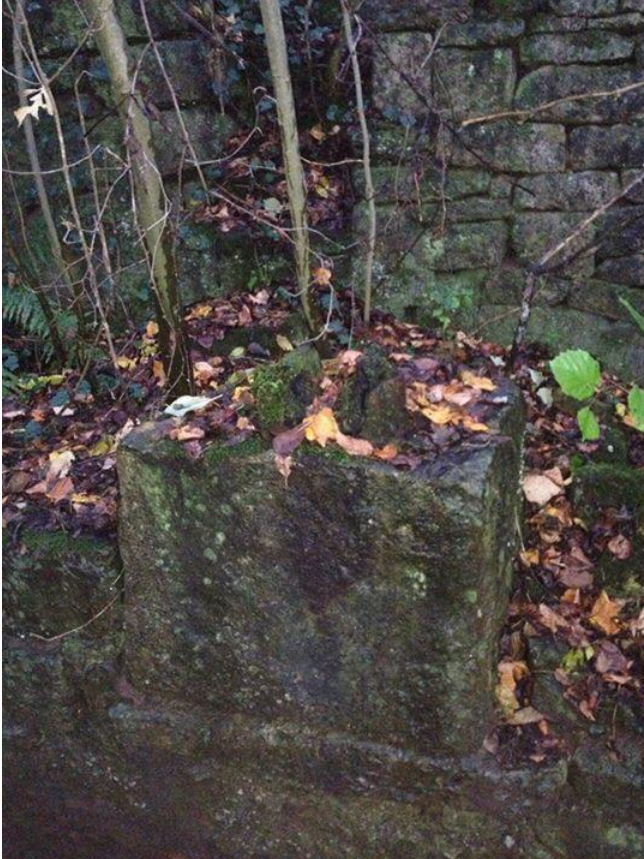


Scheinhardsmühle



The Nassauer Bach at the site of the Scheinhardsmühle.

In 2013 my parents, brother, and I visited the remains of the mill, Scheinhardsmühle, where Anna Maria Kiesecker was born, the mother of my 3rd great-grandfather, Johann Friedrich Fechser. The Kiesecker's were millers at Scheinhardsmühle. Johann F. Fechser was for a time apprenticed to his Uncle Michael Kiesecker there, learning the miller trade. He went on to apprentice elsewhere and became a journeyman and a master. When he later immigrated to Utah, he became a prosperous miller in Mt. Pleasant. Johann Friedrich was born in 1825 in Nassau, which can be seen from the site of this mill, just a kilometer or so to the north. His parents were Johann Georg Fechser and Anna Maria Kiesecker. His father was born in Weikersheim, just a couple of kilometers south, home to Fechser's for at least 300 years.



Here is the site of the old mill wheel. Here you can see a foundation stone, with a metal casing bolted on top, and the remains of a wooden bushing. The axle of the water wheel would have lain where the casing and bushing are. Below is a stone ditch, the mill race, where the water from the wheel fell and was channeled back to the river to the west.

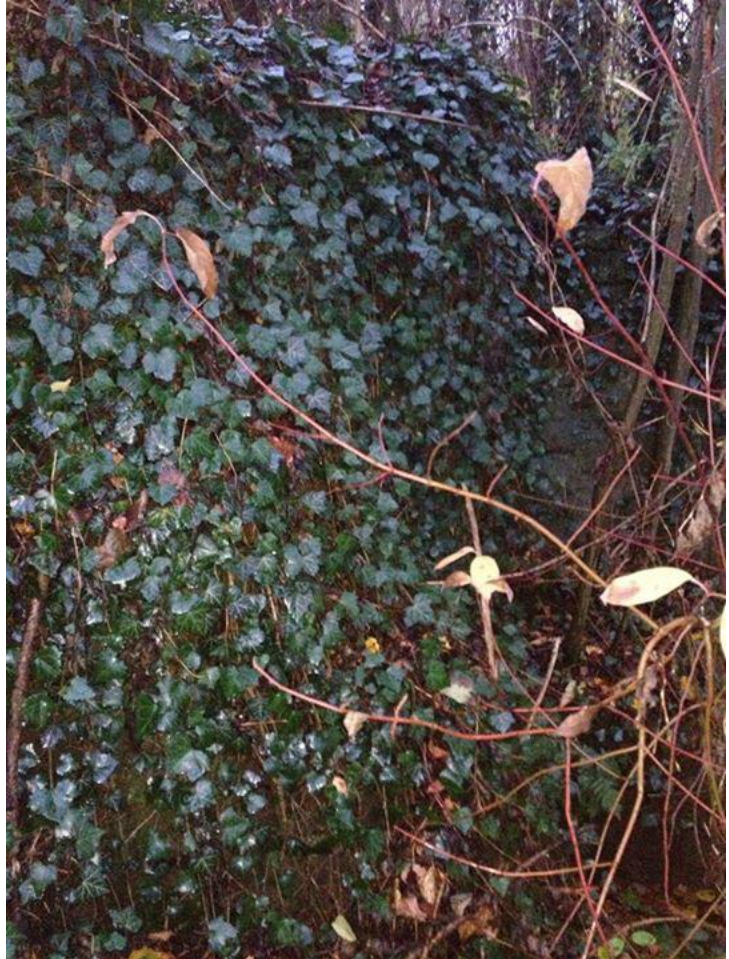


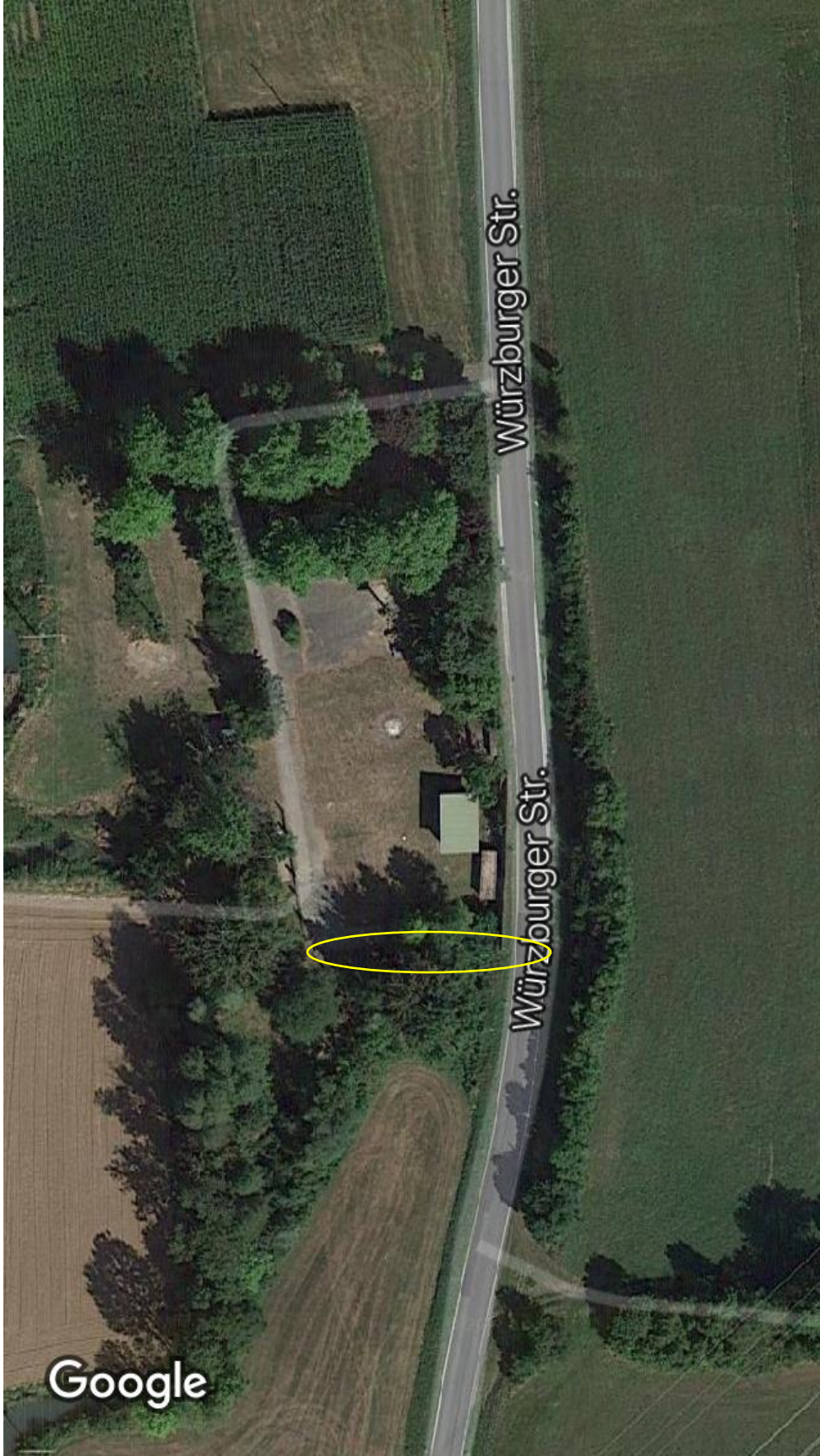
Close up of the spot where the axle would have turned for the water wheel at the mill.



Another view of where the water wheel was located, with the mill race ditch below. The water was diverted from the river a half kilometer or so upstream so that it came out at the top of a wall that is behind me in this picture. There would have been a wooden trough coming out from the ditch at the top of that wall to a spot above the wheel, enabling it to turn.

Covered with ivy, this is the wall where the water came up to connect to a trough where it spilled down over the water wheel. The water was diverted to the top of this wall from about a 1/2 km upstream. The stone wall can be seen when the ivy is pulled back.





Aerial view of the mill location. The mill race is under the trees on the south end of the triangular area, circled in yellow.



Map showing the location of the Scheinhardsmühle, north of Weikersheim, between Schäftersheim and Nassau.