

Origin of the Ebeling Name and Family Roots

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The distinguished surname Ebeling has been traced to Austria, which was occupied by the Celts and then the Romans.

Between the third and fifth centuries, a series of invasions by the Vandals, Goths, Huns, and Alemans swept in from the east and from the north.

In the ninth century, the Holy Roman Emperor Charlemagne made this territory an eastern border region as a bulwark against the determined Hungarian and Slavic invasions.

Otto the Great finally defeated the Hungarian forces in 955 and Austria (a Hungarian word meaning "Kingdom of the East") became a Bavarian protectorate.

Research into the history of this name brings us to Austria where the name came from humble beginning, but gained a significant reputation for its contribution to the emerging medieval society. It later became more prominent when many branches of the same house acquired distant estates and branches, some in foreign countries, always elevating their social status by the great contributions to society.

The Babenberger dynasty ruled Austria until 1278 when the house of Habsburg rose to power and began its territorial expansion not by going to war, but by going to the altar and marrying into various influential houses. In this way, they acquired Tyrol, the Krain region, Styria, Trieste, and the Alemanian Voralberg. They also gained the Netherlands from the Dukes of Burgundy in 1482 and married into the Spanish royal family. Charles V let his Austrian territories to his brother, Ferdinand I, who acquired Hungary and Bohemia in 1526.

Austria faced the religious troubles of the Reformation in the 16th Century, as well as the expansion of the Turkish Empire. Austria became the Catholic center of the Counter-Reformation; despite Ferdinand's expanding power, the Turks laid siege to Vienna in 1529. The Treaty of Westphalia in 1648 put an end to the 30-Year War and divided up the empire. The Turks invaded Austria again in 1699, only to be driven back by Prince Eugene of Savoy, who conquered the large parts of the Balkans, acquiring Transylvania. However, after the Spanish and Austrian lines of Habsburg died out in 1700 and 1740, Maria Theresa became the only woman to be Empress on a German throne. They also became Kings of Hungary, which became the basis for the powerful Austro-Hungarian Empire.

Following the defeat of Napoleon in 1815, Vienna was chosen as the site of the famous Congress of Vienna, at which the victors decided how the nations of Europe were to share the spoils. Following this period, Austria reached the peak of its prestige. Vienna loosened its hold on its widespread possessions, particularly in the rebellious Balkan

regions. In 1914, the assassination of the Archduke Ferdinand in Sarajevo, Serbia, started the Great War. The empire was broken up by the Treaty of Versailles in 1919 when Austria became a republic, its Sudeten Germans now citizens of the new nation of Czechoslovakia. Hitler's forces annexed it in 1938 and made it a part of greater Germany. After the war, Austria became a democratic republic.

Vienna, Austria's capital, is a major cultural center of Europe, particularly in the realm of music. Many people left Austria and Germany for the New World after 1650. Their highest density of population has been traced to Pennsylvania, Ohio, California, and Illinois.

Among the contemporary members of the name Ebeling who achieved prominent are Herman Ebeling (b 1909), a human relations expert, who came from Brunswick, and was the European Representative for the National Confederation of Christians and Jews in Frankfurt (1950-55). Another is Christoph Daniel Ebeling, a scholar and Chair of history and Greek in the Hamburg Gymnasium. He was born near Hildesheim, Hanover, Germany, less than 60 miles from the birthplace of our Ebeling ancestors; he was born in 1741 and is well known for his five volume "Geography and History of North America 1796 – 1816".

The emigration movement of the 19th century opened up trading opportunities for Germany. Immigrants on the outward voyage escaped the regional wars and food shortages.

Hundreds of Hamburg sailing vessels and steamships were put into service about 1840. Many Germans settled in Ohio, Indiana, and Missouri, until the Civil War started in 1860. With the end of the War and the start of the Prussian Wars of 1866 to 1870 when Germany acquired Duchies of Lauenburg and Holstein from Denmark, the emigration to the Midwestern US grew rapidly.

The surname Ebeling has been traced to Austria, holding many interests as the population of the family name grew with the general population explosion in the 16th century. They established many branches in the region of Carinthia. They moved to follow their special interest in religious, military, or political occupations.

Branches of the family have been found in Prussia and Strasbourg. Throughout history, most surnames have gone through changes in spelling, even between generations. Often a name was recorded by a scribe simply by its sound. Depending on the region, a name's spelling could vary considerably. Some variations are Ebell, Ebbell, Ebbel, Ebel, Ebil, Ebele, Ebelle, Ebeler, Eblen, Ebbl, and Ebeling, to name a few. Some prominent variations are Ebelling, Ebling, Abeling, and Ebellings.

Until about 1100 AD, most people in Europe had only one name. Then it became necessary to distinguish one individual from another when they had the same given name, so surnames were developed. There were four primary sources for these

names: occupation, location, characteristic, or father's name. It is believed that Ebeling is based on a father's name, meaning "descendent of Eble."

In August, 1765, the farmer Jost Caspar Ebel received a Knighthood.

The Ebeling name is widespread in Germany and the US. It is possible that the name could be derived from the Elbe River in Germany

Our branch is likely the one which starts in Hof #1 in Wome of Hannover Province in the early 1600's.