

Bavaria : Line 2



Description of Arms :

Quartely : 1st sable a lion rampant or, armed, langued and crowned gules (Palatine of the Rhine) ; 2nd parted per fesse dancetté gules and argent (Franconia) ; 3rd bendy sinister of six argent and gules a pale or (Burgau) ; 4th argent, a lion azure, armed and langued gules, crowned or (Veldenz) ; and over all an escutcheon of pretence, paly, bendy, argent and azure.
ou Ecartelé : aux 1 et 4, fuselé d'argent et 'azur ; aux 2 et 3, de sable à un lion d'or, couronné de même.

Principal Title : Duke in Bavaria.

Subsidiary Titles : Junior members of the family are known as Dukes and Duchesses in Bavaria, with the style of Royal Highness.

Family Name : Wittelsbach, Line 2.

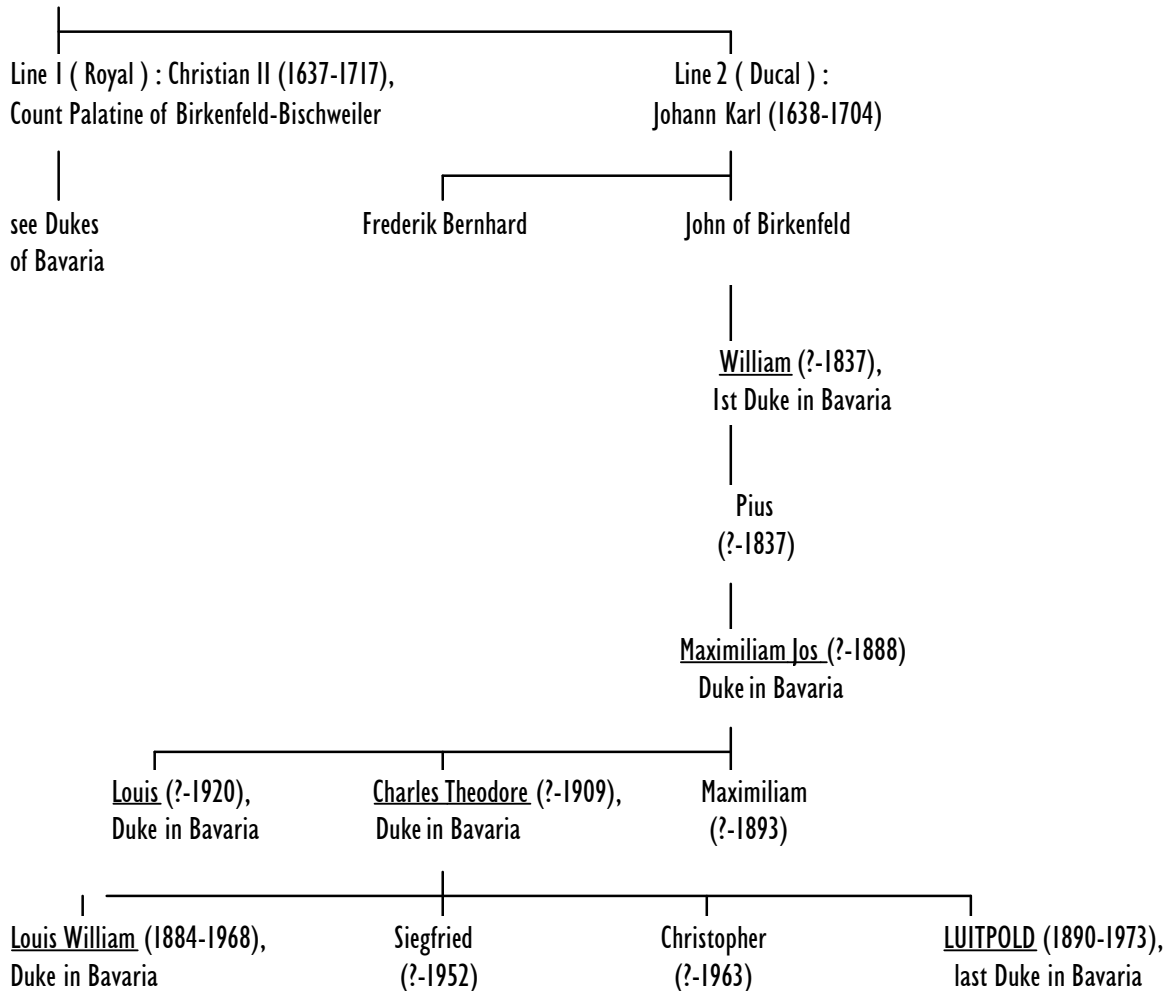
Family History : Extinct (1973).

Way back at the start of the X Century, a Count von Scheyern, Duke of Bavaria, was killed on the field of battle. In 1124, the family installed itself in the castle of Wittelsbach and it has been known by this name ever since. By 1180, the rank of Duke of Bavaria was confirmed by the emperor Frederick I Barbarossa, when Henry the Lion was deprived of his estates. His son added the county palatinate of the Rhine. In 1603, they became Electors. Then, as often happened with German families, various descendents shared out the Wittelsbach possessions. It was not until 1777, when the junior branch died out, that the land was reunified under Karl-Theodore, until then Count-Palatine of the Rhine. Without heirs, he left his territory to his cousin, Maximilian, Duke of Deux-Ponts. In all this time, both branches were Electors, some became Holy Roman Emperors, themselves, and one went to rule as King of Sweden in the XVII Century. Maximilian was recognised as King of Bavaria, in 1805, as a reward for his cooperative attitude towards Napoleon. He was succeeded by Ludwig I, notorious for his friendship with Lola Montes. By 1848, his curious behaviour forced his abdication. His eldest son, Maximilian II, succeeded in Bavaria, Otho, while the younger son went to rule in Greece.

Maximilian's passion for the arts was even more evident in his son Ludwig II, who succeeded in 1864. He also tried, in vain, to protect his kingdom from the growing ambitions of Prussia. Finally, they joined the Empire. Ludwig is known for the many dream-castles, which he built in his realm, and for his growing mental instability. He drowned himself, following a bad report from his doctors, to be succeeded by his brother, Otho. Also unstable, Otho was deposed in 1913, to be followed by his cousin Ludwig III. Although he lost his crown, in 1918, many Bavarians seemed not to have noticed. Particularly was this true of his son, Field Marshal Crown Prince Rupprecht. Venerated by his people, he was usually treated

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Christian I (1598-1654),
Count Palatine of Birkenfeld-Bischweiler



as monarch, even to the extent of having all Bills sent for initialing by Parliament. Bavaria remains fiercely independent and just might, one day, seek autonomy in the European Union.