FACT SHEET · PDF · VOLUME 01

1762 at a glance

The key dates, people and connections surrounding Carl's birth.

ONE YEAR AS A CROSSROADS
1762 is more than Carl's birth year. War, authority, forest, mining history and his family's living conditions meet here directly.

Key facts

Fact	In brief
30 September 1762	Birth of Carl Heinrich Stilpner in Scharfenstein; Pietzonka's chronology gives four o'clock in the afternoon.
1756–1763	Seven Years' War. Saxony has been occupied and heavily burdened by Prussian troops since 1756.
Scharfenstein	Carl's birthplace in the Zschopau valley, at the foot of Scharfenstein Castle.
Johann Christoph Stilpner	Carl's father; documented by Pietzonka as a mill worker, shoemaker and small householder.
Marie Sophie Stilpner, née Schuberth	Carl's mother; born in Scharfenstein in 1718.
1745	According to Pietzonka, Carl's parents buy a house, garden and a piece of high forest on the castle hill for 26 talers.
Black Hussars	Belling's black hussar corps is documented in the regional wartime setting; the specific Stilpner episode is traditional.
1168	Discovery of silver near Christiansdorf/Freiberg – the starting point for centuries of mining influence in the Ore Mountains.
1527	The name “Erzgebirge” is first documented in mining records.
1713	Hans Carl von Carlowitz publishes “Sylvicultura oeconomica” – a key text in early forestry.

Carl's immediate world

HOME A small householder's property in the Gänsewinkel; the family owns a garden and a piece of high forest.

WORK Mill work, shoemaking, agriculture, forest work and additional livelihoods shape the possibilities of modest families.

AUTHORITY Manorial, forest and hunting rights determine who may use forest and game, and how.

WAR Billeting, contributions, plundering and troop movements burden Saxony and the Ore Mountains.

LANDSCAPE Castle hill, River Zschopau, forest and limited farmland lie close together in Scharfenstein.

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LEGACY More than 500 years of mining history have already shaped the landscape, technology, settlements and working culture of the Ore Mountains.

How certain is it?

Mark	Meaning	Example from Volume 01
●	historical	Carl's birth in 1762; the war; the Black Hussars as a unit and in the regional setting
○	traditional	Carl's mother is led towards Zschopau by hussars; Carl is later found in the smoke-filled room
✦	artistic	Dialogue, exact dramatic sequence and the literary construction of the rescue

The one connection to remember

Carl is born into a world in which **forest, work, authority and war** are not separate subjects. Together, they determine how a family in the Ore Mountains can live.

Sources & evidence

Selection of evidence used for this sheet. Status: September 2026.

• Johannes Pietzonka: Karl Stülpner - Legende und Wirklichkeit, 2nd ed., Sachsenbuch 2006.

• Montanregion Erzgebirge/Krušnohoří: mining history.

• Sächsische Biografie / ISGV: Hans Carl von Carlowitz.

• History of Saxony: Saxony in the Seven Years' War.

• ISGV Image Archive and Scharfenstein Castle: surviving traces in Scharfenstein.

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