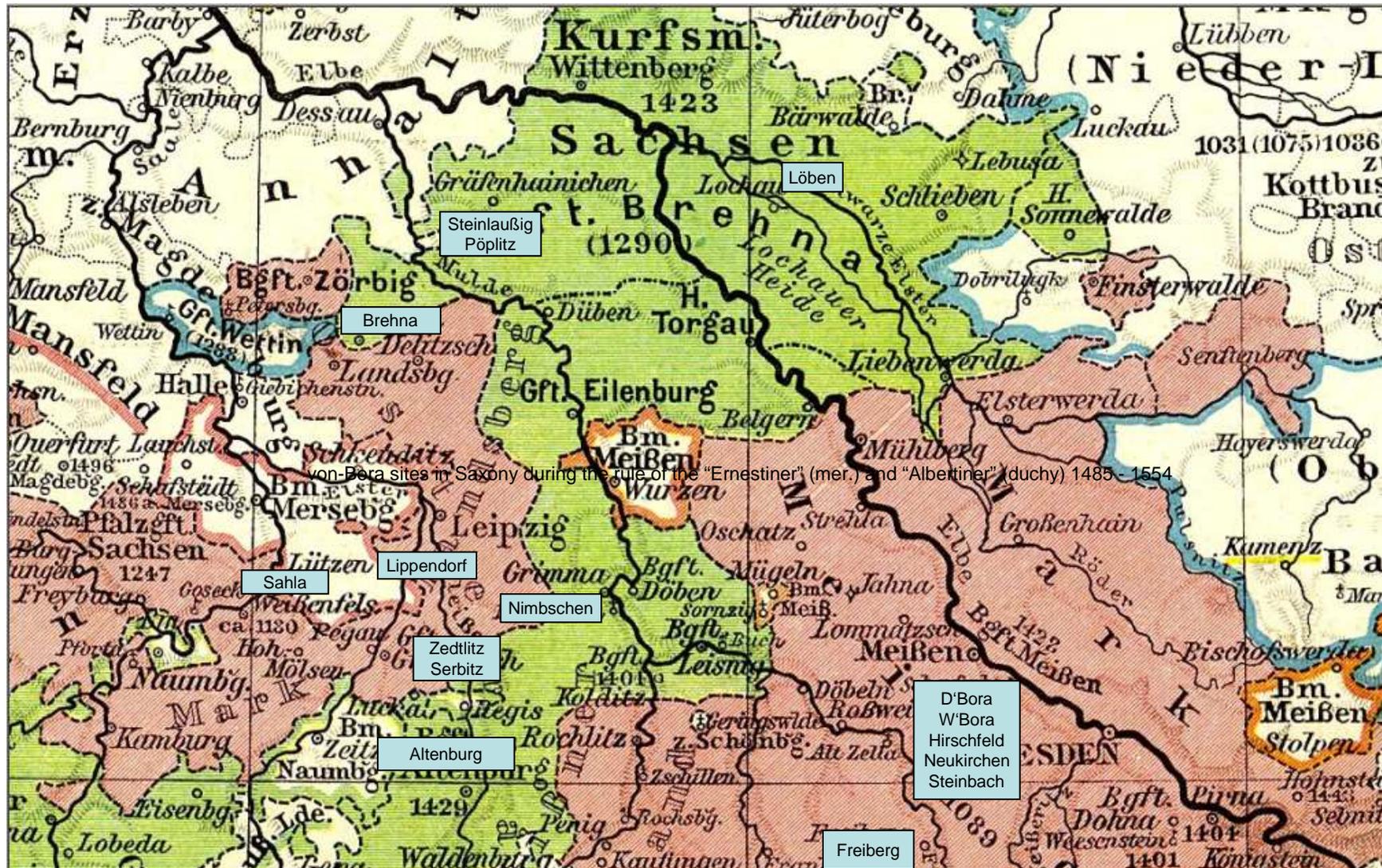


Jürgen Wagner:
About the ancestry
of Catherina von Bora

Conventional perceptions
and the latest research results
graphically illustrated



von-Bora-sites in Saxony during the rule of the “Ernestiner” (mer.) and “Albertiner” (duchy) 1485 - 1554

In the 18th century, there were already heated discussions and arguments about the ancestry and birth place of the wife of the German reformer Martin Luther. The belief that Hirschfeld near Nossen was the birth place of the “Lutherin“ is based on a paper from Georg von Hirschfeld, published in 1883. However, since 1905, this theory was deemed unreliable and since 1928 entirely rejected. As from the year 1905, genealogists follow the opinion of Ernst Kroker that Lippendorf to the south of Leipzig can be regarded as the place of birth.

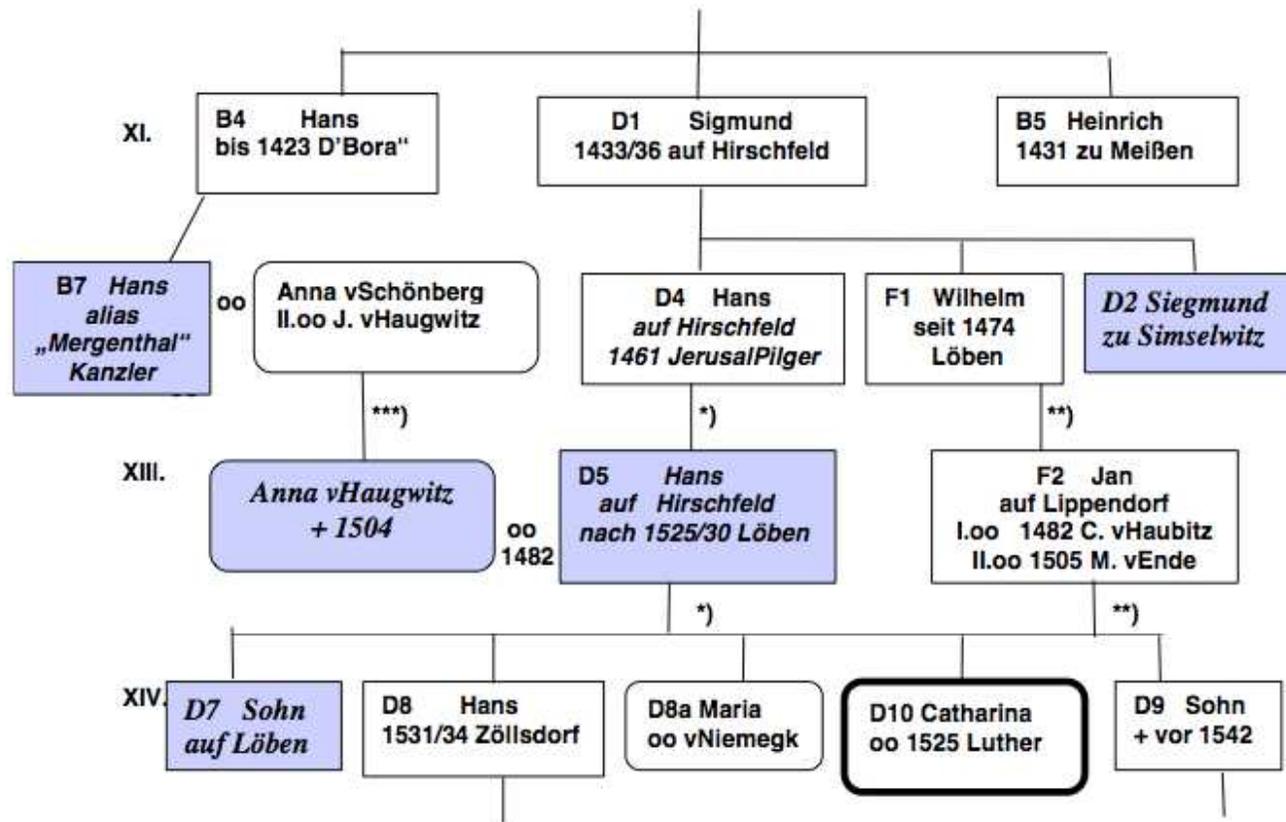
Corresponding to the various different presumptions concerning the place of birth, the ideas of who Catherina von Bora’s parents were also diverge. Without any further explanation, von Hirschfeld claims them to have been *Hans v. Bora* auf Hirschfeld and his wife *Anna v. Haugwitz*. Yet, both cannot be historically proven and have to be identified as fictitious.

Kroker’s point of orientation is the common Katharina biography from Albert Thoma, 1900. According to that, it could be assumed that there existed a Hans v. Bora who was first mentioned in 1482. He was supposed to have remarried as Jhan v. Bora in 1505 and to have sent away his young daughter Katherina to the cloister Brehna, at the instigation of his second wife, Margaretha.

Looking a bit more closely at this historic case, it becomes clear that Thoma states his assumption, Hans 1482 = Jhan 1505, as a possibility, but does in no way justify this any more closely or convincingly.

The family von Bora

The classical view



Historically not verifiable persons in *italics*

- *) von Hirschfeld's assumption 1882
- ***) Kroker's assumption 1906
- ***) Liebehenschel's assumption 1999

More recent research results have shown that the paternal family relations of Catherina v. Bora are much more complex and extensive than thought between 1883 and 2005.

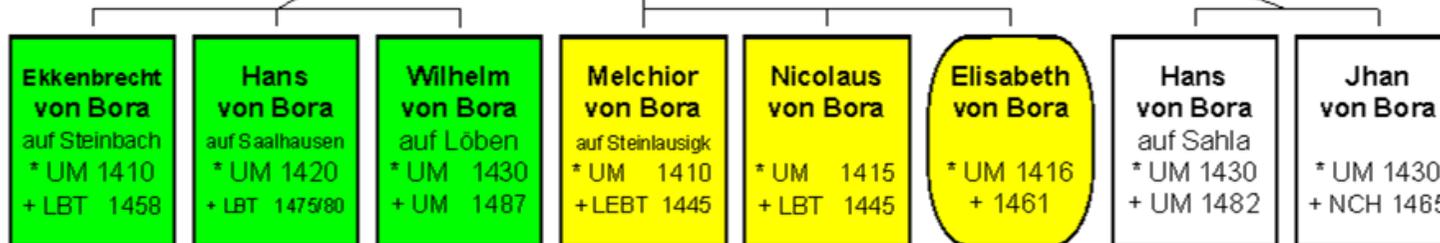
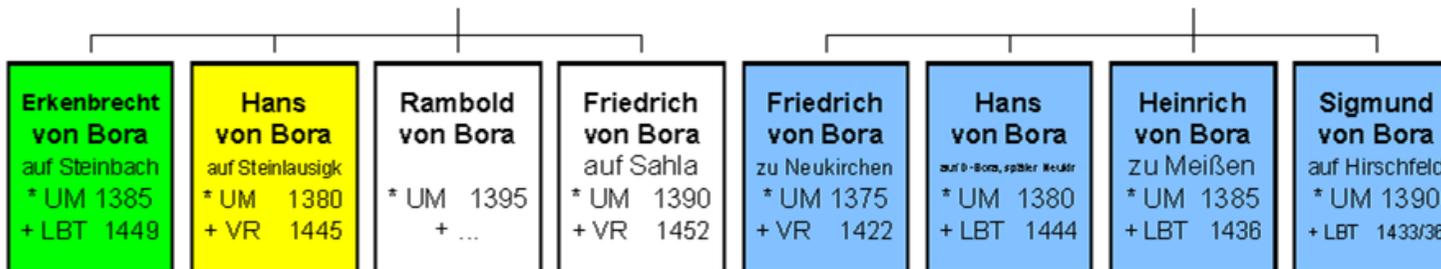
The current level of research assumes that Catherina v. Bora was born in the village of Lippendorf, south of Leipzig, which has been entirely excavated and cleared away by now. Furthermore, one assumes that her father is Jhan v. Bora who was only once mentioned in 1505. He married around 1490/95. Margaretha, his wife who's name was also only once recorded in 1505, comes from an unknown family background. The parents probably already died around 1521.

The in 1482 mentioned Hans v. Bora is the father's brother who can be found documented in Steinlausigk (today: Muldenstein) near Bitterfeld since 1501. He had a son in the neighbouring village of Pöplitz (today part of Gräfenhainichen), who carried the same name. Another uncle, Siegmund v. Bora, husbanded a manor in Kieritzsch near Lippendorf until about 1521.

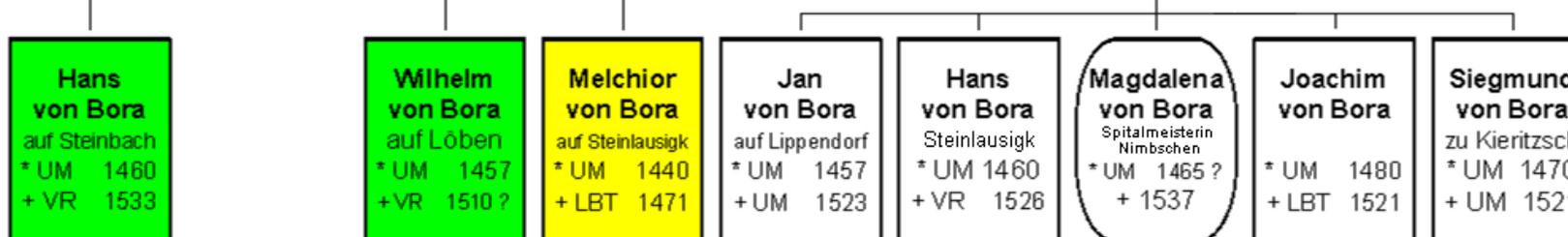
These paternal family relationships could explain why Catherina v. Bora was sent to the nunnery Brehna near Bitterfeld in 1505 to be educated at a boarding school. It could also be an answer to the question why she did not stay in Torgau in 1523 but travelled on to Wittenberg and received the "Erbdächlein" of the von Bora family in later years. This small farm property lay in Zöllsdorf near Kieritzsch which already became deserted in 1800 and is completely excavated and cleared today.

**Familie v.Bora
Haus Sahla**

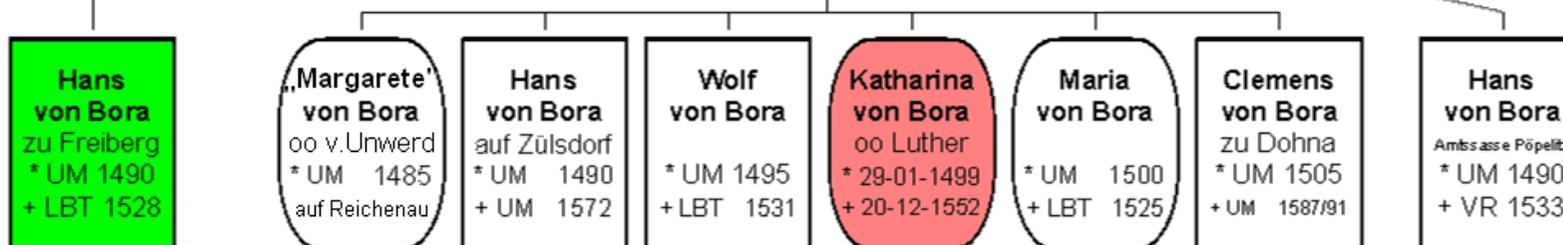
XI



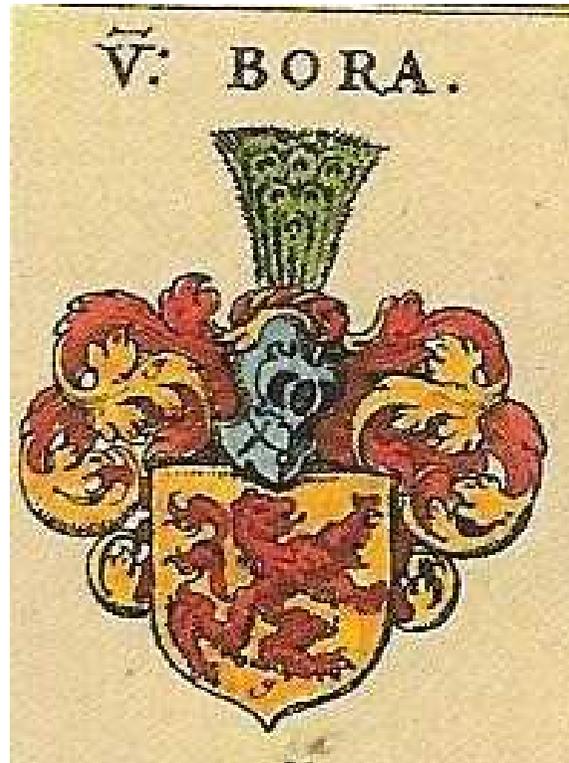
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XIII



XIV



11.03.2015

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