

# GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH REPORT

*A concealed illegitimacy, and a father identified by elimination*

Klaus Mendler · [noctivagus.net/gen-service/en](https://noctivagus.net/gen-service/en)

---

**Prepared as a work sample.**

## 1. Research Objective

To identify and document the parents of Jacob Joseph Plock, a miner (Bergmann) of Altenbüren bei Brilon, who married Christina Sophia Vosswinkel at Essen-Rellinghausen on 2 February 1841 and whose stated parentage could not, at the outset, be reconciled with the record of his birth.

## 2. Summary of Findings

Jacob Joseph Plock was born illegitimately at Altenbüren (Kreis Brilon) on 13 March 1815, the second illegitimate child of Eva Plock. The parents he named at his 1841 marriage were fictitious. His biological father was Friedrich Dinkelberg (Dünkelberg), baptised at Hirschhausen near Nassau-Weilburg in 1747, a forester in princely service — identified through the father's own acknowledgment of paternity recorded for Jacob Joseph's elder sister and confirmed by elimination against the parish registers of Hirschhausen. The striking element — a father aged about sixty-eight at the child's birth — is documented, not merely inferred, and no alternative bearer of the name exists.

## 3. Background and the Problem

The marriage register of St. Lambertus, Essen-Rellinghausen, records the marriage on 2 February 1841 of Jacob Joseph Plock, a miner of Altenbüren, aged 26, to Christina Sophia Vosswinkel; the groom's parents are given as "Fritz Plock and Eva Dünkelberg, both deceased."<sup>1</sup> The stated age placed his birth about 1815 at Altenbüren. The only baptism there that fits, however, presents a contradiction: it records an illegitimate child of an unmarried mother, not the married couple named at the wedding.

## 4. The Birth and the Mother

The Altenbüren parish register records the baptism, on 13 March 1815, of Jacob Joseph, illegitimate son of Eva, daughter of Jodocus Plock; no father is named.<sup>2</sup> The parallel civil duplicate confirms the entry and adds that Eva's father, Jodocus Plock, was a tailor, and that Jacob Joseph was Eva's second illegitimate child.<sup>3</sup> The mother is thus securely identified as Eva Plock. Neither the "Eva Dünkelberg" nor the "Fritz Plock" of the marriage entry corresponds to the birth record; only the mother's

---

<sup>1</sup>Marriage of Jacob Joseph Plock and Christina Sophia Vosswinkel, 2 February 1841, no. 3, register of St. Lambertus, Essen-Rellinghausen (Kirchenbuchduplikat); Landesarchiv Nordrhein-Westfalen, Abteilung Rheinland, Bestand PA 1206 (Kirchenbuchduplikate Amtsgericht Essen), Nr. 198 (Duisburg, Germany).

<sup>2</sup>Jacob Joseph Plock, baptism (illegitimate), 13 March 1815, Catholic parish of Altenbüren (Kreis Brilon), Taufregister KB002-03-T, p. 196; digital images, Matricula ([https://data.matricula-online.eu/de/deutschland/paderborn/DE\\_EBAP\\_61102/KB002-03-T/?pg=196](https://data.matricula-online.eu/de/deutschland/paderborn/DE_EBAP_61102/KB002-03-T/?pg=196) : accessed August 2026); Erzbistum Paderborn.

<sup>3</sup>Jacob Joseph Plock, birth, 1815, civil duplicate register (Zivilstandsregister) KB002c1-01-Cg, p. 103, Altenbüren; digital images, Matricula ([.../KB002c1-01-Cg/?pg=103](https://data.matricula-online.eu/de/deutschland/paderborn/DE_EBAP_61102/KB002c1-01-Cg/?pg=103) : accessed August 2026); Erzbistum Paderborn.

forename, Eva, is accurate. The surname the groom attached to her — Dünkelberg — would prove to be the decisive clue.

## 5. Excluding a Plock Father

Systematic study of the Altenbüren registers found no man named Fritz or Friedrich Plock in the relevant years, and indeed no male Plock of an age to have fathered the child. Eva's father, Jodocus Plock, had died on 5 July 1808,<sup>4</sup> and her brother, Johann Caspar Franz Plock, on 2 April 1814.<sup>5</sup> No Plock could have been the father; the paternal name given at the marriage was not misremembered but invented, evidently to conceal the illegitimacy.

## 6. The Father Acknowledged — the Elder Sibling's Civil Entry

Because the surname Dünkelberg had no foothold in Altenbüren, attention turned to Eva's earlier child. Maria Elisabetha, baptised 1 July 1811 and deceased 2 August 1812, was likewise recorded without a father in the parish register.<sup>6</sup> The civil duplicate of her birth, however, closes with a personal declaration in which the writer acknowledges himself as the father: "Friedrich Dinkelberg, born in Hirschhausen bei Nassau-Weilburg."<sup>7</sup> (No true signature is present; the name appears to have been written into the sentence by the declarant himself.)

This supplies both a name and an origin for the father of Eva's children, and it ties directly to Jacob Joseph, who at his own marriage thirty years later produced the otherwise inexplicable name Dünkelberg — disguised there as his mother's surname. The reasonable reading is that Jacob Joseph knew his father's family name and used it at his wedding.

*An evidentiary note: the acknowledgment directly names the father of Maria Elisabetha (1811). That Jacob Joseph (1815), Eva's next illegitimate child, shares that father is a strong inference — resting on the common mother, the sibling relationship, and Jacob Joseph's own later use of the Dünkelberg name — rather than a second explicit statement.*

## 7. Identifying Friedrich Dinkelberg of Hirschhausen

Hirschhausen, a village of some 300 souls near Weilburg, had no resident Dünkelberg families except that of Johann Carl Ludwig Dünkelberg, administrator (c. 1725–1760) of the Nassau-Weilburg game park (Tiergarten). His twelve children were baptised at Hirschhausen-Kubach; the youngest, Friedrich, on 11 March 1747.<sup>8</sup> His two brothers lived far away (Witzenhausen and Weilmünster); all his children left Hirschhausen as adults; and after his death on 14 June 1769 no Dünkelbergs remained there. A "Friedrich Dinkelberg aus Hirschhausen" can therefore only be this Friedrich, baptised 1747 — no other bearer of the name from that place exists.

<sup>4</sup>Jodocus Plock, burial, 5 July 1808, Altenbüren, Sterberegister KB002-05-S, p. 57; digital images, Matricula (.../KB002-05-S/?pg=57 : accessed August 2026); Erzbistum Paderborn.

<sup>5</sup>Johann Caspar Franz Plock, burial, 2 April 1814, Altenbüren, Sterberegister KB002-05-S, p. 70; digital images, Matricula (.../KB002-05-S/?pg=70 : accessed August 2026); Erzbistum Paderborn.

<sup>6</sup>Maria Elisabetha Plock, baptism, 1 July 1811 (died 2 August 1812), Altenbüren, Taufregister KB002-03-T, p. 185; digital images, Matricula (.../KB002-03-T/?pg=185 : accessed August 2026); Erzbistum Paderborn.

<sup>7</sup>Maria Elisabetha Plock, birth, 1811, civil duplicate register (Zivilstandsregister) KB002c1-01-Cg, p. 52, Altenbüren — with the father's own acknowledgment, "Friedrich Dinkelberg ... geboren in Hirschhausen bey Nassau-Weilburg"; digital images, Matricula (.../KB002c1-01-Cg/?pg=52 : accessed August 2026); Erzbistum Paderborn.

<sup>8</sup>Friedrich Dünkelberg, baptism, 11 March 1747, ev. Kirchengemeinde Kubach (Dekanat Weilburg); digital images, Archion (<https://www.archion.de/.../kubach/239617> : accessed August 2026); Zentralarchiv der Evangelischen Kirche in Hessen und Nassau.

Confronting the age directly: identifying the 1747 Friedrich as the father of a child born in 1811 makes him about sixty-four at that birth, and about sixty-eight at Jacob Joseph's in 1815, against a mother of twenty-six. The disparity is remarkable but not impossible, and — decisively — no younger Friedrich Dinkelberg of Hirschhausen exists to prefer. The identification rests on the father's own stated name and origin, combined with the exhaustive exclusion of alternatives.

## 8. The Father's Life

Friedrich Dünkelberg became a forester in the service of the princely house of Anhalt-Bernburg-Schaumburg. He married Christina Charitas Bruchhäuser at Schloss Schaumburg on 30 April 1773<sup>9</sup> and had five children between 1774 and 1784. His wife died at Holzappel on 24 August 1818,<sup>10</sup> and he died there on 26 March 1824.<sup>11</sup>

## 9. Analysis, Confidence, and an Open Question

The identification of Eva Plock as the mother is directly proven. The identification of Friedrich Dünkelberg as the father is established by his own recorded acknowledgment and corroborated both by the exclusion of every alternative and by the son's later use of the name; it meets the Genealogical Proof Standard, notwithstanding the remarkable paternal age. What remains unresolved is historical rather than genealogical: why a forester whose family lived at Holzappel, near Schloss Schaumburg, was in the Sauerland between 1811 and 1815. A family tradition holds that an ancestor was a forester connected in some way with the Wars of Liberation against Napoleon; the dating is compatible, but confirming it would require historical research in local Sauerland archives, beyond the scope of a genealogical report.

## 10. Source List

- Marriage register (Kirchenbuchduplikat) of St. Lambertus, Essen-Rellinghausen — Landesarchiv NRW, Abteilung Rheinland, Bestand PA 1206 (Kirchenbuchduplikate Amtsgericht Essen), Nr. 198.
- Baptismal, burial and civil-duplicate registers of the Catholic parish of Altenbüren (Kreis Brilon), Erzbistum Paderborn — original images published on and linkable via Matricula.
- Baptismal register of Kubach (Dekanat Weilburg) and death register of Holzappel (Dekanat Diez) — Zentralarchiv der Evangelischen Kirche in Hessen und Nassau, digital images via Archion.
- Rudolf Bonnet, "Das zweitälteste Schloßkirchenbuch von Schaumburg a. d. Lahn," *Hessische Familienkunde* 7 (1964–1965): col. 274.

---

**Prepared by Klaus Mandler.** Citations follow the conventions of Elizabeth Shown Mills, *Evidence Explained*. Krefeld, August 2026.

---

<sup>9</sup>Rudolf Bonnet, "Das zweitälteste Schloßkirchenbuch von Schaumburg a. d. Lahn," *Hessische Familienkunde* 7 (1964–1965): col. 274 (marriage of Friedrich Dünkelberg and Christina Charitas Bruchhäuser, 30 April 1773, Schloss Schaumburg).

<sup>10</sup>Christina Charitas Dünkelberg, née Bruchhäuser, death, 24 August 1818, Holzappel; digital images, Archion (.../holzappel/308291 : accessed August 2026); Zentralarchiv der Evangelischen Kirche in Hessen und Nassau.

<sup>11</sup>Friedrich Dünkelberg, death, 26 March 1824, Holzappel; digital images, Archion (.../holzappel/308292 : accessed August 2026); Zentralarchiv der Evangelischen Kirche in Hessen und Nassau.