

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-38692-0 - Property, Production, and Family in Neckarhausen, 1700-1870

David Warren Sabean

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Cambridge Studies in Social and Cultural Anthropology

Editors: Jack Goody, Stephen Gudeman,
Michael Herzfeld, Jonathan Parry

73

PROPERTY, PRODUCTION, AND
FAMILY IN NECKARHAUSEN, 1700–1870

*For other titles in the Cambridge Studies in Social and Cultural
Anthropology series, turn to page 512.*

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-38692-0 - Property, Production, and Family in Neckarhausen, 1700-1870

David Warren Sabean

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Property, production, and family in Neckarhausen, 1700–1870

DAVID WARREN SABEAN

Cornell University



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-38692-0 - Property, Production, and Family in Neckarhausen, 1700-1870

David Warren Sabean

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

PUBLISHED BY THE PRESS SYNDICATE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE
The Pitt Building, Trumpington Street, Cambridge CB2 1RP, United Kingdom

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS
The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 2RU, United Kingdom
40 West 20th Street, New York, NY 10011-4211, USA
10 Stamford Road, Oakleigh, Melbourne 3166, Australia

© Cambridge University 1990

This book is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and
to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements,
no reproduction of any part may take place without
the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 1990
Reprinted 1997

Printed in the United States of America

Typeset in Ehrhardt

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloguing-in-Publication Data is available

ISBN 0-521-38538-5 hardback
ISBN 0-521-38692-6 paperback

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-38692-0 - Property, Production, and Family in Neckarhausen, 1700-1870

David Warren Sabean

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

This book is dedicated to
Mark, Emma, and Lucas

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-38692-0 - Property, Production, and Family in Neckarhausen, 1700-1870

David Warren Sabean

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Contents

<i>List of tables</i>	page ix
<i>Abbreviations</i>	xii
<i>Abbreviations of sources</i>	xiii
<i>Weights, measures, and coinage</i>	xiv
<i>On reading kinship diagrams</i>	xv
<i>Glossary</i>	xvi
<i>Preface</i>	xxi
Introduction	i
1 Productive forces and social differentiation	38
2 Magistrates and records	66
3 The ideology of the house	88
4 Patterns of marital conflict	124
5 The changing context of production	147
6 Marital relations in the context of production	163
7 Marital estate	183
8 State and estate	208
9 Marital fund	223
10 Generational transition	247
11 Reciprocities of labor and property	259
12 Reciprocities in parent–child relations	300
13 Authority, solidarity, and abuse	321
14 Family charges on the transfer of property	341
15 The real estate market	355
16 Kinship and the sale of property	371
Conclusion	416
<i>Appendix</i>	433
<i>Bibliography</i>	481
<i>Index</i>	491

Tables

1.1	Population in Neckarhausen, 1620–1869	<i>page</i> 41
1.2	Requests at the annual assembly for wood for building stalls and cribs	60
1.3	Index of average tax bill by occupation	63
1.4	Average individual share of wealth by occupation	63
4.1	Frequency of marital conflict cases before local courts	125
4.2	Initiator of complaint in cases of marital conflict	125
4.3	Age of spouses and duration of marriage, first time before the courts	126
4.4	Frequency of divorce requests in local courts	126
4.5	Overall nature of complaints in cases of marital conflict	130
4.6	Specific complaints by husbands in cases of marital conflict	131
4.7	Specific complaints by wives in cases of marital conflict	132
4.8	Male violence – parts of the body struck	134
4.9	Male violence – weapons	134
4.10	Scolding and violence in cases of marital conflict	136
4.11	Terms of abuse used by spouses in the eighteenth century	142
4.12	Terms of abuse used by spouses in the nineteenth century	144
5.1	Ratio of men to women over 14 in Neckarhausen	153
6.1	Frequency of demand for divorce or separation in local court records	164
6.2	Frequency distribution of couples involved in divorce: husband's occupation	165
6.3	Frequency distribution of couples involved in divorce: position in tax lists	165
6.4	Percentage of marital cases in which husband's drinking mentioned	175
7.1	Frequency of wills in Neckarhausen	203
9.1	Wife's percentage of the marital fund by period, 1640–1759	226
9.2	Wife's percentage of the marital fund by position of couple in tax list, 1640–1759	227
9.3	Wife's percentage of the marital fund by occupation of husband, 1640–1759	228
9.4	Wife's percentage of the marital fund by size of <i>Heiratsgut</i> , 1640–1759	229
9.5	Wife's percentage of the marital fund by residence, 1640–1759	230
9.6	Wife's percentage of the marital fund by marital order, 1640–1759	230
9.7	Wife's percentage of the marital fund by period, 1760–1859	241
9.8	Wife's percentage of the marital fund by position of couple in the tax lists, 1760–1859	241
9.9	Wife's percentage of the marital fund by husband's occupation, 1760–1859	242

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-38692-0 - Property, Production, and Family in Neckarhausen, 1700-1870

David Warren Sabean

Frontmatter

[More information](#)*Tables*

9.10	Wife's percentage of the marital fund by size of husband's <i>Heiratsgut</i> , 1760–1859	242
9.11	Wife's percentage of the marital fund by size of wife's <i>Heiratsgut</i> , 1760–1859	242
9.12	Wife's percentage of the marital fund by residence, 1760–1859	242
9.13	Wife's percentage of the marital fund by marital order, 1760–1859	243
9.14	Wife's percentage of the marital fund, all remarriages	244
10.1	Inheritance of houses when assumed by one of a group of siblings of mixed sex	254
10.2	Percentage of total tax paid by various age groups of male Bürger	256
10.3	Distribution of mean tax per male Bürger by age group	256
12.1	Marriage inventories: frequency of farms with various items of agricultural equipment by number of parcels agricultural land	303
12.2	Postmortem inventories: frequency of distribution of farms with various items of agricultural equipment by number of parcels	304
12.3	Occupations of Jerg Bauknecht and descendants	317
14.1	Life annuities, five selected decades	343
14.2	Conditional sales of real property, selected decades	351
14.3	Frequency of redemptions, selected decades	354
15.1	Frequency of sales and exchanges of real estate among villagers and with outsiders, selected decades	357
15.2	Frequency of sales of real estate by type, selected decades	357
15.3	Frequency of real estate sales to women	359
15.4	Arable land market from selected decades	361
15.5	Price per Morgen arable, 1821–30	366
16.1	Sales of real estate from selected decades, sample size	372
16.2	Kinship relations between buyers and sellers, 1700–1709	374
16.3	Kinship relations between exchange partners, 1700–1709	375
16.4	Sales and exchanges: kinship relations, 1700–1709	375
16.5	Sales and exchanges between parties linked through godparents, 1700–1709	383
16.6	Kinship relations between buyers and sellers, 1740–9	385
16.7	Kinship relations between exchange partners, 1740–9	387
16.8	Sales and exchanges: kinship relations, 1740–9	387
16.9	Cousin connections between buyers and sellers, 1740–9	388
16.10	Sales and exchanges between parties linked through godparents, 1740–9	389
16.11	Kinship relations between buyers and sellers, 1780–9	392
16.12	Cousin connections between buyers and sellers, 1780–9	396
16.13	Sales between parties linked through godparents	397
16.14	Kinship relations between buyers and sellers, 1820–9	402
16.15	Cousin connections between buyers and sellers, 1820–9	405
16.16	Kinship relations between buyers and sellers, 1760–9	406
16.17	Kin-related sales for five cohorts	407
16.18	Generational plane of buyers and sellers having kinship to each other, five cohorts	408
16.19	Cousin connections between buyers and sellers, 1860–9	409
16.20	Sales to sons, sons-in-law, brothers, and brothers-in-law	409

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-38692-0 - Property, Production, and Family in Neckarhausen, 1700-1870

David Warren Sabean

Frontmatter

[More information](#)*Tables*

A.1	Total income from the commonland fruit harvest	437
A.2	Pay of agricultural specialists	438
A.3	Wages of village protection officers	439
A.4	Sale of wood in Neckarhausen	440
A.5	Average crop production in the Oberamt Nürtingen, 1850-9	443
A.6	Percentage of field crops found in inventories	446
A.7	Percentage value of grain, hay, and straw found in inventories	447
A.8	Number of animals listed in inventories	447
A.9	Percentage of animals in inventories	447
A.10	Animal population in Neckarhausen from periodic censuses	448
A.11	Percentage of animals in censuses	448
A.12	Land use in Neckarhausen	449
A.13	Amount of potatoes per inventory	452
A.14	Incidence of stealing	453
A.15	Distribution of wealth	454
A.16	Occupations from all sources for men on the 1710 tax list	459
A.17	Tax by occupation, 1710	460
A.18	Distribution of occupations by tax bracket, 1710	460
A.19	Occupations from all sources for men on the 1790 tax list	461
A.20	Tax by occupation, 1790	462
A.21	Distribution of occupations by tax bracket, 1790	463
A.22	Occupations from all sources for men on the 1870 tax list	464
A.23	Tax by occupation, 1870	465
A.24	Distribution of occupations by tax bracket, 1870	466
A.25	Relation between holdings in land and buildings by occupation, 1870	467
A.26	Occupations listed and valued in the tax register, 1870	468
A.27	Male Bürger tax distribution by age, 1710	479
A.28	Male Bürger tax distribution by age, 1790	480
A.29	Male Bürger tax distribution by age, 1870	480

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-38692-0 - Property, Production, and Family in Neckarhausen, 1700-1870

David Warren Sabean

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Abbreviations

D	Döte/Dote
G	Gevatter(in)
GRTZ	Grötzingen
fl.	Gulden
kr.	Kreutzer
M.	Morgen
NH	Neckarhausen
NTLF	Neckartailfingen
NRTG	Nürtingen
OBENSG	Oberensingen
RDWG	Raidwangen
x	Kreutzer

Dates are given in the form: day, month, year: 12.1.1832: 12 January 1832.

Abbreviations of sources

Communordnung	Ordnung für die Communen, auch deren Vorstehere und Bediente in dem Herzogthum Württemberg (1758), in Reyscher, vol. 14, pp. 537–777
Gericht	Gerichts- und Gemeinderatsprotocolle, Neckarhausen
STAL	Staatsarchiv Ludwigsburg
HSAS	Hauptstaatsarchiv Stuttgart
Kirchenkonvent	Kirchenkonventsprotocolle, Neckarhausen
LKA	Landeskirchliches Archiv Stuttgart
Nürtingen	
Stadtgericht	Stadtgerichtsprotocolle, Nürtingen
Oberamtsgericht	Nürtingen Oberamtsgerichts protocolle, STAL
Reyscher	August Ludwig Reyscher, ed., <i>Vollständige, historisch und kritisch bearbeitete Sammlung der württembergischen Geseze</i> , 19 vols. (Stuttgart and Tübingen, 1828–51)
Schultheißenamt	Schultheißenamtsprotocolle, Neckarhausen
Vogtruggericht	Vogtruggerichtsprotocolle, Neckarhausen
Beschreibung	
Nürtingen	Königliche statistisch-topographischer Bureau, <i>Beschreibung des Oberamts Nürtingen</i> (Stuttgart and Tübingen, 1848)

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-38692-0 - Property, Production, and Family in Neckarhausen, 1700-1870

David Warren Sabean

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Weights, measures, and coinage

Land

1 Morgen = 0.78 acre = 0.32 hectare

1 Jauchert, 1 Mannsmahd, 1 Tagwerk = 1.5 Morgen = 0.47 hectare

1 Viertel = 0.25 Morgen

Cubic measure

Grain: 1 Scheffel = 8 Simri = 1.77 hectoliters

Wine: 1 Imi = 16.7 liters

Hay: Wannen

Straw, willow wands: Buschel

Weights

1 Pfund = 467.59 grams = 0.97 pounds

Coinage

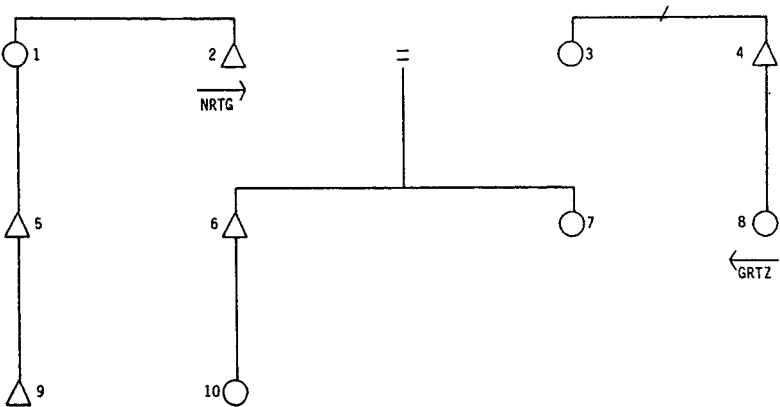
1 Gulden (fl.) = 60 Kreuzer (kr., x)

1 Pfennig = 2 heller (h.)

1 Pfund pfennig = 43 Kreuzer

On reading kinship diagrams

△	male	$\frac{\bar{\quad}}{x}$	no surviving children
○	female	┌───┐	descent
□	person(s) of either sex	┌───┐	step-relationship
△ ⊗ ⊠	deceased	→	immigrant
=	marriage	←	emigrant
≠	divorce		



- 6 is 5's MBS (mother's brother's son)
- 7 is 6's Z (sister)
- 8 is 7's MxBD (mother's step-brother's daughter)
- 3 is 2's W (wife)
- 5 and 6 are first cousins (*Vettern*)
- 6 and 9 are first cousins once removed
- 9 and 10 are second cousins
- 2 immigrated to Neckarhausen from Nürtingen
- 8 emigrated to Grötzingen

Glossary

German words are italicized when they occur for the first time in the volume and italicized in block quotations (or put into roman type in italicized passages) when attention is focused on their use.

- Abrede** agreement, arrangement
Acker arable
Actuar accountant, clerk
allatum endowment, personal possessions
Allmendeteil commonland portion
Amt bureau
Amtmann officer, official, administrator
Amtschreiber district clerk
Amtstadt district capital
Arbeitslohn wage, fee for services
Ausding retirement annuity
Auslöser one who redeems property
Bauer agricultural producer, peasant, local inhabitant with sufficient land and equipment to be obligated to certain types of *corvée* labor
Bauerlohn fee or wage for plowing or harrowing
Bauernbefreiung peasant enfranchisement, emancipation
Bauerngeschirr agricultural apparatus, gear
Baumwiese orchard-meadow
Befehlbuch copybook of mandates, edicts, and orders
Beibringen marriage portion, endowment
Beisitzer legal inhabitant of a locality without citizenship rights; can enjoy only “water and air” free
Bürger enfranchised member of a locality, citizen
Bürgerausschuß committee representing inhabitants of a locality
Bürgermeister chief financial officer of a locality
Bürgerrecht citizenship, full rights in a locality
Bürgerschaft citizens of a locality
Bürgschaft pledge, bond, surety
conferieren to return a marriage endowment to an estate

Glossary

- Dekan** deacon, ecclesiastical district administrator, superintendent
Dorfschütz bailiff, peace officer of a village
Dote godmother (relation to child)
Döte godfather (relation to child)
Dötle godchild
Ehegericht marriage court
Ehepact marriage contract
Ehepredecessor marital predecessor (spouse's previous spouse)
Ehesuccessor marital successor (spouse's subsequent spouse)
Ehevogt marital guardian, overseer, governor (office held by husband)
Eigentum personal or owned property, possessions
Einbringen marriage portion, endowment
Einbuß loss
Errungenschaft acquisitions
Errungenschaftsgesellschaft community of acquisitions
Fahrnis movables
Feld furlong, partition in a field (Zelg)
Flachsland strip devoted to cultivation of flax
Freieigenes freehold
Fuhrgeschirr wagon apparatus, gear
Fuhrlohn freight charge, fee or wage for carrying services
Gemeindepfleger village financial officer
Gemeinderat local council
Gericht court
Gerichtsbuch volume of court minutes
Gerichtsverwandte justices of the court
Geschlechtsvormundschaft gender tutelage
Gevatter(in) godfather (mother) (relation to parents)
Gleichstellung equalization; establishing heirs on an equal footing
Gült rent paid in kind
Gültlösung redemption of land sold outside a rental unit
Güterübergabe property devolution
Güterbuch cadaster, register of real property
Hanfland strip devoted to cultivation of hemp
Hauptrecht death duty, laudemium
Haus house
Hausbuch household ledger
hausen live together, be married, get along, do well, be diligent
Hausgenossen members of a household
Haushalter householder
Haushaltung household, economy
Hausherr head of a household
hausieren colporting
Hausleute tenants

Glossary

Heiratsgut	marriage portion, endowment
Herrschaft	lordship, authority, domination, dominion, rule, power; domain, seignior
Inventarier	member of an inventory commission
Inventuren	marriage inventories
Kaufbuch	register of real estate sales
Kirchenkonvent	church consistory
Knechtdienst	farmhand service
Konventsrichter	church consistory elder
Kriegsfrau	court ward (woman); correlative to <i>Kriegsvogt</i>
Kriegsvogt	curator ad litem; court guardian, overseer, protector
Land	strip outside of arable rotation
Landrecht	law code
Landschaft	estates general, parliament
legitima	<i>Pflichtteil</i> , obligatory portion
Leibgeding	retirement annuity
Leibrente	life annuity
Liegenschaft	immovable property
Losung	redemption
Losungsrecht	right to or law of redemption
Loszettel	lists of goods to be drawn by lot
Ludimagister	village schoolmaster; literally, singing master
Markklosung	redemption of land sold outside of village
Markung	village territory
Mundtod	incompetent, in state of civil death
mütterliches	maternal inheritance
Nachlaß	inheritance, estate
Nachthut	night watchman
Oberamt	district
Oberamtman	district administrator
Oberamtsbeschreibung	district gazetteer
Oberamtsgericht	district court
Oberamtsstadt	district capital
Pactum	contract
Parzellenbauer	peasant farmer with a few small plots
Pfleger	curator, guardian, overseer, protector
Pflichtteil	<i>legitima</i> , obligatory portion
Pfand	pledge, mortgage, security
Pfandgesetz	law of pledging, mortgage, security
Pförc	sheepfold
Pförc	receipts from sheepfolding
Pförc	sheepfold administrator
Presser	marshal, debt collector
Rat	council; member of council

Glossary

- Rechnungen** accounts
retrait lignager redemption of property sold outside the family line or kin group
Richter justice, member of the court (Gericht)
Ruggericht periodic assembly; court of accusation
Schreiber clerk
Schreiberei clerk's office
Schreiberamt district clerk's office
Schultheiß chief administrator of a village
Schultheißamt bureau of the Schultheiss
Schultheißenamtsprotocolle protocol volume of the office of the Schultheiss
Skortationsprotocolle protocol volume of fornication cases
Spinnstube spinning bee
Stammtisch table reserved for regulars
Steuerbuch tax register
Stube sitting room
Substitut underclerk
Superintendent ecclesiastical district administrator, deacon, superintendent
Teilung estate division or partition
traditio bonorum property devolution
Unteramt local bureau
Untergang boundaries commission
Unterpfund mortgage, pledge
Unterpfundsbuch register of mortgages and pledges
väterliches paternal inheritance
Vergleich settlement, compromise
Vermögen property, wealth
Vermögenstradition property devolution
Vogt representative, guardian; chief regional official
Vogtruggericht periodic court of visitation by district administrator
Voraus preferential portion
Waisengericht justice of the orphans' court
Waldmeister forest administrator
Wasen grassland
Weide pasture
Weingarten vineyard
Wiese meadow
Wohnstube sitting room, parlor
Zelg field (of a three-field system)
Zins money rent
Zinslosung redemption of land sold outside a rental unit
Zubringen marriage portion, endowment

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-38692-0 - Property, Production, and Family in Neckarhausen, 1700-1870

David Warren Sabean

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Preface

This book has taken shape in discussion with many people. In 1968, as I was searching for ways to extend the questions about family dynamics and social change first raised in my dissertation on the Peasant War of 1525, I had the benefit of many talks with several anthropology colleagues at the University of East Anglia. Christopher Turner, Robert Groves, and George Bond encouraged me to think in terms of a village study. I spent many hours discussing my plans with Morley Cooper and began a debate with him about the usefulness of anthropology for historical study. At that time, I also met Jack and Esther Goody, who made it possible several years later for me to spend a year in Cambridge reading the literature on kinship. Jack read the final manuscript and made many helpful suggestions.

During the early 1970s, I had the good fortune to be at the University of Pittsburgh, which was one of the great centers of methodological innovation in social history. Sam Hays set the standards for conceptual work, and Larry Glasco encouraged me to computerize the records from Neckarhausen. Discussions with members of the peasant studies group at Pittsburgh, and with Jonathan Levine, the editor of *Historical Methods*, were important for formulating the project. Sandy Dumin and Ella Jacobs keypunched and verified all of the parish register forms in record time and with professional care. Eva Savol and Raymond Monahan prepared some of the tax records and inventories for keypunching by Lena Crnovic.

In 1976, I went to the Max-Planck-Institut für Geschichte in Göttingen on sabbatical and stayed for seven years. The director, Professor Rudolf Vierhaus, provided superb working conditions and presided over one of the most creative centers for innovative historical work in Germany. I benefited considerably from Peter Kriedte's extensive knowledge of agrarian history. Alf Lüdtke directed my attention to the issues of *Herrschaft*. Jürgen Schlumbohn discussed theoretical and methodological issues with me and commented incisively on everything I wrote over the many years. He also introduced me to the bewildering varieties of bread available in Göttingen. My study of Neckarhausen owes most to daily – almost hourly – conversations with Hans Medick, whose patience knew no bounds. We discussed at high intensity our respective Swabian villages, anthropological history, the perspective of “everyday life,” issues

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-38692-0 - Property, Production, and Family in Neckarhausen, 1700-1870

David Warren Sabean

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Preface

of practice, and just as important, the culinary ins-and-outs of Göttingen, Stuttgart, Laichingen, Paris, and London. Loli Diehl and Gerlinde Müller prepared the difficult and complex inventories for computerization, and Kornelia Menne entered the protocols and inventories on the terminal. The computerization of the Neckarhausen material was made possible by the historical data base system “Kleio” developed by Manfred Thaller, without which the study would have been impossible. Manfred is one of the pioneers in developing relational data bases for complex, nonstandardized historical sources.

The Max-Planck-Institut was host to a number of people who were important for my thinking at various stages of research: David Gaunt, David Levine, Jonathan Knudsen, Vanessa Maher, Gerald Sider, and Robert Berdahl. David Levine read and commented on the first draft and made me think through all of my assumptions once again. Several members of the continuing seminar on family history and the Round Table in Anthropology and History discussed various aspects of family and kinship with me: Barbara Duden, Michael Mitterauer, Heidi Rosenbaum, Karin Hausen, and Regina Schulte. Especially useful for aspects of Württemberg history have been talks with Carola Lipp and Wolfgang Kaschuba. William Reddy, who was a welcome guest at the institute, read every word of the manuscript and an early draft of the next one and offered a thoughtful and encouraging critique. During my last stay in 1989, I received useful comments from Gadi Algazi, Michaela Hohkamp, and Peter Becker.

Over the years, I have been graciously received at the Württembergisches Hauptstaatsarchiv in Stuttgart and in the Staatsarchiv in Ludwigsburg. They both continue to provide excellent working conditions for the practical historian. Dr. Dietrich Schäfer at the Landeskirchlichesarchiv made it possible for me to have the parish archival material microfilmed. Several people in Neckarhausen have offered me a great deal of assistance. When I started, Bürgermeister Schwarz gave me permission to use the sources in the Rathaus, and Gemeindepfleger Hagenlocher arranged to let me have them microfilmed. The present Gemeindevorsteher, Willi Knapp, has continued to provide access and microfilming privileges and has kindly helped me gain access to the material. A number of villagers consented to let me interview them, and their comments provided valuable insights into the historical life of the community.

During my years at the University of California, Los Angeles, several colleagues read the manuscript and offered comments. Scott Waugh, a kindred spirit, encouraged me to keep the details. Bill Clark fought for lucidity. Stanley Engerman from the University of Rochester read a draft of several chapters and sent me his detailed comments.

Carola Lipp and Isabel Hull kindly spent a day in Neckarhausen taking photographs for me, and Gilbert Shapiro furnished the picture looking toward the Alb from the arable fields. The maps were drawn by Henry Gayley.

Over the years, Frank Smith has been a very encouraging and patient editor.

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-38692-0 - Property, Production, and Family in Neckarhausen, 1700-1870

David Warren Sabean

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Preface

Vicky Macintyre thought her way into the manuscript and rescued me from many inconsistencies and a plodding style.

My three children have lived with this book most of their lives. It is responsible in one way or another for their sense of humor, and their mother has only too willingly encouraged their wisecracks. They each wanted their own personal book for dedication but, given my track record, I think it best to collect them here. Ruth deserves another, but she, too, will have to be patient.

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-38692-0 - Property, Production, and Family in Neckarhausen, 1700-1870

David Warren Sabean

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Philology is that venerable art which demands one thing above all from its worshipper, to go aside, to take one's time, to become silent, to become slow –, as a goldsmith's art and connoisseurship of the word, which has to execute nothing but fine delicate work and which achieves nothing if it does not achieve it lento. Just that it is what makes it more necessary today than ever, just by this it attracts and charms us most in the midst of an age of "work," i.e. of haste, of indecent and sweating hurry which wants "to have done" with everything in a moment, with any old and new book too: – while itself it is not so easily at an end; it teaches to read well; that means to read slowly, deeply, with consideration and carefully, with reservations, with open doors, and with delicate fingers and eyes.

Friedrich Nietzsche, *Morgenröte*

When beginning an investigation, one needs to construct methodological guidelines, not definitions. It is essential above all to get the feel of the actual subject matter – the object under investigation; it is essential to separate it from the reality surrounding it and to make a preliminary delimitation of it. At the outset of an investigation, it is not so much the intellectual faculty for making formulas and definitions that leads the way, but rather it is the eyes and hands attempting to get the feel of the actual presence of the subject matter.

Vološinov/Bakhtin, *Marxism and the Philosophy of Language*