

## Christian Wampfler

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No Picture Available

Born: 3 Dec 1654 Diemtigen, Switzerland

Married: Magdalena Gruner

Died: 29 Jan 1715 Alsace, France

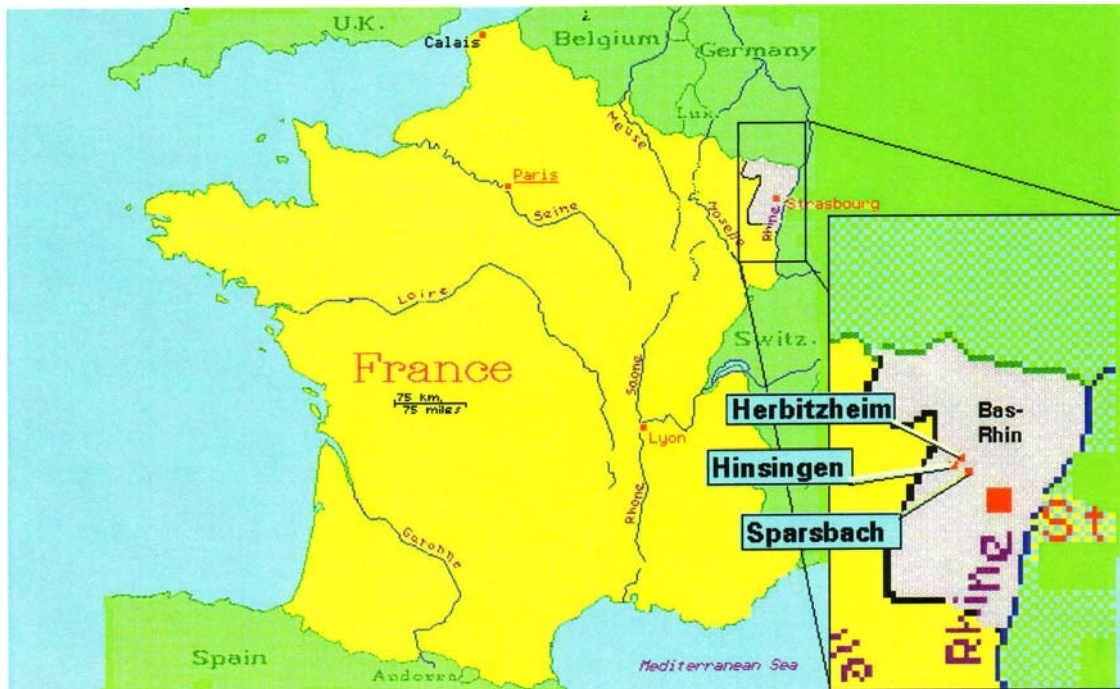
Parents: Hans Wampfler & Anna Knutti

4. Christian WAMPFLER baptized 3 December 1654 at Diemtigen, Bern Canton; Switzerland; died by 7 December 1714, probably at Sparsbach, Alsace. Married ----- (name unknown). Records show that Christian Wampfler's wife survived him.<sup>1</sup>

In the late 1600s, Christian Wampfler migrated from Bern Canton, Switzerland, to Alsace. Switzerland was overpopulated at this time, and the people were experiencing harsh economic conditions. Thousands of people migrated from Switzerland to other regions where conditions appeared more attractive. Their destinations were mostly German-speaking areas to the north, such as Alsace, the Kurpfalz (both sides of the Rhine River), and the area around Zweibruecken.<sup>6</sup> A few left the Old World for America, but the large migrations of Swiss and German people to America did not get fully underway until the next century.

Fred Wampler found documents (mortgages and records of the *Abzugsgeld*, or departure tax) related to Christian Wampfler's emigration from Bern Canton. Once the Bernese government was satisfied that an emigrant had been accepted elsewhere and was still an adherent of the Reformed religion, he was allowed to liquidate his Bernese assets and remove them from Bern Canton, provided that a 10 percent departure tax was paid. An entry dated 29 January 1715 in the tax records for Diemtigen show that a tax of six crowns was paid "in the name of Christen Wampfler's widow and their sons and daughters, who have been accepted in the Curpfaltz." Very likely Christian Wampfler's death occurred not long before this tax was levied.<sup>1</sup>

From the records of several Alsatian villages (Sparsbach, Herbitzheim, Keskastel, Altwiller, Hinsingen, etc.) all located to the northwest of the city of Strasbourg and to the south of Sarreguemines -- in present-day Bas-Rhin, a department of France -- researchers have found data on the family



Christian Wampfler (S 424) from the Zwischenfluh region of Switzerland migrated to Sparsbach, Alsace. His son Johann Christain who emigrated to America in 1747 lived in Herbitzheim and Hans Peter [S 422] who emigrated to America in 1741 lived in Hinsingen. Based on information provided in the 1986 book by Fred Wampler, on National Geographic Society maps and a map image from the World Atlas program of The Software Toolworks, Inc. (Novato, CA).

Christian Wampfler lived in Sparsbach, Switzerland around 1675.



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Information found at: <http://www.bmb.uga.edu/wf-page/contents.html#APPEND>