurer.
- 1661 September, Bernt Borggreve from the Burg Cloppenburg was buried after a few years of life.
- 1663 Jan 7, Thole von Elsten was sponsor for a child of Diedrich Freidrichs zu Vahren.
- 1663 Sept. 13, Willecke von Elsten and Hille Hellmes witnesses Arndt and Gerdt, Bernt von Gronheim. Not related to Thole von Elsten.
- 1666 March 2, Wellecke von Elsten= 2nd oo 1666 with Gertrud Wittrock, Not related to Thole von Elsten. (oo= marriage)

- 1667 October 19th, parents: Johann Brandt and Gretke Mullers, Margaretha Maria, sponsors: Margareta Borggreve and Margareta Tole's and Frederich von Hanstrup.
- 1667 November 22, Joan Gert von Elsten and Gertrut Frei, witnesses Joan Frie, Wilke von Elsten, Abel von Sevelten.
- 1668 Thole von Elsten tax record.
- 1668 Here is where Thole von Elsten and Anna Margaretha Borggreve were married (In 1947 Victor Stukenberg listed the name as Borggrave but Rehme insists the spelling is Borggreve according to birth records for the children of Thole von Elsten and Anna Margareta). However the record does not appear in the church records. (The year is arrived at because tax record shows their first child to be born in 1668. The birth record of Arendt is not recorded. It may be assumed that the Borggreve were from some other place in Germany and that Anna Margareta was born at her parents home and this would apply also to her marriage to Thole and the birth of their first child, Arendt. Johanna Arndt-full name.
- 1668 Christina von Elsten and Thole appeared as sponsors. Names not clear.
- 1668 March 26, Dietrich Dobbecke married Elizabeth Suskens and Christina von Elsten and Thole were witnesses.
- 1670 (approximately), Christina von Elsten married M. Hilmer Halbwasser.
- 1670 April 27, Wilhelm von Elsten witness for Dirk Dobke
- 1670 May 4, Thole von Elsten witness for Bruns Wessel from Osterstrassen and his wife Feniker (Veronica Trincke).
- 1670 May 18, Thole von Elsten and Anna Margareta Borggrevesche his wife, married, had a child named Carolus Georgius, Sponsors, Carolus Grothuss, Strapa, and Georgius, Centurion.
- 1671 May 3, Thole von Elsten was a witness for Henricus son of Herman Meyer von Buhren and Fraucke his wife.
- 1671 October 5, Christina von Elsten and M. Hilmer Halbwasser had a child, first name not clear.
- 1672 Herman Wigberts tax.
NOTE: Record 1668 shows birth of Arndt 1668. He died as Johann Arnold Druding on 7/18/1735 as Consul at Cloppenburg age 72. This places his birth in 1663. The death record means that Thole and Anna Margareta were married in 1662-1663.

- 572 April 3, Thole von Elston and Anna Margareta his wife had a child named Margaretha, Sponsors: Margaretha Clostermann, wife of Consul Roden and Joseph Meyer.
- 1672 Herman Wigherts- Burggraf and wife, Tax record (Herman not the count)
- 1673 Jan 17, Margaretha Borghreve was sponsor for Johan Cristopher the son of Wessel Rode and Gesina Klostermann.
- 1673 May 8, Berendt von Gronheim married Taleke von Warnsteet, Witnesses: Matthias von Gronheim and Lutteke Frei.
- 1674 April 22, Thole von Elsten and Anna Margaretha Borggrevesche, his wife, the born child was Chritina Adelgundis, Witneeses: Anna Christina Duvels, Frans Volbier, treasurer, Franz Klare. The ending of name "sche" indicated, means the feminine for Borggreve
- 1675 April 23, Wupcke wife of Johan von Elsten was buried.
- 1676 A tax record shows the name: Thole Druding von Elsten. (There is no doubt that Druding is the new spelling instead of Drudinck which does not appear after Borchardt Johann Drudinck tax records.) In other words, Thole von Elsten and Thole Druding are one and the same person. Druding was not a christian or Baptismal name. It was the family name.
- 1679 November 26, Johan von Elsten was buried.
- 1682 March 10, Berendt von Gronheimb and Lucke, his wife had a child: Lucretia Margareta. Sponsors: Johan von der Holdermuhlen, Anna Margareta Frei, Lucke Alheit Velthuss.
- 1683 May 18, Gerhard Druding and Gesche Osterkamp married; Witnesses: Tobias Schwappomann, Catherine von Gronheim, wife born about 1640. No children from marriage (Gerhard Druding see record Thole von Elsten born 3/10/1652.)
- 1697 Feb. 17, Heinrich von Cappeln married Anna Margaretha Druding. Witnesses: Bernard von Amburen and---(this record reveals that for reasons unknown von Elsten is no longer in use. It could be due to some attitude of the natives to vons or attitude of vons to the natives and not wanting to be considered apart from their neighbor friends. There is no knowledge of any action against von Elsten. The line may have preferred to go back to the ancestral Druding name? Anna Margaretha Druding was the child of Thole von Elsten and Anna Margaretha Borggrevesche. Born April 3, 1672.
- 1699 April 4, Gerhard Druding died (see 3/10/1652 and 5/18/1683).
- 1700 March 25, Heinrich Hummert married Anna Margaretha Druding widow of Heinrich von Cappeln.

January 31, Johann Arnold Druding married Margaretha Lucretia von Gronheimb (parents Berndt von Gronheim and Lucke, married. Witnesses: Claus Polzer and Matthias von Gronheimb. Johan Arnold was the first son of Thole von Elsten and Anna Margaretha Borggrevesche in 1668. The "b" ending of Gronheim indicates the Latin and French influence which was at Cloppenburg. Also there appeared French names there during the 17th century. Also, Dutch endings were used. Victor Stukenberg believed that Hermann Wigbers or Wigbert was the count at Cloppenburg during the 17th century. He was in error because there was no Count by those names and there is no such coat of arms. He probably was a supervisor of the Burg. Hellmuth Rehme writes that Wigbers was not a count. It is my understanding that counts are made by the Pfalzgraff in the name of a ruler or by the Emperor. The underlined records indicate the Druding von Elsten line shown on the chart which is a part of this report. (small "v" means "noble von" Telephone directories were searched for the name Druding, Druding in Schleswig, Holstein, Kiel, Lubeck, Luneberg, Oldenburg, Braunschweig, London, Detmold, Lippe, Berlin, Bremen, Dusseldorf, Dortmund, Duisberg, Essen, Frankfurt, am-Main, Hannover, Cologne, Munich, Stuttgart and many other places with negative results. Arnold and Horst Druding were found in Hamburg, Heinrich Druding was found in Bonn. The Luneburg Drudings came from Oldenburg before 1352 (Bahlow). The Luckes were descendants of Emperor Otto I. Borggreve ancestry goes back to 800 AD. According to Hellmuth Rehme. Stukenberg was in error when he reported that Elisabeth Beckermann wife of Caspar Julius Druding was born Haussettle. He gives evidence that she was the natural child of Heinrich Beckermann and his wife Elisabeth Kathmann. See the chart for information.

Pfalzgraf= council of counts. Borchgreve = Landcount. (See record, year 1548, page two. The following is from a letter from Dr. count v Merveldt Bischofliches Centralvikariat, Munster (Westf.) Your letter can be generally answered. Burg Cloppenburg was inhabited by the contemporary appointed High Bailiff of the Cathedral, at Munster. This elected official for the surrounding villages--even Cloppenburg was not a city--was named Grothaus in 1659. There was no count at Cloppenburg since the Thirty years war.

Note: Baron v. Ruepprecht writes as a rule v. before a name indicates nobility.

Note: See 1674: Christina Adelgundis: gund- Kampf- fight or struggle. Adel= nobel. Gundis is an early medieval Frankish name. Christina= Christian. Gundis is a feminine form.

- 6 -

There was no count at the Burg, which burned in 1716. " No mention is made in the letter as to who occupied the Burg before the end of the Thirty Year War in 1648. No doubt there was much turmoil and destruction during the war and that there were a number of nobles in charge of the Burg and Cloppenburg. According to Dr. H. Ottenjann at the Museunderf in Cloppenburg the Burg was under the Tecklenburg Graften in the 13th century and came under the Bishop of Munster in the 15th century. The burg ruins were leveled in 1806. Pictures of the castle are a part of this report. When built is not determined.

In 1803 Hannover ceded Cloppenburg, Vechta and Wildeshausen to the Grand Duchy of Oldenburg. At one time in the distant past Cloppenburg was spelled Kloppeburg.

The witnesses and sponsors given in the records are an impressive list; I searched the coat of arms records at Gottingen Bibliothek and some idea is arrived from the following: Lucke: A coat of arms as follows "Die v. Ludolf genant Leutholf" (Non-descriptive matter). Lucke, "Preussischer Adel"; Groithaus (Barons, Westphalia, Grothaus, v. Groithaus, Grothusen et Grothuss; Grothusen, Suede, Adel; Grothusen, Suede (Barons); Grothuss, Courland, Livonie, All nobles; von der cappel (Kappel Frankischer, v. Kappel; Cappel (von) ou Capellen de Wallenbruck, Westphalle; Cappellen (von der) Prov. Rhen; Cappeln, Prusse, Orig. de Franconie; Roden von Hirzenau, Furstlich; Roden, Im Stift Halberstadt; c. Roden, Graf; v. Roden. None were found as Burgerlich. I am inclined to believe that Gronheim was the spelling for Kronheim and Cronheim, at Cloppenburg, due to different orthography in north Germany. It is a strange fact that Gronheim, Druding and Druhe appeared at Cloppenburg and Cronheim, Truding and Truhending appeared at Heidenheim. Heidenheim where the Trudings lived (see coat of arms and information on separate sheet) is very close to Gunzenhausen where the Cronheims lived. It is strange that Gronheim was at Cloppenburg. In the middle ages is it possible they were fellow travelers with the Drudings? The Franks and Saxons together moved from Cloppenburg westward and southward. It is an assumption. Martin von Cronheim lived up to 1485. Hans Jorg von Cronheim at Cronheim, near Gunzenhausen in 1626 belonged to the Brandenburg Knighthood of the Netherlands (from coat of arms information on Kronheim). Trudingen is plural for Truding. The Trudingen coat of arms and related information were researched by the Niedersachsische Staats-Und Universitatsbibliothek at The George-August University in Gottingen. The letter "D" was not used in Bavaria to begin names. "T" was used. In those days and years "C" was practically unused for commencing names. "G" was used. Heinz v. Tryller, Genealogist and Heraldiker in Berlin believes that Kronheim, Cronheim, and Gronheim are one and the same line of vons. (Coat of arms information is too voluminous).

The London area was searched for Drudings- Druedings and found none. The Genealogical Society of London reports there are no Drudings or Druedings, etc. listed in their records for England. The chart shows the outline of genealogy. In Germany some pronounce Druding like Drud-ink or ing, not Dru-dink or ding. When the umlaut (2 dots over the u are dropped they always place an e after the u. Thole was an ancient Egyptian name for some kind of being 500 years before Christ. The Centurian mentioned in the records was commander of the military forces at Fortress Schloss Cloppenburg. In the 13th Century, people began to name themselves after the places where they lived. This was not the case with the Drude-Drudings as my report already shows. I am inclined to believe Thole and his line were goldsmiths. A small v before a name indicates a noble or nobility. In Canada the von before a name is restricted by law to only those who are nobles.

Information from Dr. Siegfried Wiarda, Neuenhaus, Dr. Baron v. Ruepprecht, and Dr. Remy J. Leenaerts, archivist, Brussels, Belgium, indicate that two families possibly from the same place or descent named Borggrave and Borggreve (before then under different spellings) existed in Holland and Belgium. In Belgium: in Flanders, Ypres, Bois le Duc, Aalst, Brugge, Kortrijk, Gent and the county of Waes. They were noble lines through centuries in Belgium and Burgh de Altin Belgium and Holland. They migrated from Belgium during the religious upheavals to Holland and then to Germany where many remained to live, mainly in Oldenburg. The upheavals were during the 16th century. The coats of arms were two salmon on a field of blue. The fish were placed back to back. It is believed that Anna Margareta Borggrevesche was a descendant of Count Daniel deBorchgreve on one side and Count Arent Crull on the other. Hendrik Borggreve in the 16th century married a sister of Count Arent Crull of Holland. It is believed that the first son of Thole and Anna Margareta Borggrevesche was named after Arent Crull. The name Arndt or Arnold do not appear in Cloppenburg.

THE DRUDING FAMILY-THE OLD COUNTRY

Thole, b.ca. 1630, d. 2/16/1728 m. Anna Margareta Borggravens
 Arndt, b.ca. 1668, d. 7/18/1735 m. Margareta Lucretia von Gronheim
 Joan Bernard Heinrich, b. 2/16/1703, d/ 3/5/1748 m. 1. Clara E. Gieske
 m. 2. Clara A. Bothe

Joannes Arnoldus, b. 1/30/1738, d. 9/29/1811, m. Anna Lowisa Kloppe

Franz Arnold Joseph
 b. 3/1/1771, d. 3/19/1853
 m. Anna Marg. Hoffmann

Joh. Franz Arnold
 b. 10/16/1800
 d. 11/7/1879
 m. Charlotte Meyer

Joh. Caspar
 b. 11/11/1804
 d. 4/19/1880
 m. Marg. Elis.
 Wittrock

Michael Anton
 b. 11/23/1777
 m. Franziska Hogertz
 To. U.S.A. 1850

Joes Friedr.
 b. 11/8/1783
 d. 8/19/1830
 m. Maria Anna Frye

Joh. Heinrich
 b. 9/24/1785
 d. 11/27/1840
 m. Gertrude A.
 Klunner

Fried. Anton Bern.
 b. 5/16/1807
 m. Dorothea Budde
 To U.S.A. 1850

Fried Franz
 b. 3/1/1815
 d. 8/27/1891
 m. Anna Wilh.
 Catherina Weis

Herm. Heinr. Au
 b. 5/12/1825
 d. 1/16/1879
 m. Clara E. Run

Caspar Julius
 b. 6/6/1833
 m. Eliza.
 Beckerman
 To U.S.A. 1881

Arnold Theo.
 b. 1/9/1835
 d. 7/9/1904
 m. Antonia A.
 Dusman

Theo. Gerh. Hein.
 b. 4/29/1849
 d. 4/18/1933
 m. Maria Franz.
 Mertens

Theo. Ferd. Jose.
 b. 11/6/1844
 d. 7/6/1908
 m. Theod. Elis Sehlhorst

Gerh. Bern.
 b. 11/2/1869
 d. 1/19/1936
 m. Eliz. Ant. Rosa Tabeling

Fried. Aug. Bern.
 b. 3/12/1876 d. 1/19/1933
 m. Mar. Elis. Fried.

Ferd. Engel. Joseph
 b. 5/22/1903
 m. Maria Thole