

The (hereditary) Blacksmith

Schmidt's Büdner estate (= Ludewig's forge) No 44

The hereditary Blacksmiths:

1. Ludewig, Johann George, *around 1682 in Niemaschkleba, +11 August 1767 in Kuschern, district Guben.

With contract of 23 December 1725 the community of Niemaschkleba gives the village forge to master Hanns George Ludewig as his hereditary property, see contract below (§). With hereditary purchase contract of 12 February 1726 the city of Guben confirms the transfer of the forge to Hans George Ludewig for a purchasing sum of 25 Thaler (see pages 2 – 4)

2. Ludewig, Johann George, hereditary blacksmith, *1 August 1725 in Niemaschkleba, + 23 November 1801 in Kuschern. JG Ludewig was hereditary blacksmith in Niemaschkleba and hereditary innkeeper in Kuschern, district Guben.
3. Ludewig, Johann George, hereditary blacksmith, *29 February 1752 in Niemaschkleba, +12 March 1825 in Niemaschkleba
4. Ludewig, Carl Friedrich, hereditary blacksmith, * 23 March 1785 in Niemaschkleba, +14 December 1825 in Niemaschkleba
5. Ludewig, Samuel Gottlieb, hereditary master blacksmith, * 4 November 1809 in Niemaschkleba, +22 December 1886 in Niemaschkleba.

SG Ludewig was Niemaschkleba's last hereditary blacksmith. His only son Friedrich Wilhelm Gustav Ludewig, * 26 April 1837 in Niemaschkleba, took over Goeke's farm, No 46, by marrying Maria Elisabeth Türk on 31 March 1876.

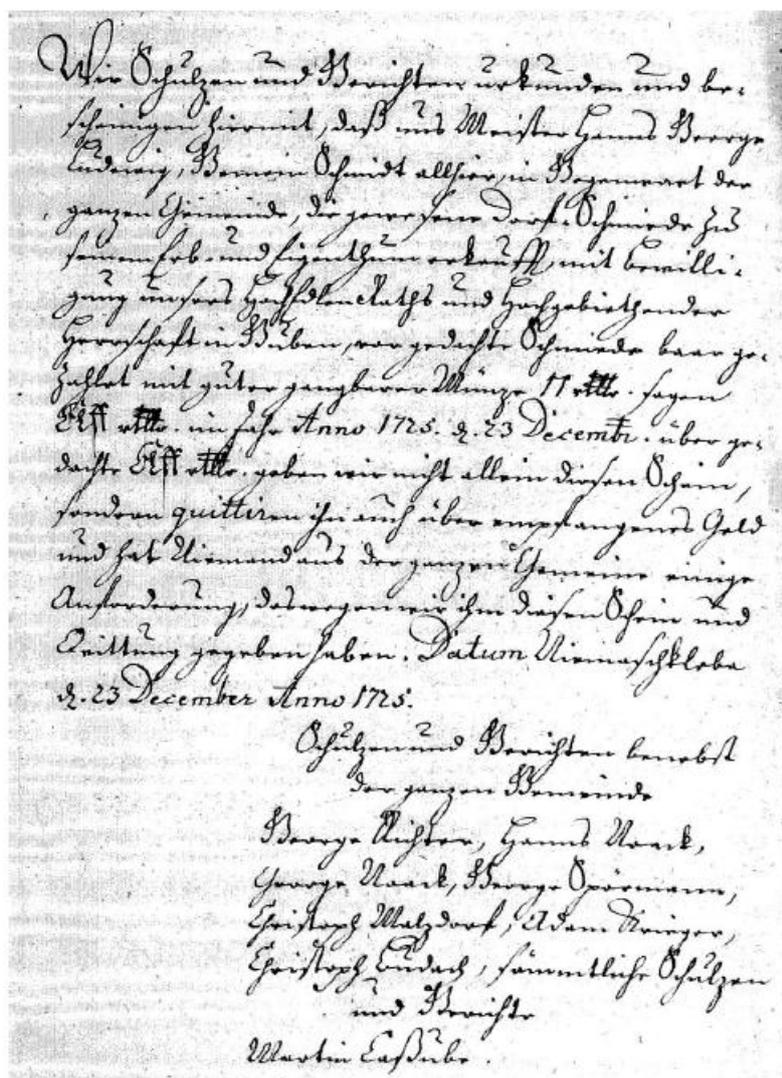
With contract of 30 August 1826, the mayor and the council of the Royal Prussian District city of Guben cede a property (60 ft x 30 ft) to the blacksmith Gottlieb Hoffmann, house No 98, for the building of a forge. The value of the property is determined with 5 Thaler. Blacksmith Hoffmann is to pay a yearly tax of 4% to the municipal treasury.
(also see chronicles of the estates, property of the forge, house No 98)

**Contract between the community of Niemaschkleba and the village's blacksmith
Ludewig, 23 December 1725¹**

We, the Schulzen and Gerichten , certify and register herewith that Master Hanns George Ludewig, blacksmith, purchased the said forge as his property and from now on hereditary property, in accordance with our high council and landlord of Guben for 11 Thaler in passable coins. In words eleven Thaler in the year 1725, on 23 December. This is to certify that we have received the 11 Thaler as well as that no person out of the whole community has further demands and requirements against him.

Date Niemaschkleba, 23 December 1725
Schulzen and Gerichten as well as the whole community
George, Richter, Hanns Noack, George Noack, George Sparmann, Christoph Malzdorf,
Adam Krieger, Christoph Budach, all Schulzen and Gerichte
Martin Caßube

Here copy of the original certificate of 23 December 1725:



¹ Land register file Niemaschkleba, Volume 1, Page 39, Schmidt's Büdner estate (Ludewig's forge) No 44, without sheet number

Letter of the Community of Niemaschkleba to the Council of Guben, 23 December 1725²

We, the Schulzen, Gerichten and the whole community report to the high council that we have come to the following agreement with the community blacksmith, Hanns George Ludewig concerning the sale of the accommodation along the forge. He promised to pay in cash around Easter 1 Thaler in passable coin; furthermore he promised the community to pay 1 Thaler 12 gr yearly as Leinkauff?, in case they bring him the grain on one day - if not, everything stays same as before. This was sealed with handshake to the Schulze and the Gerichten.

Niemaschkleba, 23 December 1725
Schulzen, Gerichten and the whole community ./.

Contract between the Council of Guben and the Community Blacksmith Ludewig on the hereditary property right of the village forge of Niemaschkleba, 12 Febr. 1726³

We, mayor and council of this Royal Saxonian city of Guben certify before us and our successors: The village blacksmith Hans Girge Ludewig has appeared here in court and brought to our attention his interest in purchasing as hereditary property the said forge in Niemaschkleba together with its supplies. There have been no concerns neither against him nor his request, even more as he already came to an agreement with the Schulzen, Gerichten and community to pay 11 Thaler around Easter for the accommodation along with the forge as well as 1 Thaler 12 gr. when the grain dumping will be done as agreed. If latter will not be done, the procedures remain unchanged as in the past.

The following purchase to render the forge from now on hereditary property has been made: (...) in the presence of the Gerichten (court?) to be paid immediately upon sales contract 25 Thaler in cash and thereof proceed with the blacksmithing as specified sub signo. The community has promised to Hanns Girge Ludewigen that

1. no other except for him will be the village's blacksmith – cum iure prohibendi
2. none of the tributaries were allowed to obtain forging works from elsewhere but the Niemaschkleban blacksmith
3. the said blacksmith was to be given for free use the pasture adjoining his forge ...
4. ...where a pair of cows and calf, to stand on the pasture for free, could graze
5. he could distill brandy, taxable in the usual amount to the financial dept.

² Land register file Niemaschkleba, Volume 1, Page 39, Schmidt's Büdner estate (Ludewig's forge) No 44, without sheet number

³ dito

Now that the forge belongs as hereditary property to him and thus to his children and heirs, he and his successors are obliged to provide the necessary amount of work for the community not to arouse any complaints from them. However should this not be the case and there were to be substantial complaints, the council of Guben shall either change this arrangement or even annul it, which the council is subject to do.

The contract is thus signed without fraudulent intent and in all conscience, city of Guben as well as the signature of the governing mayor, Guben, 11 February 1726
L.S. Andreas Schmidt

25 Thaler were then paid by Hanns George Ludewig to the local Cämmerey (= financial department) and was given receipt for payment. Sigl. Guben, 12 February 1726
Breitenfeld, city treasurerer himself