

On the History of the Citizen Families of Engi and Their Development
[Zur Geschichte der bürgerlichen Geschlechter von Engi und ihre Entwicklung]
Public lectures

by
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[All lettered footnotes and information in brackets were added by the translator]

III. THE BAUMGARTNERS
[pp. 26-33]

If we wanted to discuss the citizen families of Engi according to the number of citizens living in our commune and benefitting from possession of the *Tagwen*^a right, then the Baumgartners belonged before the Blumers. Today the Baumgartners are represented in Engi with 68 *Tagwen* rights, whereas the Blumers are reported on with only 38; and the Martis with 86. According to the strength of their family tree, however, the Blumers go before the Baumgartners, since those have 370 families and these only 335 families. The Baumgartners have quite obviously remained more fond of their native land and more devoted to its soil than most of the other families. Only 30% of them have emigrated (in fact, only 29% of the Hämmerlis).

G. Heer had lingered at some length over the beginnings of the Baumgartners in Engi^b. With him, however, not everything corresponds to the facts. However, one must bear in mind that Heer was not able to write on the basis of an assembled family tree, but only had the beginnings of the baptism book to rely on.

The actual ancestor of all Engi Baumgartners, and, consequently, those of Schwändi, Bilten, and Zürich-Egg, is Hans Baumgartner "the old" from Gams in the Rheintal [*Canton St. Gallen*], a commune that, of course, did not belong to the lord's domain of Werdenberg, but was also under the supreme authority of the Glarner, i.e. of the Glarner and Schwyzers jointly. Since the neighboring communes of Grabs, Sevelen, and Trübbach are Reformed, but Gams remained Catholic, it is very probable that this Hans Baumgartner had moved into our canton for the sake of his faith. He bought the Glarner cantonal right in 1595 for 100 Gl. and became a citizen in Engi. However, undoubtedly, he must have been here already several years before. Married to Anna Bäbi (not Bähler, probably that is the original family name of the

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- a *Tagwen* - an ancient Glarner term, from at least the 6th century A.D., which is still used today in Canton Glarus to denote the commune of the citizens, i.e. those who have inherited or purchased the *Tagwen* rights (this may only partially coincide with the political commune). It is derived from *Tage Wann*, meaning the work someone could perform in one day in the commonly-held fields, pastures and forests. Over the years the number of *Tagwen* in the canton has varied considerably, with the present-day number being 29. Also its duties have changed – from jointly working on and enjoying the benefits of its common property, to administering all the commune's public interests, to (today) administering and enjoying the benefits of its common property. [SW]
- b See pg. 121-122 in "The Baumgartners" chapter of G. Herr's book: *On the History of the Glarner Families, Particularly Those of the Sernf Valley* [pg. 1-2 of the SW translation] [SW]

Bäblers; the Elmer baptism book had also recorded "Bäbi" around 1615), this "old" Hans Baumgartner had three sons, Jakob, Martin, and Hans.

The first son, Jakob Baumgartner, married to a Magdalena Bäbler, had a son baptized in 1595, of whom, however, we hear nothing more afterwards. Nothing else about this family is known at all except that the husband died in 1619 and the wife as early as 1614.

The second son, Martin Baumgartner, married to a Barbara Jenny, had seven children. Yet no son of his had carried on the family tree. Of the entire family nothing else is known except that it lived in Mitlödi, where the father also bought in, and that a daughter, Sibilla Baumgartner, 1613-1646, married the already-mentioned *Tagwen* Official Hilarius Gensig, son of *Landvogt*^c Hilarius and Barbara Blumer of Matt, and became the ancestor of the Mitlödner Ginsigs, which, of course, we had already established in the Blumers [*see pg. 18 in "The Blumers" chapter (pg. 2 in the SW translation)*].

Only the third son, Hans Baumgartner, called the "young Hans," and who achieved the high position of a federal councillor and church steward, comes into consideration for the maintaining of the Baumgartner family tree. He had married two wives, in 1608, Ursula Brunner of Glarus, who died in 1642, and, in 1643, Anna Iselin of Glarus. From the first marriage came seven children; but again only a single son, Hans, 1614-1691 (Nr. 6 of the family tree), became a head of family. He too received the surname "the young" and, likewise, became a federal councillor and a *Tagwen* official of Engi. Only with him do the Baumgartners begin to develop vigorously. For, from his marriage with Barbara Schneider of Elm, came ten children, and, among these, five heads of family: Jakob, Martin, Hans, Jost, and Marx Baumgartner, whose families altogether had 32 children, of whom 17 sons carried on the Baumgartner tree.

Of the second youngest of the above-mentioned five sons of Federal Councillor young Hans Baumgartner, J o s t, 1657-1715 (Nr. 10 of the family tree), his oldest son, Hans, called the "tall" (1698-1759), moved to Schwändi, bought himself in there, and became the ancestor of the Baumgartner line of Schwändi and Bilten. From the Schwändi line stemmed, among others, Professor Andreas Baumgartner in Zürich, who is still living today, and his brother, President, Cantonal Councillor, and District Judge Johannes Baumgartner-Spörri in Neuhaus-Hintereg, president of the Egg-Esslingen political commune in the Zürich highlands. His last son, Alwin Baumgartner-Kubli, is the school president in Egg and is son-in-law of the esteemed J. J. Kubli-Müller.

This Hans Baumgartner who bought himself in at Schwändi had eleven children. Of them, two sons, Joachim and Hans, came back to Engi, and their descendants have remained Engelters. The first, Joachim, had two heads of family. The one was Johannes Baumgartner, 1767-1801 (Nr. 65 of the family tree), who, on the 21st of *Hornung* [*February*] in 1788, obtained for himself the *Tagwen* right of the Eschen *Tagwen* [*which includes Nidfurn, Leugellbach and Luchsingen*], and whose descendants are the brothers, Kaspar (master tailor and school president) and Fridolin Baumgartner, living today in Nidfurn. The other head of family was Captain Joh. Heinrich Baumgartner, 1771-1827 (Nr. 76), father of Schoolmaster Joachim and grandfather of Wine Merchant Joh. Christof Baumgartner in Glarus, of old Communal Councillor Mathias

c *Landvogt* – an administrative and judicial official of a cantonal government in a vassal territory [SW]

Baumgartner im Wintergen^d, and of still living old Innkeeper of "The Ox", Joh. Heinrich Baumgartner.

The other two heads of family of the above-mentioned Hans Baumgartner at Schwändi, Jost, 1730-1795, and Treasury Official Christof, 1745-1800, had remained at Schwändi, and, as citizens of Schwändi, they and their descendants don't come into consideration any more for our family tree, but rather form their own Schwändi line.

Thus, the Baumgartners in Engi at the beginning, so before 1700, had grown only rather sparsely. Until 1700, there were only 11 families, but, since they had children-rich households, they soon brought an improvement. By 1750, they grew to 34 families; by 1800, to 77 families, and, by 1850, (exactly doubled) to 154 families. In 1880, there were already 220 families, in 1900, 272, and now, 335 families.

The Baumgartners are the *c h i l d r e n – r i c h e s t f a m i l y* of Engi. Altogether, there are 1801 children, even more than with the Blumers, who show only 1787. With the Baumgartners, therefore, it comes to 5.4 children per family, with the Blumers, only 4.5. The Gigers (4.38) and the Altmanns (3.88) have, on average, fewer than the Blumers.

As far as the *e m i g r a t i o n* of the Baumgartners is concerned, we have already stressed that it was slight with them, compared to that of the other families. Of the total of 650 emigrated Baumgartners, 186 = 28.6% migrated to *N o r t h A m e r i c a*; 49 = 7.6% to *B r a z i l*; 206 = 31.4% into *o t h e r c a n t o n s* (mostly to Chur [*Canton Graubünden*], where the Johannes Baumgartner who died in 1906, and was born in 1828 (Nr. 157), a brother of Felix Baumgartner im Boden, had a family of 20 children; then to Thun [*Canton Bern*], where Jakob Baumgartner, 1842-1897, and into the Bernese Jura [*the French-speaking area*], where the still living Martin Baumgartner (both brothers of Mathias Baumgartner, watchman) had large families); 161 persons = 24.8% settled in *o t h e r c o m m u n e s*. With them, mainly Glarus and Mollis come into consideration (see the [*statistics*] table at the end [*of the book*]!).

Offices: Of the 24 *f e d e r a l c o u n c i l l o r s*, the Baumgartners provided *f i v e* of them, two of whom we have become acquainted with at the beginning of the history of the Baumgartner family:

1. Church Steward Hans Baumgartner, the "young," who died in 1656, son of the ancestor.
2. His son, *Tagwen* Official Hans Baumgartner, 1614-1691, also called the "young." We encounter him very frequently in the *Tagwen* minutes.

The third Baumgartner federal councillor was Church Steward and *Tagwen* Official Joh. Christof Baumgartner, 1700-1784. He was, for 36 years, an honorary member of the council and had accomplished a great deal for our commune. His marriage to Barbara Störi of Matt remained childless. (The last male Störi of Matt was Esaias Störi, who, in 1726, married Barbara Baumgartner, a granddaughter of young Hans Baumgartner, the federal councillor.)

4. Kaspar Baumgartner, *Tagwen* official, 1795-1844;
5. His son, Martin Baumgartner, president and orphanage official, 1819-1872. (Grandfather of Regula Hämmerli, born Baumgartner, wife of Master Cabinetmaker Josef Hämmerli).

^d *Flurname - field name. People with identical names were differentiated by adding their occupation or a descriptive term for the area where they lived [SW]*

An additional son of Federal Councillor Kaspar was *Tagwen* Official and Cantonal Councillor Leonhard Baumgartner, im Knie.

Of *Tagwen* officials, the Baumgartners provided seven, of church stewards, six; then two charity officials, three school officials, and three inspectors of weights and measures.

In the military of times past they were represented by two captains:

1. *Tagwen* Official Martin Baumgartner, 1715-1789, grandfather of School Official Fridolin, im Linden.
2. Joh. Heinrich Baumgartner, 1774-1827, father of Schoolmaster Joachim Baumgartner.

Furthermore, the Baumgartners also provided one lieutenant, one standard-bearer, and three sergeants.

Schoolmaster Joachim Baumgartner, 1800-1881, who is still well known to the older people, was certainly also a venerable figure. In his younger years, he served as a soldier, a "drum-major," under Napoleon I. Military strictness was characteristic of him, even into his advanced age. Returned from military service, he then gained for himself so much knowledge in the Matt church house with Pastor Jacob Heer, and in the Marti school in Glarus, that the cantonal school council hired him as assistant teacher, all the more "since he displayed a decided talent in the handling of the little ones, despite his military career."¹ He served in Engi as assistant teacher till 1856. Married to Regula Elmer from Matt (a sister of Georg Elmer im Friedhof), he had a very large household to support, as there were, in fact, no fewer than eleven children. A considerable number of his descendants live now today in Engi.

Since 1850, the Baumgartners were represented, in addition, by the following offices: two cantonal councillors, two communal presidents, six communal councillors, three church councillors, one orphanage official, one communal secretary, and three teachers.

The most common first names with the Baumgartner heads of family, which can be referred to as so-called Baumgartner names, are the following: 1. Hans or Johannes 57 = 17%; 2. Jakob 34 = 10%; 3. Fridolin 27 = 8%; 4. Martin 26 = 7.75%; 5. Joh. Heinrich and Heinrich 24 = 7.2%; then follow Mathias and Joh. Christof 13 = 3.9%; Peter and Joh. Jakob 11 = 3.3%; and Adam 10 = 3%.

In reference to marrying into the families of Engi, the following distribution results with the Baumgartners: of the 389 wives, 174 = 44.75% come from Engi, namely, 70 = 40% Martis, 32 = 18% Blumers, 27 = 16% Baumgartners themselves, 19 = 11% Hämmerlis, 11 = 6% Luchsingers, then 6 Altmanns, 5 Weisses, 4 Wintelers, 2 Gigers, 1 Bräm, and 1 Norder.

Relatively few Baumgartners have died in foreign military service. Perhaps their love of their homeland would find further evidence here, too. It may also be, however, that just

1 Heer: *School History of Canton Glarus*.

as many Baumgartners were enticed by foreign pay as members of other families; perhaps, only a few of them found death there.

The following five Baumgartners were buried as mercenaries in foreign soil:

In 1795, on the 21st of January, Samuel Baumgartner, born in 1772, single, lost his life in the Dutch service. He was under the Swiss regiment Stocker and was a brother of Peter, the father-in-law of Fire Chief Fridolin Baumgartner.

In 1809, on the 26th of September, Heinrich Baumgartner, born in 1780, single, died of the fever in the military hospital at Naples [*Italy*].

In 1812, on the 26th of April, Jakob Baumgartner, born in 1776, on the 5th of December, single, died as an infantryman in the 3rd Swiss regiment at Lille [*France*] in the French service; son of a Fridolin Baumgartner, of whom, however, no more male descendants exist.

In 1820, on the 5th of May, Gabriel Baumgartner, born in 1795, single, died in the hospital at Louvain [*Belgium*] in the Dutch service; son of Marx Baumgartner and a brother of David Baumgartner, Allmeind (my great-grandfather).

In 1860, on the 31st of January, Samuel Baumgartner, born in 1825, widower, died in the Avellino hospital in Sicily in the Neapolitan service. His father was a brother of old "Söli-Hans" and "Söli-Sebastian."

The destiny of many a Baumgartner family is affected, in addition, when we commemorate the accidents and events which brought vacancies and grief into our family from 1595 to about 1860. We can probably presume that most of those after 1860 are known.

In 1738, on the 4th of February, a Baumgartner family was visited by a terrible accident. Gottfr. Heer had also mentioned the same thing in his history of the families^e and, indeed, according to the content in the *Pictures of Canton Glarus* by [Dr. J. Jakob] Blumer[-Heer] and [Dr. Oswald] Heer. It concerns the family of Hans Baumgartner, im Grund, born in 1704 (Nr. 17 of the family tree). His wife, Verena Elmer, was a daughter of Hans Elmer, who was a citizen of Engi. I make known here what the death book reports to us: "On the 4th day of *Hornung* [*February*], it happened that to Engi, with deep-fallen snow and heavy storm weather, an avalanche came, from the Fittern Alp. It seized the young Hans Baumgartner, residing im Grund, and his house, in which he and 10 persons were. The house was wrecked, and all 10 persons lost their lives. In the morning it was Sunday, and the whole commune was busy searching in the avalanche for the dead, of whom they found 9 persons, namely Margreth Elmer, Wernet Elmer's lady of the house (brother of Hans Baumgartner's wife), together with 3 children, Barbara, Hans Heinrich, and Fridli Elmer."

"Likewise Verena Elmer, Hans Baumgartner's lady of the house, with 4 children, namely Fridli, Barbara, Hans, and Verena Baumgartner, all of whom were buried in the earth on the 6th of

^e See pg. 123 in "The Baumgartners" chapter of G. Heer's book: On the History of the Glarner Families, Particularly Those of the Sernf Valley [pg. 3 in the SW translation]. [SW]

Hornung and laid in a grave. – He, however, the man of the house Hans Baumgartner, could still not be found by that date, regardless of all zealous searching. On the 13th of *Hornung*, he was also found and buried on the following day."

The house, therefore, was inhabited by two families, the brothers-in-law, Baumgartner and Elmer, and stood above the now-standing stable of Mathias Hämmerli, Grund, opposite to Fitter Lane. From the entire Elmer family, the father, Wernet, remained alive, he had gone into the house of a neighbor a short time before the accident and must have watched from there as his family was buried by the avalanche. From the Baumgartner family (it had six children, one son, Hans, died already, in 1728, at three years old), only the oldest son, Marx, remained, who was probably not at home on that unfortunate evening; he was 14 years old at the time. In 1743, he married Verena Stauffacher of Matt. From his two heads of family, no more male descendants exist. He is, however, the grandfather of Margreth Baumgartner, wife of old Engi-Meinrad Blumer, and of Afra Baumgartner, the mother of Mathias Marti im Bergen.

In 1767, on the 4th of January, Oswald Baumgartner, born in 1738 (Nr. 42), residing in Matt, husband of Barbara Stauffacher of Matt, was killed in an accident. Barbara then, in 1769, married for the second time, namely to Hans, the son of Marx Baumgartner, mentioned a little while ago as spared by the avalanche accident in the year 1738, and so was the mother of both the previously-mentioned Margreth, who married a Blumer, and Afra, who married a Marti.

The death book reports as follows, then, of the Oswald Baumgartner who had met with the accident, who, incidentally, was a brother of old Rudolf Baumgartner (grandfather of School Official Mathäus) and also the grandfather of old Joh. Melchior am Weissberg: "Oswald Baumgartner went away from his wife and children at Matt on the 4th of *Jenner* [*January*] in order to feed his father's cattle. However, when he wanted to take a shorter path and hurry among the pastures toward the mountain and his father's stable, he slipped and slid down with a landslide of snow, tumbled down over the head or rock lying below and was found dead just above the Bitziweid on the 5th of *Jenner* in the morning, and was buried on the 6th."

He had had two daughters in his marriage, Anna and Margreth. The latter grew to be only two years old. Anna, on the other hand, is the mother of Oswald Blumer, the grandfather on his mother's side of Cooper Oswald Hämmerli, Rigi.

In 1791, on the 17th of May, Joachim, born in 1782, tumbled down to his death over a rocky knoll on the back of Trosgiberg, while looking for little primroses. He was the little son of Inspector of Weights and Measures Joachim, or a brother of Johannes Baumgartner, already mentioned in another place [*see above, pg. 27-28 (pg. 2 in the SW translation)*], who bought himself into Leuggelbach, and of Captain Joh. Heinrich Baumgartner, the father of Schoolmaster Joachim.

In 1793, on the 9th of August, Hans Baumgartner, born in 1739, husband of Susanna Dürst of Linthal, fell to his death as a goat-herder in Elm. His son, Samuel, is the grandfather on the mother's side of still living Katharina Baumgartner, born Blumer, widow of "young" Martin Baumgartner.

In 1794, on the 3rd of November, Hans Baumgartner, born in 1756 (Nr. 59), husband of Elsbeth Marti, fell to his death from a mulberry tree. This one is the grandfather of old Joh. Jakob Baumgartner im Brunnengaden and of "Söli"-Hans.

In 1817, on the 2nd of August, Johannes Baumgartner, born in 1788, single, wanted to get on the Schotten Alp, was overtaken by night and found dead the next day. – Typical! For 1817 was precisely the great shortage and hunger year, the year of the children's migrations. No more descendants of his father exist in Engi.

In 1857, on the 16th of September, Elsbeth Baumgartner, born in 1816, daughter of "Söli"-Sebastian (the grandfather of Sebastian im Brunnengaden), wife of goat-herder Fridolin Luchsinger of Engi, was strangled on the Laeli Alp, where she was digging roots, by her own husband, from whom she lived apart! Her corpse was only found twelve days later. The husband was sentenced to life imprisonment. He seemed to deeply regret the terrible deed. After about 18 years, however, he was pardoned because he behaved well.

In 1859, on the 17th of November, Plattenberg Overseer and School Official Joh. Jakob Baumgartner, born in 1813 (Nr. 125), husband of Eufemia Baumgartner, had an accident on the Plattenberg during blasting (with powder and spark plugs). He was a brother of Johannes Baumgartner, overseer, father of old Administrator Baumgartner and his siblings. Of his eleven children, three died young. Two daughters married here, and the remaining six (four sons and two daughters) moved in 1864, in April, to New Glarus [*Wisconsin*]. His son, Johannes, died there in the very same year, but, of the others, nothing more is known. In the death register it says of this victim, School Official Baumgartner: "He was a faithful husband, faithful upwards and downwards."

In 1860, on the 1st of November, Martin Baumgartner, born in 1821, single, son of School Official Fridolin im Höschetli ("Linden-Fridli"), fell to his death from a beech tree.