



The History of Schwarzenbach a.Wald

The origin of our place is still shrouded in darkness. It is not solved who penetrated into the valleys of wild north forest first, who stubbed there and created a home town. It can be assumed that the settlement of our region took place from the south. If the wealth of wood or the proposed mineral resources were the reason for the settlers settling at the „ Swarcenbach“ is not certain. Very often there is the opinion that the first owner of this region was bishop Eberhard I von Bamberg (1007-1040) who, according to a document from the year 1017, has given the region Stadtsteinach from the north up to beyond Döbra to his brother Chuno. But this document was made available around the year 1150 which means 100 years later and is therefore called false. The region in north forest was most probably the property of the Henneberger around the 11th and 12th century. Frequently it is supposed that the northern part which means the region Schwarzenbach-Schwarzenstein, was no longer in the hand of the Henneberger but passed over to Otto von Schaumberg (Otto von Schwarzburg) who is said to have built castle Schwarzberg-Swartzperch located at Wilden Rodach.



The first and real proved mention of our place connects the name Schwarzenbach a.Wald with Fritz Plassenberger von Schwarzenbach in a document of the town achieve Eger from December 14th 1388. It is also certain that Konrad von der Grün – member of a widely ramified noble family – who later just calls himself Konrad von Reichzenstein, inherits a part of Schwarzenbach and is called as owner of a fish right in the headwaters of Wilden Rodach. From that on, Schwarzenbach is strongly connected with the history of the Reizensteiners, For them this region which was surrounded by Rodach, Thiemitz, Culmitz and Döbra is the central point of their property. Konrad inherited Schwarzenberg and Schwarzenbach in 1419 to his three sons. Castle „Swartzperch-Schwerzenberg“ may have decayed in the course of time which may be seen that in later documentary namings they talk about a „ vesten Schloß Schwarzenstein mit dem Burgstall“. Hanns von Reizenstein built a new castle on a nearby steep rock and gave this one the name Schwarzenstein which was also given to the village later.



The reason for Schwarzenstein being named in a document not very often is that the property was belonged to a privat owner. On April 19th in 1478, Hanns von Reitzenstein rented the gold, silver, copper and tin mines to the bishop of Bamberg. In another document of fief which is dated on February 22nd 1493, the village Schwarzenbach is already named. In 1493 he gave his estates castle Schwarzenstein with the castle stable, village Schwarcenbach with two noblemen's dwellings (former forester's house), Hauptstraße 77 and an old school, the parish church, the small village Meierhof, the village Goczmannsgrün, the small village Grüngrund and further villages to Siegmund and Friedrich von Brandenburg and he got the crew of Hof and 500 former Marks (Gulden) for the rest of his life instead.



It is very probable that the Reitzensteiners did it because of the little peaceful relations to Bamberg to save their strong support. Hanns von Reitzenstein was a proud, dominant and reckless man who was at „war“ with the bishop von Bamberg, because he did not allow him to cut wood in the bishop's forest which was necessary for the blast furnace in Thiemitz.



Hanns von Reitzenstein died in 1519 and his three sons Hans-Georg, Wolf and Georg inherited the large property. His property was split because he had so many children. Within his family it became more and more common to give land with an own dwelling to all heirs. The Wolf'sche inheritance split into eight pieces in 1522 and the Georg'sche inheritance split into twelve pieces. These lands gradually became too small to ensure an adequate maintain for a noble family. The property crumbled more and more and finally slipped completely into the hands of strange families.

The last owner of the castle was Freiherr Wilhelm von Reitzenstein who died at the end of the 80s of the 19th century in big poverty. Few time later the castle fell victim to a fire. In Schwarzenstein, the hill of the castle, the moat and several stones of coat of arms still remind of the former castle and the family of Reitzenstein.

The most biggest part of the land of the Reitzensteiners was the property of Friedrich August von Künsberg long before which was then bought by Friedrich von Bayreuth for 68.000 former Marks. The new owner built an administration with a council and a justice and annulled the former laws of the Schwarzenbacher jurisdiction. With the annexation of Bayreuth to Prussia, this new system was already abolished and became part of the prussian council of Naila. The administration of Schwarzenbach was given to two majors and to ten members of the council.

In the peace treaty of Tilsiten (July 9th 1807) King Willhelm III had to give Bayreuth to France. On February 28th in 1810, Napoleon gave Bayreuth to Max I Josef von Bayern according to the treaty of Paris.

In 1818 Schwarzenbach passed the „ Magistrale Verfassung“ (a certain constitution), then abolished it in 1864 to introduce it again in 1905. According to the „ Magistrale Verfassung“, there had to be a major and six councilors.

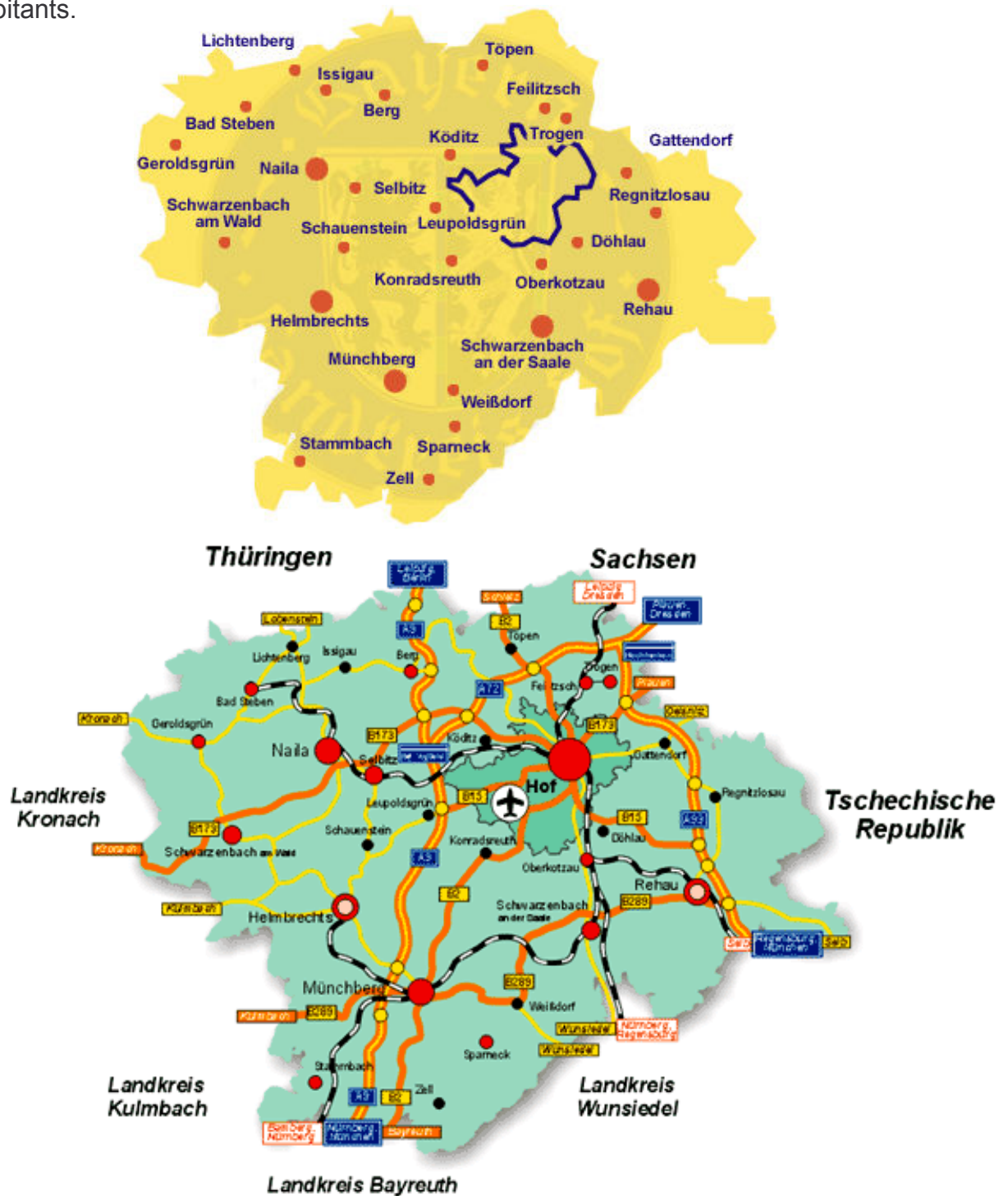
In the year 1820 Georg Adam Spörl is named as major and Johann Wilhelm Kießling, Johann Konrad Jahn, Georg Adam Steininger, Heinrich Ott, Lorenz Dittmar and Georg Höhn are named as councilors.

Commercially the mill industry and the brewery became important at the beginning of the 19th century apart from agriculture and forestry. The weaving became important as well.

Schwarzenbach experienced the darkest day on August 8th 1859 when the whole place including 122 main buildings and 204 further buildings, the church and the rectory burned down. Fortunately the victims experienced quick help from others. Apart from many donations they got 45.000 former Marks and thanks to the people's hard work the reconstruction did not take long time. On October 29th 1863, the church was already opened and the new bells rang over the reconstructed place for the first time.

On April 28th 1954, Schwarzenbach a. Wald was awarded to the name „town“, the 273rd town of Bavaria. Thanks to the land reform in Bavaria which aim it was to reorganize the communities in the administration district of Oberfranken in October 27th 1975, Schwarzenbach a. Wald became larger. As the first community ,

Schwarzenbach executed this planning voluntarily. Meierhof followed with 441 inhabitants.



Schwarzenbach became the six largest town in the district Hof because of this reform. With this decision, Schwarzenbach a. Wald has gained a lot of importance without a doubt like 170 years before.

