SOURCE SHEET · PDF · VOLUME 01

Sources and original passages for Volume 01

The key historical evidence, traditions and literature – clearly separating documentation from storytelling.

HOW WE READ SOURCES
Not everything told about Carl Stülpner is equally well documented. Carl & Strups therefore distinguishes between ● historical, ○ traditional and ✦ artistic. This sheet shows the chain of evidence behind the central motifs of Volume 01.

1 · Carl's birth

● **HISTORICAL**

Pietzonka's chronology gives 30 September 1762 for Carl Heinrich Stilpner and records the time of birth as four o'clock in the afternoon. In the biographical text, he places the birth in Scharfenstein – before the end of the Seven Years' War.

2 · The Stilpner/Stülpner family

● **HISTORICAL**

Pietzonka places the family among farmers, small householders and craftsmen in villages around Zschopau. Carl's father Johann Christoph, born in Krumhermersdorf in 1720, later appears in Scharfenstein as a mill worker, shoemaker and small householder. Pietzonka explicitly rejects the claim that he was a district forester as a fable. Carl's mother Marie Sophie, née Schuberth, was born in Scharfenstein in 1718. Pietzonka records the purchase of a house, garden and a piece of high forest on the castle hill in 1745.

3 · Black Hussars in the region

● **HISTORICAL**

Pietzonka gives concrete evidence for the burden of war in the immediate region: Prussian quarters in Zschopau from September 1756, excesses by hussars in Großolbersdorf in 1761, and a report by the pastor of Schönbrunn concerning Belling's black hussar corps shortly before peace was proclaimed in 1763. This establishes Black Hussars and their activity in the regional setting. It does not automatically prove every later story about hussars in the Stilpner household.

4 · Carl's mother is forced to guide the riders

○ **TRADITIONAL**

Pietzonka explicitly attributes this episode to the Stülpner biographer Schönberg: a troop of Prussian Black Hussars is said to have forced Carl's mother to guide the riders to Zschopau. When she returned, the room was reportedly full of smoke and the infant Carl lay half suffocated in his cradle.

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5 · The specific scene in the book

✦ ARTISTIC

Dialogue, exact movements, the development of the smoke, Carl's perceptions, Strups' actions and the dramatic staging are literary construction. They make the traditional core of the story accessible to children, but are not presented as historical transcripts.

IMPORTANT
For Volume 01, the hussar episode is treated as tradition, not as evidence equivalent to a church register entry or contemporary military record. That distinction strengthens the story: we show what is known – and just as clearly where tradition begins.

6 · What Volume 01 can therefore state

Statement	Classification
Carl was born in Scharfenstein on 30 September 1762.	● historical
The region suffered under the Seven Years' War and Prussian troops.	● historical
Belling's Black Hussars are documented in the regional setting.	● historical
Carl's mother was led towards Zschopau by Black Hussars.	○ traditional – from Schönberg, reproduced by Pietzonka
Carl was then found half suffocated in a smoke-filled room.	○ traditional – part of the same narrative tradition
The exact rescue, dialogue and Strups' role.	✦ artistic construction

Working rule for the series

A good historical story does not need to pretend that every detail can be proven. It becomes more credible when documentation, tradition and artistic construction remain visibly distinct.

Sources & evidence

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

• Johannes Pietzonka: Karl Stülpner – Legende und Wirklichkeit, 2nd ed., Sachsenbuch 2006, pp. 14–17 and chronology pp. 72 ff. (pagination may vary by edition/OCR).

• Older source named by Pietzonka for the hussar episode: Stülpner biographer Schönberg. For a scholarly edition, the specific original publication should also be checked directly.

• Contemporary regional evidence cited by Pietzonka: diary of the pastor of Schönbrunn concerning Belling's black hussar corps around the peace settlement of 1763.

• History of Saxony: overview of Saxony's situation in the Seven Years' War, 1756–1763.

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