

The Weyls and Guggenheims: pages 117 -- 119

The text is not as clear as it should have been and there are several omissions and errors. The following replaces the text given on pages 117, 118, 119. I have used boldface extensively to indicate people of particular importance.

Confusion is quite possible for several reasons: people were referred to by different names, e.g. with and without a middle name or (apparently) sometimes by only the middle name, Because of this I have indicated, where the difficulties occur, possible problems and doubts even if matters are clarified, or at least partially clarified, further on in the text.

The following chart, and the charts on pages 113 and 124 show the names of the people discussed here and the relationships between them.

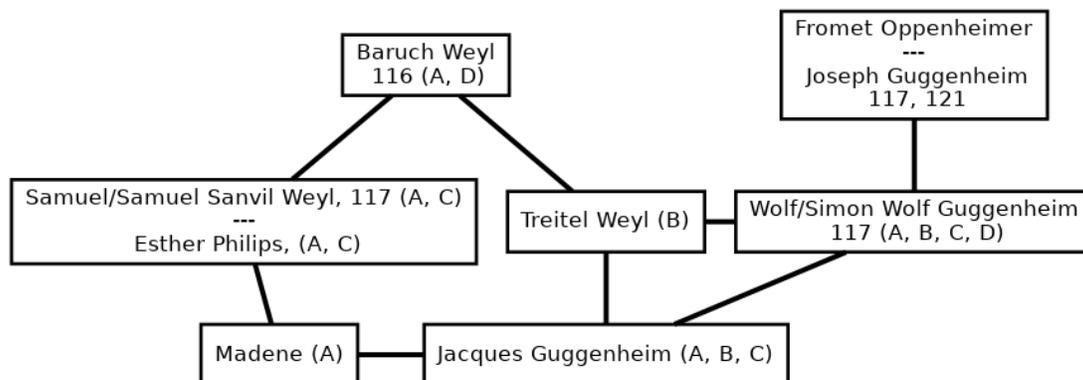
Pages numbers on the chart are indicated as simply 116 instead of p. 116. In addition the following symbols are used on the chart and in the text to identify documents:

A: Fraenkel, 154j, page 118.

B: The 1803 AD of Jacques (Jacob) Guggenheim, page 118.

C: The 1753 memoir written by Esther Phillips, the widow of Samuel Sanwil Weyl [Neher-Bernheim], page 119.

D: The three marriage documents cited at the bottom of page 119 and the top of page 120.



We have documents concerning two sons of Baruch Weyl:

- i. **Samuel/Samuel Sanvil Weyl** was appointed chief rabbi of Haute-Alsace in 1711 and remained in this post until his death in 1753. Ginsburger [1933] describes his life. Of particular interest for us [Ginsburger, p. 74--75] is his dispute with his uncle Meyer who was the *préposé* of the Jews and the letter written by Baruch Weyl to the duchess against his brother.
- ii. Jacob Baruch Weyl had the title of rabbi, but was mainly active in affairs and built a synagogue in Obernai, of which vestiges still exist. He became one of several *préposés généraux* in 1746 and occupied this post until his death.

A daughter **Treitel Weyl** married **Wolf/Simon Wolf Guggenheim** -- see below -- and it is the offspring of this couple who are of particular interest.

The Guggenheims

The origin of the name Guggenheim is not known. There were many Guggenheims in the Lengau region of Switzzlerland and some married Alsatian Jews, but there were also Guggenheims in Frankfurt. Catane [“Noms Juifs d'Obernai”] suggests the possibility that the name is related to the town of Guggenheim in Alsace, even though there is no proof of the existence of a Jewish community there.

In 1784 there was one Guggenheim family in Obernai, that of Löw Guggenheim. In 1808 there was no one with that name.

The first Guggenheim of direct interest to us is:

Joseph Guggenheim, the husband of Fromet Oppenheimer, the daughter of Samuel Wolf Oppenheimer; see page 121. From Dietz [*Stammbuch der Frankfurter Juden*, p.129] we learn that Joseph Guggenheim was a money changer in Frankfurt from around 1705. He was very rich, had three maids and two servants, as well as an overseer for the household. Dietz speaks of three children: Miriam Sarah, Abraham and Moses Joseph. Joseph Guggenheim passed away in 1735.

Shlomo Ettlinger [*Ele Toldot* p.12], speaks of a daughter named “Hajie” and two sons. The first, Moses, is probably the same person as the Moses Joseph mentioned by Dietz. The second is **Wolf Guggenheim**, who lived in Berlin and then in Strasbourg. Since Strasbourg is in Alsace it is tempting to identify this **Wolf Guggenheim** with the **Wolf/Simon Wolf Guggenheim** who, as stated above, married **Treitel Weyl**, the daughter of Baruch Weyl.

Relationships between the Weyls and the Guggenheims

The small towns of Lengau and Endingen are both in the Aargau canton of northern Switzerland and were the only places in Switzerland where Jews were legally allowed to settle---although with many restrictions---from the mid-seventeenth century until 1878!

The French armies needed horses and food and the Jewish suppliers---see in particular document 60 on page 115 regarding the Weyl family---located in Lorraine and Alsace obtained some of these in Switzerland where they had connections. Lengau is only 65 km from Basel, where boats on the Rhine would have provided transport to various parts of Alsace. The Swiss and Alsatian dialects of German are related and the Judeo-German (sometimes referred to as Western Yiddish) of Alsatians and Swiss

Jews would have been close. These relationships are discussed in Stein, *Mariages entre juifs d'Alsace-Lorraine, de Bade et de Suisse au début du XVIII^e siècle*^{DVD}.

We have several documents which provide us with important information. I start with the following AM:

Document A

[Fraen-mar, 154j]

1739.01.18, Obernai

Jacob Gougenheim fils de Wolff Guggenheim, Obernai.

Madene fille du sieur *Samuel Weill* rabin et juge des Juifs de Ribeauville et de *Esther*.

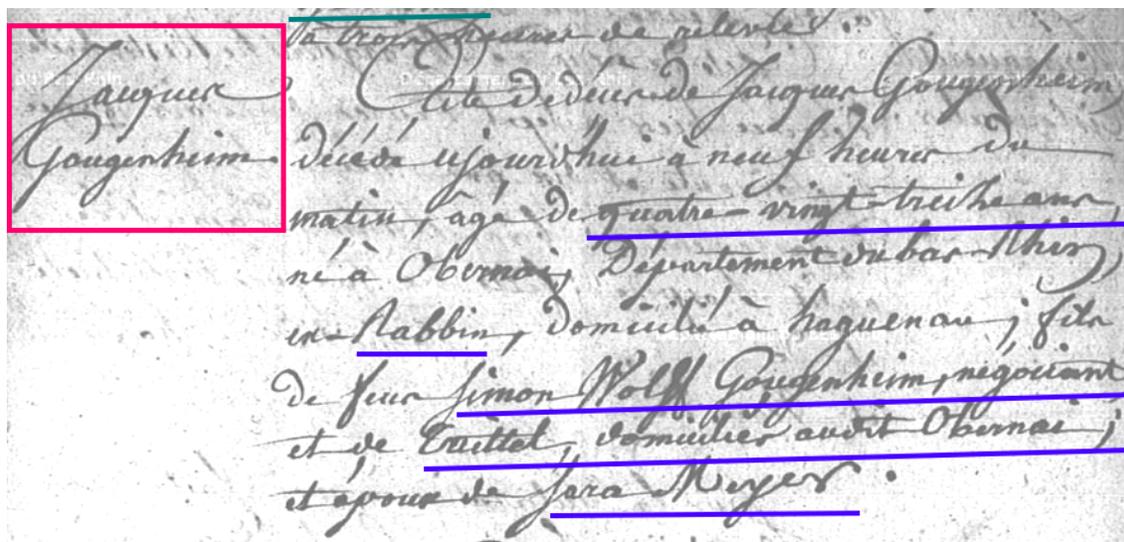
Les deux comparants sont assistés de *Baruch Weill* leur grand-père Juif banquier en cette ville de Obernai

dowry: 11,000 livres [a tremendous sum].

Since Samuel Weill, the father of the bride, is stated to be a “rabbin et juge des Juifs de Ribeauville” and Baruch Weyl as the grandfather of the bride and of the groom we can identify the former as **Samuel/Samuel Sanwil Weyl** the son of Baruch Weyl; see above.

Document B

Turning to the groom, Jacob/Jacques Gougenheim, the following is his 1803.04.18 (28 germinal XI) AD:



The image shows a snippet of a handwritten document in French. The text is written in cursive. A red box highlights the name 'Jacques Gougenheim'. Other parts of the text are underlined in blue. The visible text includes: 'C'est à dire de Jacques Gougenheim', 'né le jour d'hui à neuf heures du', 'matin, âgé de quatre-vingt-trois ans', 'né à Obernai, Département du Bas-Rhin', 'en Rabbim, domicilié à Haguenau, fils', 'de feu Simon Wolff Gougenheim, négociant', 'et de Esttel, domiciliés audit Obernai', 'et aprou de Jera Meyers'.

We learn that his father was indeed Simon Wolff Guggenheim and that the latter was a businessman. His mother's name is simply given as “T[ra?]ittel”, whom I will refer

to as “Treitel”. Unfortunately, the mother's family name is not given. He was in his second marriage as his wife's name is given as Sara Meyer, and not Madene as in document A.

The last part of his birthplace is not clear, but my guess is that it should read “Obernai”. His age when he passed away was ninety-three. This would put his AN as ca. 1710. In turn this suggests that the AM of his parents was ca. 1700 and that their AN was in the last part of the seventeenth century.

The AD states that Jacob Guggenheim was a rabbi (see document C) in Hagenau. In fact we know that he regularly performed marriages there (see [fraenkel-index, vol. 1, p.17]) and was involved, as the rabbi of Hagenau, in a fight against the authorities who prohibited his functioning as a rabbi and forbid Jewish services [Schied, *Juifs de Hagenau*, p.230].

Document C

We saw above that Samuel/Samuel Sanwil Weyl was appointed chief rabbi of Haute-Alsace in 1711 and remained in this post until his death in 1753. Shortly after this point in time his widow wrote a memoir [Neher-Bernheim *Documents*, p. 108--111], addressed to royal officials, that deals with the way the election of a replacement for her husband had been held:

I, 3B, 2 - A.D.B.Rh. C 335
Mémoire 1753
Pour Esther Philippe, veuve de Samuel Weyl, Rabin de la haute alsace, et Jacob Wolff Gugenheim (1) son gendre (2).

Les Juifs de la province d'alsace ont obtenu du Roy le privilège d'avoir des Juges de leur Religion, que l'on appelle communément Rabins

.....
.....

Samuel Baruch Weyl a été Rabin des Juifs de la haute Alsace. Il en a Exercé les fonctions pendant 42 années. Il est mort le 14 avril 1753.

Son Gendre appelé Jacob Wolff Gugenheim est né sujet du Roy, puisqu'il est originaire d'obernheim petite ville l'Alsace. il réside aussi en Alsace étant domicilié à Ribeauvillé qui n'est qu'à deux lieues de Colmar. Il est très versé dans la connaissance de la loy orale, et dans l'Etude de la loy écrite. Il sçait les Usages de la province où il est domicilié, et la teneur des arrêtés des Reglemens du Conseil que tout Rabin doit connaître pour ne pas pécher dans la forme de ses jugemens.

From this document we learn that the full name of the widow of Samuel/Samuel Sanwil Weyl, as given in Document A, was Esther Phillips. She refers to her son-in-law as Jacob Wolf Guggenheim which shows that he is the same person as Jacob Guggenheim. The latter's AD seems to state that the latter was born in Obernai, but in the memoir it is given as Obe[n]heim.

We learned from document B that Jacob/Jacob Wolf Guggenheim had been a rabbi and Esther Phillips gives reasons why he should have been chosen. A foreigner had been chosen because of a cabal lead by one Lippman Moyses, "homme dangereux et intrigant".

Documents D

Six years after Jacob married in 1739 we find his sister Sarlé marrying:

[Fraen-mar, 158f]

1745.07.16, Obernai

David fils de Issac Meyer, Westhouse

Sarlé fille de *Wolff Guggenheim* se trouvant depuis quelques années **G1 Vi-
enne**.

assistée de son grandpère *Baruch Weill de Obernai*.

dowry: 3,000 florins [a very large sum] with presents totaling 600 florins.

Note that the bride was living in Vienna where siblings of her paternal grandmother Fromet Oppenheimer had been born.

Baruch Weyl is also called the grandfather of the groom, Lion Guggenheim, in a 1748 AM [Fraenkel-mar, 161f, 1748.09.06]. However, *Wolff Guggenheim* is not mentioned

Another sister, Rebecca Guggenheim from Obernai, married someone from Karlsruhe in 1752 ([Fraenkel-mar, 165g, 1752.01.31, Obernai]). The dowry was the extremely large sum of 5,6787.50 florins. Rebecca is stated to be the daughter of Wolff. Baruch Weyl is not mentioned as being at the wedding as he had passed away in 1750.