

# The Weyls and Guggenheims: pages 117 -- 119

Revised: 2025.11

The text given on pages 117, 118, and 119 is not as clear as it should have been and there are several omissions and errors. In order to present a unified view I am also including the material on pages 114, 115 and 116. I have not reproduced pages 120 -- 122, which deal with the Oppenheimers.

In addition there is new material to be included. My aim here is to include all the information at my disposal concerning the Weyls and Guggenheims. This includes material that may or may not be relevant to the “Madel problem”.

I have used boldface extensively to indicate people of particular importance. However, confusion (and possible errors) is quite possible for several reasons: people were referred to by different names, e.g. with and without a middle name or (apparently) sometimes by only the middle name, ... . Because of this I have indicated, where the difficulties occur, possible problems and doubts even if matters are clarified, or at least partially clarified, further on in the text.

I have placed all documents and other sources of interest at the end. These include newly acquired material, in particular information sent to me by monsieur Gras. Pages numbers on the chart are indicated as simply 116 instead of p. 116. In addition the following symbols are used on the chart and in the text to identify documents of particular importance:

- G. The information provided in M. Ginsburger. 1904. “Aus einem elsässischen Mohelbuch”. This article is discussed in in “A New Look at Madel [2024]” and “A Further Look at Madel”, [2025].
- A: The 1739 AM of Jacob Guggenheim, son of Wolf Guggenheim, Obernai and Madene, daughter of Samuel Weill and Esther. The dowry was 11,000 livres. [118].
- B: The 1803 AD of Jacques (Jacob) Guggenheim, at the age of ninety-three. [119]. We learn that at his death he was now married to Sarah Meyer and that the full name of his mother-in-law was Esther Phillips. This Sarah Meyer may be the same person as, “sara fille du feu Meyer Wolff, assistée de son frère Aron Meyer”, [Fraen-mar, 153a, 1734]; see also [Fraen-mar, 152a, 1728; 119a, 1736].
- C: The 1753 memoir written by Esther Phillips, the widow of Samuel Sanwil Weyl [Neher-Bernheim]. From this document we learn that the full name of the wife of Samuel/Samuel Sanwil Weyl, as given in document A, was Esther Phillips. She refers to her son-in-law as Jacob Wolf Guggenheim which shows that he is the same person as Jacob Guggenheim. Esther Phillips gives reasons why he should have been chosen. A foreigner had been chosen because of a cabal lead by one Lippman Moyse, “homme dangereux et intrigant”. For a further discussion of this incident see the article, “Patterns of Rabbinic Succession in Modern France” by Berkovitz, [p.6]7 ff.
- D: The four AM which involve Guggenheim children cited on pages 118-120. The first three are explicitly stated to be the children of Simon Wolf Guggenheim.

The parents are not mentioned on the AM of Lion Guggenheim, but the mention of the grandfather of the groom suggests that this is the case. We know that [Simon] Wolf Guggenheim was married to Treitel, but her name is not mentioned on any of the AM. In particular even though the mother of the bride (Esther [Phillips]) is mentioned on the 1739 AM of Jacob Guggenheim, Treitel is not. This might imply that she was deceased at that point in time.

The dates, names, and monies received are:

1739: Jacob Guggenheim, 11,000 livres; gift 5,000 florins. Further the grandfather will provide lodging and nourishment for three years and engage a rabbi to teach the groom; bride: Madene daughter of Samuel Weil and Esther.

1745: Sarlé (Sarah) Guggenheim, 3000 florins; ketouba, 4,500 florins, presents 600 livres.

We learn from [G] that her son Joseph was circumcised by Wolf Guggenheim in 1750. The family is number 9 in [1784, Westhoffen]. Sarlé is now referred to as Sarah.

1748: Lionel Guggenheim, dowery 4,500 florins, ketouba 6,750 florins.

We can associate "Lionel" with the "Löb" whose son Raphael was circumcised by Wolf Guggenheim in 1852.

1752: Rebecca Guggenheim, 5,678.50 florins; ketouba, 8,531.25 florins.

A graph showing these four children and some of their offspring appears in "A Further Look at Madel". See the graphs on pages 113 and 124 for the relationships between the Weyls, Guuggenheims and Oppenheimers.

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## The Modified and Corrected Version of pages 117 -- 119

### The Weyls

We have documents concerning one daughter and three sons of Baruch Weyl:

- i. **Treitel Weyl**. She married **Wolf/Simon Wolf Guggenheim** -- see below -- and it is the offspring of this couple who are of particular interest.
- ii. **Samuel/Samuel Sanvil Weyl** was appointed chief rabbi of Haute-Alsace in 1711 and remained in this post until his death in 1753. Ginsburger [1933] describes his life. Of particular interest for us [Ginsburger, p. 74--75] is his dispute with his uncle Meyer who was the *préposé* of the Jews and the letter written by Baruch Weyl to the duchess against his brother.

From the article (smoothed out below) in the *Nouveau Dictionnaire de Biographie alsacienne* [[www.alsace-histoire.org/netdba/weyl-samuel-sanvil/](http://www.alsace-histoire.org/netdba/weyl-samuel-sanvil/)]. None of the other people of interest here appear in this dictionary we learn more about Samuel Weyl and his family:

Rabbin de Haute et de Basse Alsace, (I) (Westhoffen,? -- Ribeauvillé, 1753). Fils de **Baruch Weyl**, syndic des juifs de la seigneurie de Ribeaupierre. Marié à **Esther Philippe**.

(Voir "Document A où le nom de sa femme est "Madene", et Document C où le nom de sa femme est Sarah, s'agit-t-il de la même personne?).

Études rabbiniques à Metz, à Francfort-sur-le-Main, et, peut-être, en Pologne. Les lettres patentes royales, du 8 avril 1711, le nommant «raby» des anciennes possessions autrichiennes de Haute Alsace furent enregistrées au Conseil souverain d'Alsace «de la même manière que fait en notre ville de Metz le raby des juifs résidant en la dite ville» le 4 mai 1711. Son autorité s'étendait aux juifs des territoires de l'abbaye de Murbach, de Thann, de Ribeauvillé, de Bergheim (1718), du Directoire de la noblesse immédiate de Basse Alsace, de l'évêché de Strasbourg (1738), des villes libres de Haguenau, de Rosheim, d'Obernai et à ceux de Scherwiller. Cette autorité se trouva réduite après la nomination d'Élie Schwab comme rabbin pour la préfecture et la ville de Haguenau. Ce dernier, sortant des limites territoriales qui lui avaient été concédées, provoqua un conflit de compétences qui se termina par sa démission imposée par les préposés généraux (1746). Weyl. avait deux frères: **Jacob Baruch** (1703-1775), d'Obernai, fut préposé général de la Nation juive en Alsace, et **Meyer**, préposé des juifs de Ribeauvillé.

iii. **Jacob Baruch Weyl**

iv. **Meyer Weyl** was the Préposé des juifs for the town of Ribeauvillé. He had the title of rabbi, but was mainly active in affairs and built a synagogue in Obernai, of which vestiges still exist. He became one of several *préposés généraux* in 1746 and occupied this post until his death.

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## The Guggenheims

The origin of the name Guggenheim is not known. There were many Guggenheims in the Lengau region of Switzlerland and some married Alsatian Jews, but there were also Guggenheims in Frankfurt. Catane ["Noms Juifs d'Obernai"] suggests the possibility that the name is related to the town of Guggenheim in Alsace, even though there is no proof of the existence of a Jewish community there.

In 1784 there was one Guggenheim family in Obernai, that of Löw Guggenheim. In 1808 there was no one with that name.

The first Guggenheim of direct interest to us is:

Joseph Guggenheim, the husband of Fromet Oppenheimer, the daughter of Samuel Wolf Oppenheimer; see page 121. From Dietz [*Stammbuch der Frankfurter Juden*, p.129] we learn that Joseph Guggenheim was a money changer in Frankfurt from around 1705. He was very rich, had three maids and two servants, as well as an

overseer for the household. Dietz speaks of three children: Miriam Sarah, Abraham and Moses Joseph. Joseph Guggenheim passed away in 1735.

Shlomo Ettlinger [*Ele Toldot* p. 12], speaks of a daughter named “Hajie” and two sons. The first, Moses, is probably the same person as the Moses Joseph mentioned by Dietz. The second is **Wolf Guggenheim**, who lived in Berlin and then in Strasbourg. Since Strasbourg is in Alsace it is tempting to identify this **Wolf Guggenheim** with the **Wolf/Simon Wolf Guggenheim** who, as stated above, married **Treitel Weyl**, the daughter of Baruch Weyl.

Thanks to the diligence of Monsieur Gras, who located the tombstone in the Jewish cemetery in Westhoffen, we now know that the AD of Simon Wolf Guggenheim is 1762.06.28



The text reads:

Fragment 1, ligne 4 : l'honorable (ou l'honorable rabbi, j'ai un doute sur l'abréviation utilisée) Simon dit

Fragment 2, ligne 1 : (ligne très abîmée, au niveau de la cassure, mais déchiffrable quand même) Wolf fils de l'honorable Joseph

ligne 2 : Guggenheim d'Obernai (Oberenheim)

ligne 3 : décédé et inhumé le jour de

ligne 4 : lundi 7 tamous 522 (soit le lundi 28 juin 1762)

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### Relationships between the Weyls and the Guggenheims

The small towns of Lengau and Endingen are both in the Aargau canton of northern Switzerland and were the only places in Switzerland where Jews were legally allowed to settle---although with many restrictions---from the mid-seventeenth century until 1878!

The French armies needed horses and food and the Jewish suppliers---see in particular document 60 on page 115 regarding the Weyl family---located in Lorraine and Alsace obtained some of these in Switzerland where they had connections. Lengau

is only 65 km from Basel, where boats on the Rhine would have provided transport to various parts of Alsace. The Swiss and Alsatian dialects of German are related and the Judeo-German (sometimes referred to as Western Yiddish) of Alsatians and Swiss Jews would have been close. These relationships are discussed in Stein, *Mariages entre juifs d'Alsace-Lorraine, de Bade et de Suisse au début du XVIII<sup>e</sup> siècle*<sup>DVD</sup>.

We have several documents which provide us with important information. I start with the following AM:

### Document A

[Fraen-mar, 154j]

1739.01.18, Obernai

*Jacob Gougenheim fils de Wolff Guggenheim, Obernai.*

Madene fille du sieur *Samuel Weill* rabin et juge des Juifs de Ribeauville et de *Esther*.

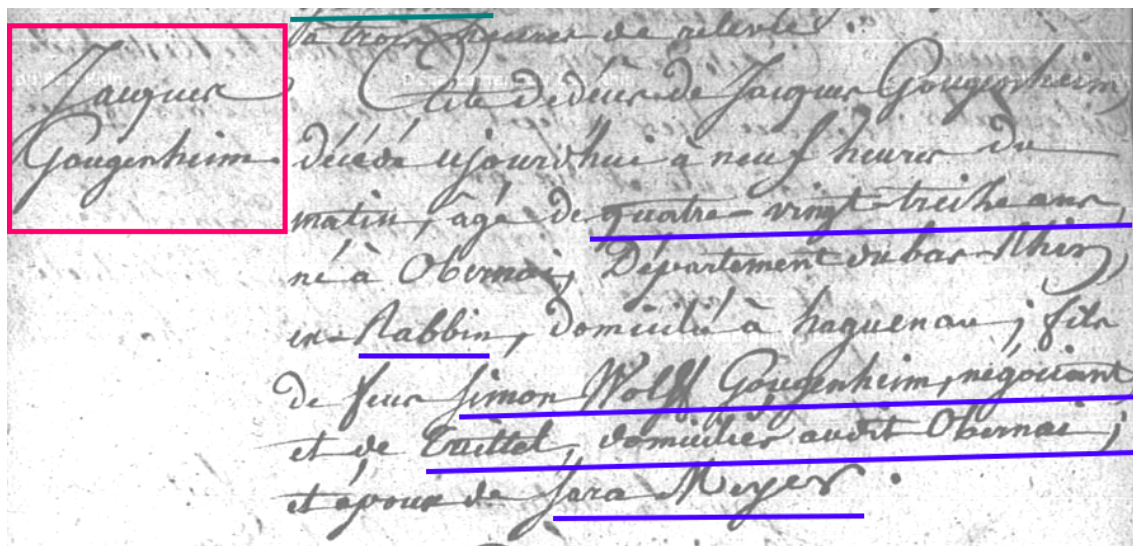
Les deux comparants sont assistés de *Baruch Weill* leur grand-père Juif banquier en cette ville de Obernai ....

dowry: 11,000 livres [a tremendous sum].

Since Samuel Weill, the father of the bride, is stated to be a “rabin et juge des Juifs de Ribeauville” and Baruch Weyl as the grandfather of the bride and of the groom we can identify the former as **Samuel/Samuel Sanwil Weyl** the son of Baruch Weyl; see above.

### Document B

Turning to the groom, Jacob/Jacques Gougenheim, the following is his 1803.04.18 (28 germinal XI) AD:



The image shows a snippet of a handwritten document in French. The name 'Jacques Gougenheim' is written in cursive and is enclosed in a red rectangular box. To the right of the box, the text continues: 'C'est de Monsieur Jacques Gougenheim', 'Né le jour d'hui à neuf heures du', 'matin, âgé de quatre-vingt-trois ans', 'né à Obernai, Département du Bas-Rhin', 'un Rabbine, domicilié à Haguenau; fils', 'de Monsieur Simon Wolff Gougenheim, négociant', 'et de Madame, domiciliée audit Obernai;', and 'et approuvé de Monsieur Meyer'.

We learn that his father was indeed Simon Wolff Guggenheim and that the latter was a businessman. His mother's name is simply given as “T[ra?]ittel”, whom I will refer to as “Treitel”. Unfortunately, the mother's family name is not given. He was in his second marriage as his wife's name is given as Sara Meyer, and not Madene daughter of Samuel Weill as in document A. The 1784 census for Hagenau lists them along with a son and daughter.

The last part of his birthplace is not clear, but my guess is that it should read “Obernai”. His age when he passed away was ninety-three. This would put his AN as ca. 1710. In turn this suggests that the AM of his parents was ca. 1700 and that their AN was in the last part of the seventeenth century.

The AD states that Jacob Guggenheim was a rabbi (see document C) in Hagenau. In fact we know that he regularly performed marriages there (see [fraenkel-index, vol. 1, p. 17]) and was involved, as the rabbi of Hagenau, in a fight against the authorities who prohibited his functioning as a rabbi and forbid Jewish services [Schied, *Juifs de Hagenau*, p. 230].

### **Document C**

We saw above that Samuel/Samuel Sanwil Weyl was appointed chief rabbi of Haute-Alsace in 1711 and remained in this post until his death in 1753. Shortly after this point in time his widow Esther Phillips wrote a memoir [Neher-Bernheim *Documents*, p. 108--111], addressed to royal officials, that deals with the way the election of a replacement for her husband had been held:

I, 3B, 2 - A.D.B.Rh. C 335

Mémoire

1753

Pour Esther Philippe, veuve de Samuel Weyl, Rabin de la haute alsace, et Jacob Wolff Gugenheim (1) son gendre (2).

Les Juifs de la province d'alsace ont obtenu du Roy le privilège d'avoir des Juges de leur Religion, que l'on appelle communément Rabins

.....  
.....

Samuel Baruch Weyl a été Rabin des Juifs de la haute Alsace. Il en a Exercé les fonctions pendant 42 années. Il est mort le 14 avril 1753.

Son Gendre appelé Jacob Wolff Gugenheim est né sujet du Roy, puisqu'il est originaire d'obernheim petite ville l'Alsace. il réside aussi en Alsace étant domicilié à Ribeauvillé qui n'est qu'à deux lieues de Colmar. Il est très versé dans la connaissance de la loy orale, et dans l'Etude de la loy écrite. Il sçait les Usages de la province où il est domicilié, et la teneur des arrêtés des Reglemens du Conseil que tout Rabin doit connaître pour ne pas pécher dans la forme de ses jugemens.