Amish Mennonites
in Tazewell County, Illinois
(INCLUDING WOODFORD COUNTY)

GENEALOGY
Part Two of Three

Genealogy and history of 93 families that came to Tazewell and Woodford Counties 1830-1856
Amish Mennonites in Tazewell County, Illinois

Above, an etching made from John M. Roberts' 1831 drawing of Peoria.

ON THE COVER, clockwise from upper left: Tazewell County, Illinois; Perlach castle (Ger. Schloss Perlachsoed) in Munich, home to Becklers and Burkeys; Bryan Nicklow with the Peter Ropp family Bible he rediscovered in 2006; the Christian Farny family Bible, photo courtesy of descendant Larry Ball; a mail mark from the packet ship Poland, 1835; a packet ship; and (center) a Bernese ducat from 1703.

TAZEWELL COUNTY IN 1833 (BOLD OUTLINE) AND TODAY (GRAY)


Because this text is posted online in a format identical to hard copies, page numbering starts from the cover (page 1).

Amish Mennonites in Tazewell County, Illinois
(including Woodford County)
Part Two of Three

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Schrock: Schrag of Wynigen

In the Bernese dialect Schrag describes a class of animal that has long legs, such as sheep, deer, horses, or cattle. As an occupational surname, Schrag would be comparable to what a midwestern farmer would call a 'livestock raiser'.

Our family of interest appears in the earliest Protestant Reformed records of Wynigen, a village in the rolling hills of the Emmental region of Canton Bern, 20 miles northeast of the city of Bern. It touches Burgdorf, the largest city in the region.

Wynigen’s church only preserved records after 1553, and we could not determine whether they came from a long-established family or were recent arrivals.

Wynigen was originally built around the castles of free knights in service to the counts of Kyburg. The Kyburg family was overthrown in the Burgdorf War in 1383-84. In 1406 their land was annexed, to be administered by appointees of the Council of Bern.

A village church existed in the 1100s. It was rebuilt in 1553, and then again in 1671. The original baptismal font from 1553 is still in place, though it has been supplemented with a newer one.

The ‘sorting out’ of family lines from church records is more difficult than usual for this community. In one year alone, 1628, plague killed at least 200 residents. A Totenrodel death register was not kept until 1672.

Schrags in the 17th century were generally associated either with Breitenegg, a hamlet four miles northeast of the village center; Mistelberg, a hamlet and farm two miles southeast of the village center; or Löuenberg, a hamlet and farm, now on the road Leumberg adjacent on the lower right side of Mistelberg farm. (Because of its appearance in thick quill handwriting, this was already being recorded as Löumberg by the mid-1600s).

On March 1, 1694 Löüemberg farm was sold by Hans Schrag (the husband of Maria Steffan) to Ulrich Wyss for 1,500 pounds. Weiss descendants still live on the property, while Mistelberg farm is still occupied by Schrags.

Three male Schrags are found in early records.

- Caspar Schrag appears on only one Wynigen entry, as a witness to the baptism of Hanns Schrag’s daughter Cathrin Dec. 20, 1577. He would have been at least 21 years of age, thus born before 1557, but may have been much older.

- Hanns Schrag. He was born before 1548. He first appears in Wynigen records as a witness to the baptism of Veren Jost May 16, 1568, when he would have been at least 21 years of age. He may have been a son or brother to Caspar.

- Ülli Schrag was born before 1585. He may have been a son to Caspar, or a son to Hanns. His baptism did not take place at Wynigen. Yet Ülli married and had children there. He appears as a witness on baptism entries in 1605 and 1607, yielding our estimate of his birth year. His descendants in the 1600s were associated with Mistelberg rather than Löuenberg. On Oct. 31, 1608 at Wynigen he married Elsbeth Wälchli. She was baptized at Wynigen April 7, 1589, a daughter of Martin Wälchli and Anna Mülimann. Their children include:
  1. Bendicht Schrag was baptized at Wynigen Jan. 12, 1612 (named for witness Bendicht Löuenberger).
  2. Maria Schrag was baptized at Wynigen Feb. 8, 1614.

Before 1623 Ülli remarried to Madlena Kilchmann. They resided at Niderösh (now Nideroesch) in Kirchberg, five miles southwest of Wynigen. Four of their children were baptized at Kirchberg. One of them, son Ulrich, became a prominent resident of Wynigen.

  3. Hans Schrag was baptized April 20, 1623, and died as an infant.
  4. Hans Schrag was baptized April 11, 1625.
  5. Ulrich Schrag was baptized Nov. 26, 1626 and died at Mistelberg May 31, 1700. On Aug. 24, 1646 at Wynigen he married Margret Wyss of Alchenstorf (touching the northwest corner of Wynigen, in the parish of Koppigen). She was baptized at Koppigen Aug. 3, 1620, a daughter of Felix Wyss and Catherine Löits. His death entry described him as 70 years of age, a Chorricter for 40 years. Their children baptized at Wynigen include:
    a. Petter Schrag was baptized June 18, 1648 (named for witness Petter Jost).

1 Later in Germany Schrag would also be thought of as an occupational description: someone who builds things with a Schrage or crossed wood, such as a cabinetmaker or tablemaker. It could also describe someone who lived in a house with the distinctive crossed beams of medieval half-timber construction.

2 Just above these farms is Ruine Grimmenstein. It is the foundation of a stone castle constructed in the 13th century to protect a trail leading 20 miles east to Willisau, Canton Lucerne. It survived the Burgdorf Wars because the garrison surrendered. It fell into decay after 1502.
b. Barbara Schrag was baptized Oct. 22, 1649. On Feb. 27, 1668 at Wynigen she married schoolmaster Peter Jost. He was baptized at Wynigen April 28, 1643, a son of Nicolaüs Jost and Elsbeth Abi.

c. Johannes Schrag was baptized Jan. 19, 1651.
d. Madleni Schrag was baptized April 24, 1653.

On April 21, 1656 at Wynigen Ulrich remarried to Elsbeth Wälchli (also the name of his first wife). Their children baptized at Wynigen include:

e. Tobias Schrag was baptized June 26, 1657. He was named for witness Tobias Wild, becoming one of three Tobias Schrags in the 1600s. On May 18, 1688 at Wynigen he married midwife Anni Bracher. She died at Wynigen June 8, 1708. Their child baptized at Wynigen was:

   1) Ulrich Schrag was baptized May 5, 1689, and died as an infant. The entry described his father as Tobias Schrag zu Mistelberg.

f. Anna Schrag was baptized March 16, 1663, and died at Mistelberg Jan. 15, 1739. On May 27, 1687 at Wynigen she married Hans Lerch.

g. Elsbeth Schrag was baptized Aug. 31, 1666, and died at Schwandi in Wynigen June 13, 1742.

   Her death entry said she was age 76, and her husband was Hans Bracher der Chorrchter [morals court judge]

h. Maria Schrag was baptized Aug. 28, 1668, and died at Oberbühl in Wynigen March 31, 1721. On Feb. 23, 1700 at Wynigen she married Andres Oberbühler. The main house and granary at Oberdüll farm are now Swiss Heritage Sites.

i. Bendicht Schrag was baptized Dec. 1, 1671 (named for witness Bendicht Wälchli; the father was described as Ulrich Schrag zu Mistelberg).

6. Barbli Schrag was baptized Jan. 24, 1630.

Hanns Schrag was born before 1548.

He married Margili/Maria Bartman at Wynigen Nov. 28, 1572. They lived and worked at Mistelberg. Some baptism entries for their children say they were born at Breitenegg (the entire hamlet within Wynigen has been preserved as a Swiss Heritage Site); this may have been the residence of Margili/Maria’s parents. It is five miles north of Mistelberg.

Children of Hanns Schrag and Margili/Maria Bartman baptized at Wynigen include:

1. Hanns Schrag der Jüng or junior was baptized Aug. 15, 1573. His baptism entry described his parents as Hanns Schrag and Margili Bartma, and said he was born at ‘Breitenegk.’ However, on the opposite side of the page the baptism entry of Hanns Solberger has witness Hanns Shrag zu Mistelberg.

2. Bendicht Schrag was baptized May 20, 1576, and died as an infant.

3. Cathrin Schrag was baptized Dec. 20, 1577. One witness was Caspar Schrag. She died as an infant.

4. Verena Schrag was baptized March 6, 1580, and died as an infant.

5. Bendicht Schrag was baptized April 9, 1581.

6. Jörg Schrag was baptized Feb. 21, 1585.

7. Cathrin Schrag was baptized April 21, 1587.

8. Verena Schrag was baptized March 6, 1589. At Wynigen Oct. 23, 1609 she married Jacob Bätz. Their marriage entry described her as Froni Schag.

10. Christen Schrag was baptized Oct. 22, 1592 (named for witness Christen Jost).

Elsbeth Schrag may belong here. Her Täufrodel death entry was one of the first recorded at Wynigen, on July 11, 1674. It described Joseph’s mother Elsbeth Schrag zu Schultend [a location we could not identify], über 80 Jahren, thus born before 1594.

Hanns Schrag der Jüng or junior was baptized Aug. 15, 1573.

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3 Tobias Wild was baptized at Wynigen March 22, 1616. The entry names his parents as Niklaüs Wild and Elsbeth Küntz. In 1642 he became the hereditary Amman of Wynigen, the sixth generation of his family to hold the position since the village was annexed in 1406. In German an Amman is an official; in Canton Bern it was the official who represented the interests of the city of Bern locally — the mayor and landlord. He married Anna Künzi. They were responsible for the rebuilding of the Protestant Reformed Church of Wynigen in 1671. Tobias died at Wynigen Aug. 2, 1686. The entry says he was age 71, having served as Amman for 43 years, and cites Job 19:21. New International Version: “Have pity on me, my friends, have pity, for the hand of God has struck me.” His grave plate rests against the back wall of the church; the pulpit and side wall have both the Wild and Künzi coats-of-arms. Their son Franz Rudolf was the last Wild Amman of Wynigen.
On Jan. 28, 1600 at Wynigen he married Barbli Löuenberger/Leuenberger. She was baptized at Dürrenroth (eight miles east of Wynigen) March 18, 1582, a daughter of Bendicht Löuenberger and Barbli Yau, and died between April of 1607 and March of 1612.

Her surname is found in a number of spellings, often on the same page. Originally it was a geographical place name in a region of rolling hills. Just as another local surname Hunsperger/Hundsperger described someone living on a dog-shaped hill, Löwenberger described someone living on a lion-shaped hill. Many of the entries of the Löwenberger/Löuenberger family at Wynigen said they were living on Friesenberg. This was a long hill surrounded by a moat, topped by castle ruins from the Burgdorf War of 1383-84. It is four miles east of the center of the village.

After marriage Hanns der Jüng took up residence with his new wife on Löuenberg farm.

This marriage into the Leuenberger family, as well as residence on the Löuenberg farm, may have created problems later. Recall from SWISS ANABAPTIST EMIGRANTS the best-known member of the Leuenberger family, ‘King of the Peasants’ Claus/Niklaŭs Leuenberger, a leader in the failed Swiss Peasants War of 1653. He was villainized by the Council of Bern and executed in a gruesome manner. He came from Rüderswil, only 10 miles to the south.

Children of Hanns Schrag der Jüng or junior and Barbli Löuenberger/Leuenberger baptized at Wynigen include:

1. Barblÿ/Barbli Schrag was baptized Oct. 26, 1600. On Nov. 24, 1623 at Wynigen she married Hans Lerch. She appears as a witness on more than a dozen Wynigen baptism entries. He died at Wynigen July 9, 1689; his Totenrodel death entry described him as Hans Lerch Wäber zú Löuenberg – a weaver living at Löuenberg.

2. Úlí Schrag was baptized Aug. 29, 1602, and died at Wynigen Dec. 18, 1682.

3. Maria Schrag was baptized April 5, 1605. On Nov. 24, 1623 at Wynigen she married Úlli/Ülrich Hilsbrŭnner (the same day as her older sister’s marriage). They had children at Hellsau (four miles north of Wynigen), Alchenstorf (toughing the upper west corner of Wynigen, in the parish of Koppigen), and Wynigen.

4. Catrýn Schrag was baptized April 19, 1607.

On March 28, 1612 at Wynigen widower Hanns remarried to widow Margret Hiltbrunner. She had married her first husband Úlli Christen at Wynigen May 21, 1604. We found three entries for Wynigen baptisms of the children of Margret Hiltbrunner and her first husband Úlli Christen: Barbli Christen was baptized Feb. 7, 1606; Jost Christen was baptized Nov. 7, 1607, and presumably died as an infant; and Hanns Christen was baptized Oct. 27, 1611. Hanns Schrag junior, Margret’s next husband, was a witness at the last baptism.

We could not determine which Christen children died as infants, and which were brought to her second marriage.

Children of widower Hanns Schrag and widow Margret Hiltbrunner baptized at Wynigen include:

5. Jost/Jostli Schrag was baptized May 16, 1613. On May 6, 1639 at Heimiswil (below Wynigen) he married Barbara Kŭntz (the entry appears to say Luntz) in a dual ceremony with his brother Hans and her sister Annı/Anna. The marriage entry notes that these were marriages of brothers to sisters. They were daughters of Hans Kŭntz and Elsbeth Franzig. They lived at Löuenberg. Their children baptized at Wynigen include:
   a. Cathrina Schrag was baptized Jan. 8, 1643.
   b. Margaretha Schrag was baptized Sept. 28, 1645.
   c. Hans Schrag was baptized Jan. 1, 1648. On March 13, 1677 at Wynigen he married Anna Losli. She was born circa 1656, and died at Wynigen March 5, 1687. Their marriage entry described them as Hans Schrag zu Löemberg and Anna Losli von Eriswil, though they were described as ‘paroch.’ or local residents. Though we found Losli/Loslÿ couples at Eriswil (12 miles east of Wynigen), we could not identify a baptism entry for Anna. When Anna died, her Totenrodel death entry described her as Anna Lüssli, the wife of Hans Schrag Chorrichter (church morals court judge).
   d. Barbara Schrag baptized at Wynigen July 14, 1650.
   e. Úlí Schrag was baptized Aug. 26, 1653, and died at Wynigen May 5, 1713. On Oct. 8, 1680 at Wynigen he married Maria Bösiger. She was baptized at Wynigen Jan. 29, 1653, a daughter of Hans Bösiger and Maria Abi. Their marriage entry gave his address as Mistelberg. Their children baptized at Wynigen include:
      1) Cathrýna Schrag was baptized July 8, 1681. The entry described her father as Úllrich Schrag Chorrichter zú Mistelberg – a church morals court judge living at Mistelberg.
      2) Madlena Schrag was baptized Jan. 13, 1688. The entry described her father as a Chorrichter zú Mistelberg.
      3) Abraham Schrag was baptized Jan. 13, 1688.
   f. Anna Schrag was baptized Jan. 29, 1655.
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On Aug. 25, 1645 Hanns/Hans remarried to Elsbeth Hundsperger. She was baptized at Wynigen Oct. 22, 1689. Hanns/Hans Schrag was baptized May 6, 1619, and died at Löwenberg Dec. 25, 1693. On May 6, 1639 at Heimiswil Anni Schrag was baptized at Wynigen Dec. 10, 1615, and died at Wynigen Aug. 11, 1690, a son of Christen Mathys and Anni Weibel. Anni’s Totenrodel death entry gave her age as 75 years 10 months, and cited scriptural verse I John 3:2. New International Version: “Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.”

8. Hans/Hanns Schrag was baptized May 6, 1619, and died at Löwenberg Dec. 25, 1693. On May 6, 1639 at Heimiswil he married Anni Küntz (the entry appears to name Anna Luntz) in a dual ceremony with his older brother Jost and her sister Barbara. She was baptized at Wynigen Sept. 3, 1620, a daughter of Hans Küntz and Elsbeth Franzig. They lived at Löwenberg. His death entry described him as 74-year-old ‘alt Hans Schrag Chorricter.’ Their children baptized at Wynigen include:
   a) Úli Schrag was baptized Aug. 9, 1640. One witness was Madlena Paüli
   b) Jost Schrag was baptized Feb. 23, 1642, and died at Wynigen May 9, 1689. On Oct. 14, 1667 at Wynigen he married Elsbeth Rämi. She was baptized at Seeberg (above Wynigen) Aug. 12, 1638, and died at Wynigen Nov. 24, 1727, a daughter of Úli Rämi and Ursula Schnyder. Their child was:
      1) Hans Schrag was born at Rüdisbach in Wynigen, and baptized Sept. 18, 1668. On Oct. 5, 1688 at Aetingen he married Madlena Tschan. She was born circa 1668, and died at Wynigen July 25, 1717. Aetingen was in Bucheggberg district of Canton Solothurn, nine miles west of Wynigen; it was absorbed with other villages into the new municipality of Buchegg in 2014.
         a) Hans Schrag was baptized at Kirchberg Dec. 20, 1689. He was apparently the same baby who was baptized on the same day at Wynigen. The Wynigen entry said the baby was brought in by Jost Schrag der Jüng von Löumenberg (if this was the grandfather, he was not a junior), but did not name the parents.
         b) Elsbeth Schrag was baptized at Wynigen Oct. 22, 1693.
         c) Niclaus Schrag was baptized at Wynigen June 23, 1695 (named for witness Niclaus Lätt; Hans Schrag zu Löumenberg was also a witness), and died at Stampfenhäusli in Wynigen July 13, 1771. Circa 1726 he married Ursula Üllman. She was baptized at Wynigen Feb. 2, 1705, and died at Stampfenhäusli April 10, 1778, a daughter of Hans Üllman der Sattler and Anna Bartlome.
         d) Barbara Schrag was born at Aetingen, but baptized at Wynigen Oct. 9, 1696.
         e) Tobias Schrag was baptized at Wynigen Nov. 29, 1696. On March 4, 1718 at Wynigen he married Anni Hundsperger. She was baptized at Kirchberg March 14, 1690, and died at Sandacker in Wynigen July 20, 1731, a daughter of Caspar Hundsperger and Elsbeth (as found on Anni’s baptism entry).
         f) Anna Schrag was baptized Feb. 13, 1698.
         g) Stephan Schrag was baptized Oct. 16, 1701
   Circa 1684 Jost remarried to Elsbeth Hofer. She was baptized at Herzogenbuchsee (seven miles north of Wynigen) Oct. 26, 1662, a daughter of Ulrich Hofer and Anna Iseh. Some Wynigen entries describe Jost as im Thal – living in the valley. Their children include:
      2) Joseph Schrag was baptized at Wynigen Jan. 17, 1686 (named for witness Joseph Hundsperger zu Schwendi), and died at Wynigen March 24, 1762.
      3) Jost Schrag was baptized at Wynigen Jan. 1, 1688, and died at Wynigen Jan. 17, 1688.
     On Aug. 25, 1645 Hans/Hans remarried to Elsbeth Hundsperger/Hundsperger. She was baptized at Wynigen Oct. 22, 1620, a daughter of Caspar Hundsperger/Hundsperger and Elsbeth Mülliman; one witness was Hanns Schrag. Hans Schrag was baptized Sept. 23, 1645. On Nov. 13, 1668 at Wynigen he married Maria Steffan. She was born circa 1647, and died at Wynigen Feb. 9, 1720. A preface note on page two of the Wynigen register Täuferrol 1663-1717 says that Maria Steffan was baptized there in 1668, a daughter of Hans Steffan and Maria Martin. Perhaps she had no documentation to show she had been baptized, and one was performed before her marriage. Their children baptized at Wynigen were:
      1) Elsbeth Schrag was born at Löumenberg and baptized May 8, 1670 (named for witness Elsbeth Widmer). On July 14, 1693 at Kirchberg she married Hans Bracher. He was born at Schwanden in Wynigen, and baptized at Wynigen Sept. 20, 1669, a son of Bendicht Bracher and Katharina Rüser.
      2) Barbara Schrag was baptized Feb. 12, 1672 (named for witness Barbara Schrag zu Bergdorf (Burgdorf is four miles southwest of Wynigen); another witness was Elsbeth Wälchli; the father was described as Hans Schrag der Jüng). She was born at Aetingen Dec. 14, 1740.
      3) Jost Schrag was baptized March 13, 1674 (named for witness Jost Mathys; another witness was Maria Schrag; the father was described as Hans Schrag von Löumenberg), and died March
Amish Mennonites in Tazewell County, Illinois

6, 1678. A Totenrodel entry created that day said that a four-year-old child of Hans Schrag of Löuenberg had died.

4) Hans Schrag was baptized Sept. 1, 1676 (named for witness Hans Martin), and died as an infant.

5) Hans Schrag was baptized Feb. 28, 1679 (one witness was Claüs Schrag), and died at Wynigen March 20, 1694.

6) Tobias Schrag was baptized March 15, 1682 (named for witness Tobias Schrag), and died at Wynigen March 20, 1682.

7) Niclaüs Schrag was baptized July 15, 1683 (named for witness Niclaüs Bracher im Thal – in the valley; another witness was Christina Schneider).

8) Maria Schrag was baptized May 21, 1686, and died as an infant.

9) Caspar Schrag was baptized Feb. 9, 1690 (named for witness Caspar Hunsperger), and died at Mistelberg Jan. 20, 1740. Circa 1730 he married Maria Widmer. She was baptized at Wynigen Feb. 13, 1701, and died at Leggiswil in Wynigen Jan. 3, 1761, a daughter of Jost Widmer and Maria Berner.

10) Maria Schrag was baptized Dec. 15, 1695.

d. Margret Schrag was baptized Oct. 5, 1649, and died at Wynigen Feb. 25, 1711. On Jan. 10, 1673 at Wynigen she married Ulrich Moser. He was baptized at Wynigen Dec. 13, 1646, a son of Hans Moser and Madleni Mäffigiblei. Their child baptized at Wynigen was:

1) Hans Moser was baptized Jan. 12, 1679 (named for witness Hans Hundsperger; the father was described as Ulrich Moser, Haussman zu Mistelberg – servant or farmhand living at Mistelberg).

2) Niclaüs Moser was baptized Jan. 9, 1682 (named for witness Niclaüs Bracher; the father was described as Ulrich Moser zu Mistelberg).

3) Daniel Moser was baptized Feb. 16, 1690.

e. Elsbeth Schrag was baptized March 13, 1653.

f. Anna Schrag was baptized May 7, 1657. Witnesses included Amman Tobias Wild and Elsbeth Wälschi.

9. Margret Schrag was baptized Oct. 12, 1621 (named for witness Margret Hilbrunner).

10. Niklaüs Schrag was baptized Feb. 28, 1623 (named for witness Niklaüs Bracher senior), and died in 1673. On March 22, 1666 at Affoltern he married Margretha Reinhart/Reinhart. She was baptized at Sumiswald Nov. 23, 1624, a daughter of Claüs Reinhardt and Elsbeth Rysser. Their child was:

a. Bendicht/Bäny Schrag was born at Löuenberg, but baptized at Affoltern Sept. 20, 1667 (named for witness Bendicht Wiss). He married Barbara/Barbli Gugger. The Heimat or place of legal origin for the surname Gugger is Lüsslingen on the Aare River in the district of Bucheggberg, Canton Solothurn (12 miles northwest of Wynigen). Whether or not it was her actual birthplace, the family began to look in this direction. Their children baptized at Wynigen include:

1) Ulrich Schrag was baptized April 29, 1687 (named for witness Ülli Wyss of Löuenberg). The entry describes his parents as Bendicht Schrag Clauses Sohn zu Löuenberg [Claus’s son living at Löuenberg] und Barbara Gugger. He went to Eschert in 1713. Eschert is on the south side of the French-speaking valley Val Moutier/Grand Val/Münsterthal in the Jura Mountains of Canton Bern, approximately 16 miles northwest of Wynigen. At the time it would only have been reached from Wynigen by traveling a roundabout road for 44 miles. From Lüsslingen it would have been only seven miles to the northwest if a direct route were possible over the mountains; but was actually 35 miles by roundabout road. On its south side Eschert touches Canton Solothurn. Bernese authorities were prohibited from chasing Anabaptists across that boundary (and so, based solely on his relocation, we strongly suspect that Ulrich had chosen adult baptism). A fire destroyed most of the village of Eschert in 1733. Ulrich married Margreth Röthlisberger. In 1738 a census at Eschert identified Ulrich Schrag, 50; Marguerite, 45; Houle [Üli], 13; Christian, 9; Bendit [Bendicht], 7; Barbelet [Barbli], 5; and Annetet [Anneli], 2. Thus their children include:

a) Üli Schrag was born circa 1725.

b) Christian Schrag was born circa 1729. He was among the first Anabaptists to obtain Heimat certificates when he applied to Wynigen with his brother Bendicht in 1763. He married Marie Üllrich.

4 Affoltern is now called Affoltern im Emmental to distinguish it from Affoltern am Albis, Canton Zurich; it touches the lower east side of Wynigen.

5 On a modern map Eschert is about three miles below the boundary with Canton Jura, but that entity was not created until 1978.
c) Bendicht Schrag was born at Eschert circa 1731, and died Jan. 14, 1781. He was among the first Anabaptists to obtain Heimat certificates when he applied to Wynigen with his brother Christian in 1763. He married Anna Blaser. She was born at Langnau (now Langnau im Emmental) June 29, 1732, and died Jan. 10, 1764, a daughter of Matthys Blaser and Barbara Beütler (her birthplace has been confused with her Heimat, Oberthal). Their five children were all born in or near Eschert. The births were registered in Catholic churches at Court and Grandval (on either side of Eschert), then entered in Wynigen baptism records in November of 1788. Their children include:

1. Barbara Schrag was born Jan. 26, 1763.
2. Bendicht Schrag was born Feb. 22, 1767, and died in Fulton County, Ohio circa 1843. In 1801 he purchased a farm called Ostenberg Hof [Eastern Mountain Farm] in the hamlet Bienenberg at Liestal, Canton Basel-Landschaft (10 miles southeast of Basel), which he owned until 1807. His three wives are thought to have been Maria Zürfluh (1767-1794), Maria Widmer (1770-1803), and Magdalena Ächlimann (1784-1807). He brought eight children to America. On July 14, 1817 four families arrived at Strasbourg to board a boat on the Rhine River. Heads of households included Bendicht Schrag, Hans Nussbaum, Christian Brand, and Johannes Augspurger. The boat followed the river to Amsterdam, where they boarded the Francis (named for its captain). Among their traveling companions was future distiller Christian Augspurger, embarking to scout land in Butler County, Ohio (the first of his two trips described in STAKER), who according to travel documents had come to Switzerland to meet with Johannes. The ship sailed on July 25, and arrived at Philadelphia Oct. 10. ‘B. Schragg’ appears immediately below ‘C. Augsburger et famille’ on the passenger list. Schrag and Nussbaum went to Ohio and each purchased 160 acres at Smithville, Green Township, Wayne County (near Wooster). According to The History of the Sonnenberg Church, they both wrote long letters home that detailed their journey. These were widely distributed, and became models for later letters providing more travel advice. This brought other families to Ohio from the Jura Mountains. One letter from Nussbaum survives and is quoted extensively in Delbert Gratz’s Bernese Anabaptists.

3. Anna Schrag was born March 25, 1770, and died at Cote de Moulin, Canton Bern (10 miles west of Eschert) March 23, 1824. She married Christen Burkhalter. He was born May 1, 1764 (we found his Heimat Langnau confused with his actual birthplace, which we could not identify), and died at Souboz, Canton Bern (eight miles west of Eschert) May 14, 1814. Their son Hans Burkhalter was born at Souboz July 27, 1797. He sailed on the Francis with Bendicht Schrag’s family, observing his 20th birthday at sea. In Ohio he married his cousin, Bendicht’s daughter Barbara Schrag. In America his surname became Burkholder.

4. Magdalena Schrag was born March 1, 1774. She married Johannes Zürfluh.

5. Johannes/Hans Schrag was born Nov. 1, 1777, and died July 25, 1851. Recall that older brother Bendicht purchased a farm called Ostenberg Hof [Eastern Mountain Farm] in the hamlet Bienenberg at Liestal, Canton Basel-Landschaft (10 miles southeast of Basel) in 1801, which he owned until 1807. According to Global Anabaptist Mennonite Encyclopedia Online, in 1790 Christian Röthlisberger moved from Courtelary [in the Prince-Bishopric of Basel until 1797, later in Canton Bern] to Liestal and leased Schillingsraingüttli farm. He established what became known as the Basel-Schänzli congregation. “He was a preacher, later became elder, and died in 1845, at an age of more than 80 years. Hans Schrag was also a preacher at the same time.”

d) Barbli Schrag was born circa 1733.

e) Anneli Schrag was born circa 1736.
2) Nicolaus Schrag was baptized Oct. 25, 1689 (named for witness Nicolaus Bracher im Thal). His entry describes his parents as Bani Schrag der Jung zu Lœumberg (‘junior, living at Löemberg,’ though we found no Bendicht senior there) and Barbli Gügger.

3) Elsbeth Schrag was baptized Oct. 18, 1691 (named for witness Elsbeth Schrag), and died at Wynigen Oct. 14, 1693. Her baptism entry describes her parents as Bendicht Schrag zu Lœumberg und Barbli Gugger. Her death entry describes her father as Bani Shrag eine jünger Mann zu Lœumberg [a young man living on Löemberg farm; perhaps the unusual choice of words was meant to amend the mistake in the previous entry].

Uli Schrag was baptized at Wynigen Aug. 29, 1602, and died there Dec. 18, 1682.

In Canton Bern the Protestant Reformed Church was an instrument of the government. A mandate June 21, 1528 required that every church have a panel of judges to settle morals disputes and matrimonial matters. This Chorgericht (also called a Choral or consistory court) would settle morals disputes and matrimonial matters. It would be made up of the Amman (the mayor and landlord) and several heads of families (the Chorrichter), with a minister as recording secretary. The Chorgericht in the city of Bern would be the Oberchorgericht or ultimate authority. Reports of proceedings would be kept in a Chorgericht Manuel.6

Uli’s love life became the topic of three Manuel reports over a two-year period.

On Aug. 24, 1628 clerics wrote that they believed a girl named Adelheit was pregnant. The issue passed with only a few lines, because Uli had promised to marry her.

However, Uli must have had cold feet. On Nov. 25, 1629—approximately 15 months later—27-year-old Uli and his ‘Adelheit’ were summoned before the court. She was 14-year-old Madlena Pauli, a maid servant in the house of his father at Mistelberg and the unmarried mother of his 10-month-old son.

There they were asked if they had slept together, whether she was single or married, and if he had promised marriage. Madlena admitted only that Uli has been close to her, and had promised marriage. They were given two weeks to reconsider their answers. A Chorgericht had the authority to impose fines, prison sentences, or time in the pillory.

When the court reconvened Jan. 10, Madlena admitted that Uli had approached her soon after she had come into the service of his father. He had requested intercourse. She promised this to him, but only on conditions of honor, after he had committed to marrying her. Uli had said ‘in front of God’ that he would marry her soon, and she gave in. Later he had doubts. But one night he had come into her room ‘dressed in a shirt only’ and promised marriage, and she gave in again.

Since Uli had initially denied this, they were sent to clergy at Bern, where they were declared to be ‘united.’ Perhaps the couple had agreed to abstain until Madlena reached 18 years of age; their next child would not be born until 1635. Their marriage was recorded at Wynigen Jan. 9, 1630, the day before the second report. The entry described Uli as a resident of Löemberg.

Madlena was born at Kirchberg (five miles southwest of Wynigen) but baptized as Madleni Pauli at Wynigen Sept. 20, 1615 (named for witness Madleni Hurter), and died at Wynigen March 12, 1684, a daughter of Felix Pauli and Barbli Christen.

Uli’s Totenrodel death entry described him as Ulli Schrag zu Löumberg, aged 80 years and three months. It cited scriptural verse Ecclesiastes 7:2. New International Version: “It is better to go to a house of mourning than to go to a house of feasting, for death is the destiny of everyone; the living should take this to heart.”

Children of Uli Schrag and Madlena Pauli baptized at Wynigen include:

1. Andres Schrag was baptized Jan. 28, 1629 (named for witness Andres zum Stag). His parents, as yet unmarried, were identified as Uli Schrag and Madlena Lowenberger (the surname of Uli’s mother).
2. Jost Schrag was baptized between the 1st and 16th of January, 1635. His Totenrodel death entry created at Wynigen May 9, 1689 describes him as Jost Schrag der Wäber im Thal – the weaver in the valley.
3. Hans Schrag was baptized Aug. 5, 1638, and died at Wynigen April 8, 1717. On April 18, 1659 at Wynigen he married Maria Hess. She was born at Koppigen (four miles northwest of Wynigen) though no baptism entry is found there, and died at Löemberg Sept. 21, 1676. On July 15, 1687 at Wynigen he remarried to Verena Gigaix of Hellau (four miles north of Wynigen). Their marriage entry described him as Hans Schrag der alt Chorrichter zu Löumberg – Hans Schrag senior, the church morals court judge living at Löemberg.
4. Barbli Schrag was baptized Jan. 19, 1640.

6 The Oberchorgericht in the city of Bern became the Superior Court of Bern in 1803 (under French occupation), and was abolished altogether in 1831.
5. Üli/Üllrich Schrag was baptized Feb. 14, 1641. On Feb. 10, 1668 at Kirchberg he married Elsbeth Berner (found as Bärner on the entry). She died at Wynigen June 24, 1688; her Totenrodel death entry described her husband as a shoemaker zu Löumberg but did not name her. Their children baptized at Wynigen include:
   a. Jost Schrag was baptized Dec. 29, 1678 (named for witness Jost Matthÿs; the father was described as Üllrich Schrag der Schuhmacher zu Häusern — the shoemaker living at Häusern, a location in Wynigen).
   b. Hans Üllrich Schrag was baptized March 4, 1683 (named for witness Hans Üli of Hirsbrunnen, a location in Wynigen; the father was described as Üllrich Schrag alt der Schmidten zu Ferrenberg — senior, the blacksmith at Ferrenberg, a hamlet less than two miles northwest of Mistelberg). He may have been Hans, the Schmacher Sohn who died at Wynigen May 30, 1700.
   c. Christen Schrag was baptized July 1, 1687 (named for witness Christen Jost).
6. Niclaus Schrag was baptized Oct. 30, 1642.
7. Maria Schrag was baptized March 1, 1646. On April 10, 1678 at Kirchberg (six miles southwest of Wynigen) she married Cūnrad Kilchman (as found, now standardized as Kilchenmann). He was baptized at Kirchberg Nov. 12, 1648, a son of Hans Kilchmann and Cathrin Rösch.
8. Tobias Schrag was baptized Sept. 26, 1647.

Niclaus Schrag was baptized at Wynigen Oct. 30, 1642. On May 30, 1684 at Wynigen he married Christina Schneider. The entry described them as parochiales — residents of the parish. She was baptized at Wynigen Feb. 12, 1655, a daughter of Üli Schneider and Barbeli Cûnrad.

Their children baptized at Wynigen include:
1. Hans Schrag was baptized April 16, 1684. On Feb. 24, 1719 at Wynigen he married Elsbeth Hübler. She was baptized at Bätterkinden (seven miles west of Wynigen) July 31, 1687, and died at Wynigen March 7, 1733, a daughter of Hans Hübler and Anna Bûchser.
2. Caspar Schrag was baptized Dec. 13, 1685.
3. Üllrich Schrag was baptized Sept. 16, 1688. His baptism entry described his father as Nicolaüs Schrag zû Löuenberg but misidentified his mother as Christina Scheidegger. Circa 1716 he married Elsbeth Últman of Herzogenbuchsee (seven miles north of Wynigen).
4. Petter Shrag was baptized Dec. 3, 1693 (named for witness Petter Zû Flû, Weibel [bailiff], or witness Petter Åhi der Jûng).

Caspar Schrag was born on Löumberg farm at Wynigen Dec. 13, 1685. He is the first person in this branch who is known to have been an Anabaptist, though his father is suspected.

On Aug. 9, 1711 the couple Gaspard Schrag and Elizabeth Leyenberger were documented at Jebsheim, Upper Alsace (east of Colmar). They were described as Anabaptist transient farm workers when they were provided a Catholic marriage ceremony. Elizabeth’s father Üli/Üllrich/Ülli Löuenberger der Jûng was living with them; he was identified as an Anabaptist.

Elsbeth’s Family
Elsbeth was a daughter of weaver Üli/Üllrich/Ülli Löuenberger der Jûng and Anni Zoûûg/Zaûûg/Zuûgg (three spellings found in Wynigen records). Her father was baptized at Wynigen July 10, 1659, a son of Üli Löuenberger and Susanna Schar or Scher of Dürrenroth (eight miles east of Wynigen), who had been married at Wynigen Oct. 10, 1642. We suspect that her mother was the Anna Zoûg baptized at Eriswil (12 miles east of Wynigen) March 1, 1663, a daughter of Caspar Zoûg and Cathrina Reiss. They had married at Wynigen Dec. 11, 1685. They lived at Alchenberg, now a road one mile northeast of Mistelberg farm; and Hirsbrunnen, now a road on the east side of Löuenberg farm.

Children of this couple found in Wynigen baptism records include:
1. Maria Löuenberger was baptized in 1686 (named for witness Maria Matthÿs). Her entry indicated her mother was a native of Eriswil.
2. Elsbeth Löuenberger was baptized May 4, 1690.
3. Üllrich Löuenberger was baptized April 28, 1695.
4. Hans Jacob Löuenberger was baptized Sept. 12 or 19, 1698.
5. Bendicht Löuenberger was baptized July 27, 1704.

Elsbeth’s father certainly chose adult baptism, but her mother may not have. Youngest son Bendicht’s baptism entry describes the accompanying parent as, ‘Anni Zaûûg zû Hirsbrunnen im Klösterli’ (a monastery in Wynigen). It states that her Anabaptist husband, ‘ein Täufer nahmen Ülli Löuenberger,’ had earlier taken the child to his brother Andres to be baptized.

Children of Caspar Schrag and Elsbeth Löwenberger include:
1. Caspar Schrag was born in 1711 or later.
2. Anna Schrag was born at Jebsheim, Upper Isace June 22, 1712.
3. Ulrich Schrag was born circa 1714.
4. Johannes Schrag was born circa 1715.
5. Nicolaus Schrag was born circa 1717.
6. Elisabeth Schrag was born circa 1722.

CASPAR SCHRAG, leading to John Shrock of Elm Grove

One son of Caspar Schrag and Elisabeth Löwenberger/Elisabeth Leyenberger was Caspar Schrag. He was born circa 1711. In 1730 he married Elisabeth Weiss.

He may have been the Caspar Schrag found on the Ingweilerhof estate at Reipoltskirchen (17 miles north of Kaiserlautern) in 1761.

Their children include:
1. Caspar Schrag (also found on French documents as 'Caspard' and 'Gaspard Schraque'), was born circa 1744.
2. Nikolaus Schrag was born circa 1750. In 1779 on the Ernstweiler estate near the city of Zweibrücken he married Barbara Gängerich. She was born on the Pfälzhof at Dernbach (37 miles east of the city of Zweibrücken) circa 1750, and died in 1784. Hermann Guth tentatively identified Barbara as a daughter of Christian Gängerich (born circa 1692, a son of Hans ‘Hans der alte’ Gängerich) and his second wife Barbara Jutzi. After this marriage Nikolaus went to live with the Gängeriches on the Pfälzhof.

Caspar Schrag (also found on French documents as ‘Caspard’ and ‘Gaspard Schraque’), was born circa 1744, and died on the Sommerhof farm at Neuville, Lower Alsace March 15, 1794. After 1772 he was a miller at Bischwald Mill and a cultivator on Belgrade farm at Bistroff, Moselle.

By 1792, and at the time of his death in 1794, he was living at Rhodes, Moselle. His civil death entry from Neuville described him as a 50-year-old Anabaptist living at Rhodes; it is likely that at the time of his death he was visiting the Sommers on the Sommerhof farm. Witnesses included tenant farmer Jean Sommer, 63, and day laborer Jean Müller, 59 (Jean Sommer, born circa 1731, was the father of Joseph Sommer, and grandfather to the Sommers who came to Tazewell County in 1834).

To the best of our knowledge there is no record of the leaseholders on Belgrade farm at Bistroff. The land was divided into strips, and there may have been more than one at any given time. But if we had to guess solely from local birth and death entries, some Anabaptist surnames would be Schrag, Stecker, Jantzi, and Zehr. Nearby Bischwald Mill was occupied by Rüfenacht/Rouvenacht, Beller, Engel, Schertz, and Schrag families.

Caspar married twice. His first wife was Barbe Rouvenacht, who died in 1774. Their child was:
1. Joseph Schrag was born on Belgrade farm at Bistroff in 1772, and died at Rhodes April 4, 1830.

Barbe Rouvenacht died, and about 1774 Caspar remarried to Marie Blaser. She was born circa 1749, and died at Rhodes Nov. 27, 1792. Her civil death entry described her as the 43-year-old wife of ‘citizen’ Gaspard Girack, a 48-year-old Anabaptist tailor living at Rhodes. It was witnessed by ‘citizen laborer’ Jean Ruvenach, 27, and signed ‘Caspar Schrag’ and ‘Hans Rüvenacht.’

Children of Caspar Schrag and his second wife Marie Blaser include:

2. Hans/Jeann Schrag/Schraque/Gerack (he wrote his own name 'Hans Shrag') was born in Bischwald mill at Bistroff March 2, 1775. On March 6, 1797 at Bistroff he married Anne Engel. Their civil marriage entry described the groom as Jean Schraque, 22, a resident of the mill at Bischwald, Bistroff, and a son of the deceased Gaspard Schraque and Marie Blaiser, who had been residents of Bellegrad, Bistroff. The bride was described as Anne Engel, 25, the widow of Chretien Brunner, and a resident of the mill at Bischwald. Witnesses included miller Jean Chertz [Schertz], 33, a brother-in-law of the bride living at Bischwald; farmer Nicolas Blanck, 50, a farmer at La Chapelle, Bistroff (he was married to Madeleine Hirschi and resided on La Chapelle farm at Linstroff); and Jean Klein, a lieutenant in a regiment of Hussars posted at Bistroff. The groom signed 'Hans Shrag,' and the bride signed with an 'x,' indicating she was illiterate. Anne was born at Kerprich-aux-Bois Feb. 28, 1772, and died at Marsal, Moselle Aug. 8, 1809, a daughter of Christian Engel and Magdalena Schertz. She was a younger sister to Christian Engel, who became the first elder of the Partridge Creek meeting. The details of her first marriage to Christian Brunner are provided in ENGEL. Children of Jean Schrag/Schraque/Gerack and Anne Engel born in Moselle include:

7 A member of the Third Hussar Regiment of light cavalry established in 1764, garrisoned in the vicinity of Metz.
a. Marie Schraque was born Nov. 15, 1801 (we did not have access to her birth entry to verify this). On May 30, 1830 at Vic-sur-Seille (four miles west of Marsal) she married Christian Schrag. He was born on Hingsange farm at Linstroff Nov. 17, 1797, and died at Chassy-Beaupré, Meuse Dec. 27, 1850, a son of André Schrag and his second wife Suzanne Hirschi.

b. Jean Schraque was born in November of 1803 (we did not have access to his birth entry to verify this), and died at Marsal April 30, 1809 (found as Jean Gerack).

c. Barbe Gerack/Schraque was born at Marsal Dec. 4, 1805, and died in Woodford County Oct. 26, 1852. As 'Barbara Schrock' she married Christian Dellenbach in what later became Woodford County Nov. 20, 1837; elder Christian Engel performed the ceremony. See DELLENBACH for more on this couple.

d. Anne Gerack was born at Marsal July 7, 1807, and died there Sept. 10, 1807.

e. Jean Schrag was born Aug. 4, 1809 (sources say Marsal, but no entry is found in the 10-year index), and died at Vic-sur-Seille Aug. 16, 1828 (found in the 10-year index as Jean Gerag).

Jean remarried to Anne Farny at Rhodes Dec. 27, 1810. She was born at Bispeng Nov. 30, 1785, and died after 1856, a daughter of Joseph Farny/Farny and Anne Schertz. Jean died at Vic-sur-Seille June 10, 1838. His death entry described him as farmer Jean Gerack, 66, born at Belgrade, Canton de St. Avold; the widower of Anne Engel, who had died at Marsal, and husband of Anne Farny, 51, a resident of Vic-sur-Seille. It was witnessed by son André Gerack, 27, a cultivator. We can only guess at the children of Jean Schrag/Schraque/Gerack and his second wife Anne Farny from what can be found in 10-year indexes. Most traditional genealogy sources tended to be inaccurate; this is a composite of what we found and what exists in the notes of others, and we have doubts. All unspecified events took place in Moselle:

f. André Gerack was born May 27, 1811 (sources say Marsal, but no entry is found in the 10-year index). On June 11, 1841 at Vic-sur-Seille he married Marie Abresol. She was born at Morhange Feb. 8, 1819, and died at Juvrecourt, Meurthe-et-Moselle May 20, 1901, a daughter of Joseph Abresol and Barbe Schertz.

g. Catherine Gérack was born at Marsal May 4, 1813, and died before 1851. Her civil birth entry created the following day was witnessed by her father, described as Jean Gérack, a 39-year-old cultivator from Cense de Viller at Marsal. Her mother was identified as Anne Farny. On Sept. 17, 1844 at Vieux-Lixheim she married Jacob Kremer. On July 2, 1855 at Montigny-les-Vaucouleurs, Meuse she remarried to Joseph Roth. He was born at Métairen-St. Qurin April 25, 1814, and died at Vaux-sur-St. Ubrain, Haute Marne May 19, 1883, a son of Joseph Roth and Marie Sommer.

h. Joseph Gerack was born at Marsal June 26, 1814. On May 2, 1844 at Vic-sur-Seille he married Barbe Fonkennel. She was born at St. Jean-de-Bassel March 16, 1809, a daughter of Nicolas Fonkennel and Madeleine Engel.

i. Christian Gerack was born at Marsal May 20, 1816, and died at Vic-sur-Seille March 25, 1827.

j. Jean Gerack. Some sources say he was born at Château-Salins Sept. 23, 1818, though no civil entry is found there. On March 15, 1846 at Diane-Capelle he married Catherine Müller/Miller. She was born at Angomont, Meurthe-et-Moselle Jan. 4, 1821, a daughter of Pierre Müller and Barbe Elisabeth Mosiman. The 10-year civil index listed them as Jean Girac and Catherine Muler.

k. Anne Gerack was born in 1820.

l. Madeleine Gerack was born in 1823, and died at Dieuze (six miles east of Marsal) April 17, 1899. On April 20, 1858 she married Pierre Salzmann. He was born at Denting Sept. 29, 1804, and died at Dieuze Dec. 12, 1879, a son of Joseph Salzmann and Barbe Lidviller.

m. Pierre Gerack was born Aug. 22, 1825, and died at Vic-sur-Seille June 3, 1832 (found as Pierre Gerag).

n. Marguerite Gerack was born May 9, 1828.

3. Anna/Anne Schrag/Schrock was born at Rhodes in May of 1787, and died at Elm Grove in April 1859. On Jan. 13, 1810 at Haut-Clocher, Moselle she married Pierre Ringenberger/Peter Ringenberger. He was born on Hingsange farm at Linstroff June 12, 1786, and died at Elm Grove May 5, 1861, a son of Hans/Jean Ringenberger. See RINGENBERGER for background on this couple.

4. Catherine Schrag was born in Oderfang mill at St. Avold circa 1783, and died at Niderhoff May 14, 1823. On Dec. 27, 1804 at Gondrexange she married Joseph Oyer. He was born on the Hermersbergerhof estate at Wilgartswiesen in 1774, and died at Groveland in 1845, a son of Johannes/Jean Oyer and Jacobine Roggy. Their marriage entry described the bride as Catherine Schrack, 21, born at Oderfang but a resident of Gondrexange, a daughter of the deceased miller Gaspard Schrack and the deceased Marie Blaser, who in life were last residents of Rhodes. For background on this couple see OYER.

**Joseph Schrag** was born on Belgrade farm at Bistroff in 1772, and died at Rhodes April 4, 1830. On Aug. 13, 1798 at Gosselming he married Marie Engel. At the time he was working on Les Bachats farm at Rhodes.\(^8\) She was

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8 The ferme des Les Bachats at Rhodes is still operational and maintains an inn. It is located on a peninsula in L'Étang de Stock (Stock Pond). A *bachat* is a feeding trough for cattle, indicating its traditional use as a dairy farm.
born at Gosselming in 1774, and died circa 1800. Their marriage entry described her as a daughter of Christian Engel and [stepmother] Catherine Rügsegger. Marriage witnesses included Jean Schrag, cultivator at Marsal and brother of the groom; Jean Kemp, 21, living on Les Bachats farm, neighbor of the groom; stepbrother Jean Neuhauser, 22, cultivator at Gosselming; and Nicolas Risser, 34. Joseph Schrag and Marie Engel had one child together:

1. Joseph Schrock was born at Gondrexange June 8, 1799, and died there Feb. 9, 1805.

Following the death of Marie Engel, Joseph remarried to Marie Neuhauser. Marie Neuhauser was born at Gosselming in 1772, and died after April 8, 1826. She was a half-sister by marriage to Marie Engel (her father was Nicolas Neuhauser, who remarried to Catherine Rügsegger late in life; Catherine’s first husband had been Christian Engel born circa 1729).

2. Johannes/Jean/John Schrock was born at Gondrexange June 15, 1801, and died at Pekin Jan. 21, 1875.
3. Peter/Pierre Schrock as born at Gondrexange June 15, 1802, and died at Trenton, Butler County Sept. 17, 1887. On Aug. 25, 1827 at Robert-Espagne, Meuse he married Marie Zimmerman. Their civil marriage entry described him as 'Pierre Serach.' The bride was described as a 26-year-old day laborer born at Emmendingen, Baden April 7, 1801, a daughter of laborer Jacob Zimmerman and Elisabeth Becher, who were present and consenting. Witnesses included miller Joseph Engel, 50, a friend of the groom and resident of Robert-Espagne. For their immigration passenger list see the Appendix, THE BALTIMORE VOYAGE OF 1831. According to A History of the Mennonites of Butler County, Ohio, "In 1832 Rev. Krehbiel, being quite aged, moved away and later lived with his son in Iowa. At this time Peter Schrock was elected a minister to assist ['Apostle Peter'] Naffziger and [Jacob] Augspurger." Peter was a neighbor to John Stecker/Staker (1805-1864) at Lemon and a minister of the conservative 'hook and eye' Augspurger church after the 1835 division. The 1840 census of Lemon Township shows the household of Peter Schrack as one male in the 30-39 year age range; two males 10-14; one female 30-39; one female 15-19; and two females under 5. (Oddly, his next door neighbor was Elizabeth Bacher. Peter’s mother-in-law was Elisabeth Becher/Becker, the wife of Jacob Zimmerman. That household has one female in the 30-39 year age range – too young to be the mother-in-law – one female 10-14, and one female 5-9; one male 10-14, and one male 5-9). Four names down the page is the household of John Schrack. Peter is not found on the 1850 census of Lemon. He moved onto brother John’s farm there after John’s move to Elm Grove shortly after the 1850 census. The 1860 census of Lemon has farmer Peter Schroug, 59, France; Mary, 57, Baden; Mary, 23, Ohio; Nancy, 20, Ohio; [illegible female], 18, Ohio; John, 16, Ohio; Eliza, 14, Ohio; Christian, 12, Ohio; and day laborer John Argan, 26, unknown. Marie died at Trenton Dec. 31, 1862. Peter remarried to Magdalena Rediger. She was born at Mittelbach-Hengstbach, Zweibrücken Oct. 25, 1829, and died at Gridley, Melean County April 23, 1896, a daughter of Christian Reidiger and Magdalena Stalter. Peter represented the conservative Butler County congregation at the Diener Versammlungen assemblies of ministers in 1862, 1863, 1864 and 1865. At the 1862 meeting he raised the issue of the Hessian congregation's use of musical instruments “and other worldly matters.” The assembled ministers resolved not to ordain a new elder for the Hessians until they changed their ways. They are found on the 1880 census of Lemon, Butler County as Peter Schrock, 70; and Magdalena, 50. Surprisingly, in 1884 Peter attended the progressive Central Conference Mennonite Church assembly in Berne, Indiana. Herald of Truth, October 1887: “At his home in Trenton, Butler County, Ohio, father Peter Schrock of a paralytic stroke brought on by old age, aged 85 years, 2 months and 20 days. He was a faithful member of the Amish Mennonite Church, whose biblical teachings were his delight and guide until the close of a life which had reached beyond the scriptural limit. He leaves a wife, one son, eighteen grandchildren and one great-grandchild. His former wife, two sons and five daughters preceded him. The funeral services were held at the Mennonite Church by Pre. Webber, J. Yoder and P. Kinsinger.” He is buried in the Mennonite Cemetery at Trenton. Herald of Truth, May 15, 1896: “On the 23d of April 1896, in Gridley, McLean Co., Ill., of lung fever, sister Magdalena Schrock, aged 66 y., 6 m. Her maiden name was Rediger. She was married to Peter Schrock in Butler Co., Ohio, who preceded her to the grave many years ago. She had a desire to depart. She was a faithful sister in the church. Her remains were laid to rest on the 26th in the Waldo graveyard. A large concourse of friends assembled on the occasion. Funeral services by Andrew Werckler, John Kinsinger, Daniel Orendorff, Chr. Zimmerman and J.P. Schmitt, from 1 Cor. 15:55, 56. She leaves one brother and three sisters.”
4. Andreas/André/Andrew Schrock was born at Gondrexangos, Moselle Jan. 5 or 8, 1804, and died of cholera at Washington Aug. 5, 1855. He is buried in Guth Cemetery at Washington as ‘Andreas Schrack.’ He was married to

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9 The hamlet Mittelbach is in a valley of the Bickenalb River. The hamlet Hengstbach is in a side valley. The two were administratively merged to become Mittelbach-Hengstbach in 1969. Together they form the southernmost district of Zweibrücken. We found a good deal of garbling between these two locations, and use ‘Mittelbach-Hengstbach’ throughout the text to describe either hamlet.
Anna/Anne Oyer, who was born at Niderhoff, Moselle Aug. 31, 1815, a daughter of Jacob Oyer and his first wife Suzanne Schertz. They are found on the 1850 census of Tazewell County as farmer Andrew Schrock, 45, Germany; Anne, 35, Germany; Joseph, 15; Ohio; Susan, 13; Ohio; Anna, 10, Ohio; Andrew, 7, Illinois; Mary, 5, Illinois; and Peter, 1, Illinois. The household is found on the 1860 census of Washington as farmer Anna Schrock, 45, France; Susan, 23; Ohio; Ann, 20, Illinois; Andrew, 17, Illinois; Mary, 13, Illinois; Mary, 13, Illinois; Peter, 11, Illinois; and Magdeleine, 4, Illinois.

5. Magdalena Schnag/Schrock was born at Sarrebourg, Moselle April 10, 1811, and died at Congerville, Montgomery Township Aug. 4, 1855. Circa 1833 at Wayne, Butler County, Ohio she married Christophe Schmitt/Christian Smith. He was born at Bispeng, Moselle May 31, 1810, and died at Congerville Aug. 2, 1855, a son of Joseph Schmitt and Freni/Véronique Gerber. They moved from Butler County to what is now Congerville in 1838. The story of their deaths from cholera is given in SMITH.

6. Barbara Schrock was born circa 1815, and died in 1836. She married Joseph 'Red Joe' Belsley. He was born at Rhodes May 8, 1802, and died at Deer Creek Dec. 24, 1872, a son of Christian Bältzi and Katharina/Catherine Vercier of Rhodes. She died from cholera a brief time after giving birth to a son Christian. On Dec. 18, 1836, 'Red Joe' remarried to Barbara Engel. She was born April 10, 1803, and died Aug. 25, 1881, a daughter of Christian Engel and his second wife Barbe Brunner. See BELSLEY for more on these couples. The three are buried in Belsley-Camp Cemetery at Spring Bay.

Johannes/John/Schrock was born at Gondrexange June 15, 1801, and died at Pekin Jan. 21, 1875, a son of Joseph Schrog and his second wife Maria Neuhauser.

On April 8, 1826 at Blâmont he married Catherine Salzman. Their civil marriage entry describes the groom as miller Jean Schrach, born at Gondrexange June 15, 1801 but a resident of Blâmont, and a son of miller Joseph Schrach and Marie Nayhouser of Bachats, who were present and consenting. The bride was described as Catherine Salzman, a resident of Bistroff born at Sarralbe Oct. 27, 1804. She was a daughter of miller Michel Salsman (who was a resident of Bistroff but had been at Chouaxange for the past three months), present and consenting, and the deceased Catherine Hirschine, who had died at Forbach March 6, 1814. Witnesses included father-of-the-groom Joseph Schrach, 52, a miller at Bachats; mother-of-the-groom Marie Nayhouser, 53; Nicholas Cherrier, 50; father-of-the-bride Michel Salzman, 44, a miller at Chouaxange; and André Chertz [Schertz], 33, uncle by marriage.

Catherine was born at Sarralbe Oct. 27, 1804, and died in Tazewell County in March 1858, a daughter of Michael/Michel Salzman and his first wife Catherine Hirschi. She is buried in Railroad Cemetery at Elm Grove.

John appears on the 1831 Le Havre-Baltimore passenger list as passenger number 147, 'Jno. Gerral', a 30-year-old male farmer. Catherine appears later as passenger number 152, 'Catherine Gerrard', 26. Their two children were passengers number 156 and 157, one-year-old Catherine and three-year-old Joseph.

According to Portrait and Biographical Record of Woodford County (1889), they stayed one year in Lancaster County, then continued on to Ohio in 1832.

'John Schrack' appears next door to father-in-law Michael Salzman on the 1840 census of Lemon, Butler County (younger brother Peter/Pierre occupied this farm after his move to Illinois). One of Catherine's sisters, Jacobine Salzman, married John Staker, son of Christian Farny/Stecker/Staker and Magdalina Gabriel.

John Schrock, 50, is found in the household of Christian Ackerman at Morton in 1850. The entire family moved to Elm Grove shortly after the 1850 census was taken. Widower 'John Shrock' is found as a 60-year-old farmer from France on the 1860 census of Elm Grove; he lived with John, 17, born in Ohio; and Magdalene, 16, born in Ohio.

On Feb. 1, 1861 in McLean County John remarried to Jakobea/Jacobine 'Phoebe' King/König. She was born in Baden Sept. 14, 1814, and died in Livingston County March 21 or 22, 1896, a daughter of Johannes König and Jakobea Rediger (see KING, THE KÖNIGS OF NIMBURG for her obituary).

The more complete story of John Schrock can be found in an article by Donna Schrock Birkey in Illinois Mennonite Heritage Vol. XXIX No. 4 Winter 2002.

Children of Johannes/John Schrock and Catherine Salzman include:

1. Joseph Schrock was born in Lorraine March 17, 1828 (some sources say Dompeçvrin, but no entry is found there), and died at Congerville Dec. 29, 1901. On June 8, 1852 in Tazewell County he married Magdalena 'Laney' Guinrich (also found as Gingery); the ceremony was performed by minister Andrew Ropp. Her headstone says she was born Nov. 30, 1829; however, she was not documented on the civil marriage entry of her parents in Moselle Feb. 21, 1830, though her older sister was. It is probable that she was born on the voyage to America in 1830. She died at Congerville Nov. 29, 1925, a daughter of Joseph 'Gold Rush' Guinrich and his first wife Magdalena Gerber. The 1860 census of Roanoke gives her age as 31 and nativity as France, implying an 1829 birth; while the 1880 census of Montgomery Township gives her age as 50 and nativity as France. Land encompassing their farm at Slabtown was platted as the town of Schrock in 1888, but quickly became Congerville. They are found on the 1900 census of Montgomery Township as landlord Joseph Schrack, 72, born in France in March 1828, immigrated in 1831; and
Magdalena, 70, born in France in December 1829, immigrated in 1830. They are buried in the Apostolic Christian Cemetery at Congerville.

2. Catherine Schrock was born at Dompçervrin, Meuse Meuse Dec. 18, 1829, and died at Morton May 10, 1906. Circa 1848 she married Joseph Oyer. He was born at Lagarde, Moselle June 23, 1820, and died in Tazewell County April 13, 1864, a son of Jean Oyer and Catherine Kennel. They are found on the 1860 census of Groveland as farmer Joseph Oyer, 39, France; Catharine, 29, France; and four children born in Illinois.

3. Johannes Schrock was born in Butler County, Ohio July 11, 1834, and died there Oct. 12, 1835.

4. Jacobine Schrock was born in Butler County Aug. 23, 1836, and died in there Sept. 12, 1837.

5. Peter Schrock was born in Butler County Aug. 1, 1839, and died at Fisher April 5, 1922. On Jan. 8, 1860 in Tazewell County he married Anna 'Nancy' Garber, the ceremony was performed by minister Andrew Ropp. She was born in Ohio April 30, 1839, and died at Fisher Feb. 3, 1902, a daughter of John Garber and Eva Carolina Paithe. They appear on the 1860 census of Malone; the 1870 census of Elm Grove; and the 1880 census of Morton. They are buried in East Bend Cemetery at Fisher.

6. John Schrock was born in Butler County March 26, 1843, and died at Pekin April 20, 1935. On Dec. 3, 1865 at Pekin he married Barbara Rediger. She was born at Partridge May 29, 1844, and died at Pekin Aug. 3, 1911, a daughter of Joseph Rediger and Anne Schmitt. They appear on the 1880 census of Elm Grove as farmer John Schrock, 37, born in Ohio to parents from France; Barbara, 36, born in Illinois to parents from Germany; and eight children born in Illinois.

7. Magdalene Schrock was born in Butler County April 23, 1845. Notice of her death was published in the Eureka Times March 5, 1914. On Dec. 18, 1866 in Livingston County she married Joseph Yoder. He was born at Munich, Germany Dec. 18, 1841, and died at Goodfield, Montgomery Township, Woodford County June 18, 1928. His death entry gave no information about his father, and stated that he was a son of Mary Fisher. He was naturalized as ‘Joseph Joder’ in the circuit court at Livingston County Nov. 30, 1876. They appear on the 1900 census of Kansas and Montgomery Townships as farmer Joseph Yoder, 58, born in Germany to German parents in December 1841; Magdalena, 55, born in Ohio to French parents in April 1845; and John M., 28, born in Illinois to German parents in December 1871. The 1910 census of shows Joseph Yoder, 68, born in Germany to German parents; Magdalene, 65, born in Ohio to German parents; and William, 24, born in Illinois to German parents. They are buried in Mt. Zion Cemetery at Deer Creek. Gospel Herald, July 1928: "Joseph Yoder was born Dec. 18, 1841 in Munich, Germany and came to America at the age of 14 years; died at the home of his son John in Goodfield, III., June 18, 1928; aged 86 y. 6 m. He was united in marriage to Magdalene Schrock on Dec. 18, 1866. This union was blessed with six children of whom four are still living (Mrs. Charles Pepper, John, Joseph, and William). His wife, one son, and one daughter preceded him in death. He was a faithful member of the Mennonite Church. Funeral services were held at the Baptist Church in Goodfield, Ill., June 21, 1928, conducted by Bro. George Gundy. The remains were laid to rest beside his wife in Mt. Zion Cemetery near Deer Creek, Ill."
Circa 1763 he married Elizabeth Albrecht. She was born circa 1745, and died at Wischenka/Vyshenka in what is now the northern Ukraine in 1796, a daughter of Michael/Michel Albrecht. See ALBRECHT OF BUREAU COUNTY in the Appendix for background on her family.

In 1776 they became residents of Hornbach (six miles south of the city of Zweibrücken).

With the death of Empress Maria Theresa, her son and co-regent became Joseph II, emperor of the Holy Roman Empire. On Oct. 13, 1780 he signed a decree of tolerance acknowledging the rights of Protestants. On Sept. 17, 1781 his government issued a colonization decree encouraging resettlement in the newly acquired eastern provinces. Residents of the Pfalz were invited to colonize Galicia, a region that would now be described as straddling the borders of Poland and the Ukraine. Mennonites would be exempted from combatant roles in military service; they would also be permitted to build their own church structure once natural growth increased their numbers to 100 families. However, they would not be permitted to baptize adults from families associated with other religions. A decree of acceptance was issued March 29, 1784.

In 1784 Johannes and Elizabeth joined a traveling party at Albisheim (near Marnheim and Kirchheimbolanden). With the Austrian government paying part of their expenses, they passed through Regensburg, Linz, Vienna, Krakow, and Lemberg (now Lviv in the western Ukraine) before arriving in the village of Falkenstein south of Lemberg - a journey of more than 1,400 miles. There they were soon joined by Amish Mennonites from Montbéliard.

As noted in STAKER, Joseph II had a special affection for his subjects in the Grafschaft Falkenstein. It was an Austrian enclave within the Pfalz used by his Habsburg family for hunting. He knew that ownership of this insignificant property had qualified his father to serve as emperor before him. When he chose to travel incognito to France, Prussia, and Russia, he used the pseudonym ‘Count von Falkenstein.’ The village below Lemberg was almost certainly named by him or by a courtier to please him.

A modern map of the village of Falkenstein shows 36 lots. Seven on the west side were designated for Swiss Mennonite families; the remainder for Lutheran. Johannes Schrag lived on Lot 14 (just off center to the west), while his son Jacob lived on lot 15 (on the west side of his parents).

In 1795 the region went from Polish rule to Russian rule. Religious restrictions were imposed, requiring them to have Lutheran ministers presiding over marriage ceremonies. In 1796 they resettled to live with Hutterite Brethren at Wischenka/Vyshenka in what is now the northern Ukraine, where Elizabeth died. In the spring of 1797 Johannes moved again to the Dutch-Prussian colony at Michalin, southwest of Kiev. In 1801 a group disagreement with the Russian government over taxation prompted another temporary move to Beresina (below Dubno in what is now the Ukraine), and then to nearby Wignanka (above Dubno) at the invitation of the noble Lubomirski family. Some of these settlers later moved 15 miles southwest to dryer land at Poutschy/Ger. Eduardsdorf, 14 miles west of Dubno; some in 1861 to Zahoriz/Sahorez, (five miles southwest of Dubno); and the bulk of the congregation in 1861 east to Zhitomir/Zhytomyr (now in the Ukraine) to found a settlement called Kutuzovka.

The lengthy gaps in the order of Johannes/Johann Schrag and Elizabeth Albrecht’s known children suggests that unidentified children died young.

1. Jacob Schrag was born Sept. 1, 1765, and died at Falkenstein, Galicia Feb. 8, 1824. Circa 1796 he married Eva Bachman. She was born June 23, 1774, and died Sept. 24, 1811, a daughter of Michael Bachman and Elizabeth Ewy.
2. Andreas Schrag was born circa 1774, and died April 10, 1834. On Nov. 2, 1794 at Enseidel he married widow Barbara Stucki/Stucky. She had been married to Christian Albrecht, who was born circa 1760, and had died at Elbsheim March 14, 1793. She was born circa 1762. They lived at Michelsdorf. Michelsdorf was a Mennonite settlement 30 miles northeast of Lublin, Poland, made up of families from Montbéliard.
3. Johann Schrag was born at Horbach circa 1776, and died in 1815. He married Susanna Zerger. She was born circa 1777, and died Feb. 1, 1814, a daughter of Johannes Zerger and Anna Magdalena Eymann.
4. Elizabeth Schrag was born at Horbach Sept. 6, 1777, and died at Lemberg, Galicia (now Lviv in the western Ukraine) May 15, 1813. She married Jan. 22, 1796.
5. Magdalena Schrag was born at Hornbach circa 1780.
6. Katharina/Catherine Schrag was born at Horbach Jan. 11, 1781, and died at Poutschy/Eduardsdorf Nov. 5, 1839. She was baptized in the Hutterite congregation Dec. 21, 1796 by minister/elder Johannes Waldner. On Jan. 11, 1797 at Vyshenka she married Hutterite Andreas Waldner. He was born Sept. 17, 1777, and died at Radychiv/Radichev (a Hutterite settlement 25 miles below Wischenka/Vyshenka in the northern Ukraine) May 4 or 5, 1817, a son of the minister/elder and Maria Naegeler. Katharina remained in their colony until the death of her husband, then returned to the Swiss Mennonite group.

10 Galicia remained part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire until 1914. From 1918 until 1939 it was part of Poland.
7. Joseph Schrag was born circa 1784, and died at Poutschy/Eduardsdorf Aug. 19, 1859. In 1803 he married Freni Stucki/Stucky. She was born circa 1783, a daughter of Hans Stucki/Stucky and Anna Wenger. Her family had come from Montbéliard in 1791. Joseph was ordained as an Amish Mennonite minister at Doisdorf (now Zabara, Ukraine) in 1807, and voted elder in 1810.

8. **Daniel Schrag** was born at Falkenstein, Galicia in 1789.

9. Anna Schrag was born at Falkenstein, Galicia circa 1789, and died Sept. 14, 1862. Anna was baptized in the Hutterite congregation Jan. 18, 1812. The following day she married Jerg Waldner. He was born at Vyshenka Jan. 3, 1794, and died Sept. 10, 1857, a son of minister/elder Johannes Waldner and Maria Naegeler.

10. Maria Schrag was born at Falkenstein, Galicia circa 1792. She was baptized in the Hutterite congregation Dec. 11, 1810. On Sept. 17, 1830 at Radychiv/Radichev she married Enoch Kleinsasser. He was born at Radychiv/Radichev July 22, 1811, a son of Joseph Kleinsasser and Anna Koller. After her death he emigrated from Europe. The SS *Lessing* sailed from Hamburg and Le Havre to New York; arriving New York July 17, 1878. The ‘between deck’ passenger list shows farmer Enoch Kleinsa, 66, Russia; and Anna, 57, Russia. She may have been a relative or second wife.

**Daniel Schrag** was born at Falkenstein, Galicia in 1789, and died at Dubno March 28, 1850. In December of 1808 at Poutschy/Eduardsdorf he married Maria von Huwen. She was born at Enseidel, Galicia Oct. 20, 1787, and died at Dubno Dec. 4, 1839, a daughter of Johann von Huwen and Maria Müller.

Their children include:

1. **Barbara Schrag** was born Nov. 15, 1809. She married Christian Schwartz. He was born Dec. 21, 1817 (at or near Montbéliard), a son of Jacob Schwartz and Katharina Graber.
2. **Johann Schrag** was born May 20, 1811. On April 11, 1832 he married Katharina Graber. She was born in 1812 (at or near Montbéliard), and died in 1865, a daughter of Peter Graber and Katharina Gering. He may be the farmer John Schrag, 67, found on the 1880 census of Township 99, Range 55, Turner County, South Dakota in 1880. There he was described as a native of Russia born to Polish parents.
3. Anna Schrag was born at Lublin, West Galicia (now in Poland) Nov. 8, 1813, and died at Moundridge, Kansas March 6, 1895. On Oct. 16, 1832 at Poutschy/Eduardsdorf she married Christian Stucki/Stucky. He was born at Lublin July 10, 1812, and died at Moundridge Feb. 22, 1885, a son of Christian Stucki/Stucky and Katharina Mundelheim. They sailed from Liverpool on the *S.S. City of Richmond*, arriving at New York Aug. 31, 1874. They are found on the passenger list as laborer Christian Stucki, 62, Russia; Anna, 61, Russia; laborer Benj., 30; Freni, 24; Marie, 9; Anna, 5; Caroline, 3; Froni, 1; laborer Jacob, 24; and Eliz., 6. They are buried in First Mennonite Cemetery at Moundridge.
4. **Jakob Schrag** was born Jan. 28, 1816, and died April 10, 1818.
5. **Jacob Schrag/Jacob D. Schrag** was born at Zahoriz/Sahorez, Ukraine (five miles southwest of Dubno) Oct. 8, 1818, and died at Freeman, South Dakota Nov. 27, 1895. On Feb. 14, 1843 at Zahoriz/Sahorez he married Katharina Wedel. Before 1874 he remarried to Maria Kaufman. She was born June 27, 1844, and died at Moundridge Nov. 5, 1879, a daughter of Peter Kaufman and Maria Stucki/Stucky. She is buried in Hopefield Cemetery. His household is found on the 1880 census of Township 99, Range 55, Turner County, South Dakota as farmer Jacob D. Schrag, 58; Mary, 35 [after her name, the word ‘wife’ appears to be rubbed out]; and Andrew, 15 [son of Mary]; all born in Russia to Russian parents.
6. **Andreas Schrag** was born March 28, 1821, and died in Turner County, South Dakota Nov. 18, 1899.
7. Maria Schrag was born April 23, 1825, and died at Freeman June 6, 1916. On Feb. 14, 1843 she married her cousin Johann Müller/Miller. He was born Aug. 24, 1825, and died at Freeman Aug. 9, 1909; a son of Johann Müller and Katharina Schrag (a daughter of Andreas Schrag and Barbara Stucki/Stucky). They are found on the *S.S. City of Richmond* passenger list (May 18, 1874 voyage, more on this below) as laborer John Muller, 50; Maria, 49; Jacob, 18; Peter, 15; Kath, 23; and Fein [Freni?], 11. Literate Mennonite widow Mary Miller, age 90, is found as a resident of Childston, Turner County on the 1915 state census of South Dakota. The report gives her maiden name as Mary Schrag, and says she was born in Russia to German parents.

**Andreas Schrag** was born March 28, 1821, and died in Turner County, South Dakota Nov. 18, 1899. On Feb. 14, 1843 at Dubno he married his cousin Barbara Müller/Miller. She was born Feb. 14, 1826, and died in Turner County Feb. 9, 1909 (headstone dates for both), a daughter of Johann Müller and Katharina Schrag (a daughter of Andreas Schrag and Barbara Stucki/Stucky). Andreas and 11 others representing diverse religious groups made a land-scouting trip to North America from mid-April to September of 1873.11 They were escorted by minister John F. Funk (author of *War: Its Evils, Our Duty*, and publisher of *Herald of Truth*). He also hosted some of them in his home in Elkhart, Indiana.

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11 A detailed account of the scouting trip can be found in *Hutterite Roots* by Arnold and Norman Hofer.
Andreas departed from Hamburg on the Frisia, arriving at New York May 29, 1873. The passenger list shows him with others who are known to have been participants: #104 manufacturer Leond. du Suerman; #105 Jacob Buller, 46; #106 Wilh. Ewert, 48; #107 Joh. Funk; #108 Andr Shlack, 56, Russia; and #109 Tobias Unruh, 54; all from Russia, and the last five farmers, though Funk was neither a farmer nor Russian.

From New York they traveled to Fargo in the Dakota Territory (North Dakota and South Dakota did not become states until 1889). From there they went 223 miles straight north to Winnipeg, Manitoba; then 544 miles straight south through Fargo; through Turner County (established in 1871) in what is now South Dakota; and then to Sioux City, Iowa.

On Aug. 16 at Lancaster, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania Andreas became the first of the Volhynian Mennonites to meet with American Amish Mennonites. He met with minister/elder Samuel Yoder of Mifflin County and Samuel Kauffman of Lancaster County.

On Aug. 21 Schrag and others boarded the Hammonia to return, arriving in West Prussia Sept. 6. He reunited with his family Sept. 21. The following spring the Schrags boarded the S.S. City of Richmond at Liverpool with Müller, Schwartz, and Waldner relatives, arriving at New York May 18, 1874. The passenger list shows farmer Andreas Schragg, 53; Barbara, 48; farmer Jno., 24; Ann, 22; Andra, 1; Barbara, 27; Jacob, 24; and Katharine, 24; all born in Russia.

Upon arrival the Schrag and Ewert families split off from the main group and went to Philadelphia. There they met with an agent of the Santa Fe Railroad who accompanied them the rest of the way.

According to Bernese Anabaptists, “During 1874 most of the Volhynian Swiss migrated to America. Andreas Schrag, who was sent by them a year before to investigate possibilities in America, led the first group of 10 families to near Yankton, South Dakota. Other larger settlements were made near Pretty Prairie, Kansas, and near Moundridge, Kansas.”

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE MIGRATION

The arrival of Swiss Volhynian Mennonite immigrants from what is now the Ukraine and Russia in 1874 had a negligible religious significance, but a lasting beneficial impact on farming in the upper Midwest and Manitoba. The interest of the railroad companies in this group was twofold. When tracks were laid across the upper Midwest, the companies received substantial land casements from the federal government. Favorable depot sites were given attractive names, platted, and subdivided by surveyors. Long houses were constructed so that latecoming immigrants could winter over while sod houses were being constructed (not much worse than the thatched huts of the Ukraine and Russia), and roofing materials were provided.

The project was a long-term investment. The railroad barons knew there would eventually be grain and cattle to move by boxcar to the markets and large slaughterhouses in Chicago and St. Louis. Their investment in the Volhynians must have paid off a thousand-fold.

When the Volhynians arrived they stepped into the worst grasshopper plague in modern history. Their land scouts knew about grasshoppers – there were problems in the summer of 1873 – but after July of 1874 they came in waves lasting from two days to two weeks, blocking the sun and covering the ground in some places. They ate everything, including wood.

But the Volhynians brought with them a partial remedy. They emptied trunks and burlap sacks filled with seeds of a strain of winter wheat that was soon called Russian Red (now called Turkey Red). They planted their first fields that fall. Their farmers suffered financial losses in the short term. But once substantial acreage was sewn a supplemental source of income to counter the effects of summer insect damage and droughts. After the steel roller mill was invented in 1878, hard varieties of wheat such as the red became more popular than soft wheats because of their higher protein content.

Eventually at least 159 families came in four groups: the first three to Turner and Hutchinson Counties in South Dakota, and only the fourth to Kansas (many of the German-speaking families in Kansas migrated to Manitoba during World War I). Though many of the families had lived as Amish Mennonites when they first left the Pfalz, by the time they migrated they would be described as Mennonites.12

In Russia Andreas’s older brother Joseph Schrag had been an Amish Mennonite minister. Joseph’s son Johannes Schrag attended the assembly of Amish Mennonite ministers [Ger. Diener Versammlung] at Hopedale May 16-19, 1875. He was accompanied by Volhynian immigrant Jacob Stucky of Kansas. Jacob delivered the opening day Sunday morning sermon, and Johannes the afternoon sermon. Johannes also attended the assemblies at

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12 Between 1874 and 1880 it is estimated that 9,000 Mennonites left Russia for the United States, and another 7,000 for Canada. The few families that remained behind fared poorly. The end for the settlements where Schrags lived came in 1915, when Czar Nicholas II ordered deportations of German-speaking Volhynians to Siberia.
Amish Mennonites in Tazewell County, Illinois

Archbold, Ohio in 1876; and Eureka, Woodford County in 1878 (the last major assembly of ministers). Christian Naf Hopedale reciprocated by visiting South Dakota in 1877. Andreas is also known for a trip to Pennsylvania he took with minister Joseph Graber in 1878. There they secured a $7,400 loan at six percent to tide over the Turner County settlement; it was repaid in three years.

They are found on the 1880 census of Township 98 Range 55, Turner County, South Dakota (in the southeastern corner of the state) as farmer Anders Schrag, 60, born in Russia to Swiss parents; and Barbara, 59, born in Russia to Swiss parents.

Andreas and Barbara are buried in Salem Zion Mennonite Cemetery in Turner County. Wooden markers there were destroyed by a prairie fire in 1889, and the Schrags are listed on a group memorial.

**Ulrich Schrag and Bavaria, Canada, and Illinois**

**Ulrich Schrag**

Ulrich Schrag was born on the Ernstweilerhof estate near the city of Zweibrücken circa 1740.

He married Marie Stalter. They farmed on the Gersbergerhof estate, three miles above the Ernstweilerhof estate. They followed their son Jacob onto two estates, and Ulrich died at Ingolstadt.

Their son **Jacob Schrag** was born on the Gersbergerhof estate in 1760.

He married widow Magdalena Holly. She was born at Nehwiller-prés-Woerth, Lower Alsace circa 1762, a daughter of minister Jörg/Georg Holly and Barbara Bürki (see BECHLER/BECKLER for background on the Hollys). Her first husband was a Müller.

They farmed on the Freudenbergerhof and Kaplaneihof estates. Both estates were located near Ernstweiler. 13 Magdalena died at Johanneskirchen Oct. 29, 1828. A death entry created at Oberföhring (a suburb on the northeast side of Munich) was found in the State Archive at Munich by Herbert Holly. It described her as a former resident of House No. 8, buried by Daniel Zehr.

Widower Jacob emigrated in 1837. According to Holly, his application for emigration documents was dated May 26, 1837. A *National Archives* list of passengers arriving at Baltimore from foreign ports in September of 1837 shows Jacob Schrag, 84; John, 32; Daniel, 24; Magdalene, 36; Catherina, 34; and Catherina Miller, 13. An archives index card says they arrived Oct. 1, 1837.

Jacob died at Wilmot, Ontario April 25, 1838. He is buried in Kropf-Baden Cemetery, also known as Old Baden Cemetery, at Baden, Ontario.

Children of Jacob Schrag and Magdalena Holly include:

1. Magdalena Schrag was born on the Freudenbergerhof estate Nov. 11, 1797, and died at Wilmot, Ontario in 1881.
2. **Christian Schrag** was born on the Freudenbergerhof estate Dec. 24, 1798.
3. Barbara Schrag was born March 25, 1801, and died March 14, 1804.
4. Katharina/Catherine Schrag was born May 7, 1802, and died at Wilmot, Ontario before 1851. On June 24, 1838 at Wilmot she married Joseph Becker. The 1851 census of Wilmot shows him as Joseph Becker, 54, a Mennonite farmer and widower from Germany; the 1861 census has him as widower Joseph Becker, 69.
5. Joseph Schrag was born Jan. 18, 1803 (per his headstone, though the date is incompatible with his older sister) or more likely Jan. 12, 1804, and died at East Zorra, Ontario March 11, 1880. He married Catherine Schwartzentruber. She was born at Mengeringhausen, Waldeck Oct. 27, 1817, and died in Ontario in 1846, a daughter of Michael Schwartzentruber and Barbara Oswald. Joseph remarried to Elizabeth Diener. She was born in Alsace in 1812, and died July 1 or 31, 1880, a daughter of George Diener and Magdalena Müller. Joseph and Elizabeth are buried in Amish Mennonite Cemetery at East Zorra, Ontario.
6. Johannes/John Schrag was born Feb. 7, 1806, and died at East Zorra, Ontario Oct. 13, 1861. In 1841 at East Zorra he married Magdalena Schwartzentruber. She was born on the Atlantic Ocean June 6, 1823, and died at Milford, Nebraska June 16, 1909, a daughter of Michael Schwartzentruber and Barbara Oswald. She is buried in East Fairview Mennonite Cemetery at Milford. *Gospel Herald*, July 1909: "Magdalena, nee Swartzentruber, widow of John Schrag, died June 16, 1909; aged 86 y. 10 d. She leaves to mourn two sons, one daughter, two brothers, three sisters, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. Five sons and two daughters have preceded her to the spirit world. Sister Schrag was a consistent member of the A.M. Church from her youth. Her desire was to depart and be with Christ. She was laid to rest in the East Fairview burial ground near Milford, Nebr. Services were conducted by the brethren Jos. Whitaker, N.E. Roth, and Jos. Rediger." 7. Elizabeth Schrag was born March 25, 1808, and died in Bavaria before 1837.

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13 Two locations called Kaplaneihof were homes to Amish Mennonites. The other was located near Bergzabern in the Pfalz (now Bad Bergzabern), across the border from Wissembourg. In 1787 Joseph Schowalter purchased the 150-acre estate from representatives of Elector Karl Theodor. It was then subdivided into six 25-acre parcels that were occupied by Schowalter and Lehman families.
8. Daniel Schrag was born at Kösching, Bavaria April 23, 1813, and died at South Easthope, Ontario Nov. 1, 1891. On May 31, 1840 at Wilmot, Ontario he married Elizabeth Gingerich. She was born on the Atlantic Ocean July 27, 1825, and died in Ontario Nov. 26, 1854, a daughter of Jacob Gingerich and Catherine Honderich. On June 24, 1849 Daniel was ordained as a minister for the East Zorra Amish Mennonite congregation. On June 3, 1855 he remarried to Magdalena Steinmann, in a ceremony performed by minister Peter Litwiller. She was born at Inling, Moselle Sept. 4, 1825, and died in Ontario Sept. 8, 1878, a daughter of Pierre Steinmann and Anne Abresol. The 1871 census of South Easthope shows them as Daniel Schrag, 58, a married Mennonite farmer from Germany; Magdalena, 45, a married Mennonite from France; and seven children born in Ontario.

Christian Schrag was born on the Freudenbergerhof estate Dec. 24, 1798. Circa 1821 he married Elizabeth Bürki, who was born circa Jan. 24, 1802. In 1812 they obtained a lease on the Grathof estate at Kösching, above Ingolstadt. Kösching is adjacent to Hellmannsberg, where the Sutters leased an estate in 1811.

Christian died at Unterföhring Aug. 26, 1831. According to Herbert Holly, Christian’s death entry describes him as a 32-year-old Wiedertaüfer, though he was buried by a Catholic priest.

Children of Christian Schrag and Elizabeth Bürki include:

1. Elizabeth Schrag/Schrock was born circa 1822, and died at Hopedale March 19, 1899. Circa 1849 she married Michael Saltzman. When he was naturalized in Louisiana July 3, 1852, he stated that he had immigrated in 1840. The 1850 census of Third Ward, New Orleans has baker Mischel Salsman, 33, Germany; E., 28, Germany; Mary, 3, Louisiana; E., 10 months, Louisiana; laborer Joseph, 18, France; Susan, 16, France; and laborer John, 21, France. They are found on the 1870 census of Chenoa, McLean County as day laborer Michael Salsman, 53, France; Elizabeth, 47, France; Mary, 22; Eliza, 21; Mike, 18; John, 16; Joseph, 13; and Christian, 6; all children born in Louisiana. Son John is also found that year in the census of Yates, as a 15-year-old farmhand in the household of John Habercker/Hawbecker and Maria Magdalena Klein. They appear on the 1880 census of Chenoa as laborer Michael Saltzman, 65, France; and Elizabeth Saltzman, 58, Germany. Herald of Truth, April 1899: “On the 19th of March, 1899, near Hopedale, Ill., Elizabeth Schrack, wife of Michael Saltzman, aged 78 years, 11 months and 19 days. She lived in matrimony over 50 years, and leaves her aged companion, four sons and two daughters, 17 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren and many friends to mourn their loss. She was a faithful member of the Amish Mennonite congregation and was deeply interested in the spiritual welfare of her children and of the church. Buried on the 21st of March. Funeral services by Joseph and John Egli, Daniel Nafziger and J.C. Birky. C.”

2. Magdalena Schrag/Schrock was born March 24, 1824, and died at Hopedale Nov. 9, 1914. On July 8, 1855 in Tazewell County she married Noah Augsburger; the ceremony was performed by minister Andrew Ropp. He was born in Bavaria Nov. 30, 1819, and died at Boynton July 17, 1903, a son of Noé Augspurger/Noah Augsburger and Elisabeth Eyer. See AUGSPURGER for more on this couple.

3. Christian Schrag/Schrock was born in Bavaria April 24, 1826, and died at Flanagan, Livingston County Oct. 29, 1917.

4. Barbara Schrag/Schrock was born at Kösching Aug. 17, 1828, and died in Tazewell County Oct. 30, 1911. On Feb. 4, 1851 in Tazewell County she married Joseph Heiser. He was born in Bavaria March 1, 1818. His headstone at Pleasant Grove Mennonite Cemetery says he died Nov. 9, 1892 at 71 years, 8 months, 8 days. See HEISER for more on this couple.

Christian Schrag/Schrock was born in Bavaria April 24, 1826, and died at Flanagan, Livingston County Oct. 29, 1917.

In the summer of 1846 he sailed from Bremen on the Leodes, accompanied by Christian Nafziger and Johannes/John Nafziger (see NAFZIGER). They arrived at New Orleans Oct. 13, where the passenger list named them as Christian Nafzig, 26; Nafzig Joh., 18; and Christian Schwag, 20.

The three traveled on foot to Tazewell County, where they worked for six dollars a month.

Widowed mother Elizabeth Bürki Schrag and her three daughters Elizabeth, Magdalena, and Barbara may have come into the country through the port of New Orleans in 1848; oldest daughter Elizabeth married someone from New Orleans the following year.14 Mother Elizabeth, Christian, Magdalena, and Barbara arrived at Pekin in 1850.

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14 We could not determine their immigration year from unreliable census reports. As an 82-year-old at Elm Grove in 1910, Barbara’s immigration year was given by someone as 1846. As a 76-year-old at Boynton in 1900, Magdalena’s was given as 1853; as an 86-year-old there in 1910, it was given as 1855.
Mother Elizabeth lived to be 90, and died Jan. 24, 1892.\(^{15}\) She is buried in Pleasant Grove Mennonite Cemetery as 'Elizabeth Schrag.' \textit{Herald of Truth}, February 1892: "On the 24th of January, 1892, near Pekin, Ill., of the infirmities of old age, Elizabeth, widow of Christian Schrag, aged 90 years. She had been a widow for 51 years [actually 61 years]. She leaves four children, 23 grandchildren and 54 great-grandchildren. Her last words were, 'Come, Lord Jesus.' Buried in the Pleasant Grove graveyard. Funeral services by D. Roth, P. Ropp, Em. and Joseph Litwiller, and Joseph Buercky, of Tiskilwa, Ill."

On March 14, 1852 in Tazewell County Christian married Maria/Mary Zimmerman; the ceremony was performed by minister Andrew Ropp. She was born at St. Valentin, Indre Oct. 5, 1835, and died Dec. 20, 1920, a daughter of Michael Zimmerman and his second wife Magdalena Erb.

They are found on the 1860 census of Tremont as farmer Christian Shrock, 33, Germany; Mary, 23, Germany; Ellen, 7, Illinois; Man, 5, Illinois; Mary, 3, Illinois; Christian, 1, Illinois; Michael Zimmerman, 82, Germany; laborer Peter Zimmerman, 17, Ohio; and Ellen Zimmerman, 56, Germany.

\textit{Gospel Herald}, November 1917: "Christian Schrock was born in Bavaria April 24, 1826; died at his home near Flanagan, Livingston Co., Ill., Oct. 29, 1917; aged 91 y. 6 m. 5 d. He emigrated to New Orleans, La., in 1846, and in 1850 came to Pekin, Tazewell Co., where in 1852 he married Mary Zimmerman. They resided at this place until 1868 when they moved to Nebraska Twp., being of the earliest settlers. Twelve children were born to them. He united with the Amish Mennonite Church when a young man and remained a faithful member. He leaves a devoted wife and seven children, also 25 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren. Funeral services were held at the house by Bro. D. M. Slagle and at the Church by Bro. Dan Orendorff in German and Bro. Geo. Sommer in English. Buried in the Waldo Cemetery."

\textit{Gospel Herald}, January 1921: "Mary Zimmerman was born near Paris, France, Nov. 5, 1835; died from the effects of a fall (pneumonia also setting in causing her much suffering which she bore patiently) Dec. 20, 1920; aged 85 y. 1 m. 15 d. She was converted in her youth, was received into the A.M. Church, and remained faithful. She had a smile and a pleasant word for all. She came to America with her parents in 1838, locating near Canton, Ohio, where they resided until 1841, when they came to Pekin, Ill. In 1852 she was married to Christian Schrock. In 1868 they came to Livingston Co. near where Flanagan is now situated. Twelve children were born to them. Six of them with the husband preceded her. She leaves six children, 24 grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren, and one brother. Funeral services were held at the Waldo A.M. Church by the home ministers, Dec. 22. Burial in the Waldo Cemetery."

\textbf{Andreas/André Schrag and Woodford County}

\textit{Andreas/André Schrag} was born circa 1749, and died at Vergaville, Moselle June 13, 1809.

He married Suzanne Bachmann. They farmed on the Wahlerhof estate at Mittelbach-Hengstbach, three miles southwest of the city of Zweibrücken.

Circa 1780 Andreas/André remarried to Suzanne Hirschi/Hirschy. She died at Vergaville, Moselle April 15, 1799.

His death entry created at Vergaville described him as a 60-year-old miller at Vergaville, the widower (in his second marriage) of Susanne Hergé [Hirschi], originaire de Deuxponts Mont Tonnerre – Zweibrücken in the French department of Mont Tonnerre [under French occupation]. It was witnessed by his son André Schrag, 30, also a miller.

A child of Andreas/André Schrag and his first wife Suzanne Bachmann was:

1. \textit{Andreas/André Schrag} was born at Mittelbach-Hengstbach circa 1779, and died at Dombrot-sur-Vair, Vosges March 1, 1848.

Children of Andreas/André Schrag and his second wife Suzanne Hirschi/Hirschy include:

2. Simon Schrag was born at Château Salins, Moselle circa 1781, and died at St. Ouen-les-Parey, Vosges Dec. 23, 1856. He married Anne Schweitzer.

\(^{15}\) The county cemetery book erroneously gives Jan. 24, 1892.
4. Christian/Christophe Schrag was born on Hingsange farm at Linstroff, Moselle Oct. 26, 1807, and died at Chassey, Meuse Dec. 26, 1850. On May 30, 1830 at Vic-sur-Seille (four miles west of Marsal) he married Marie Schraqe. She was born Nov. 15, 1801 (we did not have access to her birth entry to verify this), and died at Vouthon-Bas May 13, 1843, a daughter of Jean Schrag/Schraque/Gerack and Anne Engel. Her civil death entry described her as Marie Gerard, 43, the wife of Christophe Gerard, and a daughter of Jean Gerard and Anne Angville [Engel] born at Marsalle, Meurthe [Marsal, Moselle]. It was witnessed by husband and cultivator Christophe Gerard, 48, a resident of Vouthon-Bas; and brother-in-law and miller Pierre Gerard, 46, a resident of Beaufre, Chassey. They signed Christian Srag and Peter Srag. His civil death entry described him as Christophe Schrag, 52, a resident of Chassey, born at ‘Marimont (Meurthe)’, a son of André Schrag and Suzanne Hurchie, and the widower of Marie Schrag.

Andreas/André Schrag was born at Mittelbach-Hengstbach circa 1788, and died at Dombrot-sur-Vair, Vosges March 1, 1848.

On Feb. 20, 1805 at Oberstinzel, Moselle he married Anne Pelsy or Belzel [Baltzli]. She was born at Rhodes, Moselle Nov. 5, 1783, and died at Robécourt, Vosges Dec. 3, 1843, a daughter of Rudolf/Rodolphe/Rudolph Baltzli and his second wife Catherine Zwalter.

Their civil marriage entry said the groom was born in Deuxponts, a son of miller André Schrag and Suzanne Bachman. The father signed ‘Andreas Schrag.’

Somewhere along the line this family picked up the surname Gerard in occasional use. We suspect it began with the birth of daughter Christine, the first child born in the department of Meurthe-et-Moselle. The clerk at Baccarat called both father André and his witness Joseph ‘Gérard.’ While André signed with an ‘x’, indicating he was illiterate, Joseph very clearly signed ‘Joseph Schrag.’

This mixup of Gerard for Shrag would continue until April 11, 1863, when Christophe Schrag (a son of Andreas/André’s brother Christian/Christophe) made a grievance at a public meeting of the civil tribunal in District 2 of the department of Meuse. He explained that the persistent error could only be explained by poor pronunciation of the word Gerard. This resulted in a length remark inserted in the civil records of Chassey, detailing all the family events that had been misidentified because of it.16

Children of Andreas/André Schrag and Anne Pelsy or Belzel [Baltzli] include:

1. Catherine Schrag was born at Vergaville, Moselle Nov. 22, 1805, and died at Roanoke, Woodford County Feb. 10, 1886. On Jan. 9, 1832 at Dombrot-sur-Vair, Vosges she married David Schertz. He was born in the Sarreck mill at Oberstinzel, Moselle May 12, 1808, and died at Roanoke; Woodford County Feb. 10, 1865, a son of Christian Schertz and Barbe Schertz. See SCHERTZ for background on this couple who emigrated from Europe in 1842 and settled in Woodford County.

2. Madeleine Schrag was born at Vergaville March 13, 1807, and died there May 13, 1808.

3. Anne Georgette Schrag was born at Vergaville April 24, 1809, and died there Nov. 16, 1810.

4. André Schrag/Gerard was born at Assenoncourt, Moselle Feb. 22, 1813, and died at Sauvigny, Meuse Nov. 24, 1813. We have not seen the full civil birth entry, but the entry in the 10-year index called him André Serach. On April 20, 1839 at Dombrot-sur-Vair he married Catherine Zer [Zehr].

5. Christine Gerard was born at Baccarat Dec. 29, 1814, and died at Pagny-sur-Meuse, Meuse June 21, 1857. Her civil birth entry described her parents as miller André Gérard, 36, and Nanette Pelze, 28. One witness was miller Joseph Gérard, 42, a resident of Sarrebourg. The father signed with an ‘x’, indicating he was illiterate; his witness signed ‘Joseph Schrag.’ On Jan. 24, 1842 at Dombrot-sur-Vair Christina married Christophe Sommer. He was born at Ibigny, Moselle June 26, 1818, and died at Pagny sur-Meuse Dec. 2, 1868, a son of Jean Sommer and Barbe Elisabeth Geny.

6. Anne Gérard was born at Baccarat March 3, 1817, and died there March 13, 1817.

7. Madeleine Schrag (twin) was born at Deyvillers, Vosges Sept. 4, 1818, and died there March 15, 1819.

9. Christophe Gerard/Christian Schrock (twin) was born at Deyvillers, Vosges Sept. 4, 1818, and died at Roanoke, Woodford County Jan. 21, 1878.


Christophe Gerard/Christian Schrock was born at Deyvillers, Vosges Sept. 4, 1818, and died at Roanoke, Woodford County Jan. 21, 1878.

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16 Chassey NMD (1863-1872) can be found online through the Archives Départementales de la Meuse, archives.meuse.fr. The entry runs from image 8 of 151 to image 10 of 151. The village is now called Chassey-Beaupré.

The person who made the grievance was Christophe Schrag. His civil birth entry created at Rozières-sur-Mouzon, Vosges Feb. 22, 1834 said that he was born on the 21st, a son of miller Christoph Gerard and Marie Gerard.
He was a twin born at 4 a.m.; the Deyvillers clerk created separate birth entries for Cristophe and Magdelaine Gerard.

On Dec. 9, 1855 at Dombrot-sur-Vair, Vosges he married Elisabeth Cender. She was born at Niedernai June 24, 1821, and died in Woodford County April 26, 1892, a daughter of Christian Center and Magdalena/Madeleine Eymann.

Their civil marriage entry described the groom as miller Christophe Gerard, 26, born at Deyvillers Sept. 6, 1818, and a resident of Dombrot-sur-Vaire. His parents were miller André Gerard, 62, and Anne Belzel, 54, local residents who were present and consenting. The bride was Elisabeth Cender, 24, born at Niedernai June 25, 1821, a resident of Rigny-la-Salle. Her parents were farmer Chrétien Cender, 59, and Madeleine Eymann, 56, also residents there. Witnesses included miller and brother-of-the-groom André Gerard of Robecourt, 32, miller and friend-of-the-groom Joseph Roquit of Chatillon-sur-[illegible]; brother-of-the-bride and miller Chrétien Cender, 22, of Rigny-la-Salle; and uncle-of-the-bride Jean Cender, 40, a cultivator and resident of Écrouve. Signatures looked like Christophe Gerard, Elisabeth Center, Christian Cender, Johannes Zendner, André Gerard, and Joseph Rogy.

They sailed from Le Havre on the John Hancock, and arrived at New York June 20, 1855. The passenger list shows farmer Christian Zender, 58, France; Madelaine, 58; Madelaine, 35; Barbara, 28; Jean, 25; Cathrine, 21; Madelaine, 9; farmer Christophe Gerard, 35; Elise, 34; Christian, 4; Cathrine, 2; Joseph, eleven months; and Joseph [Cender], 29. Note that most of the stated ages were nearly correct except for those of Christian and his wife Magadlena/Madeleine: they were stated to be 58 when they were actually 65 and 58.

In late summer the traveling party settled near Metamora. In Woodford County Christophe Gerard/Christian Schrock would have reunited with his sister Catherine, who had immigrated in 1842 with her husband David Schertz. He would also have met numerous Belsley relatives.

They are found on the 1860 census of Roanoke, Woodford County as farmer Christian Schrock, 41, France; Elizabeth, 39, France; Christian, 13, France; Catherine, 10, France; Joseph, 8, France; Madeline, 4, Illinois; and John, 2, Illinois. They lived next door to David Schertz, 54.

The 1880 census of Roanoke shows widow Elisabeth Schrock, 59, France; Lena, 22, Illinois; farmer John, 21, Illinois; and servant/farm laborer Henri Sander, 19, born in Pennsylvania to parents from Baden. One house removed was the household of her son Joseph, found as farmer Joseph Schrock, 28, and Elisabeth, 23, born in Illinois to parents from Arnstead.

Their children include:

1. Chrétien Gerard/Christian Schrock was born June 13, 1847, and died at Shickley, Nebraska Aug. 9, 1926. On Feb. 27, 1873 at Hopedale he married Cathrine Birky. She was born at Morton Jan. 28, 1852, and died at Davenport, Nebraska Jan. 1, 1831, a daughter of Joseph Birky and Mary Birky. Gospel Herald, September 1926: “Christian C. Schrock was born in France June 13, 1847; died Aug. 9, 1926; at Shickley, Nebr.; aged 79 y. 1 m. 27 d. He was a member of the Mennonite Church. He was united in holy matrimony to Cathrine Birky at Hopedale, Ill., and lived in matrimony 53 years. To this union were born 13 children, six sons, and seven daughters. He leaves to mourn his departure his loving companion, six sons, seven daughters, 60 grandchildren (seven have preceded him in death), 21 great-grandchildren, two brothers, two sisters, and a host of friends. Funeral services by Bro. Fred Reeb of Shickley and Bro. W. M. Eicher of Milford.” They are buried in Salem Cemetery at Schickley.

2. Catherine Gerard/Schrock was born Nov. 25, 1850, and died Aug. 22, 1838. On Feb. 22, 1876 she married John G. Birkey. He was born in Tazewell County Jan. 14, 1852, and died at Manson, Iowa Dec. 17, 1932. Gospel Herald, September 1938: “Birkey - Catherine Schrock was born Nov. 25, 1850, at Alsace-Lorraine, France; died Aug. 22, 1938, at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Ben Zehr; aged 88 y. 8 m. 27 d. She came to America with her parents, settling in Woodford Co., Ill., where she grew to womanhood. On Feb. 22, 1876 she was united in marriage to John G. Birkey of Roanoke, Ill. They made their home in Illinois until 1913; then moved to Manson, Iowa, where they resided the rest of their life. She leaves eight children, two brothers, 40 grandchildren, and 16 great-grandchildren. The surviving children are Mrs. David Springer of Saybrook, Ill.; Joe and Levi of Clarksville, Mich.; Andrew, John and Will of Manson, Ia.; Mrs. Alpha NafZiger of Rockwell City, Ia.; and Mrs. Ben Zehr of Manson, Ia. The surviving brothers are: Joseph of Albany, Oreg., and John of Dewey, Ill. Her husband, two children, seven grandchildren, and one great-grandchild preceded her in death. She united with the Mennonite Church in her youth and remained faithful unto the end. Her greatest desire was for the spiritual welfare of the Church and her children. She will be greatly missed, but our loss is her gain.” They are buried in Rose Hill Cemetery at Manson.

3. Joseph Gerard/Schrock was born at Ugny-sur-Meuse, Meuse (adjacent above Rigny-la-Salle) May 17, 1852, and died at Albany, Oregon May 6, 1943. His civil birth entry described him as Joseph Gerard, and his parents as miller Christophe Gerard, 33, a local resident, and Elisabeth Zehnter, 31.

4. Madeline/Lena Schrock was born at Roanoke Oct. 17, 1856, and died at Omaha, Nebraska Feb. 17, 1935. As noted earlier, the 1880 census of Roanoke shows her living with her widowed mother and brother John. On Jan. 25, 1891 in Woodford County she married Wilhelm/William Havenstein. He was born in Berlin, Germany March 1, 1863, and died at Bruning, Nebraska March 18, 1951. He sailed on the ship America, and arrived at Baltimore Jan. 26, 1888;
the passenger list described him as farmer Wilhelm Havenstein, 25. He was naturalized at Metamora Oct. 30, 1896. *

*The Bruning Banner*, Feb. 28, 1835: “The body of a former Bruning woman, Mrs. William Havenstein was laid to rest in the public cemetery last Wednesday afternoon following funeral services at the Mennonite Church at Shickley. Services were also held on Tuesday at the Hulse and Riepen home for funerals at Omaha. Mrs. Havenstein died on February 17, at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Herman Bruning of Omaha. She had reached the age of 78 years and four months. The deceased was born on October 17, 1856, at Metoria [Metamora], Ill. Her maiden name was Lena Schrock. On January 25, 1891, she married William Havenstein. To this union were born five children, one son dying in infancy. Surviving are her husband and four children: John of Edgar, Nebr., Catherine Walter of Shickley, Elizabeth Reynolds of Alliance, Ohio, and Lena Bruning of Omaha. A sister and two brothers also survive.” They are buried in Bruning Public Cemetery at Bruning.

5. John Schrock was born at Eureka, Woodford County June 28, 1858, and died at Rantoul, Champaign County Oct. 31, 1948. On Sept. 21, 1895 he married Emilie C. Havenstein. She was born at Berlin, Germany Dec. 10, 1860, and died at Fisher June 13, 1922. She sailed from Liverpool via Queenstown on the ship *City of Berlin*, arriving at New York Oct. 23, 1880. The passenger list shows passenger # 537 as spinster Emilie Hafenestein, 19. Germany. The 1920 census of East Bend, Champaign County has John C. Schrock, 61, born in Illinois to parents from France; Amelia, 58, born in Germany, immigrated in 1883; Emma, 30, Illinois; Martha, 28, Illinois; and Sam, 24, Illinois. They are buried in East Bend Memorial Gardens at Fisher, Champaign County.

**Joseph Gerard/Schrock** was born at Ugni-sur-Meuse, Meuse (adjacent above Rigny-la-Salle) May 17, 1852, and died at Albany, Oregon May 6, 1943.17

In 1877 he married Elizabeth ‘Lizzie’ Bachman. She was born Jan. 5, 1857, and died at Thurman, Colorado June 1, 1893, a daughter of Peter Bachman and Magdalena Albrecht.

As noted earlier, the 1880 census of Roanoke shows them living next to his widowed mother. Their household is found as farmer Joseph Schrock, 28, and Elisabeth, 23, born in Illinois to parents from Arnstead [Arnstadt].

*Herald of Truth*, July 1893: “On the 1st of June, 1893, near Thurman, Colo., of consumption, Lizzie, wife of Dea. Joseph Schrock, aged 36 years, 4 months and 27 days. Her maiden name was Bachman. She was the mother of one child, which died in infancy. She had been ailments in health for a long time, but was always able to do her work until a week before her death, from which time she had to suffer great pain, but she bore it patiently. Buried on the third at the M.H. near Thurman where a very large concourse of people assembled. Services by Bishop Joseph Schlegel in German and also in English. Text, John 5:24, 25. She was much loved by all who knew her. She was a faithful member of the A.M. denomination. She leaves a deeply bereaved husband to mourn her early death.”

On Dec. 3, 1893, at Thurman, Colo., Joseph remarried to Bella Yordy. She was born at Waldo, Livingston County Aug. 24, 1873, and died Oct. 7, 1962, a daughter of John Yordy and Magdalena King.

*Gospel Herald*, November 1962: “Schrock, Bella, daughter of John and Magdalene (King) Yordy, was born Aug. 24, 1873; died at the Mennonite Home for the Aged, Albany, Oreg., Oct. 7, 1962; aged 89 y. 1 m. 13 d., the sole survivor of her immediate family of 13 children. On Dec. 3, 1893, she was married to Joseph Schrock, who died May 6, 1943. Surviving are three daughters (Emma-Mrs. William Reeser, Anna-Mrs. Ed Roth, and Fannie), five sons (David, Elmer, Melvin Raymond, and LeRoy), 42 grandchildren, and more than 100 great-grandchildren. Two sons preceded her in death. She was a member of the Tangent Mennonite Church. Funeral services were held on Oct. 10 at the Fairview Church, in charge of Merle Stutzman, assisted by H. A. Wolter and Wilbert Kropf.”

*Gospel Herald*, May 1943: “Joseph, son of Christian and Elizabeth Schrock, was born in Alsace-Lorraine, May 17, 1852; peacefully fell asleep at his home near Albany, Oreg. on May 6, 1943, following a very brief illness; aged 90 y. 11 m. 19 d. At the age of three years he emigrated to this country with his parents, and grew to manhood near Roanoke, Ill. In 1887 he was married to Lizzie Bachman, and moved to Thurman, Colo. where they lived for several years and where his companion preceded him in death in 1893. He was deacon 1889-1897, and minister of the A.M. church in Thurman 1897-1906. After his wife's death he lived in Manitou Springs for several years until about 1906. This union was blessed with one daughter, Lena, who died in infancy. On Dec. 3, 1893, at Thurman, Colo., he was united in marriage to Bella Yordy, who survives him. He is also survived by one brother, John at Rantoul, Ill., and the following children: David, Tangent; Emma, wife of William Reeser, Albany; Elmer, Leabannon; Anna, wife of Edward Roth, Albany; Fannie, La Junta, Colo.; Melvin, Albany; Lt. Raymond, Camp Roberts, Cal.; and Leroy, Albany. There also remain 33 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. Two sons preceded him in death, Joseph in 1920 and William in 1941, as also did nine grandchildren, two sisters (Mrs. Kate

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17 At the time Joseph Gerard/Schrock was born there, the village was called simply Ugni. We could not determine when it became Ugni-sur-Meuse; this was likely done to differentiate it from Ugni, Meurthe-at-Moselle, 70 miles to the north.
Birky and Mrs. Lena Haverstine), and one brother Christian C. He united with the Amish Mennonite Church in his youth, and remained a faithful witness 'unto the end.' In 1898 he was ordained deacon for the congregation at Thurman, Col. He served in this capacity until 1897 when he was ordained to the ministry at the same place. In March 1906 he moved with his family to Shickley, Neb., and in Oct. 1909 to Albany, Oreg., where the family has since resided. Father took an active part in the church and assisted in the work of her ministry almost until the end. He was exceptionally well for one his age, and his place in the Lord's house was seldom vacant. It was his privilege to partake of the sacred emblems of the communion Easter Sunday, less than two weeks before he went to be with the Lord. At the time of his death he was a member of the Conservative Amish Mennonite Church, of Harrisburg, Oreg. Funeral services were held at the Albany Fairview Church on Monday afternoon, conducted by Bishop John Yoder of the Harrisburg congregation, assisted by fellow ministers of both churches. Text, *II Tim. 4:6, 7, 8.*”

Joseph, Lizzie, and Bella are buried in Fairview Mennonite Cemetery.

**John Schrock of Groveland**

Little is known about **John Schrock** of Groveland beyond a marriage entry and a census. He was born circa 1773, and came to Central Illinois in 1837 or earlier.

On Oct. 25, 1840 in Tazewell County he married Catherine Oyer; the ceremony was performed by minister Michael Mosiman.

She was born on Hingsange farm at Linstroff, Moselle June 10, 1796, and is thought to have died before 1865, a daughter of Johannes/Jean Oyer and Jacobëe Reglé [Rüschi/Roeschley]. She had sailed from Le Havre on the Superior, and arrived at New Orleans Dec. 4, 1830. The passenger list described her as Catherine Oyer, 33, with a son Joseph, 7.

They are found on the 1850 census of Tazewell County (in a part that became Groveland) as farmer John Shrock, 77, Germany; Catherine [Oyer], 57, Germany; farmer Joseph Shrock, 27, Germany; and Catherine [Ringenberg], 23, Germany. John Schrock is thought to have died at Groveland circa 1855. Catherine is found on the 1860 census of Groveland as a 66-year-old widow living in the household of nephew John Oyer and Anna Farny.

On Nov. 20, 1849 in Tazewell County the son that Catherine had brought to the marriage, who was born Joseph Oyer circa 1823 and was now called **Joseph Schrock**, married Catherine Ringenberg/Katie Ringenberger; . She was born on Hingsange farm at Linstroff, Moselle Nov. 14, 1826, and died at Farmdale Jan. 24, 1905, a daughter of Pierre Ringenberg (later known as Peter Ringenberger) and Anna Schrag/Schrock.

Joseph Oyer/Schrock and Catherine Ringenberg /Katie Ringenberger had one child together:

1. **Anna Schrock** was born Oct. 5, 1851, and died in August 1898. Her marriage is recorded in the *Illinois Statewide Marriage Index* as a pairing between Jacob Steiner and 'Anna Schnick' in Tazewell County Sept. 7, 1866. She was 14 years old; she gave birth to her first child Joseph Sept. 30, 1866. Her husband Jacob was born in Germany circa 1841, and died in Tazewell County in 1909. On Aug. 16, 1861 he enlisted at Peoria as a private in Company B of the 47th Illinois Infantry. He was described as an 18-year-old single farmer with gray eyes, auburn hair, and fair complexion, 5foot-6½, born in Germany. In February 1862 his company became part of the Army of the Mississippi under Major Gen. John Pope. From Feb. 28 to April 8 they engaged in campaigns against New Madrid and Island No. 10 on the Kentucky-Tennessee border. On March 14 they captured New Madrid, cutting off supplies to the fortified island. Then they cleared a 12-mile canal through swampland, cutting trees down to four feet below the waterline. On April 8 they captured over 8,000 prisoners, 123 pieces of artillery, and an enormous stash of ammunition and supplies. This cleared passage on the Mississippi River all the way to Vicksburg. They then participated in the Siege of Corinth. Corinth was a point where north-south and east-west railroad lines met. Confederate General P.T. Beauregard eventually withdrew not because of gunfire, but because of dysentery. Finally they took part in the Siege of Vicksburg, the last Confederate stronghold on the Mississippi River. Gen. Ulysses Grant conducted the assault while Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman created distractions. On July 4, 1863 over 29,500 southern troops surrendered. Jacob was mustered out at Springfield Oct. 11, 1864. His company had lost only 63 persons to gunfire, but lost 187 to diseases. Jacob and Anna are found on the 1870 census of Washington as farmer Jacob Steiner, 29, Germany; Anna, 20, Illinois; Joseph, 4, Illinois; Susan, 2, Illinois; and farm laborer Peter Shrock, 10, Illinois [Anna's younger brother]. The 1880 census of Fon du Lac shows Jacob Steiner, 38, Germany; Annie, 29, Illinois; Joseph, 13, Illinois; Susan, 12, Illinois; Elizabeth, 8, Illinois; Katie, 4, Illinois; Caroline, 1, Illinois; and Peter Schrock, 20, Illinois.

Joseph Oyer/Schrock died in Tazewell County Dec. 28, 1851. *Probate Record H 1851-53* shows that Andrew Roth applied to become administrator of his estate at Pekin Feb. 2, 1852. Peter Good [Guth] stood as guarantor for his $300 bond. An unnamed widow is mentioned as heir, but not a daughter (Anna would have been almost three
months old at the time of this Joseph's death). Estate appraisers included Nicholas Roth and Benjamin Rediger. Some of the names of people purchasing items at auction included Andrew Roth, Nicholas Roth, Daniel Roth, Joseph Oyer, and John Springer.

The county marriage register lists a marriage between Joseph Schrock and Catharine Schrock (the widow Catherine Ringenberg) in Tazewell County June 12, 1859; it was performed by minister Michael Mosiman. The family origins of the groom are unknown - and it is very possible that this was not his true name. Apparently, Catherine became pregnant immediately.

Peter Schrock was born at Farmdale March 16, 1860, and died at Meadows, McLean County July 30, 1939. The 1860 federal census was supposed to be a picture of residents as of June 30, 1860. The census of Groveland lists these families in succession:

- Farmer John Oyer, 42, France; Anne [Farny], 33, France; and several children born in Illinois; also in the household, widow Catherine Schrock, 64, France [this was Catherine Oyer, widow of John Schrock]. John Oyer was a son of Joseph Oyer and Catherine Schrag/Schrock; he had been a nephew to the deceased John Schrock.
- Farmer John Spring [born Jean Springer], 40, France; Catharine [Farny], 30, France; and five children born in Illinois. John would later become Catherine Ringenberg's third husband.
- Farmer Peter Ringenberger, 74; his son Abraham, 32; Barbara [Barbara Stalter, Abraham's wife], 25; and Peter, seven months. The father Peter had been a brother-in-law to the deceased John Schrock.
- Catharine Schrock [Catherine Ringenberg], 34, France; Ann, 9, Illinois; and Peter, three months, Illinois.

Note that the second husband of Catherine Ringenberg is missing from the census. It has been suggested that he died just before the 1860 census, and perhaps two Joseph Schrocks (her first and second husband) are buried in the Rinkenberger Family Cemetery at Farmdale. The first one died at a time when wooden markers were prevalent, and it is understandable that wood would not endure. The second one died after headstones became common, but a widow may not have been able to afford one.

However, Catherine Ringenberg was not identified as a widow on the 1860 census. No probate entries can be identified that might pertain to the death of a second husband. No mention of such a death can be identified in contemporary letters. An understanding of the puzzling circumstances of his absence has been lost over time.

On Nov. 7, 1869 in Tazewell County Catherine Ringenberg married for the third time to neighbor and widower John Spring (born Jean Springer). He brought his own children to the marriage. For more on this couple see SPRINGER.

When her daughter Anna married in 1866, Anna took in her younger brother Peter Schrock.

Peter Schrock was born at Farmdale March 16, 1860, and died at Meadows July 30, 1939. On Aug. 5, 1882 at Danvers he married Catherine Roszhart; the ceremony was performed by elder Joseph Stuckey. She was born at Morton Aug. 29, 1861, and died at Shelbyville, Shelby County Aug. 5, 1922, a daughter of Johannes Rosshardt and Crecentia Dierberger. They are found on the 1900 census of Castor, Dresden, and Prairie Dog Township, Kansas as Peter Schrock, 40, born in Illinois in March 1860 to a father from France and a mother from Germany; Cathrin, 38, born in Illinois in August 1861 to German parents; and seven children born in Illinois, Arkansas, and Kansas. Peter and Catherine are buried in Waldo Mennonite Cemetery at Flanagan.

Gospel Herald, October 1839: "Schrock. Peter, son of Joseph and Katherine (Rinkenberger) Schrock, was born March 16, 1860; at Farmdale, Ill; died July 30, 1939, at the home of his son Samuel at Meadows, Ill.; aged 79 y. 4 m. 14 d. He suffered a paralytic stroke three years ago from which he never recovered. He was married to Katherine Roszhart on Aug. 15, 1882, who died Aug. 5, 1922. He had made his home with his son Samuel the last four years. He was a member of the Shelbyville Mennonite Church. When a young man he accepted Christ as his Saviour, and remained true to the end. Surviving are five sons (Samuel, John, and William, all of Meadows, Ill.: Daniel, Shelbyville. Ill.: Joseph, Los Angeles, Calif.), and three daughters (Emma, wife of Aaron I. Guengerich, Kalona, Ia.; Mary, wife of Aaron S. Hochstetler, Wellman, Ia. and Katherine, Los Angeles, Calif.). There also survive 33 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. All the children were at the funeral except Joseph and Katherine. Funeral services were conducted Aug. 2 at the Mennonite Church at Meadows, Ill., in charge of Brethren Geo. I. Gundy and Joseph Reber of Shelbyville, Ill. Burial in Waldo Cemetery."
Gingerich: Güngerich of Heimberg

The 1682 *Mosestafel* tableau in the Protestant Reformed Church at Steffisburg has a coats-of-arms board [Ger. *Wappentafel*] for Christen Güngerich. It shows a yellow rosette on a red field. The *Heimatorte* or places of legal origin for Swiss citizenship rights of the surname are Unterlangenegg, Aeschau im Eggwil, Konolfingen, and Schwarzenegg.

We strongly suspect that Christen’s grandfather **Hans Güngerich** was baptized at Diessbach (since 1870 Oberdiessbach). At least 34 Güngerich children were baptized in the Protestant Reformed Church there between 1587 and the close of 1600. Boys named Hans or Hanns were christened in 1587, 1589, 1592, 1597, 1598, and 1599.18

On April 16, 1621 at Steffisburg (six miles south of Diessbach) Hans married Cathrin/Trina Kläy. Her surname was written with a ‘crossed y’ that makes it initially look like ‘Klatt.’ She was baptized as Trina Kläy at Steffisburg July 4, 1602, a daughter of Hans Kläy and Margreth Neuenschwander. The *Heimat* or place of legal origin for Swiss citizenship rights of the surname Kläy is Sumiswald.

Children of Hans Güngerich and Cathrin/Trina Kläy baptized at Steffisburg include:

1. Margreth Güngerich was baptized July 1, 1622. Her entry named her parents as Hans Güngerich and (looks like) Trini Klat.
2. **Michel Güngerich** was baptized Oct. 24, 1624. His entry named his parents as Hans Güngerich and (looks like) Cathrin Klatt.
3. Joseph Güngerich was baptized Jan. 3, 1630. His entry names his parents as Hans Güngerich and Catharina Kläy.

**Michel Güngerich** was baptized at Steffisburg Oct. 24, 1624. Despite an age inaccuracy, it is likely that he was the individual identified in the Steffisburg death register as Michel Güngerich, who died at Heimberg in 1701, given age 74.

He married Anna Kolb. She was baptized at Steffisburg Jan. 7, 1627, a daughter of Peter Kolb and Anna Iseli. They may have been a couple married at Steffisburg Feb. 22, 1647, misidentified in the *Eherodel* register as Michel Gennsaler and Anna Kolb. They lived at Heimberg, in the parish of Steffisburg.

In the 1500s and 1600s Heimberg was made up of a number of scattered farmhouses on the floodplain where the Aare, Zulg, and Rotache Rivers merged. It was part of the Thun parish before 1536, then part of the Steffisburg parish. The present Heimberg, above the town of Thun and on the west side of Steffisburg, does not resemble what it was in the past. In 1871-76 the course of the Aare River was ‘amended’ to aid commerce, the wet soil was drained, and a village grew around new roads and a rail line.

Children of Michel Güngerich and Anna Kolb born at Heimberg but baptized at Steffisburg include:

1. **Christen Güngerich** was baptized at Steffisburg June 4, 1648.
2. Barbli Güngerich was baptized March 16, 1651.
3. Hans Güngerich was baptized May 28, 1654.

**Christen Güngerich** was born at Heimberg, and baptized at Steffisburg June 4, 1648. Circa 1669 he married Barbara Rübi.

Recall from STAKER that the Protestant Reformed Church at Steffisburg was renovated May 17, 1681. As part of the project craftsman-artisan Christian Stücki of Dientingen created an enameled wooden tableau called a *Mosestafel*.19 Below the name of minister Hans Jacob Freudenreich is the inscription, ‘die 18 Man und Beide

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18 Hanns Dec. 3, 1587, son of Lienhardt Güngerich and Elsbet; Hanns Dec. 24, 1589, a son of Hanns Güngerich and Madlen; Hanns April 9, 1592, a son of Christen Güngerich and Verena Mürer (though her surname only appears on later entries); Hans March 25, 1597, a son of Michel Güngerich and Elsbeth Shirk; Hans July 30, 1598, a son of Michel Güngerich and Benedicta Schwary; and Hans June 3, 1599, a son of Hansen Güngerich and Anna Schwendýman.

19 Christian Stücki was born at Dientingen Oct. 21, 1649, and died Dec. 1, 1721, a son of Peter Stücki and Margreth Schlucter. He married Anna Jaussi of Wattenwil at Steffisburg Nov. 13, 1682. The village of Dientingen is 12 miles from Steffisburg, four miles inland from the western shore of Lake Thun. An inscription on the *Mosestafel* says that Stücki created “…all painting within sight in this house” – “Christen Stucki wird genannt der gefürt mit seiner Hand alle mahler arbeit aus die man sicht in diesem Haus.” This included reworking the decorative gold gilt.
Amish Mennonites in Tazewell County, Illinois

Gricht.’ Assuming the last word should have been Gerichten, and the total includes Freudenreich, this roughly translates to ‘the 18 men of the Steffisburg planning council and both courts.’ It displays their names and coats-of-arms boards (Wappentafel) along its borders. Christen Güengerich is included. A photo can be found in the Appendix.

Later Christen refused to disown his children who chose adult baptism. Karl Manuel, the mayor of Thun 1686-92, was responsible for his confinement at Schwarzenegg in 1692. Christen escaped and took his family to Lower Alsace.

In 1698 he is mentioned as a leaseholder on the castle estate at Riedseltz, Lower Alsace (below Wissembourg). Between 1707 and 1712 he lived on the grounds of the ruined castle Fleckenstein (four miles north of the center of Lembach, 12 miles northwest of Riedseltz).

In 1713 his son Christen and his son-in-law Christian Schlabach leased the Hülshof estate near Laasphe in the principality of Wittgenstein (now in the German state of North Rhine-Westphalia, on its border with the state of Hesse, 184 miles north of Niederroedern). The father Christen may have stayed for a while with his son Hans on the Froensburg/Frönsburgerhof estate at Lembach, but then joined his son Christen and other children at Laasphe.

Children of Christen Güengerich and Barbara Rübi born at Heimberg but baptized at Steffisburg include:

1. Hans ‘Hans der alte’ Güengerich was baptized Nov. 21, 1669.
2. Elsbeth Güengerich was baptized Sept. 29, 1672.
3. Christen Güengerich was baptized June 26, 1675, and died before 1731. He married Barbara Oswald. Christen and Barbara lived with his parents at Riedseltz. In 1711 Christen leased the Froensburg/Frönsburgerhof estate at Lembach. This was left with older brother Hans when Christen and Barbara, with son-in-law Christian Schlabach, leased the Hülshof estate near Laasphe in the principality of Wittgenstein in 1713. In 1731 widow Barbara remarried to Hermann ‘Mannus’ Bender there (see OHRENDORF, THE SPRING BAY BRANCH).
4. Barbara Güengerich was baptized Aug. 11, 1678.
5. Peter Güengerich was baptized May 2, 1680, and died at Lohe in 1766. He went to the Hülshof estate in 1713, but then leased the Homrighausen estate near Berleburg (now Bad Berleburg, 30 miles northeast of Siegen) with his son-in-law Johannes Vetter. The estate lease was taken up by Hermann ‘Mannus’ Bender and his wife Barbara Oswald Güengerich (the widow of Peter’s brother Christen) in 1731, and later by Johanns and Johann Heinrich Ohrendorf.
6. Cathrin Güengerich was baptized July 22, 1683, and died as an infant.
7. Bendicht Güengerich was baptized Aug. 8, 1686. When others went to the the principality of Wittgenstein, he remained in the Pfälz. Hermann Guth proposed that Bendicht’s sons accounted for Güengeriches at Dirmstein.
8. Michel Güengerich was baptized March 17, 1689. He went to the Hülshof estate in 1713.
9. Cathrin Güengerich was baptized May 8, 1692.

Hans 'Hans der alte' Güengerich was born at Heimberg, and baptized at Steffisburg Nov. 21, 1669. (In English der alte would be ‘senior,’ in the sense that he would have a son of the same name; when translated literally as ‘the elder’ it may be confused with a church position).

On Jan. 16, 1691 at Steffisburg he married Barbara Krieg. Their marriage entry said she was from Utendorf (on the west side of Heimberg). She was baptized as Barbli Krieg at adjacent Thierachern Feb. 17, 1656, a daughter of Hans Krieg and Anni/Anna Naffzger (see NAFZIGER for background on this couple).

They lived at Echery from 1693 to 1695, then at La Petite Lièpvre in the same time frame that Jacob Amman was there (1695-1712). The two villages are located on the road leading south from Ste. Marie-aux-Mines.

Hans was one of Jacob Amman's followers who was placed 'under the ban' at La Petite Lièpvre in 1695. The gesture was meant to express humility before the Reist faction, in a fruitless bid to reconcile. He also attended an attempted reconciliation meeting at Heidolsheim, Lower Alsace in 1711.

Hans’s younger brother Christen leased the Froensburg/Frönsburgerhof estate at Lembach (so called because it fell in the hamlet or forest subdivision Froensbourg) in 1711. The property surrounded le Château de Froensbourg, a ruined sandstone castle that had been used for artillery practice by French troops in 1677. The land was exempt from Alsatian expulsion orders because the Fleckenstein family was related to Pfalz-Zweibrücken Wittelsbachs. It was located near the Alsace-Pfalz border, about eight miles from ruined Berwartstein Castle.

When Anabaptists were expelled from the area of Ste. Marie-aux-Mines in 1712, Hans went to the Froensburg/Frönsburgerhof estate. His father and others in his family moved on in the following year, but Hans remained there and became an influential minister/elder. Over the years he held meetings of ministers at his home.

His tableau had an uneven past. At one point it was removed and used as a dividing wall in the home of a local farmer. Since 1983 it has hung between two windows on the north wall. Thierry Stucker compiled our list of its names at the church in February of 2004. Jen Staker took photos in November of 2017 (see the Appendix).
He attended the assembly of ministers held at Essingen in 1759, representing the Froensbourg congregation. He was 90 years old, and died the following year.

Children of Hans ‘Hans der alte’ Güngerich and Barbara Krieg are thought to include:

1. **Christian Güngerich** was born circa 1692, and died on the Pfalzhof at Dernbach (above Annweiler) in 1752. He arrived on the Pfalzhof in 1726. His first wife died in 1734, and he remarried to Barbara Justzi.

2. Maria Magdalena Güngerich was born in 1694, and died at Essingen Nov. 11, 1759. Cica 1713 she married Ulrich Nafiger. He was born at Uetendorf, Canton Bern; baptized at adjacent Thiachern in February of 1686; and died at Green Garden, Leacock Township, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania prior to June 11, 1754; a son of Christen/Christian Nafiger and Anna Schmyder. See NAFIGER for background on this couple.

3. **Johannes ‘Hans der Jüng’ Güngerich** was documented on the Froensbourg estate with his father in 1726 and 1736. From there he also ministered to a congregation in the principality of Salm, where he is found in 1759.

4. Valentin/Velten Güngerich was living with his father and older brother Johannes on the Froensbourg estate in 1736, and died before 1759. At Ste. Marie-aux-Mines in 1729 he married Verena/Vérène/Freni Stauffer/Stauffer, who was the widow of Peter/Pierre Blank.

5. Anna Güngerich married Johannes/Hans Nafiger. He was born in 1715, likely at Birlenbach, Lower Alsace, a son of Christen Nafiger/Christian Nafiger and Madelein Hilterbrand. They lived at Niedersoultzbach, Lower Alsace, then 14 miles west on the Steinbacherhof estate at Durstel, Lower Alsace. See NAFIGER for background on his family.

6. Catherine/Katharina Güngerich was born on the Froensbourg estate circa 1725, and died in childbirth with stillborn twins at Fertrupt, St. Marie-aux-Mines Jan. 21 or 27, 1747. She married minister Nikolaus/Nicolas ‘Nigi’ (pronounced ‘Nicky’) Blank. He was born near Ste. Marie-aux-Mines circa 1720, a son of Niclaus ‘Nigi’ Blank and Barbara Ummel. He became an elder of the Colmar congregation. See PLANK for background on his family.

The next two portions of text follow descendants of sons Christian and Johannes.

### John Gingrich or Gingerich

**Great-Great-Grandson of Christian**

**Christian Güngerich** was born circa 1692, and died on the Pfalzhof at Dernbach in 1752. (For background on nearby Annweiler see SUTTER). He arrived on the Pfalzhof in 1726. His first wife died in 1734, and he remarried to Barbara Justzi.

**Christian Güngerich** was born circa 1713, and died at Steinseltz in 1775. He married Jakobea/Jakobine Widmer, who also died in 1775. They lived in the mill at Steinseltz (below Wissembourg, Lower Alsace near the border with the Pfalz). An assembly of Amish Mennonite ministers [Ger. *Diener Versammlung*] was held at Steinseltz in 1752. Christian served as elder of his congregation 1759-66.

Their children include:

2. **Peter Güngerich** was born circa 1732, and died at Kutzenhausen (eight miles southwest of Steinseltz) March 6, 1807.
3. Madlen/Madeleine Güngerich was born at Steinseltz circa 1736. She married Christian Nafiger, a son of Stefan/Steffen Nafiger and Magdalena Güngerich. See NAFIGER for background on this couple.
4. Christian Güngerich was born at Steinseltz circa 1740, and died before 1798. He married Anna Holly, a daughter of Jacob/Jakob Holly and his second wife Maria Kurtz of Mühlhofen. After his death, Anna remarried to Issak Hochstettler.
5. Jakobea Güngerich was born at Steinseltz circa 1750. She married Christian Güngerich. They lived at Imling (later in Moselle).

**Peter Güngerich** was born at Steinseltz circa 1732, and died at Kutzenhausen (eight miles southwest of Steinseltz) March 6, 1807. In 1770 on the nearby Froensbourg estate at Lembach, Lower Alsace he married Barbara Güngerich. She died in 1801, a daughter of Valentin/Velten Güngerich and Verena Stauffer Blank. They resettled at Kutzenhausen. They had two known children:

1. Katharina Güngerich was born in 1771. She married Michel Gerber. He was born in 1796, a son of Peter Gerber and Madeleine Güngerich.
2. **Christian Güngerich** was born on the Froensbourg estate at Lembach, Lower Alsace in 1763.
Christian Güngerich was born on the Frönsburgerhof estate in 1763, and died at Kutzenhausen Jan. 17, 1836. He married Catherine Wagler. She was born on the Neumatte estate at Diemeringen in 1767, and died at Kutzenhausen Jan. 23, 1852, a daughter of Johannes Wagler and Anna Birki.

Their children born at Kutzenhausen include:


2. Pierre Güngerich was born July 26, 1792, and died at Kutzenhausen in 1863. On May 19, 1813 at Kutzenhausen he married Madeleine Gerber. She was born at Oberhasloch March 30, 1796, a daughter of Nicholas Gerber and Magdalena Bechler. Their triple marriage ceremony also included Pierre's sister Madeleine and Pierre Gerber, and Madeleine Gerber (daughter of Michel Gerber and Elisabete Güngerich) and Jacques Wagler (son of Chrétienn Wagler and Jacobé Güngerich). Witnesses included laborer Isaac Hochstettler, 72, of the Neuhof estate at Niederlauterbach, Lower Alsace.

3. Madeleine Güngerich was born June 6, 1795, and died Nov. 2, 1848. On May 19, 1813 at Kutzenhausen she married Pierre Gerber. He was born at Oberhasloch Dec. 8, 1793, and died at Metamora Nov. 2, 1857, a son of Nicolas Gerber and Magdalena Bechler. They are buried in Hickory Point Cemetery at Metamora. The story of their son Christian Gerber and Madeleine/Magdalena Dellenbach is told in DELLENBACH.

4. Catherine Güngerich was born in 1798.

5. Johannes/Jean Güngerich (later known as John Gingrich or Gingerich) was born March 17, 1801.


Johannes/Jean Güngerich (he signed his own name Hans Gingrich, but was later known as John Gingrich or Gingerich) was born at Kutzenhausen March 17, 1801, and died in Tazewell County (the part that became Woodford County) June 15, 1845.

On Aug. 21, 1821 at Kutzenhausen he married Barbara/Barbe Gerber. She was born in the hamlet Salm at La Broque April 7, 1803, and died March 25, 1859, a daughter of elder Christian Gerber and Anne Kupferschmidt, and a cousin to Nicholas Gerber (in the story that follows). Their marriage entry described the groom as laborer Jean Gingrich. It was witnessed by uncle-of-the-bride and laborer Michel Gerber, 47; friend-of-the-groom and laborer Jaque Goldschmied, 37, a resident of Ste. Marie-aux-Mines [he signed 'Jacob Godschmidt']; laborer Joseph Eoch, 22, a resident of Kutzenhausen; and brother-of-the-groom and laborer Pierre Gingerich, 29, a resident of Kutzenhausen.

Johannes and Barbara departed Le Havre on the Marcia Cleaves May 9, 1840. The ship was ballasted with a heavy shipment of champagne. Captain Nathaniel Lord Thompson of Kenebunk, Maine left a brief account of the voyage: "On the 24 of Oct [1839] went to Boston and took Charge of Ship Marcia Cleaves, and Sailed on the 28th of Oct for Mobile and arrived on the 21d of Nov 1839. On the 14th of Jan sailed for Apalachicola and arrived on the 22d, and Loaded for Havre and Sailed on the 5th of March and arrived on the 19th of April and sailed on the 9th of May for N Orleans with one hundred & sixty nine steerage passengers & four cabin, two died and had two born and arrived at the Bar on the 23d of June and got up to Town on the 26th so ends this voyage."

The passenger list submitted at the New Orleans customs house June 26, 1840 shows (all spellings as found) Jean Gengrich, 39; Barbara, 37; Ch[r]istian, 16; Peter, 14; Maria, 12; Anna, 8; and Chian [Christina], 6. They had a daughter Barbara born at sea May 14, according to the passenger list. Two other families were: (with all spellings as found) farmer Nie Gerber, 68; Magd., 61; and [their son] Ch[r]istian, 27; and Peter Gerber, 46, farmer; Magd., 44; Joseph, 23; Peter, 20; Joh., 18; Magd., 14; Anna, 12; Catha., 10; and Eliz., 8. Other significant passengers were Christian Bächler/Bechler [found as Christ Bechtler] and his family (see BECHLER/BECKLER) and laborer 'Jean Delabot,' 27, who was later known as John Dellenbach.

The story of the transatlantic voyage and the subsequent steamboat mishap near Baton Rouge is told in this fragment of a letter from John to brother-in-law and elder Nicolas Augspurger at Salm dated Dec. 5, 1840.20

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20 A translation of this letter, which was originally written in German, appeared in the March 1985 issue of Mennonite Heritage (now Illinois Mennonite Heritage). A professional, footnoted translation can be found in Hermann Guth's Amish Mennonites in Germany (pp. 314-318). Our version was translated from French, and may not be as accurate.
"By the saving grace of God the Father and the enlightenment of our Savior Jesus Christ, and the grace of the Holy Spirit, from the bottom of my heart, to you my dear friend and to all who may see my letter. I ask you to ardently pray to God in heaven for us. We would do the same for you, so that we might obtain the grace of our Lord in our great weakness.

We have news for you about where we live, how we are doing, and about our voyage. First, we started from Havre May 8. Before we departed, a pastor came onboard the ship and gave a good sermon to everyone, how they should not fear and should place confidence in God. We departed at 2 p.m.

As we left, a clerk of the owner of the ship and a policeman came onboard. They accompanied us for a few hours out of port; the clerk to see if anyone traveled without paying, and the other to practice his mischievousness, and I think they were operating together. The clerk announced that those without a passport should line up in front of the policeman. Hearing this, several young men assembled and agreed that the first person who gave anything to the policeman would be pummeled, and the policeman would be thrown over the side. The policeman declared himself satisfied, and both returned to land.

It is useless to obtain papers and certificates of birth, a passport, or a letter from the mayor, because they will not be requested in America. When the young people want to get married they reach agreement in the morning, and can be linked in the afternoon.

We sailed four days in good weather. After that, there was a small tempest. It lasted four days, and people had to vomit. One side of the ship was three feet higher than the other, and nine to ten feet different from bow to stern. We had to tie up everything that was fragile, and when we ate it was from bowls. At first we were afraid, but we gained courage when we saw there was no danger.

During the tempest, on the 16th, my wife gave birth to a little girl. She was named Barbara, and her place of birth was the sea. She is a beautiful and strong child. All passed well; the mother and child rested well during the remainder of the trip.

After the tempest passed we made good progress with good winds, and sometimes attained 10 miles in an hour. The ship cut through the water, leaving nothing but a foam wake 20 feet across. To reach New Orleans, it was necessary to travel 48 days on the water.

We did not see many schools of fish. At first we say fish with heads and ears like pigs twice a day. Then we saw fish seven or eight inches long that flew 30 feet across the water. We were not hungry, but often very thirsty because we could not drink sea water, which was bitter. We drank water brought from Havre. Potable water was brought from Havre; the master of the ship was obligated to distribute it every day.

About eight days before we touched land, we had to pass through sand bars that extend out into the sea. The sailors let out the water from ballast tanks, and one observer had to stand night and day on deck. We made progress this way in less than 14 feet of water. We reached a point where the ship had a draft of 13 feet, with a foot of water under the keel; that happened at 1 a.m. I was standing by the sailor at that moment; he called out to stop, and we threw out the anchor until 6 in the morning, when we took a new depth sounding. But the ship did not approach New Orleans for 30 more hours.

We arrived there on a Friday evening, and the following day we declared our goods for the authorities. Each person had the right to bring goods for personal use; but if he had something for sale, he was obligated to pay a tax. I was delayed because of my watches. The others left at 4 p.m. [by paddlewheel] for a small city called Baton Rouge, about 40 hours east of New Orleans."

The passengers continuing on found the second leg of the journey more perilous than the ocean crossing.

"On Sunday at about 1 a.m. the axle of the paddlewheel broke into pieces. One piece passed through the hull, and it started to sink. Luckily the boat was moving, and it had enough speed to reach shallows, where it was immediately secured with chains and anchors, so that it would not slip back. All the passengers got off in good condition, but their baggage was still below. I found mine at the end of two days.

The people had no more than the clothes on their backs. For all this misfortune, we had some good luck, because we were sailing on a river that was a quarter-hour across and 150 feet deep. If it had happened a few days later, or there had been no village nearby, we would have had to give up the boat and our belongings, because we would have no food. But in this place there were many French and English gentlemen who arrived with horses and wagons to console the people. They said that all was not lost, because the level of the water would fall 25 feet. They took people home with them; one took five, another 15. Moreover, they collected 32 francs, and every two days they would bring us bread and meat. We recovered out large trunk containing money, the best clothes, and linen; the other trunk remained in the water eight weeks."

While waiting to recover their possessions, the elderly Nicholas and Magdalena contracted yellow fever. They continued the journey on another steamboat, but after five days they were put ashore at Memphis. They died there in July 1840, and was buried at Memphis.

"When we had been there 14 days, many fell sick and died. Cousin Nicki Gerber and his wife died five days later. My two sons and oldest daughter also became sick, and when they were well enough to travel, I let my wife and children continue their journey to the place where we now live. I remained behind just long enough to conclude my business."
Johannes/Jean Güngerich (later known as John Gingrich or Gingerich) died in Woodford County June 15, 1845.

The 1850 census of District 56 (Woodford County) shows widow Barbara Gingery, 45, France; Anne, 18, France; Christene, 16, France; Barbary, 10, 'on the ocean'; and Elizabeth, 6, Illinois. Sons Christian, Peter, and Jacob lived next door.

Barbara/Barbe Gerber died March 25, 1859.

They are buried in Hickory Point Cemetery at Metamora as Johannes Gingrich and Barbara Gingrich.

The children were all born as 'Güngerich,' but used variations of the spelling 'Gingerich' (such as 'Gingrich' and 'Gingery') in America. They include:

1. Jean Gingerich was born at La Broque, Salm in 1822, and died as an infant.
2. **Christian Gingerich** was born at La Broque Oct. 29, 1823, and died at Worth, Woodford County Aug. 14, 1895.
3. Pierre/Peter Gingerich was born at La Broque Aug. 1, 1826, and died of tuberculosis at Metamora Aug. 3, 1866. He is buried in Hickory Point Cemetery at Metamora. On April 20, 1852 in Woodford County he married Catherine Schweizer. In 1864 he was drafted, but chose conscientious objection. Elder Andrew Bachman/Baughman visited Springfield on his behalf and successfully obtained approval for an exemption from the governor. *Past and Present of Woodford County*, 1878: "Gingerich, Mrs. Catherine, farmer and stock raiser; Sec. 3; P.O. Metamora; was born in France, Nov. 14, 1829; she came to the United States when she was about nineteen years of age; she was married April 20, 1852, to the late Peter Gingerich, one of the early settlers of Woodford Co., who was born in France, Aug. 1, 1826; after their marriage they settled near Hickory Point, where Mr. Gingerich died in Aug., 1866, and about three years ago Mrs. Gingerich removed to her present home, where she owns 160 acres of land, valued at $9,500; she has five children living -- Mary, Christian W., Jacob, Peter and John." Catherine died Nov. 6, 1889, and was also buried in Hickory Point Cemetery. Her headstone does not give a date of birth, and describes her as, "69-year-old wife of Peter Gingrich."
4. Maria/Marie Gingerich was born at La Broque April 16, 1828, and died in Woodford County Sept. 7, 1865. Her civil birth entry called her Marie Kingrich, and described her parents as 26-year-old cultivator Jean Kingrich and Babe Karbre. She married Joseph Donner before 1850. He was born at Wilmot, Ontario in October 1826, only two months after his parents' arrival; he died March 11, 1862, a son of Peter Donner and Barbara Naffziger. Maria/Marie is buried in Hickory Point Cemetery at Metamora as 'Mary, wife of Joseph Donner.'
5. Madeleine Gingerich was born at La Broque March 20, 1830, and died in 1897. She did not emigrate with her family. On May 2, 1857 at Rustenhart, Upper Alsace she married Chrétien Peterschmitt. He was born at Rustenhart April 14, 1824, and died there June 23, 1888, a son of Pierre Peterschmitt and Madeleine Steimman. Their civil marriage entry said that her father had died in 'Woodfort Amerique' in 1850, and her mother was 'domile en Amerique.'
6. Anne/Anna Gingerich was born at La Broque April 28, 1832, and died in 1881. On Sept. 10, 1850 in Woodford County she married Christian Dettweiler. The marriage entry called them Christian Dettweiler and Ann Gingery. Christian was born at Dehlingen, Lower Alsace Jan. 3, 1828, and died in 1857, a son of Christian Dettweiler and Catherine Schwartz. On April 2, 1861 in Peoria County Anne/Anna remarried to Johann/John Lutz. She can be found on the 1880 census of Peoria as widow Anna Lutz, 48, France; with drug clerk Gustave Lutz, 19, born in Illinois to a father from Germany and a mother from France.
7. Christine Gingerich was born at La Broque May 2, 1834, and died in 1915. She married Charles J. Schneider. He was born in 1825, and died in 1889. They may be found on the 1870 census of 11th Ward, Chicago as day laborer Chas. Schnyder, 40, Baden; Christina, 34; and three children born in Illlinois. The 1900 census of Peoria shows her as widow Christina Schnyder, born in Germany in May 1834, immigrated in 1840. They are buried in Springdale Cemetery at Peoria.
8. Joseph Gingerich was born at La Broque Dec. 15, 1835, and died there as an infant.
9. Jean Gingerich was born at La Broque in 1838, and died there as an infant.
10. Barbara Gingerich was born at sea May 16, 1840 (her headstone says July 25), and died March 9, 1924. On Dec. 31, 1860 in McLean County she married farmer Frederick Donner. He was born in Butler County, Ohio March 25, 1835, and died at Gridley Feb. 13, 1927, a son of Peter Donner and Barbara Naffzier.
11. Jacob Gingerich was born at Hanover/Metamora July 28, 1842, and died at Amity, Page County, Illinois Oct. 10, 1925; he is buried in Earp Cemetery at Cornell. He may be the Jacob Ginery, 17, in the household of Christian Camp on the 1860 census of Roanoke. On Sept. 18, 1863 at Pekin he applied for a passport. His *Letter of Attestation* composed by the county clerk described him as age 21, 5-foot 9½ inches tall, light brown hair, healthy complexion, grey eyes, roman nose, common mouth, oval chin oval, a resident citizen of Woodford County living at Worth, and a 'nature born' citizen of the Unites States. He signed it 'Jacob Gingrich.' It was forwarded to Secretary of State William H. Steward Oct. 31, 1863. He married Susan Farrell. They appeared on the 1870 census of Chenoa, McLean County and the 1880 census of Waldo Livingston County, where Susan's birthplace was given as Pennsylvania. The 1900 census of Cornell Village, Livingston County shows their household as Jacob Gingrich, born in Illinois in July 1882 to German parents; Susan, born in Ohio in May 1846 to German parents; and seven children born in Illinois.
Elizabeth Gingerich was born in August 1844 (headstone), and died in 1915. On Nov. 10, 1863 in Peoria County she married grocer-merchant Ferdinand Welte. He was born in Baden Oct. 18, 1833 (per his death entry, though his headstone says November), and died at Peoria Dec. 16, 1916, a son of Lorenz Welte. He is found on the 1860 census of Davners as a laborer in the household of John Strubhar. The 1880 census of Peoria says he was 45, she was 36. The 1900 census of Peoria City shows them as Ferdinand Welte, born in Germany in November 183- (apparently an illegible number was a 3 doctored to become a 9, because his age was given as 60), immigrated in 1854; Elizabeth, 64, born in Illinois in August 1835 to French parents [she was born in France]; and two children born in Illinois. They are buried in Springdale Cemetery at Peoria.

Christian Gingerich was born at La Broque Oct. 29, 1823, and died at Worth, Woodford County Aug. 14, 1895. He is buried as ‘Christian Gingrich’ in Hickory Point Cemetery at Metamora.

Circa 1848 he married Elizabeth Naffziger. She was born at Weitersweiler Sept. 29, 1826, and died at Worth Aug. 30, 1908, a daughter of Jacob Naffziger and Barbara Krehbiel. She is buried as ‘Elizabeth Gingrich’ in Hickory Point Cemetery.

The 1850 census of District 56 (Woodford County) shows Christian Gingery, 25, France; Elizabeth [Naffziger], 24, Germany; Peter, 23, France [brother to Christian]; Jacob Gingery, 8, Illinois [brother to Christian]; Jacob Jr., 2, Illinois; and Jacobine, 5 months.

Christian is often contrasted with his brother Peter, who was a conscientious objector during the Civil War.

On Aug. 5, 1862 at Peoria Christian enlisted for a three-year term in the army. He was assigned to Company E of the 82nd Illinois Infantry, and was mustered in at Camp Butler in Peoria Sept. 26, 1862. His entrance paperwork described him as 38-year-old single farmer; 5-feet 8-inches, light hair; blue eyes; dark complexion; born at Labroughan [La Broque], France.

Christian's company went directly to Virginia, where it became part of the Army of the Potomac in November 1862. It fought in the battles of Gettysburg and Chancellorsville. In October of 1863 his company became part of the Army of the Cumberland. It fought in the battle of Missionary Ridge, then took part in the Atlanta campaign and Sherman’s march to the sea before engaging in the campaign of the Carolinas.

Christian participated in the Grand Review Parade at Washington D.C. before being discharged there June 9, 1865.

His household is found on the 1870 census of Worth as farmer Christian Gingerich, 45, Bavaria [Alsace was occupied by Germany in 1870]; Elizabeth, 40, Bavaria; Jacob, 21; Phoebe, 18; John, 17; Barbara, 16; Joseph, 14; Teresse, 13; Elizabeth, 10; and Anne, six months; all children born in Illinois.

The 1880 census of Worth shows farmer Christian Gingerich, 55, Bavaria; Elizabeth, 54, Bavaria; John, 27, Illinois; Joseph, 25, Illinois; Annie, 23, Illinois; and Emma, 10, Illinois.

In 1900 widow Elizabeth was living with her son Jacob and his family at Worth. She is shown on that census as Elizabeth Gingerich, 75, born in Germany in October 1824, immigrated in 1826.

Joseph 'Joe Gold Rush' Guingrich
Great-grandson of Johannes

The story of Farmsville settler and Gold Rush trader Joseph Guingrich connects a number of the families in this text.

Johannes 'Hans der Jüng' Güngerich was documented on the Frönsburgerhof with his father in 1726 and 1736. From there he also ministered to a congregation in the principality of Salm, where he is found in 1759.

His children have not been identified. Our genealogy skips to a generation identified by Hermann Guth in Amish Mennonites in Germany. This family branch consisted of three brothers, who Guth calls 'the Güngeriches of Lorraine.' The oldest brother, Nickolaus (1738-1816) had a son Christian (1770-1825) who served as elder on Belgrade farm at Bistroff and had six children there. The middle brother, Christian Güngerich, was the grandfather of Joseph Guingrich. The youngest brother, Joseph (1755-1796) who spelled his name 'Guingerich,' married Anne Rubi. After his death, she remarried to Michel Engel, the younger brother of future elder Christian Engel.

Middle brother Christian was born in 1750 and died at Fenetrange, Moselle Dec. 8, 1826. He married Jakobea/Jacobie/Jacoby Güngerich. She was born in 1750, and died at Gros-Réderching, Moselle March 14, 1828, a daughter of elder Christian Güngerich of Imling (1713-1775) and Jakobea/Jacobine Widmer of Steinselz.

Their son cultivator Johannes/Jean Gingerich, who signed his name 'Hans Gingerich,' was born at Imling Oct. 20, 1778. On May 8, 1802 at Albestroff he married Anne Marie Müller. She was born at Strasbourg Feb. 9,
1781, a daughter of the deceased cultivator Christian Müller and Marie Knerin of Strasbourg. His father and her mother were present at the ceremony.

Vallerade at Albestroff was a horse-breeding farm established in 1717, and at one time owned by the Duke of Lorraine. It is identified with the Salzman family.

Between 1806 and 1809, Johannes/Jean became owner and master of a half-portion of the smallholding Ste. Croix farm at Fribourg, a tiny hamlet above Rhodes. He died on Ste. Croix farm Sept. 8, 1824. Marie died on Brandelfing farm at Gros-Rédécherching April 12, 1831.

Their children include:

1. Madeleine Guingrich was born on Vallerade farm at Albestroff March 21, 1803, and died on Brandelfing farm at Gros-Rédécherching Feb. 28, 1836. On April 26, 1826 at Gros-Rédécherching she married her cousin, widower Jean Günngerich/Guingerich (his first wife was Jacobine Ringenberg, a daughter of Jean Ringenberg and Marie Engel). He was born circa 1792, and died on Brandelfing farm Aug. 28, 1832, a son of Joseph Guingerich and Anne Rubi (who later married Michel Engel). Witnesses included Michel Engel, 44, stepfather of the groom; Jean Risser, a cultivator at Rahling, 51; Christian Schantz, 42, brother-in-law; and the bride's brother Joseph, 22. On July 25, 1833 at Gros-Rédécherching she remarried to Andreas/André Roggy of Lorentzen (1809-1845).

2. Joseph Guingrich was born on Vallerade farm at Albestroff Dec. 17, 1804.

3. Jakobine/Jacobée Guingrich (twin) was born at Albestroff Nov. 22, 1806, and died at Rhodes March 22, 1810.

4. Catherine Guingrich (twin) was born at Albestroff Nov. 22, 1806, and died March 20, 1810.

5. Christian Guingrich was born at Rhodes Feb. 23, 1809.

6. Jean Guingrich was born at Rhodes April 11, 1811.

7. Jacobine 'Phebe' Guingrich was born at Rhodes Sept. 25, 1814, and died in Livingston County June 9, 1880. On Feb. 6, 1832 at Domgermain, Meurthe-et-Moselle she married André/Andrew Zimmerman. He was born in the district of Freiburg, Baden Aug. 22, 1807, and died at Chenoa, McLean County Feb. 23, 1889. See ZIMMERMAN for more on this couple.

8. Jakob/Jacob Guingrich was born at Rhodes Sept. 25, 1814.

Joseph Guingrich was born on Vallerade farm at Albestroff Dec. 17, 1804, and died at Danvers March 6, 1875.

Joseph was described in VERCLER as the friend who lent his passport to Joseph Vercler in 1829. Vercler was deserting from military service. Maizières-lès-Vic (formerly Hellocourt), where Vercler lived, is adjacent to Fribourg, where Guingrich had been a laborer on his father's smallholding Ste. Croix. Vercler later became Guingrich's brother-in-law.

Joseph married Magdalena Gerber at Montigny, Meurthe-et-Moselle (22 miles south of Fribourg) Feb. 21, 1830. Their civil marriage entry described the groom as cultivator Joseph Guingrich, 25, a resident of Montigny. He was born on Vallerade farm at Albestroff, a son of the deceased Jean Guingrich, who had died on Ste. Croix farm at Fribourg Sept. 8, 1824, and cultivator Marie Müller, 45, a resident of Montigny who was present and consenting. The bride was Magdelaine Guerber, 23, a resident of Ste. Croix farm at Fribourg. She was born on Roderhof farm at Insviller Nov. 22, 1807, a daughter of cultivator Pierre Guerber, 48, a resident of Ste. Croix farm who was present and consenting; and the deceased Barbe Chartz [Schertz], who had died on Roderhof farm March 13, 1809.

The marriage entry also recognized that the couple had a child together. The birth of their daughter Barbe had been registered at Fribourg Jan. 1, 1830. The couple signed the entry as 'Joseph Guingrich' and 'M. Guerber.'

Montigny was also the home of Michel Mosimann and Susana/Suzanne Brechbühl, the parents of future minister Michael Mosiman; the father died there June 12, 1842.

Joseph and Magdalena emigrated from Europe in 1830 (per the report of daughter Magdalena on the 1900 census, and Portrait and Biographical Album of Woodford County). They sailed from Le Havre to New York, and traveled directly to Ohio.

History of Woodford County states that Joseph settled at Farnisville about 1833, and partnered with the Farnys to build a saw mill there in 1836. In the meantime Magdalena had three children in Butler County. She and her children did not move to Farnisville until 1837. Farnisville was located in a part of Tazewell County that later became Woodford County (in 1851 Farnisville became part of Montgomery Township, and is now called Mackinaw Dells).

The Guingriches bought 40 acres of public land at Farnisville Feb. 3, 1837, paying $1.25 per acre. 'Joseph Gingery' appears on the 1840 census of Tazewell County.

Magdalena died at Farnisville in 1848, and was buried in Slabtown Cemetery. Her grave is no longer marked.

The children were distributed in a number of households. Daughter Barbara had married Valentine Strubhar and lived at Danvers; daughter Magdalena was living with Barbara and Valentine; daughter Lydia was in the home
of Peter Engel and Catherine Ringenberg; daughter Anna was in the household of Christian Summers and Magdalena; and daughter Catherine was in the home of Joseph Gerber and Magdalena Sommer.

On Jan. 24, 1848 gold was discovered near the South Fork American River at what is now Coloma, California, at the base of the Sierra Nevada Mountains (for background see the Appendix, KIEFER/KIEFFER). The Californian newspaper published in San Francisco ran the first article announcing a discovery of gold on March 15.

Joseph then made the arduous trip west. Portrait and Biographical Album of Woodford County (1889): "In 1848 Mr. Guingrich went to Oregon territory, following the overland route. Crossing the plains and mountains, he at length reached his destination and took up a claim, which he soon afterward relinquished, and removed to Stockton, California, where he engaged as a carrier of goods across the mountains."

Stockton is located 90 miles inland from San Francisco, at the head of a channel on the San Joaquin River. It was founded in 1849. By 1854, it had become the fourth largest city in California. Don Baumgart wrote in Moving West Men Lived on Boiled Badger and Bullet-Proof Bread, "...It quickly got worse...and more expensive. In fact, more money was to be made in stopping-off places like Stockton and Sacramento, and more surely, than in nugget-chasing. One man bought a pair of mules and made $8 to $10 a day hauling supplies from river ship docks to the canvas-and-stick stores. A teamster made a good living and the merchants made fortunes...all without digging a shovelful of gravel."

Family sources say Joseph sold supplies to the miners, accumulating a modest fortune in gold dust and nuggets. This was exchanged at the Denver mint for $18,000 in $20 Double Eagle gold coins. He returned to Illinois in a specially-constructed wagon concealing up to $16,000 in gold.

Portrait and Biographical Album of Woodford County: "After following the occupation for some time he returned in 1861 [more likely 1852] to Illinois, coming via water and land. Shortly after his arrival in Tazewell County he purchased a farm, erected a dwelling, and made other improvements, and resided there with his family until his children were all married." $18,000 in 1852 would have had the equivalent of $562,000 in modern buying power.

On Feb. 3, 1852 in Tazewell County Joseph remarried to Marie/Mary Vercler; the ceremony was performed by minister Andrew Ropp. She was born June 12, 1809, and died at what is now Congerville Nov. 4, 1855. She was the widow of Joseph Sommer, who she had married in Ohio in 1833. After her first husband's death she had lived with her oldest brother Joseph. History of the Illinois River Valley: "For eight years her [Marie's] elder son, using a borrowed horse in addition to one of his own, cultivated a tract of land, probably about forty acres. In 1854 [1852] the mother married a Mr. Gingerich, a widower with six children who had recently returned from California, and the family, consisting of the parents and eleven children, all lived in a one-room log cabin until Mr. Gingerich afterward purchased a farm in Tazewell County.” This roughly corresponds with the account in Portrait and Biographical Album of Woodford County (1889): "Shortly after his arrival in Tazewell County he purchased a farm, erected a dwelling, and made other improvements, and resided there with his family until his children were all married. He then ceased active work on his farm and made his home with one of his children [Magdalena] in McLean County, until death removed him from life's activities in 1875."

The 1860 census of Dillon shows Joseph Gingery, 56, France; and Magdaline, 52 (the census taker may have asked one of the children for the name of their mother, rather than their stepmother).

Joseph Guingrich died in McLean County March 6, 1875. He is buried in Imhoff Cemetery at Danvers, where his headstone gives the dates 1803-1875. Herald of Truth, July 1875: "March 6th, in McLean Co., Ill., Joseph Gingerich, aged 70 years and several months. Buried the 8th, in Imhoff's grave-yard, in the presence of many friends."

His second wife Marie/Mary Vercler is buried in Dillon Cemetery at Elm Grove as 'Mary Sommer Gingrich.' Children of Joseph Guingrich and his first wife Magdalena Gerber include:

1. Barbe Gerber's birth on Ste. Croix farm at Fribourg was registered Jan. 1, 1830. It was entered into civil records at Fribourg by her 48-year-old grandfather Peter/Pierre Gerber. The entry identified her mother as 23-year-old 'Madeleine Guerbert' living on Ste. Croix farm, daughter of 'Pierre Guerbert' and 'Barbe Chertz.' We have noted that she was mentioned on the marriage entry of her parents. There is a reasonable chance that she was the Barbara Guingrich who married Valentine Strubbar in Woodford County March 27, 1847. If so, the birth year on her headstone (March 19, 1828) may or may not be accurate. Census ages were inconsistent: 21 in 1850, 40 in 1860, 42 in 1870, 55 in 1880. See STRUBHAR in the Appendix for more on this couple.

2. Magdalena 'Laney' Guingrich is supposed to have been born enroute to America Nov. 30, 1829 (headstone date), but the conflict with that date has already been mentioned. Unless she was adopted, she was born after the marriage of her parents on Feb. 21, 1830 (their civil marriage entry documented only daughter Barbe). She died at Congerville, Montgomery Township Nov. 29, 1922. On June 8, 1852 in Tazewell County she married Joseph Schrock; the ceremony was performed by minister Andrew Ropp. See SCHROCK for background on this couple.
3. John Guingrich was born in Butler County, Ohio in 1832.

4. Lydia Guingrich was born in Butler County, Ohio circa 1834. She is found as Lydia Gyngrey, 14, Ohio, in the household of Peter Engel and Catherine Ringenberg on the 1850 census of District 56 (Woodford County). On Jan. 11, 1857 in Woodford County she married Samuel Kaufman (the county record calls her Lydia Gingery). They are found on the 1860 census of Roanoke, Woodford County as Samuel Kaufman, 28 or 38, Switzerland; Lydia, 26, Switzerland; Leah, 2, Illinois; and domestic Catherine Gingery, 23, Illinois. They were listed one household removed from Lydia's older sister Magdalena Guingrich and her husband Joseph Schrock. Though we could find records of their children (Leah 1858, John P. 1860, Ida 1863, and William S. 1868) we could not follow Lydia and Samuel after 1860.

5. Anna 'Nancy' Guingrich was born in Butler County, Ohio in April 1836, and died in 1926. She is found as Nancy, 13, Ohio, in the District 56 (Woodford County) household of Christian Sommer and Magdalena on the 1850 census of District 56 (Woodford County). On May 15, 1859 she married her step-brother Joseph Sommer. He was born at Tremont July 1, 1836, and died July 27, 1912, a son of Joseph Sommer and Marie/Mary Vercler. They can be found on the 1900 and 1910 censuses of Elm Grove, ages 73 and 74.

6. Catherine Guingrich was born circa 1837 (probably at Farnisville). She is found as Catharine Gingrey, 13, Ohio, in the household of Joseph Gerber and Magdalena Sommer on the 1850 census of District 56 (Woodford County). She is found as domestic Catherine Gingery, 23, Illinois in the household of her older sister Lydia and Samuel Kaufman on the 1860 census of Roanoke.

**John Gingery**

Two brothers named Christian Güngerich and Peter Güngerich settled in Waldeck. German genealogist Hermann Guth proposed that they were grandsons of Christian Güngerich (born 1648), and sons of either Peter (born 1680) or Michel Güngerich (born 1689).

The older brother Christian married Verena Schwartzentruber, a daughter of Vincentz Schwartzentrüber and Anna Zimmerman. She may have been born in the Grafschaft Falkenstein. In 1743 they leased the Hünighausen dairy farm at Helsen (now a neighborhood of Arolsen, 17 miles north of the town of Waldeck). Christian became a minister/elder of the Amish Mennonite congregation there, and attended the assembly of ministers at Essingen in 1779 as a representative of Waldeck. Verena died there July 30, 1786, and Christian died there there Sept. 6, 1793.

Their son Jakob Güngerich was born on the Hünighausen dairy farm in 1753, and died in 1817. He married Jakobina Brenneman. She was born on the Karlshäuserhof estate at Dürrn, Baden-Durlach Dec. 20, 1757, a daughter of Nikolaus Brenneman and his first wife Barbara Kurtz. They leased the Albacherhof estate at Lich, Hesse.

Their son Johannes Güngerich, later known in Illinois as John Gingery, was born on the Albacherhof estate July 6, 1792. He worked on the Lehrbach estate between Grünberg and Laubach, Hesse.

John married Magdalena 'Martha' Eckhardt. They emigrated from Europe in 1825, and settled in Pennsylvania. John already knew 'Apostle Peter.' The Mennonite Heritage Center at Germantown Hills holds a letter from Naffziger, written in Ontario to John in Pennsylvania dated July 25, 1829: "...Then you will keep to your word, which I have seen in your letter, and help us establish a Godly congregation there [Illinois], such as we have left in the Wetterau."[21]

On March 27, 1831 in Pennsylvania their oldest child Catharine married Peter Beck. Peter was born on the Wolferhof estate near Neustadt im Odenwald, Hesse Jan. 13, 1792, a son of Christian Beck and Barbara Danner. He was a younger brother to Barbara Beck, the wife of minister 'Apostle Peter' Naffziger. Peter, Barbara Beck, and 'Apostle Peter' had all sailed from Amsterdam on the Nimrod, and arrived at Philadelphia in 1826; while the Naffzigers went to Wilmot Township, Ontario, Peter Beck had remained in Pennsylvania to accumulate savings as a farm laborer.

Within a few months the Gingerys and Becks began a journey west to Illinois. It is likely that they stopped over in Butler County, Ohio, where 'Apostle Peter' Naffziger and Barbara Beck had resettled.

The Gingerys settled in Partridge Township, in what is now Woodford County.

From Butler County Naffziger wrote John a letter dated Aug. 3, 1831, that was delivered by John Engel. The salutation in the letter - 'fellow servant in the house of the Lord' - indicates that John Gingery had been ordained as a minister before arriving in Illinois. Thus he had become the first Amish Mennonite minister in the state, and as the only minister would also have been considered an elder. However, since meetings took place in homes, and this was very early in the settlement process, it is impossible to say whether or not he established a congregation.

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[21] The Wetterau is an especially fertile area north of Frankfurt am Main in Hesse-Darmstadt.
The Gingerys may have received Peter Holly and Christian Iutzi when they visited Illinois from Butler County Oct. 2-Nov. 9, 1832.

John died in the summer of 1833. According to The Past and Present of Woodford County, his was the first death of a European in Partridge Township.

Naffziger wrote the widow Magdalena Sept. 2, 1834: "We commend you to God and His grace. I am very surprised that none of your children have joined the church yet since you have elders and ministers now."

Magdalena appears on the 1850 census of Woodford County as 'Martha Gingery, 63, Germany.' She was living in the home of her widowed daughter Catharine Gingery Beck, at what is now Montgomery Township. She may also appear elsewhere on the same census, as 60-year-old Madaline Gingrey of Germany, in the household of Joseph Gingrey, 36.

According to History of Bureau County, Magdalena died at Arispie in the fall of 1852, in the home of her daughter Barbara and son-in-law Joseph Albrecht.

Variations of spelling have obscured the trail of this family, since later Gungerich arrivals are also occasionally found as Gingry or Gingery. Fortunately, a list of the children in order of birth appears in a profile of their son Daniel in History of Bureau County, Illinois. Some of those listed below may have died as infants.

Children of Johannes Gungerich/John Gingery and Magdalena 'Martha' Eckhardt include:

1. Katharina Güngerich/Catharine Gingery was born May 27, 1809, and died Jan. 2, 1890. One source says that on March 27, 1831 (her 22nd birthday) she married Peter Beck in Pennsylvania. See BECK for details of their marriage.

2. Peter Güngerich/Gingery was born Oct. 8, 1811, and died in Woodford County before the 1850 census. On Jan. 29, 1839 in Tazewell County he married Magdalena Nafziger; the ceremony was performed by minister John Nafziger. She was born at Bourscheid, Moselle Sept. 11, 1811, and died in Illinois in 1892, a daughter of Christian Nafziger and Catherine Maurer. Their household is found on the 1850 census of District 56 (Woodford County) as Peter Gingrey, 39, Germany; Madalane, 35, France; Catharine, 10; Barbara, 8; Madalane, 6; Ann, 5; Eliza, 3; and Jeney, 1; all children born in Illinois. The obituary of daughter Ann says, "Her father was taken by death when the family (six daughters and one son) were all small. The mother had many hardships to face, but it is remarkable how she kept her children together, sacrificing much for their welfare." The 1860 census of Metamora shows Magdalene Gingery, 48, France; Catherine, 20; Barbaray, 18; Madaline, 16; Ann, 14; Eliza, 13; Phebe, 10 (all children born in Illinois); and farm laborer Peter Ginery, 19. On Oct. 6, 1885 Magdalena remarried to corn dealer James C. Lackey in McLean County Oct. 6, 1885. He was born Jan. 22, 1845, and died at Pekin Jan. 13, 1917; he is buried in Miars Cemetery at Elm Grove without a headstone. Children of Peter and Magdalena born at Partridge, Woodford County include:
   a. Catherine 'Katie' Gingery was born Dec. 10, 1839, and died at Washington March 26, 1919. On March 10, 1863 in Woodford County she married John Nafziger. He was born Jan. 9, 1838, and died Dec. 26, 1921, a son of Jean/John Nafziger and Anne Marie/Anna Gerber. They farmed at Washington, where they are found on the 1870 census. Gospel Herald, April 1919: "Catharine Nofsinger (nee Gingerich) wife of John Nofsinger, Washington, Ill., was born in Woodford Co., Ill., Dec. 10, 1839; died Mar. 26, 1919: aged 79 y. 3 m. 16 d. She was married to John Nofsinger Mar. 10, 1863. To this union were born five sons and three daughters, all of whom were present when she died. Besides her husband and ten children, she also leaves four sisters and 26 grandchildren. She gave her heart to the Lord and united with the Mennonite Church at the age of 14 years. She was ever a faithful and devoted Christian, loved and respected by all who knew her. Her death resulted from a paralytic stroke which she suffered several years ago, having been practically helpless ever since. She endured her affliction with patience and true Christian fortitude. Funeral services Mar. 30, 1919, at her late home by A. L. Buzzard and Valentine Struber, and at the Union Mennonite Church, near Washington, by A. L. Buzzard and J. S. Shoemaker. Text, Psa. 87:3. They are buried under a joint headstone in Union Cemetery at Washington as John Nafziger and Katherine Gingrich.

b. Barbaray/Barbara Gingery was born Oct. 8, 1841, and died Feb. 28, 1920. On Feb. 19, 1963 in Woodford County she married Peter Nafziger/Naffziger. He was born in Bavaria July 2, 1835, and died in Tazewell County Nov. 2, 1909, a son of Valentine Nafziger and Anna Katharina Nafziger. They are found on the 1900 census of Deer Creek as farmer Petter Naffziger, 64, born in Germany in July 1835 to German parents; Barbara, 58, born in Illinois in October 1841 to German parents (Alsace-
Amish Mennonites in Tazewell County, Illinois

Lorraine was occupied by Germany 1870-1918); and two children born in Illinois. They are buried in Hirstein Cemetery at Morton.

c. Magdalena Gingery was born Feb. 18, 1844, and died in Tazewell County July 11, 1927. On Feb. 18, 1865 she married Christian Nafziger/Naffziger. He was born in Germany June 17, 1839, and died in Tazewell County Oct. 26, 1923, a son of Valentine Nafziger and Anna Katharina Nafziger. They are buried in Roanoke Mennonite Cemetery under a joint headstone that calls her Phebe Gingrich. On the 1900 census of Deer Creek as farmer Christ Nafziger, 61, born in Germany in June 1839 to German parents; Magdalena, 56, born in Illinois in February 1844 to French parents; and Christ, 19, born in Illinois in June 1880. They are buried in Glendale Cemetery at Washington.

d. Ann/Anna 'Annie' Gingery was born Aug. 22, 1845, and died July 20, 1929. On March 11, 1869 in Woodford County she married Christian H. Schertz. He was born Nov. 22, 1844, and died July 1, 1928, a son of Jean/John Schertz and Magdalena /Madeleine Engel. In 1869 they purchased 200 acres at Metamora. Gospel Herald, August 1929: "Annie Schertz, daughter of Peter and Magdalena Gingrich, was born Aug. 22, 1845; died July 20, 1929; aged 83 y. 10 m. 29 d. She was the last of a pioneer family to depart this life. Her father was taken by death when the family (six daughters and one son) were all small. The mother had many hardships to face, but it is remarkable how she kept her children together, sacrificing much for their welfare. She was married to Christian H. Schertz on March 11, 1869... Her companion departed this life July 1, 1928. Funeral services were in charge of Bros. H. R. Schertz and A. A. Schrock." See SCHERTZ for his obituary. They are buried in Stewart-Harmony Cemetery at Metamora.

e. Elizabeth 'Eliza' Gingery was born April 11, 1847, and died at Eureka Feb. 13, 1917. On Feb. 14, 1869 in Woodford County she married Joseph Schertz. He was born at Peoria Feb. 3, 1846, and died Oct. 24, 1915, a son of Christian Schertz and Katharina/Catherine Engel. See SCHERTZ for the 1880 census of Roanoke and his obituary. They are buried under a joint headstone at Roanoke Mennonite Cemetery.

f. Jeney/Phebe Gingery was born at Partridge Feb. 5, 1849, and died at Eureka May 18, 1923. On Jan. 7, 1875 she married Christian S. Schertz. He was born at Washington Nov. 16, 1851, and died at Goshen, Indiana March 31, 1937, a son of Christian Schertz and Katharina/Catherine Engel. They are buried in Roanoke Mennonite Cemetery. Gospel Herald, May 3: "Phebe (Gingrich) Schertz was born Feb. 5, 1849, near Metamora, Ill., died at her home near Eureka, Ill., May 18, at the age of 74 y. 3 m. 13 d. She confessed her Savior in her early youth and united with the Mennonite Church. She remained a faithful member until her death. She was united in marriage to Christian S. Schertz Jan. 7, 1875. To this union were born 3 sons: Samuel, Louis C., and Benj. J. Although she had no daughters she fostered two Mrs. Edward King, Hutchinson, Kans., and Mrs. Frank Sharick, Ashley, Mich. One son and wife, and one granddaughter, Ruth, preceded her in death. She was the youngest of six sisters of whom only two remain, Mrs. Christian Schertz of Metamora, and Mrs. Christian Nafziger of Washington, Ill. Mother Schertz gave us a true example of endurance and hopefulness and bore the trials and annoyances of sickness quietly and calmly with a prayerful heart and faith in the Almighty. Short services were conducted at the home by Bro. Andrew Schrock, using for his text Ps. 23 and at the Roanoke Mennonite Church by Bro. C. F. Derstine, using as his text II Cor. 5:1; Heb. 11:16. A large body of sympathizing friends gathered to pay the last tribute of respect. May we all live so as to meet her in glory." They are buried in Roanoke Mennonite Cemetery under a joint headstone that calls her Phebe Gingrich.

g. A son may have died as an infant. He is not found on any census. The misconception is that there was a son Henry may be a misreading of 'Jeney' on the 1850 census. On that census Jeney is clearly marked as male, and matches the age of Phebe.

3. Barbara Güngerich/Gingery was born at Laubach May 3, 1815, and died at Arispie, Bureau County June 25, 1883. On Oct. 15, 1842 she married Joseph Albrecht. The ceremony was performed by minister/elder André Bachmann/Andrew Baughman. Joseph was born March 19, 1817, and died Oct. 17, 1895, a son of Christian Albrecht and Elizabeth Engel. See the Appendix, ALBRECHT OF BUREAU COUNTY for more on this couple.

4. Joseph Güngerich/Gingery. He may have been the Joseph Gingrey whose household is found on the 1850 census of District 56/Woodford County: farmer Joseph Gingrey, 36, Germany; Mary, 35, France; Eliza, 7, Illinois; John, 6, Illinois; Daniel, 4, Illinois; Peter, 1, Illinois; and Madaline Gingrey, 60, Germany. A decade later an 11-year-old Elizabeth Engel. See the Appendix, ALBRECHT OF BUREAU COUNTY for more on this couple.

5. Phebe Güngerich/Gingery.

6. Louisa Güngerich/Louise Gingery was born at Laubach March 9, 1820, and died at Tiskilwa, Bureau County Oct. 21, 1868; she is buried in the Albrecht Family Cemetery at Tiskilwa. On Sept. 22, 1850 in the home of Joseph Albrecht at Tiskilwa she married Daniel Imhof. He was born at Ellbach in the Pfalz (now in the state of Bavaria) May 10, 1822, and died at Guide Rock, Nebraska Feb. 4, 1906, a son of Johannes Imhof and Barbara Hunsicker. On June 30, 1869 at Tiskilwa Daniel remarried to Anna Catherine Stortz. They are buried in Guide Rock Cemetery.

8. Daniel Güngerich/Gingery was born at Laubach Feb. 2, 1824, and died at Tiskilwa in 1896. On April 3, 1857 in Tazewell County he married Catherine Gassler, who had immigrated in 1850. She was born in Baden June 6, 1835, and died at Tiskilwa in 1927, a daughter of Henry Gassler and Elizabeth Esterly. In 1867 they resettled at Arispie, Bureau County. The 1880 census of Arispie shows farmer Daniel Gingery, 50, born in Germany to German parents; Katherine, 45, born in Germany to German parents; and nine children born in Illinois. In 1881 they moved onto 160 acres at Indiantown, Bureau County. They are buried in Mt. Bloom Cemetery at Tiskilwa.

24 Woodford County marriage records name them Daniel Gingery and Catherine Gasler.
Farny

In German a fern is a Farn. A Fahrni would be someone who lives in a place with ferns. Farni or Fahrni was the name of a valley above Steffisburg, Canton Bern that now holds a village called Fahrni bei Thun. Its flag shows a fern. The 1682 Mosestafel tableau in the Protestant Reformed Church at Steffisburg has coats-of-arms boards [Ger. Wappentafel] for Ulrich Farni and Peter Fahrni. Both show three fern stalks.

The earliest entries in Steffisburg records spell the name 'Färnÿ,' but the family is later found as 'Fahrni' and even later 'Farney.' It was generally found in France as Farni or Farny. In America the surname also became Forney.

We found two threads of Farni families in the region of Lorraine that touch on Central Illinois: one surrounding Bistroff, and one surrounding Bisping.

Farny of Bistroff

We suspect that Christian Farni/Farny (born circa 1746), whose life events center around Bistroff, was an older brother to Pierre Farni/Farny (born circa 1761) whose life events center around adjacent Harprich.

They may also have had a sister Anne, who married Pierre Hirschi circa 1766; their life events center around Harprich and Faulquemont. See the Appendix, HIRSCHY/HIRSCHEY for background on this couple.

CHRISTIAN FARNI/FARNY

The Peace of Vienna in 1738 granted former king of Poland Stanislaw Leszczynski the title of Duke of Lorraine. When he died in 1766, the entire region was annexed by France. The Bishopric of Morhange subsequently surrendered its local properties, including those around Bistroff.

After the privatization Anabaptist Christian Farny/Farny was one of the original leaseholders on Belgrade farm at Bistroff. Knowing that he must have been 21 years of age to hold a lease, it is safe to assume that he was born before 1746.

French databases say Christian died before Sept. 23, 1793. We could not determine the reasoning for this date. If it was assumed that he died at Bistroff, then the event must have taken place before the first death entry in état civil records there: Jan. 7, 1793.

Circa 1766 he married Anne Hirschi. She was born circa 1746 (per the civil marriage entry of son Joseph), a daughter of Simon Hirschi/Hirschy and Barbara Schertz (see the Appendix, HIRSCHY/HIRSCHY for background on her family). She died between Nov. 1, 1796 (the marriage of son Joseph) and March 7, 1802 (the marriage of daughter Barbe).

Their children include:

1. Joseph Farny was born on Hingsange farm at Linstroff (now in Grosenquin) Nov. 12, 1766. On Nov. 1, 1796 at Bistroff he married Anne Neyhouser [Neuhauser]. She was born at Singling (a hamlet that is now part of Gros-Réderching) April 15, 1772, a daughter of Christian Neuhauser and Barbe Zimmerman. On their civil marriage entry the groom was described as Joseph Farny, 30, a resident of Belgrade farm who was the son of the deceased Christian Farny and Anne Hirchý, 50. The bride was described as Anne Neyhouser, 24, a resident of Picard. She was a daughter of the deceased Christian Neyhouser and Anne Zimmerman, a resident of Ingling, Sarreguemines. It was witnessed by cultivator Nicolas Blank, 48, a resident of la Cappelle at Bistroff. Their marriage is incorrectly listed in the 10-year civil index as Joseph Farny and Anne Zimmerman.

2. Anne Farny was born Aug. 15, 1771. On March 2, 1794 she married Christian/Chrétien Jantzi. He was born on Brandefling farm at Gros-Réderching Oct. 18, 1766, and died at Bistroff Nov. 15, 1828, a son of Michel Jantzi and Barbara Gerber/Barbe Guerber. For background on this couple and a list of their children, as well as on Christian’s second wife Catherine Spänler/Spenler, see JANTZI.

3. Barbe Farny was born on Belgrade farm at Bistroff July 1, 1778, and died at Bertring, Moselle Dec. 9, 1836. On March 7, 1802 on Belgrade farm at Bistroff she married Joseph Stecker. He was born at Marienthal in the County of Falkenstein, an Austrian enclave within the Pfalz, and died in Butler County, Ohio after the 1840 census, a son of Antoine Stecker and Marie Müller. Witnesses included the bride’s uncle Pierre Farny (described as a resident of Brunning) and her brother-in-law Christian/Chrétien Jantzi. See STAKER for background on this couple.

4. Marie Farny was born on Belgrade farm circa 1780, and died at Château-Voué, Moselle Aug. 31, 1819. On Jan. 30, 1800 at Bistroff she married Christophe Moser. He was born circa 1781, and died in 1849, a son of Christian Moser and Madeleine Risser. Their civil marriage entry described the groom as Christophe Moser, 19, a son of the deceased Christian Moser, and Magdeleine Risser, a resident of Grosenquin. The bride was described as Marie Farny, 20, a daughter of the deceased Christian Farny and Anne Hirchy. Their marriage was listed in the 10-year civil index as
Xtophe Moser and Marie Farny. They farmed at Bistroff until 1810, then at Chateau-Voué. Christophe was also an oil trader.

5. Madeleine Farny was born on Belgrade farm circa 1783. She married Michel Zehr and Joseph Risser; see RISSER/REESER for background on both marriages.

6. Catherine Farny was born on Belgrade farm Sept. 7, 1784, and died at adjacent Viller March 14, 1823 (found in the 10-year civil index as Catherine Farenné). She married Pierre/Peter Frischmann, who was born circa 1776. He was born at Püttingen (30 miles north of Bistroff in the Saarland) Nov. 3, 1776, and died at Viller April 27, 1827, a son of Nicolas Frischmann and Catherine Breguing. According to one source, the marriage ceremony took place at Bistroff Sept. 22, 1802, though no civil entry is found there. He signed the 1806 birth entry of a child with an ‘x’ (indicating he was illiterate), but in 1807 signed ‘Peter Frishmann.’ On July 27, 1826 at Viller he remarried to Madeleine Spanler/Spenler.

7. Suzanne or Susanne Farny was born on Belgrade farm circa 1788. On Feb. 2, 1809 at Bistroff she married Christian Springer. He was born at Plaine-de-Walsch, Moselle circa 1782, and died at Dambach, Lower Alsace Jan. 18, 1827, a son of Daniel Springer and Marie Kohler. Their civil marriage entry described the groom as Christian Springer, 26, a farmhand and laborer who was a resident of Offerding [at Gros-Réderching], a son of Daniel Springer and Marie Kohler, both deceased. The bride was described as Susanne Farny, 21, daughter of Christian Farny and Anne Hirchy, both décédé depuis sa jeunesse – deceased since her childhood. It was witnessed by farmer Christian Jantzi of Belgrade, 42. Bride and groom signed with an ‘x’, indicating they were illiterate. For background on this couple see SPRINGER.

PIERRE FARNI/FARNY

Pierre Farni/Farny is thought to have been a younger brother to Christian Farni/Farny (who married Anne Hirschi). He was born circa 1761.

He married Anne Elisabeth Gerber/Guerber. She was born circa 1762, a daughter of Jean Gerber/Guerber and Barbe Gingerich. At the 1813 marriage of son Jean, Anne signed her own name ‘Ellisabeth Gerber.’

Pierre is found as a 40-year-old witness on the 1802 Bistroff marriage entry of Joseph Stecker (#1) and Barbe Farny. It describes him as a resident of Brunning. This was meant to be Bening Commune, a farm and tile factory at Harprich that is also called Bening-lès-Harprich.

Another source describes him as the operator of le Moulin de Mitche [Mütsch or Mitche mill] on the pond of that name in Harprich. He would have worked at the southern end of Harprich, where the river La Rotte empties into Étang de Mutche. Their home would have been only two miles east of Destry, a village that figures in the lives of their children.

On May 7, 1805, 44-year-old Pierre died at his home at Bening-lès-Harprich; one witness was brother-in-law Ulrich Sommer. Anne later worked as a shopkeeper and lived in the Moulin Rouge [red mill] at nearby Destry. The center of Destry’s village is about two miles west of le Moulin de Mitche.

Anne died at Destry, Moselle Aug. 4, 1837.

Their children include:

1. Marie Farny was born circa 1791. On Aug. 2, 1814 at Merviller, Meurthe-et-Moselle she married Joseph Gerber. Their civil marriage entry described the groom as farmhand Joseph Guelbert, born at ‘Chrisvalche, Moselle’ June 20, 1796, a son of cultivator Jean Guelbert and Marguerite Stivi [Stibi] who were present and consenting. The bride was described as Marie Farny, a resident of Destry and a daughter of the deceased Pierre Farny, who had died at Harprich, and Elizabeth Guelbert, a miller in the Moulin Rouge at Destry. No age or birthplace was given. The signatures look like Hans Gerber, Elisabeth Gerber, and Maria Farny. Joseph died on Lagrange farm at Doncières, Vosges March 11, 1822. His civil death entry described him as Joseph Kerber, 31, a farm equipment operator who had died in the home of his father. It was witnessed by brother-in-law Michel Vitry, 33, and father Jean Kerber, 65. Their signatures look like Michel Witrich and Hans Gerber. No widow was mentioned.

2. Madeleine Farny was born at Besville, Bénestroff circa 1794 (per her marriage entry), and died in Lewis County, New York between the 1860 and 1870 censuses.25 On Aug. 12, 1813 at Destry she married cultivator Jean Hirschy. He was born at Haut-Clocher circa 1787, a son of Jean/Johannes Hirschi and Anne Rouvenacht. For background on this couple see the Appendix, HIRSCHY/HIRSCHY.

3. Catherine Farny was born at Besville, Bénestroff circa 1798 (per her marriage entry). On April 11, 1818 at Destry she married Jean/John Kieffer. He was born at Folschviller Sept. 29, 1798, and died in Lewis County Aug. 14, 1884, a son of cultivator Jean Joseph Kieffer and Magdalena Hirschi/Hirschy. Jean became a recruiter-land agent for James

25 Besville is the area around the pond l’Étange de Besville in the northeast corner of Bénestroff. A short canal has connected the pond with the river l’Albe, which flows from Rodalbe about 20 miles northeast to Sarralbe, where it joins the Sarre.
LeRay de Chaumont and brought numerous Amish Mennonite families to Lewis County, New York in the early 1830s (see the Appendix, THE LEWIS COUNTY SETTLEMENT and KIEFER/KIEFFER).

4. Barbe Farny was born circa 1798, and died at Dolving Dec. 19, 1840. On June 20, 1818 at Dolving she married Jean Guerber. He was born at Sarraltroff Dec. 27, 1797, a son of Valentin Guerber and Anne Hirschi. Elisabeth’s civil death entry described her as Barbe Farny, 42, born at Destry but a resident of Dolving. It was witnessed by her husband cultivator Jean Guerber, 43.

5. Jean Farny was born May 1, 1801, and died at Spring Bay, Woodford County Aug. 17, 1854.

Jean Farny was born May 1, 1801, a son of Pierre Farny and Anne Elisabeth Gerber.

On July 10, 1826 at Dolving he married Catherine Gerber. She was born in 1804, a daughter of Valentine Guerber and Anne Hirschi.

They farmed at Buhl-Lorraine before emigrating.

They sailed from Le Havre on the Belle Assise, arriving at New Orleans April 23, 1853. The passenger list shows them as Jean Farny, 38 [he was actually 52]; Cathrin, 47; Anna, 21; Valentine, 18; Madeleine, 16; Jean, 12; Pierre, 9; and Elise, 5. They were accompanied by Christian Ruvenacht.

Afer disembarking at New Orleans they traveled up the Mississippi and Illinois Rivers to settle at Spring Bay, Woodford County.

Jean died Aug. 17, 1854. He is buried as ‘Johann Farni’ in Belsley-Camp Cemetery at Spring Bay. It is likely that he died from a cholera epidemic that peaked in July and August of 1855.

The 1860 census of Spring Bay shows widowed housekeeper Catherine Fornie, 50; Elizabeth, 12; Valentine, 24; and Peter, 18; all born in France.

Children of Jean Farny and Catherine Gerber include:

2. Florentin Farny was born at Destry March 30, 1829. ‘Florentin’ was the surname of a family at Buhl-Lorraine. He did not emigrate with his family.
3. Anne/Anna Farny was born at Buhl-Lorraine May 10, 1831, and died at El Paso, Woodford County Dec. 12, 1911. On March 11, 1856 in Woodford County she married Jean/John Risser. He was born at Rahling Oct. 9, 1831, and died at El Paso March 11, 1869, a son of Chrétien Risser and Anne Roggy. See RISSER/REESER for more on this couple.
4. Jean Farny was born at Buhl-Lorraine Oct. 24, 1832, and died before 1839.
5. Valentin Farny/Valentine Farney was born at Buhl-Lorraine April 16, 1835. On Nov. 5, 1860 he was naturalized at the Peoria County courthouse. On Dec. 13, 1864 he received a marriage license from Woodford County. The following day he married Elizabeth Burky in Peoria County. She was born in Tazewell County Dec. 3, 1846, and died Feb. 12, 1938, a daughter of Christian ‘Harry’ Burkey and Maria/Marie/Mary Stalter. The 1870 census of Roanoke shows Velten Farney, 32; France; Eliza, 24; Illinois; Catherine, 5; Illinois; Malida, 3; Illinois; farmhand John, 24, France; domestic servant Phoebe, 20, Illinois; and Mary, three months, Illinois. In 1873 he was farming Section 3 at Roanoke. The 1880 census of Roanoke shows Valentine Farney, 45; Elizabeth, 36; Catharine, 13; Magdaline, 13; John, 7; and Lydia, 3.
6. Madeleine Farny was born at Buhl-Lorraine May 4, 1837. On Dec. 21, 1858 in Peoria County she married Michael Meyers. He was naturalized at the Peoria Courthouse in 1860; the document said his age was 23, and that his port of entry had been New York March 29, 1853. The 1880 census fo Peoria shows city policeman Michael Mayer, 47, France; Magdaline, 42, France; and seven children born in Illinois between 1862 and 1877. Widower/carpenter Michael Meyers appears on the 1900 census of Peoria City with six children born between 1868 and 1878. His entry says that he was born in France in September 1839, and immigrated in 1850. Their entries say that both of their parents were born in France.
7. Jean Farny/John Farney was born at Buhl-Lorraine May 7 (headstone) or 28 (civil entry), 1839, and died at Spring Bay July 1, 1857. He may have been a residual victim of a cholera epidemic that had peaked in July and August of 1855. He is buried as ‘Johann Farni’ near his father in Belsley-Camp Cemetery.
8. Pierre Farny/Peter Farney was born at Buhl-Lorraine Oct. 5, 1841. On March 12, 1867 in Woodford County he married Hannah L. Genoways. She was born at Spring Bay in 1848, a daughter of Cyrus Genoways and Diana Burt. The 1870 census of Roanoke shows farmer Peter Farney, 28, France; Hanna, 23, Illinois; Peter, 2, Illinois; and Charles, five months, Illinois. They lived next door to Peter Belsley and his wife Catherine Schertz. They appear on the 1880 census of Hamilton County, Nebraska, and on the 1900 census of Aurora, Hamilton County, Nebraska. The San Francisco Call, Jan. 26, 1896: "Arrest of One of the Participants in a Daring Crime in Nebraska. Helped out a relative in destroying ballots and evidence of a shortage. Lincoln, Nebr., Jan. 25. The police today arrested William Myers, a young man who has been frequenting the Lincoln gambling houses. Today it developed that the charge against him was that of burning the Hamilton Courthouse at Aurora, the day after election, the Grand Jury of Aurora having indicted him yesterday. Myers was turned over to the Aurora County Sheriff today, and that official later in the day on similar indictments arrested Peter Farney and Peter Farny Jr. The elder Farney is ex-county treasurer, and he and Myers were relatives. The charge is that they burned the courthouse for the double purpose of
Amish Mennonites in Tazewell County, Illinois

destroying the ballots showing Farney's defeat for re-election and to cover a shortage in his accounts of which he was convicted last week.” Peter was treasurer, while his son Peter A. was deputy treasurer. Following the trial they relocated to Indiana. The 1915 directory of Indianapolis shows Peter Farney at 717 Congress Avenue, and Peter A. Farney as a cashier at 1053 W. 32nd Street. Peter and Hannah both died in 1925, and are buried in Crown Point Cemetery at Indianapolis. Headstones there show Hannah G. Farney (buried Jan. 31) and Peter Farney (buried July 3).

9. Christine Catherine Farny was born at Buhl-Lorraine Aug. 18, 1845, and died at Haut-Clocher in 1851. 
10. Elisabeth 'Elise' Farny/Elizabeth Farney was born March 7, 1848. On March 30, 1869 in Woodford County she married Christian Schertz. The story of his murder in 1871 is told in GOLDSMITH.

Farny of Bisping (Farnisville/Montgomery)

The unusual Farny family that lived on Nolweyer Pond at Bisping around the turn of the 19th century is relevant to a number of portions of this genealogy.26 They married into the Ropp, Schrag/Schrock, and Engel families, and figured in the history of Central Illinois.

Joseph Fahrni/Farny was born in the mill on Les Bachats farm at Rhodes about 1748. He became a miller on Nolweyer Pond at Bisping, and married Anne Schertz. Their children are only tentatively identified:

1. Marie Farny may have been born at Bisping, Moselle in 1780; she died there Oct. 1, 1847. On April 29, 1799 at Bisping she married Christian/Christophe Suisse. He was born in 1772, and died at Bisping July 7, 1861, a son of Johannes/Jean Suisse and either his first wife Anne Risser or an unidentified second wife.
2. Barbe Farny was born circa 1782. On June 20, 1809 at Insfuller she married Pierre Gerber, a cultivator who was working on the Roderhof there, and also farmed on the grounds of Chapelle de Sainte Anne d'Albéschaux at Fribourg near Rhodes. (Their marriage is found in the 10-year civil index under Pierre Gerbert and Barbe Farnie). He was the widower of Barbe Schertz, who had died at Insfuller March 14, 1809.
3. Anne Farny was born at Bisping Nov. 30, 1785, and died at Vic-sur-Seille after 1856. On Dec. 27, 1810 at Rhodes she became the second wife of Jean Schrag/Schraque/Gerack, who signed his own name Hans Schrag. He was born at Bistroff March 2, 1775, and died at Vic-sur-Seille, Moselle June 10, 1838, a son of Caspar/Gaspard Schrag and his second wife Marie Blaser. His first wife, Anne Engel (a younger sister to elder Christian Engel), had died at Marsal Aug. 8, 1809. See SHROCK for background on this couple, including a list of their children.

A village history suggests the residents of Bisping were accustomed to economic hardship: "In 1792, new price and wage controls created a black market. Poor farmers did not like being paid in assignats, which lost value from day to day. Shoe-makers were required to deliver two pairs of shoes apiece to a garrison at Dieuze. When a quartermaster tried to pay them in assignats, they refused. Following their example, Bisping farmers refused to provide foodstuffs. The chief of the district sent a detachment of soldiers to Bisping and quartered them in homes. The villagers immediately paid off the requirement in foodstuffs and hay. The village was also tasked to provide hay, food, and extra horses for military convoys as they passed through on the way to Dieuze. Occasionally 40 or more horses were borrowed for journeys of a month or more. This forced farmers to plow fields with oxen and cows. The horses returned exhausted and shrunken. Because the lack of horses made plowing slow work, the farmers are unable to provide wood for salt works at Dieuze and Moyenvic. In 1793 this resulted in an official quota with threats of penalties. Eventually salt was denied to Bisping."

Following the death of Anne Schertz, Joseph remarried to Anne Risser. She was born on Alzing farm at Gosselming about 1759, and died at Bisping April 29, 1808, a daughter of Jacob/Jacques Risser and Catherine Roupe/Ruppe/Ruppe of Gosselming.

Joseph Farny died at Bisping Feb. 1, 1800, at the age of 52. The Bisping death entry confirms that he was born at the mill on Les Bachats farm at Rhodes, and that Anne Risser was his second wife. It was witnessed by friend and Nolweyer Mill hand Jacob Moser.

On Dec. 1, 1800 at Bisping, widow Anne Risser, 41, remarried to Jacob Moser. He was born at Vibersviller July 25, 1762, a son of Jacob Moser and Marie Schertz. He became a stepfather to the Farny children. He eventually moved them to the Alzing farm at Gosselming (about six miles east), where he and the sons worked as cultivators.

Children of Joseph Fahrni/Farny and his second wife Anne Risser include:
4. Joseph Farny (he signed his own name 'Farni') was born Jan. 4 or 5, 1793, and died at Thullieux-ux-Groseilles, Meurthe-et-Moselle Dec. 1, 1862. On Dec. 24, 1817 at Lagarde he married Barbe Kennel. She was born in the Besseviller Mill at Bénestoff July 3, 1799, and died at Vaucouleurs, Meuse April 27, 1878, a daughter of Jean Kennel (son of Jean Kennel and Anne Schertz) and Barbe Schertz. At the time of the marriage they were working in a mill on the road Le Gué de Lexat at Lagarde (now in the adjoining village Xures) with Hans Oyer (the youngest Oyer son who did not come to America); after 1829 they are found at Haroué, Meurthe-et-Moselle. They had six children.

5. Catherine Farny was born June 5, 1794 (witnesses included Jacob Jacques Moser, 26, mill hand at Nolweyer Pond), and died at Saint Benoît-la-Chipotte, Vosges Oct. 16, 1854. On April 4, 1816 at Gosselming she married 19-year-old Jean Mayer. He was born at Creutzwald, Moselle and was living on a farm (found as 'Gosse Chatelle') at Etival, Vosges (now Eltval-Clairefontaine), a son of Christian Mayer and Madeleine Zehr. On the civil marriage entry their signatures appear as 'Catarina Farni' and 'Hans Meyer.' Catherine's stepfather Jacob Moser signed as a witness. They lived at Brû, Vosges.

6. Nicolas Farny was born April 22, 1796. Witnesses included Nicolas Risser, 30, and Magdalena Berger, 29, his wife from Gosselming. Father Joseph Fany signed this entry with an 'x,' indicating he was illiterate.

7. Peter/Pierre Farny (later Farni, Farney, and Forney) was born Dec. 16, 1797, and died at Montgomery, Woodford County Dec. 15, 1874. On July 23, 1826 at Bisping he married Anne Kempf. The entry describes him as a day laborer on Alzing farm at Gosselming. She was born at Rhodes Oct. 12, 1805, and died at Montgomery in 1840 (before that year's federal census), a daughter of Christian Kempf and Anne Pilmann [Bielmann] of Bisping. She is buried in Slabtown Cemetery.

A note of explanation to avoid confusion in the following family grouping: The father, Peter/Pierre Farny, married Joseph Oyer's oldest child in 1841. This was his second marriage. Two of Peter's children also married children of Joseph Oyer (in 1844 and 1854), while two of Peter's children married children of Joseph Oyer's brother Jacob.

a. Anna/Anne Farni/Farny/Forney was born at Gosselming July 8, 1827, and died July 9, 1897. On March 18, 1844 in Tazewell County she married John Oyer; the ceremony was performed by minister Michael Mosiman. John was born at Niderhoff, Moselle Sept. 9, 1816, and died in Woodford County March 12, 1872, a son of Joseph Oyer and his first wife Catherine Schrag. He arrived at New Orleans on the Superior Dec. 4, 1830; the passenger list described him as 13-year-old Hans Oyer. They can be found on the 1860 census of Groveland with eight children, all born in Illinois, living next door to sister Catherine and Catherine's husband John Spring. On Jan. 18, 1876 she remarried to minister Joseph Rediger. He was born on the Lärchenhof at Wimsheim March 2, 1826, and died at Meadows, McLean County March 8, 1904, a son of Benjamin Rediger and Barbara Ehresman. Joseph Rediger was the minister of a congregation at Gridley Prairie (later Waldo). His first wife had been Fannie Oyer, the younger sister of John Oyer; Fannie was born in 1834 and died May 30, 1872. In 1853 his sister Barbara became minister Michael Mosiman's second wife. Anna and her husbands are buried in Waldo Cemetery.

b. Catherine Farni/Farny/Forney was born on Alzing farm at Gosselming Nov. 1, 1828, and died at Groveland March 28, 1868. She can be found on the 1850 census of Tazewell County as a housekeeper in the household of Benjamin Rediger and Barbara Oyer. On Sept. 1, 1850 in Peoria County she married Jean Springer/John Spring. He was born at Sturzelbronn, Moselle Feb. 24, 1817, and died at Groveland Jan. 25, 1891, a son of Christian Springer and Suzanne Farny. They are found on the 1860 census of Groveland with five children, living next door to sister Ann and John Oyer. On Nov. 7, 1869 at Groveland John remarried to Catherine Ringenberger, a daughter of Pierre Ringenberger/Peter Ringenberger and Anna Schrag, and the widow of Joseph Oyer Schrock. John Springer and Catherine Farny are buried in Guth Cemetery at Washington. See SPRINGER for more on this couple.

c. Christian Farni/Farny/Forney was born at Gosselming April 27, 1830, and died in 1909. He is found as a 20-year-old on the 1850 census of District 56 (Woodford County). On March 13, 1854 in Tazewell County he married Catherine Oyer; the ceremony was performed by minister Michael Mosiman. Catherine was born at Farmdale Feb. 16, 1834, a daughter of Jacob Oyer and Elisabeth Mosiman. Their family is found on the 1860 census of Montgomery living next to his parents as Christian Farny, 28, a farmer born in Germany; Catherine, 27, born in Illinois; and Barbara, 4, born in Illinois.

d. Barbara Farny was born in August 1831, shortly after her family's arrival in America, during the transition from Pennsylvania to Ontario. Her birthplace appears as both locations on census reports. On Aug. 8, 1854 in Peoria County she married Johannes Räuber/John Raeuber. John Raeuber was born in Baden April 3, 1828, a son of Sebastian Räuber and Margaretha Scheplin. He is thought to have come to America in 1848; however, he may be the 20-year-old John Rauher who sailed from Bremen on the Flora and arrived at New York May 7, 1849. He was naturalized at Pekin in 1860, and that entry may clarify his immigration date. They appear on at least five censuses. The 1860 census of Mackinaw

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27 Christian Springer and Suzanne Farny were married on Belgrade Farm at Bistroff, Moselle Feb. 2, 1809. Suzanne Farny was a younger sister to Barbe Farny, and thus Jean Spring (likely John Spring) was a cousin to Joseph Stecker/Staker of Morton (1808-1872).
describes John 'River,' a 31-year-old carpenter from Germany; Barbara, 29, born in Illinois; John, 5; Joseph, 3; and May [Mary], 2. The 1870 census of Deer Creek described them as John Raeuber, a 42-year-old farmer from Baden; Barbary, 38, from Canada; Joseph, 14; Mary, 13; Barbaray, 8; Lidy [Lydia], 6; Susan, 4; and Emma, 4 months. The 1880 census of Deer Creek describes John 'River,' a 52-year-old farmer from Baden; Barbara, 49, born in Canada to parents from France; Joseph, 22; Barbara, 18; Lydia, 16; Susan, 14; Emma, 12; and John, 9. The 1900 census of Elm Grove describes them as retired farmer John Raeuber, born in Germany in February 1827; Barbara, born in Pennsylvania in August 1831 to parents from Germany, 'Laydia,' born in March 1867; and Susan, born in June 1867. Both of the children's entries say their mother was born in Pennsylvania. The 1910 census of Elm Grove describes John Raeuber, 82, born in Germany; Barbara, born in Pennsylvania to parents from Germany; and daughter Lydia. They are listed on the same page as daughter Anna Maria/Mary and her husband Christian Oyer (1862-1954), with daughter Susan as a guest in their home. The date of Barbara's death has been found as May 9, 1912. John died at Deer Creek Nov. 11, 1926; he is buried in the Evangelical Mennonite Cemetery at Groveland with six of their eight children. Because the genealogy of her family has been somewhat confused by contradictions and lack of information, the entire family is given here. The children include:

1) Johannes/John Raeuber was born Sept. 15, 1854, and died in 1865.
2) Joseph Raeuber was born at Elm Grove Oct. 18, 1856, and died at Deer Creek Nov. 8, 1929; he is buried in Mt. Zion Cemetery at Deer Creek. On April 22, 1885 in Tazewell County he married Mary Victorine 'Nellie' Serpette. They belonged to the Goodfield Mennonite Church, then the Morton Mennonite Church, and lived at Deer Creek.
3) Anna Maria 'Mary' Raeuber was born Sept. 16, 1858, and died at Elm Grove Dec. 28, 1931. She was the second wife of minister Christian Oyer. He was born June 28, 1862, and died Nov. 12, 1954. He was first married to Jakobina 'Bena' King, who died in 1888. They are found on the 1910 census of Elm Grove, with sister Susan Raeuber living in their home. They are buried in the Evangelical Mennonite Cemetery at Groveland, where her headstone calls her 'Anna Mary Oyer.'
4) Barbara Raeuber was born Oct. 27, 1862, and died Dec. 2, 1907; she is buried in the Evangelical Mennonite Cemetery. She married James Monroe Habeck, who was born in Pennsylvania in June 1858, a son of Adolph Habeck of Hanover, Germany. They appear on the 1900 census of Elm Grove.
5) Lydia Elizabeth Raeuber was born in 1865, and died Oct. 9, 1953.
6) Susan Raeuber was born Jan. 27, 1867, and died Nov. 24, 1953. She is buried in the Evangelical Mennonite Cemetery.
7) Emma Raeuber was born Feb. 16, 1870, and died at Morton June 17, 1948. About 1888 she married Albert Alfred Halbeck. He was born at Montgomery, Woodford County in 1861, a son of Adolph Habeck of Hanover, Germany. They are buried in the Evangelical Mennonite Cemetery.
8) John Sebastian Raeuber was born at Deer Creek Feb. 22, 1872, and died at Eureka Dec. 27, 1961. In 1897 he married Julia H. Humfrey. She was born in Illinois in 1874 to parents from Ohio and Illinois, and died at Deer Creek Sept. 18, 1940. They are found on the 1920 census of Deer Creek. They are buried in the Evangelical Mennonite Cemetery.

e. Mary Farney was born at Wilmot, Ontario Jan. 1, 1832, and died March 24, 1908 according to her headstone. On March 28, 1855 in Woodford County she married John Stalter. He was born July 24, 1828, and died March 11, 1911. See STALTER, 'OTHER' STALTERS for more on this couple.
f. Susan/Susanna Farney was born at Wilmot, Ontario Jan. 20 or 30, 1834 (the 1850 census of District 56/ Woodford County says Upper Canada, now Ontario; the 1860 census says Canada), and died at Montgomery Oct. 16, 1876. On Feb. 7, 1854 she married David Oyer. He was born at Niderhoff May 2, 1830, and died July 7, 1891; he arrived at New Orleans on the Superior Dec. 4, 1830 as a 7-month-old baby, a son of Joseph Oyer and his second wife Magdalena Litwiller. The 1860 census of Montgomery shows Susan and David living in the household of Peter Farny and Magdalena Oyer; David's age is overstated as 35.
g. Peter Farny/Farney was born at Wilmot, Ontario June 3 or 8, 1835, and died at Hutchinson, Kansas July 9, 1903. On Feb. 12, 1860 in Woodford County he married Barbe Schertz/Barbara Neuhauser. She was born at Lorquin, Moselle Dec. 8, 1838, the illegitimate daughter of Barbe Schertz (see NEUHAUSER), and died in Woodford County April 3, 1871. She was an illegitimate daughter of Barbe Schertz (who later married Felte/Valentine/Valentine Neuhauser; see NEUHAUSER for background). On the 1860 census of Montgomery, Woodford County they are found in the household of his parents as Peter P. Forney, 24, Canada; and Barbara Forney, 22, France. On Dec. 17, 1874 in Livingston County he remarried to Barbara Rediger. She was born in Woodford County Dec. 8, 1853, and died at Hutchinson, Kansas Dec. 3, 1927, a daughter of Johannes/John Rediger and Anna Burky. They are found on the 1900
was Jacob Moser, 36, mill hand at Nolweyer Pond, who later married the widow Anne Risser to become Christian's stepfather. Sister to Anne Risser; he was also a cousin and close friend to future elder Christian Engel. Another birth witness died four months before his birth - Feb. 1, 1800 - and Anne Risser was noted to be a widow at the time of the Kansas calls him Christian Farni and says that he was born May 15, 1800 and died April 3, 1882. Christian's father participated in the establishment of a grain mill, employed the Ropps as farmhands, and welcomed other families to his own farm. Peter joined him in 1835.

Christian Farny (also found as 'Christophe,' as well as Farni, Farney, and Forney) was born June 3, 1800 according to a civil birth entry created at Bisping. His headstone in Fairmount Lone Star Cemetery at Clay, Butler County, Kansas calls him Christian Farni and says that he was born May 15, 1800 and died April 3, 1882. Christian's father died four months before his birth - Feb. 1, 1800 - and Anne Risser was noted to be a widow at the time of the birth. Birth entry witnesses included Christian Engel, 35, a cultivator at Zommange (he was married to Freni Risser, sister to Anne Risser; he was also a cousin and close friend to future elder Christian Engel. Another birth witness was Jacob Moser, 36, mill hand at Nolweyer Pond, who later married the widow Anne Risser to become Christian's stepfather.

Christian Farny (also found as 'Christophe,' as well as Farni, Farney, and Forney) was born June 3, 1800 according to a civil birth entry created at Bisping. His headstone in Fairmount Lone Star Cemetery at Clay, Butler County, Kansas calls him Christian Farni and says that he was born May 15, 1800 and died April 3, 1882. The most significant event in the early lives of Christian and his older brother Peter/Pierre may have been the occupation of their village by Russian troops in 1814. After the defeat of the French army, every citizen in the Lorraine Region feared the arrival of Cossack cavalrmen. The mayor of Bisping assured his constituency that they should not yield to panic or leave the village, since it was unlikely the Russians would pass through their tiny community. Nevertheless the Russian army set up camp along the route between Bisping and Angviller. Bisping residents were tasked to provide sheep, pigs, hay, oats, straw, and firewood. Pots and pans were lent out to the encampments, then abandoned on the spot when the soldiers departed. Later the mayor shrugged off the embarrassment, asserting that the losses and damages would have been the same if they had been French troops.

In 1824 or earlier Christian emigrated from Europe and made his way to Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. He married Anna Mosimann in Lancaster County Feb. 14, 1824. Christian's Bible entry recorded the location as 'Pennsilfachin' - a Pennsylvania Dutch dialect equivalent of 'Pennsylvania.'

In 1826 Christian became a traveling companion of the Ropp family on their move to Ontario. His lot in the German Block of Wilmot is labeled 'Christian Farne' on the 1830 map. He lived on the south side of Snyder's Road, across from Andreas Ropp and four households to the west. Christian's brother Peter traveled to Pennsylvania in late 1831, and arrived at Wilmot in 1832. Like the Ropps, the Farnys became disenchanted with Wilmot. Christian followed the progress of the Ropp family from Wilmot to Butler County to Mackinaw Dells, and he appeared at Mackinaw Dells shortly after their arrival in 1834. After spending the first winter sharing their lodgings, he began to organize projects that would bring him his own farm. Peter joined him in 1835.

The brothers partnered with Joseph Guingrich to build a sawmill in 1835. On May 14, 1836 Christian purchased 120 acres of federal land at $1.25 per acre (the land register called him 'Christian Forny'). The brothers participated in the establishment of a grain mill, employed the Ropps as farmhands, and welcomed other families to the area.

Walter Ropp: “His [Christian's] home was on the south side of the Mackinaw, a few rods south of where the bridge on U.S. Highway 150 now crosses that stream. A good gravel crossing soon became Farni's Ford. Being a man of energy he built a mill with Christian Ropp as his smithy and all-round handy man, and the bride
Ropp's wife Magdalena Schertz] to juggle the pots and pans and kettles to keep the men going, giving them $100 for five months work.” Christian Farny became a minister, Peter Farny became an elder, and the brothers led a community that became known as Farnisville or Farneyville. Christian Ropp was also ordained as a minister in 1840, and later became elder of the Gridley Prairie meeting, the Mackinaw meeting, and the Roanoke meeting.

'Christian Farney' is found on the 1840 census of McLean County, listed with Peter Farney and Christian Roup [Ropp]. His household appears as one male 40-49 years of age; one male 20-29; one male 10-14; two males 5-9; one male under 5; one female 30-39; two females 10-14; and one female 5-9.

Anna Mosimann died June 8, 1840 (aged 36 years, 10 months, 4 days according to handwritten notes in the Christian Farney Family Bible, yielding a birth date of about Aug. 4, 1803). This left Christian to care for six children. Christian remarried to Magdalene Strubhar in McLean County only six days later, on June 14, 1840; the ceremony was performed by minister John Nafziger. Censuses indicate she was born circa 1804. She was a daughter of miller Pierre Strubhar and his first wife Madeleine Abresol/Habresol (see STRUBHAR in the Appendix for more on her family).

Daughter Anna left the household when she married John Ropp Feb. 21, 1847. In 1850, Christian appeared as 'Christian Farney' on a census of District 56 (Woodford County). His household was described as Christian Farney, 50, a farmer born in France with property valued at $100; Magdelane, 46, born in France; Joseph, 24, born in Pennsylvania; Barbaray, 20, born in Upper Canada [Ontario]; Andrew, 19, born in France; Peter, 12, born in Illinois; Magdalene, 9, born in Illinois; Jacob, 8, born in Illinois; Mary, 1, born in Illinois; farmer David Sharp, 25, Pennsylvania; and farmer Abram Yoder, 24, Pennsylvania.

Christian created a prosperous farming operation and managed a profitable grist mill. The next step was the creation of a distilling business that would cater to St. Louis markets. The transportation and marketing aspects would be handled by two characters that one might not expect to find in this 'village in the woods' - one known from the French National Assembly, the other known to the U.S. Congress.

**CHARLES FERDINAND PIERRE DU CAMBOUT**

Charles Ferdinand Pierre du Cambout was born as the vicomte de Coislin at Angers (60 miles east of the city of Nantes) Nov. 15, 1812. He was the third son of Pierre Louis du Cambout and Pauline Claude de Collasseau.

His father was the marquis de Coislin and heir to la maison seigneuriale de Campbon, also called the Château de Coislin. Campbon is now the community of Loire-Atlantique, 10 miles northwest of Nantes. However, his family's home and estate was seized during the French Revolution and nationalized Sept. 19, 1795. Thus Charles was born to a family of closet Royalists, avoiding attention while they waited for the political wind to shift in their direction. They came back into a diminished prominence with the Restoration.

On Sept. 8, 1845 at Paris Charles married 19-year-old Elisabeth Marie Anjorrant. Elisabeth died in childbirth Jan. 11, 1847 after delivering a daughter. Charles's father died in 1837, and his mother in 1845.

The French monarchy was ousted in 1848. Under the Second Republic the president was Louis Napoleon Bonaparte, nephew of Napoleon Bonaparte of the First Empire. However, a national legislative assembly was established by the Constitution of 1848, creating a place where opposition Royalist factions could unite. Elections for local representatives were held May 13-14, 1849, and on May 28 Charles took a seat as a deputy from the department of Loire-Inférieure.

The president became impatient with the assembly, and organized the French Coup of 1851 on the 47th anniversary of his uncle's coronation. The national assembly was disbanded Dec. 2, 1851, and political leaders were arrested. The former president ushered in the Second Empire as emperor Napoleon III.

Victor Hugo considered the coup 'a colossal crime.' In Histoire d'un crime, published in 1877, he described the mass arrest of representatives in session by a unit of the French army: "The officers avoided the representatives. As they came out of the building, Monsieur de Coislin passed near an officer and exclaimed, "What a disgrace to the uniform!" The officer replied angrily, and challenged Monsieur de Coislin. A few moments later, during the march [to confinement in a barracks], he came up to Monsieur de Coislin and said, "Look here, I've thought the matter over, and I see that I am in the wrong."

After release from confinement, suspected political opponents of the emperor were kept under surveillance. And the allowance of a deputy may have been Charles's only income. This may have prompted him to seek business opportunities in America.

We could not identify his arrival at an American port, but we found that he received a Certificate of Arrival at the port of London Aug. 30, 1852. It described him as 'the Viscount de Coislin,' a native of France who had sailed from Le Havre on the Tourist. A list of alien passengers created by the captain named him ‘V. de Coislin,’ described as a French propriétaire [shopkeeper].

**PAUL CARREY**

We could not follow Paul Carrey after he resided at Farnisville, but it was easy to find where he had been immediately before it. His adventures included a strenuous and dangerous journey to gather information about the American West.
He sailed from Le Havre on the *Bavaria*, arriving at New York Sept. 25, 1841. The passenger list describes him as Paul Carrey, 26, Paris, France (thus born circa 1815).

Presumably present as an employee of John Jacob Astor's American Fur Company, Carrey served as a witness at the signing of a treaty at Fort Atkinson (now in Nebraska) July 17, 1854. The parties to the treaty were a federal Indian agent and chiefs from the Commanche, Kiowa, and Apache tribes.

The treaty did not ensure their safety. An appendix to an official record of speeches called the *Congressional Globe*, published after the 33rd congress (March 4, 1853-March 4, 1854), described an attack at Fort Laramie (now Laramie, Wyoming) Aug. 9, 1854: 

"...At the same time that our officers were in this trepidation, fearing for their fort, fearing a universal Indian war, believing in ambuscades, and calling for more troops and provisions, there were two French gentlemen in the fort, offering to go alone, with a servant, and ascertain the true state of things among the Sioux, and report the result— one, Mr. Paul Carrey, a French traveler, to me well known, and deserving the commendation bestowed upon him; the other, a French gentleman of St. Louis, Mr. Sarpy. Their offer is thus officially reported by the commanding general of the Department, Brevet Brigadier General Clark: 'In addition to the major's report and the accompanying statements, I forward an extract of a journal kept by Mr. Carrey, a respectable French gentleman, kindly offered by him. Mr. Carrey is intelligent and adventuresome, fond of and addicted to expeditions upon the plains. He would, I have reason to believe, return to the region of the Sioux, if furnished, at the expense of the government, with a guide, animals, and servant, offering to collect there information as to the numbers, conditions, locale, and haunts of the Sioux, and the features of the country. He would go if it would be thought proper to send him under the auspices of a Mr. Sarpy, a St. Louis Creole, having trading establishments in the region of the country the usual roam of that people. I believe the gentleman could be relied upon, and would provide useful information.'"

That he would make the offer under the auspices of Sarpy indicates that Carey, like Sarpy, was an employee of the American Fur Company.

In fact Carrey did go on such an expedition the following summer. Together with Lieutenant G.K. Warren, an army topographical engineer, he departed from St. Louis, Missouri, and traveled northwest to the mouth of the Yellowstone River near what is now Buford, North Dakota on the North Dakota-Wyoming state line - logging 2,814 miles on that portion of the journey alone. Warren's mission was to gather information on the territory between the Missouri and Platte Rivers and the Rocky Mountains.

From a biography of Warren found in U.S. Army Corps of Engineers publications: "Once in St. Louis, Warren studied the maps of topographical engineers Frémont and Lieutenant Howard Stansbury, who had already traversed parts of the northern plains, and talked with veteran frontiersmen of the American Fur Company. He also met and hired as meteorologist Paul Carrey, an experienced western traveler who had been as far as the White River in northwestern Nebraska and Pueblo in present-day Colorado. "[Colonel William S. Harney]...was also generous and even extravagant in his praise of initiative and daring. In his report to Washington, he applauded Warren's 'bold and unauthorized' journey and commended Warren and Carrey for 'their zeal and disinterestedness in this hazardous undertaking.'"

One of Warren's report letters has the heading 'Survey of Military Reserve at Fort Pierre written at Fort Pierre Aug. 7, 1855.' Fort Pierre is across the Missouri River from Pierre, now the South Dakota state capital. It had been purchased by the army from the American Fur Company. The letter was addressed to Major O.F. Winship, Assistant Adjutant General of the Sioux Expedition. Warren wrote, "In what I have so far accomplished, I have been essentially aided by Mr. Paul Carrey,"

In another letter he wrote, "Major: Having completed the duties assigned me at this post [Fort Pierre, South Dakota], by your instructions of June 4, I shall set out tomorrow to return to Fort Leavenworth via Fort Kearny. My party consists of six experienced men of the country, mostly half-breed Sioux, and Mr. Carrey and myself. We are well supplied with everything needful, and expect to be at Fort Kearny in from fifteen to twenty days. We shall travel as men of the country, and exercise the greatest vigilance."

Warren's journals and maps were published as the book *Explorations in the Dacota Country in the Year 1855*. It was published in Washington, D.C. in 1856. A brief forward explained that the book was published to meet the requirements of a senate resolution asking for public distribution. It was signed 'Jeff'n Davis, Secretary of War' (Jefferson Davis, later president of the Confederacy).

Carrey's companion Lieutenant G.K. Warren would be remembered as General Gouverneur Kemble Warren (1830-1882), the man who directed the critical defense of Little Round Top at the extreme left flank of the Union Army at the Battle of Gettysburg.

28 The treaty described the location as 'in Indian Territory.' Fort Atkinson is now a state historical park near Fort Calhoun, Nebraska. It was the first army outpost west of the Missouri River.

29 Peter Abadie Sarpy (1804-1865) was born in New Orleans, and moved to St. Louis as a child. In 1824 at the age of 19 he made his first trip to the Nebraska Territory to work at a fur trading post owned by John Jacob Astor. In 1827 he married Nicomi, a Native American of the Iowa people. He later worked as a ferry service owner, and during the Gold Rush made his fortune by not only taking would-be gold miners west over the Missouri River, but selling them provisions on the far side. Sarpy was responsible for the establishment of a number of communities, either as ferry ports or trading posts. Sarpy County, Nebraska was named in his honor.
In 1856 the distillery became the largest employer in Farnisville. *History of Woodford County* estimated that it cost about $30,000, and employed 50 men at full operation.

From *The Woodford County History*: "Recollections of Mr. Lee Lantz, 96-year-old resident of Congerville, and a very devout member of the Apostolic Church: The village of Slabtown took its name from a building that was boarded up with slabs. The correct name of the place was Farneyville, named after a popular resident by the name of Farney.\(^{30}\)

He seemed to have some connection with the manufacture of a kind of drink, not as effective as LSD, yet more powerful than Coca-Cola. The Habeck store had a large trade in the beverage for there was no license required to sell it."

The success was short lived. ROPP described the Financial Panic of 1857. Eastern land speculators withdrew from their branch offices in Chicago, and land prices plummeted. Anyone with hard coinage could purchase Central Illinois farmland at rock-bottom prices.

Although the distillery at Farnisville was doing a brisk business, its loans were secured by the farm land surrounding it. Now that this was devalued, investors asked for additional tangible collateral. This caught the community off guard. In the days before regulatory guidelines, lenders had the right to call in their loans at any time.

On Sept. 1, 1857 the circuit court at Peoria awarded a judgement of $8,000 in the case *Tesson & Dangen vs. Bontcum & Carrey*. Judge David Davis presided there. Davis was later Lincoln’s campaign manager, a U.S. Supreme Court justice, and U.S. senator from Illinois; for background see *DAVID DAVIS AND ABRAHAM LINCOLN* in the Appendix. A levy was placed against the distillery buildings and personal property.

There had been no reason to doubt the sincerity of du Cambout and Carrey. They had helped to run the distillery while it was doing a brisk business, and both said they were expecting large inheritances. But just after the Farnys put up cash surety of $16,000 to buy more time from the creditors, du Cambout and Carrey disappeared.

In the December 1858 term of the court Tesson refilled his grievance. He explained that Dangen had died, and three other investors initially named as plaintiffs were his own agents. On Feb. 29, 1859, his grievance was upheld.

The distillery was auctioned for a fraction of its true value. The new owner, real estate agent Edward Pierre Tesson of St. Louis, sued the Farnys for remaining debts of $16,000 and damages of $10,000. The wooden frame building never reopened, and burned to the ground in 1859.

*History of Woodford County* says that Christian “…sold the entire products of his farm to the firm and was also security for them. His loss amounted to $34,000. His brother Peter lost heavily, but not nearly so much as Christian.”

The entire business left the brothers with no distillery assets, promissory notes they could not pay off, and mounting legal bills. They employed a number of lawyers to delay payments for many years. Abraham Lincoln made at least one court appearance on their behalf.

*Tesson vs. Farni* was largely handled by Samuel W. Fuller, a Pekin attorney who had formed a partnership with another lawyer in Chicago. Lincoln wrote to Fuller at Springfield May 27, 1859: “In thinking over the Farni case it seems to me the push by the plaintiffs will be to prove that the bond sued on was, in fact, accepted; and that the injunction was dissolved, not for want of a sufficient bond, but for want of Equity in the Bill. That, I think, is the point for us to guard. Yours truly, A. Lincoln.”

A letter from Christian Farny to Lincoln dated Aug. 17, 1859 is on file at the Library of Congress:

> Dear Sir:

> Since I had last the pleasure to see you in Chicago, I have not heard anything of my law suit pending in the U.S. C. Court and placing my confidence *entirely in you* I beg leave to call your attention to my case again and wish you to let me know how matters and things stand now. As I told you in Chicago, I will appeal if you do advise me to do so and I would like you to call the attention of Mr. Fuller to that point, so that we do not miss the time. I hope, my dear friend, you will try your best for me and you may be sure that any thing in my power will be at your disposal.

> Respectfully, yours truly, Christian Farny, by F. Heinrichs

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\(^{30}\) Actually Slabtown was the north side of the Mackinaw River, and is now called Congerville; Farnisville was the south side, and is now called Mackinaw Dells. Both are in Montgomery Township. The Farnys owned land on both sides.
On Nov. 3, 1859, Fuller wrote to Lincoln asking him if he could present the case before the Supreme Court. Presumably Lincoln was occupied, and there is no record of his response.  

Christian, who had been a prosperous farmer, accumulated more debts while prolonging the case. *History of Woodford County*: “Christian opened a distillery on the underground plan, and was detected, arrested, and taken to Chicago, where the whole course of red tape to which he was subjected cost him something like a thousand dollars more.”

The Farny family can be found on the 1860 census of Montgomery, Woodford County. The household is described as Christian Forney, 60, farmer born in France; Magdalena, 56, born in France; Peter, 21, a farm laborer born in Illinois; Jacob, 17, a farm laborer born in Illinois; and ’Magalena,’ 19, born in Illinois.

After a federal court ruled against the Farneys, they appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court. The case was heard there as *Farni vs. Tesson* in December 1861. This was the first time an Amish Mennonite had appeared as plaintiff or defendant before the Supreme Court. The court found that the case was improperly tried at the federal level because Tesson had conveniently sued without his three partners, who were residents of Illinois. The case was returned to Illinois.

Curiously, Christian Farni and his oldest son are listed as 'grantee' [recipient] on at least 19 land transactions found in the *Woodford County Grantee and Grantor Indexes 1832-1893*. Where did someone who had recently experienced a personal financial disaster find money to speculate? Christian’s greatest asset was now an impeccable reputation in Woodford County. Everyone knew of his honesty, how much he had risked for his community, and his association with lawyer (now president) Abraham Lincoln. Was there someone behind the scenes who knew both Farni and Lincoln, had deep pockets, and systematically accumulated acreage? Had Farny become his unacknowledged agent to purchase land from unsuccessful farmers? We suspect but cannot prove that it was someone who had been accumulating defaulted properties since the Panic of 1837: Judge David Davis. After 1862 he was absent from Central Illinois, living in Washington, D.C. For background see JDAVID DAVIS AND ABRAHAM LINCOLN in the Appendix.

In 1864 Christian attended the *Diener Versammlung* assembly of ministers at Goshen, Indiana. According to historian Steve N. Nolt, “The meeting records no objection to his presence nor any comment on his recently concluded Supreme Court entanglements or his pending state trial.”

We have seen accounts that say Christian Farny made efforts to find du Cambout, who presumably had returned to France. It has been suggested but not substantiated that Farny even returned to Europe to look for him without success. However, this may be a misunderstanding. Du Cambout may not have returned to France at all.

Du Cambout died at Mineral City, Ohio Feb. 8, 1864. Mineral City is a small town - present population less than 750 - in Tuscarawas, a county settled by a significant number of Amish Mennonite families. It is interesting to speculate that he was trying to re-live his initial business success in Illinois. Ironically, his daughter had remained in Europe and married a marquis in Paris in 1870.

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31 Sept. 16-Oct. 5, 1859 Lincoln made a speaking tour of Ohio, Indiana, and Wisconsin; on Oct. 16, 1859 abolitionist John Brown staged his raid on the federal armory at Harpers Ferry, Virginia; and on Nov. 30-Dec. 6, 1859 Lincoln made a speaking tour of Kansas.

32 It has taken more than 150 years to arrive at a correct identification of Charles Ferdinand Pierre du Cambout. One would expect to find one in the documents of the Supreme Court decision *Farni vs. Tesson*. Instead, the decision says, “...Two Farni brothers with Bonticum and Carrey were the obligors, and Tesson, Dargen, Tubert, Garesche, and Miner the obligees.” Local histories called him 'Boutcam.' Was the source of the confusion Christian Farny, and was he illiterate? Or was Farny intentionally shielding him from legal damages by providing misleading information? Was there collective amnesia in the community as to the correct name of the departed one?

Great-grandson Larry Ball shared scanned images from the *Christian Farny Family Bible*. A family register is inserted midway through the 975-page edition; handwritten entries cover the period 1825-1852. The fraktur script *Bible* printed by Kimber & Sharpless of Philadelphia in 1831 is titled *Biblia, das ist: Die ganze Heilige Schrift des Alten und Neuen Testaments, nach der deutschen Uebersetzung D. Martin Luthers*. We assume that the notations were made by Christian Farny, demonstrating his literacy. And, even though he had letters in his legal matters written for him, he was a minister - at a time when the basic qualification for ordainment was literacy. Amish Mennonite ministers were not thought of as counselors or advisors in the modern sense of ministry, but simply as someone with the ability to read Scripture aloud for a partially literate congregation.

33 Du Cambout's place and date of death are found in French genealogy data bases. They may have originated from the du Cambout family. We have e-mailed the Tuscarawas County Historical Society requesting a check of local newspapers around this time.
The 1870 census of Montgomery shows Christian Farney, 70, born in France; Magdaline, 60, born in France; and Peter, 30, a farmhand born in France. Son Jacob is found on the same page.

Suits and countersuits reached from the Woodford County Circuit Court to the Illinois State Supreme Court, and dragged out the final decision until 1878. By the time the case was decided for Tesson, he was bankrupt; Christian Farny had moved to Plum Grove in Butler County, Kansas; and Peter Farny was dead. Tesson died at St. Louis June 24, 1880.

Farnisville on the south bank and Slabtown on the north bank eventually faded away (Farnisville is now part of Mackinaw Dells, Slabtown is now part of Congerville). Their economic purpose was better served by town centers established along the east-west road systems in newly platted communities.

At Plum Grove, Christian Farny and Magdalena Strubhar lived with the family of oldest son Joseph. The 1880 census lists their household as the 'Forna' family (a mistake that may have been intentional). It also shows that another member of the household was Joseph F. Ropp, whose wife Anna Farney was a daughter of Joseph and Catherine. Anna had died in childbirth in 1879, leaving her husband with two children. Mary Farney is shown on the census as a 4-year-old born in Kansas. This clue yields a 'best guess' that Christian moved there in 1875 or 1876. If so, it is likely that he purchased land that was undervalued following the grasshopper plague of July-August 1874.

<table>
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<th>Age</th>
<th>Relationship</th>
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<td>Penn</td>
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<td>Penn</td>
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<tr>
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<td>81</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Granddaughter</td>
<td></td>
<td>Kansas</td>
<td>Illinois</td>
<td>Illinois</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Christian Farny died at Plum Grove April 3 or 8, 1882. He is buried in Fairmount Lone Star Cemetery at Clay. According to Corrine Afton, a record of the cemetery created before the most recent reading in 1986 showed the grave of Magdalene Farni (presumably born Magdalena Strubhar), who died Feb. 1, 1887. A headstone is no longer found.

At first glance Christian's children appear to have a very high mortality rate. Seven of twelve died before the age of 12. However, it may only be that the Christian Farny Family Bible gives us a more accurate recording of all children than we might find with other families, and the mortalities may have been typical for the times and places.

Children of Christian Farny and first wife Anna Mosimann include:

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34 Magdalena Strubhar Farny's brother Joseph Strubhar (found as 'Stroubhard' in Meuse and 'Strupher' in Kansas) was living in the adjacent township Clifford, Butler County, Kansas in 1880. See STRUBHAR in the Appendix.

35 From the obituary of Mary Yotter Klopfenstein, Woodford County Journal, Jan. 28, 1926: "There was an early French settlement at this point on the north side of the Mackinaw, and Farneysville was a thriving commercial and industrial center for that day. The principal industries in the town were a gist mill, a brewery, and a distillery. Settlers drove for many miles to this mill, bringing the wheat and corn to have ground into flour or meal. Fish were plentiful in the Mackinaw at that time, and usually while waiting for the gist the farmer would 'slip up the creek' and with a pole, line, and hook catch a string of the finny tribe to carry home. The mill was finally superseded by the larger and better equipped flour mills that were built in the larger towns. The brewery and distillery were eventually destroyed by fire, and Farneysville gradually went into decay."

The death knell for Farnisville came in 1887. The Woodford County History: "It occurred in this manner: In 1886 the Lake Erie and Western Railroad secured a charter to extend its tracks from Bloomington to Peoria. Work began the following year and it just happened that an early winter closed in to stop work when the rails had reached the Schrock farm, two and a half miles east of the river. Had the winter been a little later, Congerville might never have been born, for the rails might have reached the bridge site at the river and in that case Farneyville would have benefited and prospered." The areas is now known by its geographical feature, the Mackinaw Dells. For the full story of Farnisville, see the brief article by Steve Nolt at mcusa-archives.org/MHI/Nolt.html, or The Rise and Fall of an Amish Distillery: Economic Networks and Enrepreneurial Risk on the Illinois Frontier by Nolt in the September 1995 and December 1995 issues of Illinois Mennonite Heritage, or Christian Farn and Abraham Lincoln: Legal Advice and the Election of 1860 by Nolt in the March 1996 issue of Illinois Mennonite Heritage.

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53
1. Joseph Farney was born in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania (though his Kansas death certificate says Canada) Feb. 22, 1825, and died at Whitewater, Kansas April 26, 1916. He is buried in Fairmount Lone Star Cemetery at Clay near his father. On Dec. 9, 1852 he married Catherine Smith. She was born at Wilmot, Ontario in 1833, and died in Butler County, Kansas in 1887 a daughter of John Schmidt and Barbara Schwartzentruber. She is also buried in Lone Star Cemetery. Their family is found on the 1860 census of Montgomery as farmer Joseph Farney, 36, born in Pennsylvania; Catherine, 26, born in Canada; Barbara, 2, born in Illinois; and Catherine, 11 months. They are found on the 1870 census of Montgomery as farmer Joseph Farney, 45, born in Canada; Catherine, 38, born in Canada; and children born in Illinois including Barbara, 13; Victorie, 10; Catherine, 9; Christian, 6; and Joseph, 4. Their next door neighbors were sister Anna Farny and her husband John Ropp; uncle Peter Farny; and minister Christian Reeser. The 1900 census of Plum Grove shows Joseph as 'Joseph C. Farni', with a new wife: Mary, born in February 1827; she had emigrated from Germany in 1874.

2. Anna Farny was born in the German Block of Wilmot, Ontario Feb. 6, 1827, and died at Pasadena, Calif. Sept. 29, 1903. On Feb. 21, 1847 in Woodford County she married John Ropp, a son of Andreas Ropp and Elizabeth Eymann; the ceremony was performed by minister Christian Ropp.

3. Barbara Farney was born in the German Block of Wilmot, Ontario June 7, 1829, and died in Gray County, Kansas Jan. 25, 1911. On Feb. 8, 1852 in Woodford County she married Joseph Byler Yotter. He was born at Oley, Berks County, Pennsylvania Feb. 1, 1827, a son of elder Shem Yodder and Fanny Blyer. They appear on the 1873 plat map of Montgomery in Section 18, next door neighbors to the family of Michael King, who had died a year earlier. They also appear on the 1880 census of Yates, McLean County, as farmer Joseph Yotter, 56, born in Pennsylvania to parents born in Pennsylvania; Barbara, 57, born in Canada to a father born in France and a mother born in Pennsylvania; and eight children, all born in Illinois to parents from Pennsylvania and Canada. They are found on the 1910 census of Ingalls, Gray County, Kansas as Joseph B. Yotter, 83, born in Pennsylvania to parents from Pennsylvania; Barbara, 81, born in Canada to a father from France and a mother from Pennsylvania; Maggie, 52, born in Illinois; and farmer Peter, 41, born in Illinois.

4. Christian Farny was born Feb. 10, 1831, and died at 10 years, 2 months, according to Christian's handwritten note.

5. Catrina Farny was born Jan. 1, 1834, and died July 23, 1841.

6. Johannes Farny was born May 3, 1836, and died May 8, 1836.

7. Peter Farney was born at Farnsville Feb. 11, 1839, and died at Nevada, Story County, Iowa Feb. 28, 1924; he is buried in Nevada Cemetery as 'Peter C. Farni.' The records of the Adjutant General's Office, now in the Illinois State Library archives, show that he enlisted as a private at Eureka Aug. 13, 1862, and became a soldier in Company K, 108th Regiment Infantry at Peoria Aug. 28, 1862. This record also says that he was a native of 'Farnsville.' The company's record of engagements can be found at civilwararchive.com/Unreglst/unilinf9.htm#108th. Great-grandson Larry Ball states that Peter was wounded in the leg by a sniper while fishing in the Mississippi River at Vicksburg, Mississippi. He was mustered out at Quincy, Ill. Aug. 26, 1864, "on account of wounds received May 30, 1863 from guerillas." His discharge describes him as 'Peter C. Farni,' a farmer, 5' 4/4", 23, with brown hair and blue eyes. The 1870 census of Montgomery shows him as a 30-year-old farmhand living with his parents. In 1880 he was described as Peter 'Forney,' a 42-year-old living in the household of Joseph Camp at Montgomery. On Aug. 23, 1883 in Woodford County he married Virginia 'Jennie' O'Neil, who died Feb. 10, 1917. They had six children.

Children of Christian Farny and his second wife Magdalena Strubhar include:

8. Johannes Farny was born March 30, 1841, and died Aug. 26, 1841.

9. Jacob Farny was born Aug. 31, 1842, and died in Butler County, Kansas in 1889. On May 27, 1869 in Woodford County he married Mary Kehr, who was born in 1851 and died in Butler County, Kansas April 10, 1901. They can be found on the 1870 census of Montgomery living next door to Christian Farny as farmer Jacob Farny, 27, born in Illinois; Mary, 19, born in Bavaria; and Anne, 5, born in Illinois. Past and Present of Woodford County, published in 1878, lists Jacob Farni as a Woodford County taxpayer with a mailbox at Eureka.

10. Christian Farny was born Nov. 11, 1844, and died Dec. 15, 1845.

11. Daniel Farny was born Oct. 18, 1846, and died Sept. 3, 1847.

12. Maria/Mary Farny was born March 11, 1849, and died Feb. 27, 1852.

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36 John Schmidt and Barbara Schwartzentruber were married in Waterloo County, Ontario March 27, 1831. John was born circa 1796, and died in Waterloo County June 1881. Barbara was born in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania Jan. 20, 1807, and died in Waterloo County May 9, 1852, a daughter of Jacob Schwartzentruber and Catherine Schmucker. Two of their children married Farnies: Catherine, born in 1833, to Joseph Farney; and John, born in 1839, to Magdalena Farney.

37 An entry in Woodford County Marriage Index 1841-1902 names 'Barbara Forney' and 'Joseph Yoder.'

38 In 1957 descendant Helen Williams wrote to Margaret Norton, the archivist of the Illinois State Library at Springfield. She stated that she believed Peter had died in the home of his son Peter C. Farni Jr. at Ames, Iowa in March 1924.
The 1850 census of Montgomery listed two children in the household of Christian Farny and Magdalena Strubhar who are not listed above: Andrew, 19, born in France; and Magdalene, 9, born in Illinois. Since the lists above were verified against Christian's handwritten family Bible, it is possible the two were adopted or relatives.

1. Andrew Farny. *Herald of Truth*, June 1867: “On the 6th of May, 1867, in Woodford Co., Ill., of consumption, Andrew Farny, aged 34 years. He was buried on the 8th at Farnisville burying-ground, upon which occasion a sermon was preached by the writer from the 17th chapter of John. Andrew Farny went to California when he was 17 years old, where he remained fourteen years, after which he returned home and lived with his parents. He resolved to unite with the church of Christ this summer, but death came and called him hence before he accomplished his determination. Delay not, young friends, to come to Christ while he is yet to be found. Joseph Stuckey.” His headstone at Farnisville Cemetery spells his surname 'Farni' and gives his age as 34 years.

2. Magdalena Farney was born in Canada or Illinois circa 1841. She married John Smith. He was born at Wilmot, Ontario in 1839, a son of John Schmidt and Barbara Schwartzentruber. He appears on the 1860 census of Montgomery as a 22-year-old born in Canada, on the same page as Magdalena's family. They can be found on the 1870 census of Montgomery as John Smith, 32, a farmer born in Canada; Magaline, 28, born in Canada; John, 10, a farmhand born in Illinois; and Mary, 1, born in Illinois. They can be found on the 1880 census of Fairmont, Butler County, Kansas as farmer John Smith, 41, born in Canada to a father born in France and a mother born in Germany; Magdaline, 39, born in Illinois to parents from France; John, 20, born in Illinois to parents from Canada and Illinois; Mary A., 10, born in Illinois to parents from Canada and Illinois; and Amelia, 7, born in Illinois to parents from Canada and Illinois.
Schweizer of Steffisburg
(Schweitzer, Sweitzer, Switzer)

A person of Swiss nationality is a Schweizer. Swiss Anabaptists have called themselves Schweizer Brüder (Swiss Brethren) or Schweizer Täufer (Swiss Baptizers). The French equivalent is Suisse, in English Swiss. Hans Schweizer of Rüegsau, Canton Bern was executed for his Anabaptist beliefs in 1537. His name was secretly copied by a prisoner from the Tower Book of Bern, and later published in Martyrs’ Mirror. The Schweizers of Rüegsau were documented in records created at adjacent Hasle. Swiss genealogist Julius Billeter compiled a genealogy of this family that has been reproduced on microfilm by the LDS Family History collection. It is highly probable that the earliest identifiable Schweitzers in the chain of ancestors leading to Tazewell County were Christen Schweitzer and his wife Barbara Steiner. They were married at Steffisburg Nov. 14, 1710. It is unlikely that the chain can be determined before them, unless a family source is found, because there were a number of earlier Schweitzer marriages documented in the Steffisburg Ehenodel marriage register, or Christen may have been born nearby. Their child Peter Schweitzer was baptized there March 8, 1716. Witnesses included Andreas Zeller, Peter Roth, and Anna Werdtmüller. He was later associated with Les Bachats, a dairy farm at Rhodes (now in Moselle). Anabaptist ‘Pierre Suisse’ labored there as a dairyman, and died at nearby Fribourg Nov. 29, 1787.

Peter/Pierre’s death entry stated that he was a 75-year-old native of Steffisburg, Canton Bern. The age does not match precisely with the baptism entry, but is the only ‘near fit’ from that location.

Circa 1745 at Wintersbourg (20 miles east of Rhodes and Fribourg) Peter/Pierre married Anne Bächer. She was born in 1720, and died on Les Bachats farm Sept. 6, 1783. Their children include:

- Possibly weaver Christian Suisse, born circa 1746. In 1808 he witnessed the death of Pierre Suisse (born circa 1758) at Blâmont, Meurthe-et-Moselle May 27, 1808 (see CANADIAN SCHWEITZERS).
  1. Johannes/Jean Suisse was born in 1747. He may have been named for his father’s older brother Hans Schweizer. Hans was born at Steffisburg Jan. 29, 1713.40
  2. Joseph Suisse was born before 1755, and died at Wintersbourg Nov. 13, 1823. He married Marie Barbe Abresole. She was born circa 1762, and died at Azoudange, Moselle in 1797. A census of Mennonite families created April 24, 1809 lists Joseph Suisse as a head of a household at Azoudange (six residents). Their children include:
    a. Barbe Suisse was born at Rhodes Nov. 9, 1788, and died there April 2, 1789.
    b. Jean Suisse was born at Fribourg June 5, 1790, and died at Saales, Lower Alsace. On Oct. 22, 1814 at St. Quirin, Moselle he married Marie Mosimann. She was a daughter of Jacob Mosimann and his first wife Elisabeth Stückler. The marriage entry said that he was 24 years, 4 months old, and worked in d’Albin mill at Azoudange [between Azoudange and Fribourg].
    c. Marie Barbe Suisse was born at Fribourg Feb. 27, 1794, and died at Vaucouleurs, Meuse Feb. 18, 1862. On Feb. 15, 1815 at Haselbourg, Moselle she married Joseph Salzman/Saltzmann. He was born at Haselbourg before 1791, and died there Oct. 13, 1853, a son of Christian Salzman/Saltzmann and Barbe Bechler.
    d. Joseph Suisse was born at Azoudange, Moselle May 30, 1796.
  3. Elisabeth Suisse was born circa 1758. On Nov. 5, 1782 at Rhodes she married Charles Martin.
- Possibly cultivator Pierre Suisse, who was born at Salm circa 1758, and died at Blâmont May 27, 1808 (see CANADIAN SCHWEITZERS).
  4. Marie Josèphe Suisse was born circa 1760, and died at Rhodes May 9, 1795. She married Mathieu Wittmann, a son of Pierre Wittmann and Catherine Bourg.

In 1770 Johannes/Jean Suisse married Anne Risser. She was born in 1735 or 1743, and died at Rhodes Nov. 28, 1798. A census of Mennonite families created April 24, 1809 lists Jean Suisse as a head of a household at Rhodes (four residents). Their children include:

39 Genealogy of the Schweizer family of Hasle, Kt. Bern, Switzerland, abt. 1508-1921 was a typescript created by Billeter in 1926. It has been preserved as FHL INTL 208578.
40 Baptism entries at the baptism of Hans Schweizer in 1713 included Hans Moser, Ulrich Berger, and Barbara Moser.
1. **Johannes/Jean Suisse** was born in 1770.

2. Christian/Christophe Suisse was born in 1772, and died at Bisping, Moselle (six miles north of Rhodes) July 7, 1861. On April 29, 1799 he married Marie Farny. She may have been born at Bisping in 1780, a daughter of Joseph Fahrni/Farny and Anne Schertz (and would have been the oldest sister of Christian and Peter Farny, 'the Amishmen who hired Lincoln'). She died there Oct. 1, 1847. Their children include:
   a. Anne Suisse was born at Rhodes July 15, 1800, and died at Bisping Oct. 19, 1809.
   b. Jean Suisse was born at Rhodes Jan. 30, 1802, and died on Alzing farm at Gosselming, Moselle Dec. 4, 1871. On Nov. 29, 1830 at Gosselming he married Marie Risser. She was born at Gosselming June 30, 1802, a daughter of Nicolas Risser and Barbe Engel.
   c. Marie Suisse was born at Rhodes Oct. 9, 1803, and died at Roanoke Oct. 27, 1883. On June 6, 1833 at Guermange, Moselle she married Christian Rouvenacht. He was born at Longeville-lev-St. Avold Dec. 22, 1806, and died at Roanoke Sept. 2, 1887, a son of Christian Rouvenacht and Marie Blaser. They came to America in 1863, and settled in Roanoke. They are buried in Roanoke Mennonite Cemetery. (For more on this couple and their children see RUVENACHT).
   d. Barbe Suisse was born in 1806. On Jan. 7, 1842 at Gosselming she married Jean Esch. He was born on the grounds of the castle estate Gutenbrunnen, about five miles northwest of the city of Zweibrücken in 1806, and died in 1842, a son of Jean Joseph Esch and Catherine Martin.
   e. Catherine Suisse was born Jan. 24, 1809.
   f. Anne Suisse was born at Bisping March 17, 1811.
   g. Madeleine Suisse was born Jan. 5, 1813.
   h. Marguerite Suisse was born in 1815. On Nov. 4, 1833 at Bisping she married Joseph Springer. He was born at Bourscheid, Moselle Feb. 22, 1812, a son of André Springer and Catherine Esch.
   i. Véronique Suisse was born at Bisping Feb. 22, 1817.
   j. François Suisse was born at Bisping Dec. 22, 1817, and died there June 15, 1818.
   k. Christian/Christophe Suisse was born at Bisping Feb. 26, 1819. On Sept. 9, 1852 at Hermelange, Moselle he married Anneli/Henely (per her civil birth entry)/Anna Neuhauser. She was born at Bébing Jan. 14, 1811, and died at Sarrebourg June 22, 1877, a daughter of Jean 'Hans' Neuhauser and Marie Kennel.

3. **Johannes/Jean Suisse** was born in 1770, and died at Imling, Moselle Aug. 11, 1847. In 1798 he married Véronique Neuhauser/Neyhauser. She was born in 1776, and died at Imling July 10, 1853, a daughter of Nicolas Christian Neuhauser and Véronique Fongond. Their children include:
   a. Anne Suisse was born at Imling Oct. 6, 1798, and died there Sept. 25, 1822. On Jan. 5, 1817 at Imling she married Christian Mayer. He was born at Chazelles-sur-Albe Feb. 2, 1791, a son of Christoph Mayer and Madeleine Zehr.
   b. Barbara Suisse was born at Imling Dec. 31, 1829, and died April 11, 1917. On Dec. 24, 1850 in Woodford County she married Peter Gerber. He was born at Gensbourg, Lower Alsace Nov. 7, 1816, and died at Washington Jan. 16, 1903, a son of Peter/Pierre Gerber and Magdalena Gingerich. See GERBER AND GARBER, THE GERBERS OF METAMORA AND WASHINGTON for his obituary. They are buried in Union Cemetery at Washington as 'Gerber' and 'Switzer.' One of their children, Peter Garber (1849-1939), served as minister of the Partridge Mennonite Church.
   c. Barbe Suisse was born at Imling Dec. 10, 1802. On March 15, 1823 at Imling she married Jean Schertz. He was born at d'Albin mill between Azoudange and Fribourg, Moselle May 1, 1800, a son of Pierre Schertz and Marie Hirschi. Children who came to Illinois include:
      a. Anne Suisse was born at Imling March 2, 1826, and died Nov. 9, 1905. On Feb. 15, 1848 in Woodford County she married Joseph Gerber. He was born at Gensbourg, Lower Alsace Nov. 7, 1816, and died at Washington Jan. 16, 1903, a son of Peter/Pierre Gerber and Magdalena Gingerich. See GERBER AND GARBER, THE GERBERS OF METAMORA AND WASHINGTON for his obituary. They are buried in Union Cemetery at Washington as 'Gerber' and 'Switzer.' One of their children, Peter Garber (1849-1939), served as minister of the Partridge Mennonite Church.
      b. Barbara Suisse was born at Imling Dec. 31, 1829, and died April 11, 1917. On Dec. 24, 1850 in Woodford County she married Peter Gerber. He was born at Gensbourg, Lower Alsace Nov. 7, 1816, and died at Washington Jan. 16, 1903, a son of Peter/Pierre Gerber and Magdalena Gingerich. See GERBER AND GARBER, THE GERBERS OF METAMORA AND WASHINGTON for his obituary. They are buried in Union Cemetery at Washington as 'Gerber' and 'Switzer.' One of their children, Peter Garber (1849-1939), served as minister of the Partridge Mennonite Church.
      c. Barbe Suisse was born at Imling Dec. 10, 1802. On March 15, 1823 at Imling she married Jean Schertz. He was born at d'Albin mill between Azoudange and Fribourg, Moselle May 1, 1800, a son of Pierre Schertz and Marie Hirschi. The marriage entry described him as a 23-year-old cultivator.
Jean Suisse, known in Morton as John Schweitzer or Switzer, was born at Diane-Capelle, Moselle Sept. 29, 1807. His headstone says he was born at 'Saarburg, Lorraine' (Diane-Capelle is within the administrative district of Sarrebourg, Moselle, in the region of Lorraine) Sept. 15, 1807, and died at Morton Jan. 27, 1885.

On Sept. 15, 1828 at Imling he married Marie/Mary Engel (her headstone calls her 'Maria Engel'). She was born on Jambrout Farm at Lagarde, Moselle Dec. 1, 1807, and died near Washington Feb. 17, 1888, a daughter of elder Christian Engel and his second wife Barbe Brunner.

In the winter of 1831 Jean/John received a draft notice. The French government was raising troops to support the military occupation of Algeria. A short while later he and Marie joined an Amish Mennonite group departing for America. They arrived at Baltimore May 21, 1831. They are found on the passenger list as Mary Swissi, 22; Christiana Swissi, 2; and John Swissi, 23. Christiana may have been Christian, a 3-year-old son; 1-year-old daughter Barbe/Barbara was omitted. See the Appendix, THE BALTIMORE VOYAGE OF 1831 for details on their arrival.

From Baltimore most of the group journeyed to Butler County, Ohio, where they stopped briefly, then continued on to Illinois, where they arrived in August 1831. The story of their trip to Tazewell County can be found in Centennial History of the Mennonites in Illinois 1829-1899.

However, the Suisse/Schweitzer family lived in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania before continuing on to Illinois. Marie's headstone says, "Came to America in 1831. Settled in Pennsylvania and emigrated with a team to Illinois in 1833."

'John Switzer' purchased two parcels of federal land in what is now Woodford County June 6, 1836: 69 acres and 80 acres, at $1.25 per acre. Marie/Mary Engel was likely the 'Mary Engle' who purchased 158 acres of federal land (one parcel in what is now Tazewell County, one parcel in what is now Woodford County) two days later.

The family originally settled at Black Partridge (the name of a post office at Hanover, the community that became Metamora in 1845) when it was part of Tazewell County. They can be found in District 56 (Woodford County) on the 1850 census (on the page following Christian Smith and John Kennel): farmer John Switzer, 43; Mary, 43; Christian, 21; Verona, 17; Pennsylvania; John, 16; Illinois; Joseph, 12; Illinois; Mary, 8; Illinois; and Peter, 1, Illinois.

In 1851 John purchased 320 acres at Morton, described in their family history as 'south and west of Cooper Station.' On the 1860 census of Morton: John Switzer, 52; France; Engel, 52; Mary, 18; Mina, 14; Peter, 11; and Catharine, 9. The property of J. Switzer' is shown on the 1864 plat map of Morton. Immediate neighbors included Peter Belsley, Joseph Rich, and Jacob Kennel. The property remained in the possession of the family until the 1930s.

On the 1870 census of Morton: farmer John Switzer, 62; France; Meary, 62; France; Peter, 20, Illinois; and Catherine, 18, Illinois. The 1880 census of Morton shows John Switzer, 72, born in Lorraine; and Mary, 72, born in Lorraine. They lived between the households of Joseph Rich and their son-in-law Christian Smith [Jr.].

Jean/John and Marie/Mary are buried in Glendale Cemetery at Washington. Their children include:

1. **Christian Schweitzer** was also known as Christopher E. Sweitzer or Captain Chris Sweitzer. He was born at Imling July 24, 1829, and died at sea Jan. 5, 1860. Look ahead for more information on Christian.

2. Barbe/Barbara Schweitzer was born at Imling Jan. 10, 1831 (headstone date), and died at Danvers, McLean County Aug. 23, 1912. She was inadvertently omitted from the 1831 passenger list, or listed with another family. On Sept. 26, 1850 at Danvers she married Pierre/Peter Strubhar. He was born at Remering-lès-Puttelange, Moselle Nov. 12, 1826, and died at Danvers Oct. 22, 1902, a son of Pierre Stroubhar and Maria Gerber/Guerber. See STRUBHAR in the Appendix for more on this couple.

3. Véronique/Frances/Fanny Schweitzer was born in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania Aug. 6, 1832, and died in Tazewell County March 7, 1912. On June 6, 1854 in Tazewell County she married Emanuel 'Man' Garber; the ceremony was performed by minister Andrew Ropp. He was born in Mifflin County, Pennsylvania Oct. 28, 1825, and died at Washington May 2, 1901, a son of John Garber and Eva Caroline Paithe. He established a reputation as a progressive farmer and veterinary surgeon who liked to tinker with mechanics. They can be found on the 1860 census of Elm Grove. The 1900 census of Washington shows farmer Emanuel Garber, born in Pennsylvania in October 1825 to parents from Switzerland and Pennsylvania; and Fannie, born in Pennsylvania in August 1832 to French parents. They are buried in Glendale Cemetery, where she is found as 'Frances Sweitzer.'

4. Jean/John Schweitzer was born at Black Partridge (now in Woodford County) Oct. 26, 1834; and died at Washington Dec. 9, 1918. On April 3, 1860 in Woodford County he married Anna Nafziger. She was born at Washington Dec. 21, 1839, and died there Nov. 19, 1886, a daughter of elder Jean/John Nafziger and Anna Marie Gerber. They appear

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41 Local records list them as John Switzer and Ann Naflsinger.
on the 1880 census of Washington as farmer John Switzer, 44, born in Illinois to French parents; Anna, 40, born in Illinois to French parents; and four children born in Illinois. They are buried as 'John S. Switzer' and 'Anna Nafziger, wife of John Switzer' in Glendale Cemetery at Washington.

5. Joseph Schweitzer was born at Black Partridge Nov. 30, 1839, and drowned in the Willamette River Feb. 22, 1865. Look ahead for more information on Joseph.

6. Marie/Mary Schweitzer was born at Black Partridge Dec. 7, 1841. On Dec. 20, 1865 in Tazewell County she married André/Andrew Risser; the ceremony was performed by elder Joseph Stuckey. He was born at Kerprich-aux-Bois, Moselle Feb. 5, 1843, a son of Nicolas/Nicholas Risser and Catherine Schmitt. They are found on the 1880 census of Deer Creek as farmer Andrew Risser, 36, born in Lorraine to parents from Lorraine; Mary, 37, born in Illinois to parents from Lorraine; and five children born in Illinois. They also appear on the 1900 census of Murray, Minnesota as Andrew Risser, born in France in January 1843, an 1859 immigrant; Mary, born in Illinois to French parents in December 1844; and son John, born in Illinois in October 1871.

7. Jacobine/Jacobena/Bena Schweitzer was born at Black Partridge June 12, 1847. On Feb. 13, 1873 in Tazewell County she married Christian Smith [Jr.]. He was born at what is now Congerville Jan. 18, 1846, a son of Christophe Schmitt/Christian Smith and Magdalena Schrag/Schrock. The ceremony was performed by elder Joseph Stuckey (a list of Stuckey's ceremonies names her 'Jacobina Schweitzer'). Christian's family background and civil war service are described in SMITH. They are found on the 1880 census of Morton as farmer Christian Smith, 33, born in Illinois to parents from Lorraine; Bena, 31, born in Illinois to parents from Lorraine; William, 6, born in Illinois; and Freddie, 1, born in Illinois. They lived next door to Bena's parents, who are shown as farmer John Switzer, 72, Lorraine; and Mary Switzer, 72, Lorraine. Their household appears on the 1900 census of Pigeon Grove, Iroquois County, Illinois as Christ Smith, born in Illinois in January 1846 to French parents; Bena, born in Illinois in June 1847 to French parents; W.A., born in Illinois in November 1873; and F.A., born in Illinois in February 1879. It is thought that they are buried in the Apostolic Christian Cemetery at Pigeon Grove.

8. Peter Schweitzer was born at Black Partridge Sept. 7, 1849, and died May 23, 1923. He is found on the 1880 census of Washington as 30-year-old boarder 'Peter Switzer' in the home of M.R. Trimble, with the notation "runs a tile factory," born in Illinois to French parents. On April 21, 1881 at Morton he married Magdalena/Lena/Helen Unsicker. She was born at Morton Sept. 19, 1853, and died March 9, 1883, a daughter of Johannes Unzicker/John Unsicker and Katharina Kennel. On July 12, 1888 in Scott County, Iowa Peter remarried to Rachel Engel, with Peter Strubhar as a witness. Rachel was born Jan. 3, 1853, and died at Morton Dec. 6, 1938, a daughter of John Engel and Barbara Dettweiler. Peter, Helen, and Rachel are buried in Glendale Cemetery.

9. Catherine Schweitzer was born Jan. 4, 1852. On July 17, 1873 she married Joseph Risser. The ceremony was performed by elder Joseph Stuckey. He was born at Kerprich-aux-Bois, Moselle Oct. 6, 1844, a son of Nicolas/Nicholas Risser and Catherine Schmitt. They are found on the 1880 census of Washington as farmer Joseph C. Risser, 34, born in Illinois to parents from Lorraine; Valentine, 4, Illinois; and Oscar, 2, Illinois. The 1900 census of Loda, Iroquois County shows farmer Joseph Risser, 57, born in France in October 1842; Kate, 47, born in Illinois to French parents in January 1853; and five children born in Illinois. They are shown on the 1910 census of Sanford, Minnesota as farmer Joseph C. Risser, 65, France; Katharine, 56, born in Illinois to parents from France; and three children born in Illinois.

10. Three children born after 1852 died as infants, according to a family history found with the possessions of Frederick Schweitzer, who died at Washington May 11, 1980.

11. 

12. 

Marie/Mary Schweitzer of Morton married André/Andrew Risser. They moved to Murray, Minnesota. Catherine Schweitzer of Morton married Joseph Risser. They moved to Iroquois County, then to Sanford, Minnesota. Some explanation may lie in a long-running dispute within the Springer family. It drew in the Rissers' sister Kate (who was married to one of the Springer brothers), and culminated in a 'brother versus brother' law suit that reached the state supreme court. See SPRINGER, MCLEAN COUNTY SPRINGERS for an explanation of the issues that tore apart the Schweitzer family.

Christian Schweitzer was also known as Christopher E. Sweitzer or Captain Chris Sweitzer. He was born at Imling, Moselle July 24, 1829, and died at sea Jan. 5, 1860. One of the mysteries of the Schweitzer family involves Christian and his younger brother Joseph. Both brothers went west to the Oregon Territory. They married the same woman (and with their marriages became uncles to a future governor of Oregon, Theodore T. Geer). Both died in accidents on the water. Did they leave a male

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42 Theodore Thurston Geer was born in 1851, and died in 1924, a son of Elizabeth Geer's brother Heman Johnson Geer and Cynthia Ann Eoff. He was a state representative, speaker of the House of Representatives, and the tenth governor of Oregon, serving one term from 1899 to 1903. He was the first native Oregonian to hold the position. His influence is still felt in the state in an unusual way – he bicycled to work, and created Oregon's statewide system of bicycle paths in 1899.
descendant to carry on the Schweitzer name in the Pacific Northwest? We found that Christian left a son born in 1856...but found no trace of him after 1870.

In the mid-1850s Christian traveled west on the Oregon Trail. For the remainder of his brief life he was involved in the burgeoning steamship business on the rivers of the Oregon Territory.

The Oregon Territory had been created in 1848. At the beginning it encompassed what is now Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and parts of Montana and Wyoming. Oregon took on its present shape in 1853, but was not admitted to the union as a state until 1859.

When Christian arrived, there were few lengthy passable roads. Goods had to be transported on water routes, but many rivers were segmented by sandbars, rapids, and falls. This created a market for new construction of both light and heavy hulls. New boats were often designed to the requirements of a specific 10-15 mile stretch of river.43

To understand Christian's story it is helpful to visualize the geography of Oregon starting from Butteville, the site of his marriage. From Butteville the Willamette River flows northeast 16 miles to Oregon City (Clackamas County). The river shoreline of Oregon City was called Canemah. At Oregon City/Canemah the river flows over the Willamette Falls. This is the largest waterfall in the Pacific Northwest, 40 feet high and 1,500 feet wide. It then continues 16 miles north to the city of Portland (Multnomah County).44 There it passes through the city and connects with the Columbia River. The Columbia River flows along the northern boundary of the state into the Pacific Ocean.

Oregon City was the traditional western end of the Oregon Trail. It had been capital of the Oregon Territory from 1848 to 1851.

Christian's future wife Elizabeth Geer was born in Madison County, Ohio Oct. 27, 1833, and died at Portland June 17, 1916, a daughter of Joseph Carey Geer Sr. and his first wife Mary Johnston. In the summer of 1847 Elizabeth had come west with her family from Galesburg, Illinois, traveling the Oregon Trail in covered wagons pulled by oxen teams.45

On Aug. 22, 1848 at Oregon City/Canemah she married her first husband Charles Sanborn. She was 14 years old. They appear on the 1850 census of Milwaukie (10 miles north of Oregon City/Canemah), where her age was exaggerated: Charles Sanburn, 23, Illinois; Elizabeth, 19, Oregon; and Erwin [Irwin], 1, Oregon.46

Within a few years Elizabeth was widowed. On April 23, 1855 she remarried to Christian Schweitzer at Butteville, bringing son Irwin and a second unidentified son to the marriage. New York Times, June 7, 1855: "California Marriages and Deaths. At Butteville, O.T., April 23, Mr. Joseph Buchtel to Miss Josephine Latourette. At the same time and place, Mr. Christian Switzer to Miss Elizabeth Geer."

Christian may have made business associations through the Oregon City lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.47 In 1857 he worked with three partners to construct a sternwheeler steamboat at Canemah.48 The Elk was intended as a light shuttle on the 11-mile-long Yamhill River, a tributary of the Willamette River. He also captained the Franklin on the Upper Willamette River. The 93-foot steamer had been constructed at Canemah in 1854.

43 The steam ship business in Oregon peaked in the 1880s, and did not recede until roads were improved around the turn of the century.

44 Multnomah County was carved out of Clackamas County in December 1854. Residents there found it impractical to go upriver to register new land claims at Oregon City.

45 Two accounts of the Geer's overland trip can be found online. They were written by Elizabeth's father Ralph Calvin Geer and her brother Ralph Calvin Geer Jr., who was 10-years old at the time.

46 One source suggests that Charles Sanborn did not die before Elizabeth's marriage to Christian Schweitzer, but that he was a person from Vermont who drowned in the Willamette River near Eugene in October 1875, as noted in The Centennial History of Oregon 1811-1912. However, the Charles Sanborn who married Elizabeth was from Illinois according to the 1850 census.

47 The Independent Order of Odd Fellows was created at Baltimore in 1819. The purpose of the non-political and non-sectarian fraternal society was cooperation to perform charitable acts, "to visit the sick, relieve the distressed, bury the dead, and educate the orphan." A lodge was established at Oregon City in 1853.

48 Christian Schweitzer's three partners in the construction of the Elk: 1) François X. Matthieu was the postmaster of Butteville. He later helped to form the provisional territorial government that would become the state government, and served in the U.S. House of Representatives. 2) John Marshall served as chief engineer of the Willamette Transportation Company for 47 years. 3) George Anson Pease was a partner in the construction of the Onward and Rival circa 1860. Both steam ships were constructed at Oregon City. He served briefly as their captain. His Oregon Steam Navigation Company challenged the monopoly of the People's Navigation Company. But within three years he took his profits by selling his shares.
Some time in 1859 the second son from Elizabeth's first marriage was taken to San Francisco. He was left there to have surgical procedures to correct a hip problem.

In late 1859 Christian and a 7-months-pregnant Elizabeth went to San Francisco to visit the son. There they found that he had died. They booked their return passage on the ocean steamer *Northern*. It usually carried mail from San Francisco to Olympia, Washington and Victoria, British Columbia.

On the return trip the *Northern* foundered on a submerged rock. The rock was a known hazard off Cape Mendocino, near San Francisco at the westernmost point of California's shoreline. Of 108 onboard, 17 passengers and 21 crewman died Jan. 5, 1860.

*Vincent's Semi-Annual U.S. Register, January-June 1860:* "...Mr. Sweitzer and wife, of Oregon City, had come down to San Francisco shortly before to get the corpse of their child, with which they were on their way home. The lady was saved in Mr. French's boat. The sea broke entirely over the boat, but she lived it out, and reached the shore in safety . . . The women were taken to a house and cared for. It was piteous to witness their distress — especially that of Mrs. Sweitzer, whose husband had already been drowned."

*Lewis & Dryden's Marine History of the Pacific Northwest*, 1895: "Capt. Chris Sweitzer, who was one of the principal owners of the *Elk*, was a prominent figure in Willamette transportation circles, but came to an untimely end in 1860, being one of those passengers who lost their lives on the steamer *Northern* when she was wrecked near Cape Mendocino. At the time of his death he was negotiating a scheme for the navigation of the Tualitin River, having secured concessions from the state legislature in connection with improvements to that stream."

Probate papers filed at the Clackamas County Court House name the deceased as 'Christian E. Sweitzer,' a resident of Canemah, and his administrator was his former business partner George Anson Pease. His heirs were named as "Elizabeth Sweitzer, widow; minor children John C. Sweitzer, son; Mary F. Sweitzer, daughter; and Nettie G. Sweitzer, daughter."

The 1860 census of Oregon City shows widow Elizabeth Switzer, 27, Ohio; John, 4, Oregon; Mary, 2, Oregon; Annette, six months, Oregon; and Irwin Sanborn, 10, Oregon.

Christian had not lived to see the destruction of his own vessel. About nine months after his death the boiler of the *Elk* exploded, but no one was killed as it sank into the Willamette River.

**THE ELK BOILER EXPLOSION**

Fred W. Gerling was a firsthand witness to the sinking. In 1835 his recollection was published in the *Goldendale Sentinel* of Goldendale, Washington:

"In the summer of 1860 I went on a steamer called the *Elk*. I made three or four trips on this boat to Eugene. One trip on the run back to Oregon City we took on a cargo of wheat at Wheatland. It was raining and we all got wet. When we started out again the mate and crew all got inside on the freight deck where the boiler was.

We were near a place called Davidson's landing, across the river from Dayton, when we heard the whistle blow. The mate says, 'I don't know of anything to pick up here, the Yamhill boat takes off everything below the Yamhill river. The rules were that all hands had to go to the foreward bow deck when the whistle blew for a landing.

When we got there the purser was standing by the gang plank with a cargo full of canary birds he wanted to put off at Davidson's Landing. The boat turned around to land upstream and we had headway enough so the bow struck the bank, but before she got there she was blowed up.

From the front of the boat to the engine room everything blew out. It looks to me as if it were sawed off. There were no ladies aboard. There was a bunch of four or five men playing cards in the passenger cabin when the boiler exploded. They were all sitting out in the open looking as unconcerned as if nothing had happened. Of course everything was done so quick we didn't get scared either.

The purser either fell or jumped into the river with his cage of canary birds. The pilot was blown straight up in the air. It seemed to me like he went up a hundred feet high. He came down on what had been the tin roofed hurricane deck, which was floating in the river. He struck on his head and shoulder. He was not hurt much, only laid up for a couple of weeks.

The small boat was not hurt at all. We lowered it and pulled around the stern, to get the pilot and purser. Three or four dressed hogs was hanging on the side of the boat. One of the boys wanted to get those hogs before we got the men.

The cook was frying something on his stove when it was blown into the river. He was hurt pretty bad. He seemed to be about half crazy. He run around with a frying pan in his hand, trying to jump overboard. He kept talking about wanting a cook stove that would not blow up . . .

When she blew up we were all looking out toward a hill, about as high as Mt. Tabor. Something struck my ear and burned it. When we got back to Davidson's Landing with the pilot and purser, we got to talking about the noise. All of us said it did not make any noise. Over at Dayton, fourteen miles away they heard it.

A man by the name of Davidson, for whom the landing was called, had a kind of scow steamboat. The people in Dayton thought this had blown up and all came over. Captain Calkin was a master of the boat. When the next boat came along he took us all down to Canemah."
The following year Elizabeth married a third time, to Christian's newly-arrived younger brother Joseph. A marriage document preserved at the Clackamas County Courthouse reads, "State of Oregon, County of Clackamas. This certifies that the undersigned minister of the Gospel duly on the 21st day of April 1861 unified in lawful wedlock Joseph Sweitzer and Elizabeth Sweitzer with their mutual consent in the presence of L.K. Barlow and Wm. Cusnday. J. C. Rayner, filed and recorded May 4, 1861, Jas. Winston, Recorder."

In future decades the children of Christian and Joseph reported census information as if the brothers had come from Ohio or Pennsylvania – and once in Joseph's case, France, though he was the brother born in Illinois. Christian and Joseph may have been reluctant to reveal their Illinois background, with a wary eye toward military conscription for the Civil War.

In November and December of 1861 a flood swept away business interests and the boat yard at Canemah. But the economy rebounded when the Homestead Act of 1862 offered all public land in the west for settlement claims. It allowed a family to claim 160 acres after five years of settlement and improvement. Many families later made considerable profits by parceling out their holdings to new arrivals.

Joseph obtained a position as an officer on a steamboat that transited between Oregon City and Salem on the Willamette River.

On Feb. 22, 1865 he lost his footing during a storm, fell overboard, and drowned. He is buried in Canemah Cemetery at Canemah, Oregon. His headstone says 'Joseph Sweitzer, died Feb. 22, 1865, aged 26 Ys., 2 Ms., 22Ds' (he was born at Morton Nov. 30, 1839). Its carvings represent three links of chain and shaking hands, a symbol of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

On Feb. 17, 1870 Elizabeth married for the fourth and final time. The ceremony took place in her home at Canemah, presided over by minister Benjamin Todd. The groom Charles Francis Kent was born in Maine circa 1823, and died at Portland Nov. 20, 1896. Their household is found on the 1870 census of Canemah Precinct as (he was born at Morton Nov. 30, 1839). Its carvings represent three links of chain and shaking hands, a symbol of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

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six sons of her brothers and sisters, all past 50 years of age, and some more than 60, Penn Short, Loren Kruse, Homer Kruse, Archie Geer, Corydon Geer, and T. T. Geer." Elizabeth's nephew and pallbearer T.T. Geer was footnoted earlier as a former governor of Oregon.

Elizabeth Geer is buried in Greenwood Hills Cemetery at Portland as 'Elizabeth Kent, 1833-1916.' Her fourth husband is also buried there as 'C.F. Kent, 1821-1896.'

Elizabeth Geer had two sons with her first husband Charles Sanborn:

1. Irvin B. Sanborn was born at Oregon City, Oregon Territory Sept. 15, 1849. A brief biography in Lewis & Dryden's Marine History of the Pacific Northwest (1895) says that he was initially employed by the People's Transportation Company. He progressed from captain to part owner to the construction of new steamboats. He sold some of his vessels to the Northern Pacific Railroad Company, and for many years was a steam ferry captain on Lake Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. He was described as 'eminently successful.' Information on his career can be found in Lewis & Dryden's Marine History of the Pacific Northwest.

2. A second son died at San Francisco in 1859. His body was lost at sea during the sinking of the Northern.

Elizabeth Geer had a son and two daughters with second husband Christian Schweitzer:

3. John C. Sweitzer/Switzer was born at Oregon City/Canemah, Oregon Territory Jan. 16, 1856. A single source says he died 'about 1870.' He appears as a 4-year-old born in Oregon on the 1860 census of Oregon City. He was named as a son and heir on Christian's probate document in 1860, then as a 14-year-old born in Oregon on the 1870 census of Canemah Precinct. We could not identify John on federal censuses taken after 1870 (either as John Schweitzer/Sweitzer/Switzer or as John Kent), and he was not mentioned in his mother's 1916 obituary.

4. Mary F. Sweitzer was born at Oregon City/Canemah, Oregon Territory Feb. 27, 1858. In 1879 she married Eugene S. 'Gene' Ferguson. They appear on the 1900 census of Portland as Eugene S. Ferguson, 37, born in Washington State in April 1863, a son of parents from Massachusetts and Ireland; and Mary F., 42, born in Oregon in February 1858 to parents from France and Ohio. In 1916 Mary was living at Portland.

5. Annette 'Nettie G.' Schweitzer was born at Oregon City/Canemah, Oregon Feb. 28, 1860. She was born less than two months after the sinking of the Northern. In 1882 in Multnomah County she married Walter A. Gradon, according to the Multnomah County Marriage Index. The index lists 'Nettie G. Schweitzer.' He is found as a 22-year-old drug store clerk on the 1880 census of Portland. They appear on the 1900 census of Portland as druggist Walter A. Gradon, 43, born in the Oregon Territory in February 1857 to parents from Ohio; and Nellie G., 40, born in Oregon in February 1860 to parents from Pennsylvania and Ohio. In 1916 Nettie was living at Portland.

Elizabeth Geer had one daughter with third husband Joseph Schweitzer:

6. Caroline Sweitzer was born at Oregon City/Canemah, Oregon Nov. 17, 1863. Niece Florence Gradon Ragen wrote that Caroline was called 'Cattie,' but most sources including censuses call her 'Caddie G.' In 1884 in Multnomah County she married Jasper Crane, according to the Multnomah County Marriage Index. The index lists her as 'Caddie H. Schweitzer.' In 1916 Caroline was living at San Francisco.

Elizabeth Geer had one son with fourth husband Charles Francis Kent:

7. James 'Jimmy' Kent was born at Oregon City/Canemah, Oregon Feb. 26, 1869, and died Feb. 8, 1952.

Visitor Joseph Schweitzer

The Schweitzer family lived very near to Hirstein Cemetery at Morton. But only one Schweitzer is buried there - and he was not an immediate member of the Morton family.

His headstone says he was born May 2, 1842, and died Nov. 5, 1866.

The father of Joseph Schweitzer was Jean Suisse. Jean was born at Rhodes Jan. 30, 1802, and died on Alzing farm at Gosselming Dec. 4, 1871. He was a son of Christian Suisse and Marie Farny, and a cousin to Jean Suisse/John Schweitzer of Morton.

49 A Mullins child born in Oregon was shown in the Kent household on the 1870 census of Canemah Precinct. Hiram Mullins was born in 1868, and died in 1870. One source names his father as William Mullins.

We originally assumed that James Kent was a Mullins, but in a 1982 interview Christian Sweitzer's granddaughter Florence Gradon Ragen said that, "My grandmother [Elizabeth Geer] with Mr. Kent had another son; his name was Jimmy, Uncle Jimmy." She further identified him as the Idaho steamboat captain. He is also noted as a son of Elizabeth in her 1916 obituary.
Jean married three times.50 His first wife was Marie Risser, an older sister of Nicolas/Nicholas Risser. They were married in 1830, and she died in 1842. Joseph was a son of this marriage, born in the year that his mother Marie Risser died.

*Herald of Truth*, December 1866: "On the 7th of November, in Tazewell County, Illinois, of consumption, Joseph Schweitzer, aged 20 years. He arrived last spring from Europe, where he left his parents, having here a brother and relatives. He died at the residence of his uncle Nicholas Risser, where a funeral sermon was delivered by the writer from *John 5: 25-29*. The deceased was a member of the Omish Mennonite Church. Joseph Stuckey."

The Nicolas/Nicholas Risser mentioned in the obituary was noted in ENGEL as a son of Nicolas Risser and Barbe Engel.

**Canadian Schweitzers**

Like many other families that settled in Tazewell County, the Schweitzers can look to the Amish Mennonite settlements in Ontario to find distant relatives. Unfortunately, we cannot show the exact connection with available evidence. We can only speculate that Pierre Suisse was a son of Peter/Pierre Suisse and Anne Bächer.51

When Pierre Suisse died at Blâmont, Meurthe-et-Moselle May 27, 1808, his civil death entry described him as 'Pierre Suisse,' a cultivator born at 'Same, departement de Voche' [the village Salm, now in the department of Vosges].52 His age at death was 50, indicating that he was born circa 1758.53 His death was reported by 62-year-old weaver Cristianne Suise [he signed Christian Sweitzer] whose relationship to Pierre was not stated, and Jacob Vilman, 31.

Pierre married Anne Ringenberg. She was born circa 1761, and died at Moyenmoutier, Vosges Dec. 1, 1817, a daughter of André Ringenberg and Madeleine Schwartz. Their descendants can be found in many of the European locations associated with the families later found in Illinois.

Their son Christophe was married at Étival (now Étival-Clairefontaine), Vosges Nov. 22, 1817. The entry stated that the father Pierre was deceased, and described Anne Ringenberg as the 'present and consenting' 55-year-old mother of the groom. She signed as a witness with the 62-year-old father of the bride, Christophe Mayer.

Eight days later, on Dec. 1, Anne died in the home of a brother-in-law at Moyenmoutier, east of Étival. That entry identified 'Anne Renguenberg' as the widow of 'Pierre Suiss,' gave her age as 56, and gave her residence as Héming (between Diane-Capelle and Bébing) in the district of Sarrebourg.

Two parallels between the chain that went to Illinois and the chain that went to Ontario:

► In 1817 Anne Ringenberg, the widow of Pierre Suisse, was living in the tiny village of Héming. Héming is adjacent to Diane-Capelle, where the family of Johannes/Jean Suisse and Véronique Neuhauser/Neyhauser was living. Their son Jean Suisse (later known as John Schweitzer or Switzer of Morton) was born there.

► Two children of Christophe Mayer and Madeleine Zehr married Suisses. Christophe Mayer to Anne Suisse of the branch associated with Illinois (she was a sister of John Schweitzer or Switzer of Morton). Marie Madeleine Mayer to Christophe Suisse of the branch associated with Ontario.54

Children of Pierre Suisse and Anne Ringenberg include:

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50 Jean's second wife was Anne Marie Risser, a daughter of Jacob Risser and Catherine Rupp and sister of Nicolas/Nicholas Risser. They were married in 1842. His third wife was André Risser, another sister of Nicolas/Nicholas Risser.

51 One coincidence in favor of this notion is that Pierre's death entry said he was born at Salm. The surname Bächer could be found there soon after 1712.

52 The 1817 marriage entry of his son Christophe says that Pierre died at Chazelles 28 Frimaire 2, or Dec. 18, 1793, but this may simply be confusion of the birthdate of Christophe, which was given as Dec. 15, 1793 (when it should have said 1795). The same entry says that Christophe was born at Chazelles, but no civil entry was found there. We hope to view Blâmont birth records in the near future.

53 'Pierre Suis' was witness on the civil entry for the marriage of Christian Roth and Anne Lehman at Hattigny, Moselle Oct. 14, 1805. It described him as a friend of the bride from Blâmont, and gave his age as 50, thus born circa 1755.

54 Christophe Mayer was born in 1765, and died at Bru, Vosges July 24, 1822. In 1791 he married Madeleine Zehr. She was born in 1761, and died at Bru Feb. 15, 1840. They lived at Étival and Bru. Their first two children married to Suisses have been noted. Their third child was Jean Mayer, born at Creutzwald, Moselle in 1798. On April 4, 1816 at Gosselming, Moselle Jean married Catherine Farny. She was born at Bisping June 5, 1794, and died at Saint Benoît-la-Chipotte, Vosges Oct. 16, 1854, a daughter of Joseph Farnhni/Farny and his second wife Anne Risser (see FARNY, FARNY OF BISPING). She was a sister to Peter and Christian Farny, 'the Amishmen who hired Lincoln.'
1. Barbe Suisse was born on Petite Voile farm at Blâmont (adjacent to Chazelles-sur-Albe) circa 1788, and died at Laframboille, Moselle Jan. 3, 1851. On June 4, 1809 at Walscheid, Moselle she married Jean Bächer. He was born in 1774, and died at Laframboille Sept. 14, 1847, a son of Pierre Bächer and Véronique Shoerich [Görg].

   We can only speculate that Pierre and Anne had a son named Pierre. Weaver Pierre Suisse (as his name was spelled in civil entries) lived at Bébing, Moselle. Bébing is surrounded by communities associated with our known family: Diane-Capelle and Héming on the west, Imling and Sarrebourg on the east. Pierre’s wife was Marie Ringenberg. She died at Bébing March 5, 1841. Children of Pierre Suisse and Marie Ringenberg that we could identify include:

   a. Catherine Suisse was born at Diane-Capelle Sept. 3, 1813. Her civil birth entry was signed ‘Peter Schwitzer.’

   b. Pierre Suisse [Jr.] was born at Bébing June 9, 1815, and died at Bébing Dec. 14, 1815. One witness on the birth entry was cultivator Pierre Ringenberg, 36. It seems likely that he belonged to the Ringenberg family that lived on Sarixing and Rinting farms at Bébing. If so, he would have been only 32 years old in 1815 (and during the Napoleonic wars the ages of males tended to be easily inflated). Pierre Ringenberg was born at Bébing June 29, 1783, and died between 1815 and 1818, a son of Jean Ringenberg and Marie Engel. He was also a grandson of André Ringenberg and Madeleine Schwartz. Thus Pierre Ringenberg was a nephew to Anne Ringenberg and her husband, Pierre Suisse of Blâmont, and would have been a cousin to the Pierre Suisse living at Bébing.

   c. Christian Suisse was born at Bébing Oct. 7, 1816. The entry bears the signature ‘Pierre Switzer.’

2. Joseph Suisse was born on Petite Voile farm at Blâmont March 22, 1794, and died at Wellesley, Ontario March 3, 1867.

3. Christophe Suisse was born Dec. 15, 1795, and died at Bru, Vosges (10 miles west of Étival) Feb. 23, 1836. On Nov. 22, 1817 at Étival he married Marie Madeleine Mayer. She was born at Chazelles-sur-Albe Dec. 18, 1794, and died at Bru May 7, 1866, a daughter of Christoph Meyer and Madeleine Zehr.

4. Ann Marie Suisse/Schwitzer was born at Vieux-Lixheim, Moselle (21 miles northeast of Blâmont, less than two miles west of Wintersbourg) July 18, 1800. On Aug. 7, 1826 at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines, Upper Alsace she married Jacob/Jacques Schlabach. Their civil marriage entry described the groom as cultivator Jacob Schlabach, age 25 years and five months, born at Saulxures, Vosges Jan. 28, 1801. He had been a resident of Ste. Marie-aux-Mines for one year. His parents were the deceased Voili Schlabach, who had died at Petite Fosse July 20, 1817, and the widow Elisabeth Chipach, 55, who was a resident of Grande Fosse and was consenting. The bride was described as Anne Marie Schwitzer, 26, born at Vieux-Lixheim July 18, 1800. She was a daughter of the deceased miller Pierre Schwitzer, who had died at Blâmont May 27, 1808, and the deceased Anne Marie Ringenberg, who had died at Moyenmoutier Dec. 1, 1817. Witnesses included weaver and brother-of-the-bride Joseph Schwitzer, 32; cultivator Ulrich Boessiger [he signed Bösiger], 34; weaver Joseph Muller, 25; and Nicholas Gerber, 58. Now things get sketchy. On Jan. 2, 1839, Jacob Schlabach remarried to Madeleine Lauber at Saales, Lower Alsace. The civil entry describes his parents as Voili Schlabach, who died July 20, 1817, and Elisabeth Chipach, 68, present and consenting. The entry says that Jacob was the widower of Anne Schwitzer, who had died at Bionville, Meurthe-et-Meuse Feb. 3, 1837. And there was in fact a civil death entry for someone created at Bionville Feb. 4, 1837. It said that 42-year-old Ann Suisse had died; it was witnessed by her widower Jacques Chlaba, 35, and a friend whose name is illegible. Jacques signed with an ‘x’, indicating he was illiterate. But Anne Marie Suisse/Schwitzer was not dead. On Nov. 18, 1838 at St. Michel-sur-Meurthe André Kropp [Krof] married for his third time. The civil entry described him as miller André Kroop, living at La Vacherie, born at Hartzviller, Moselle May 13, 1802; widower of Magdelaine Peller [Beller]; son of Pierre Kroop, who had died at Deneuvre Mov. 9, 1831, and Suzanne Renguenberg, who had died at Senones July 7, 1820. The bride was described as Anne Marie Schwitzer, born at Vieux-Lixheim July 18, 1800; a resident of Ribeauville; a daughter of the deceased Pierre Schwitzer, who had died at Blâmont May 27, 1808, and Anne Marie Renguenberg, who had died at Moyenmoutier, Vosges Dec. 1, 1806. It is possible that either Jacob Schlabach or Anne Marie Suisse/Schwitzer had broken with their congregations. Since divorce was unthinkable, they had taken an unusual measure to move on to new marriages within the Amish Mennonite fold. In 1848 André Kropp and Anne Marie Suisse/Schwitzer arrived in Butler County, Ohio, where they became Andrew and Anna; in 1849 they arrived in Central Illinois. See GRUBB for more on this Elm Grove family.

Joseph Suisse was born on Petite Voile farm at Blâmont (adjacent to Chazelles-sur-Albe) March 22, 1794, and died at Wellesley, Ontario March 3, 1867.

Circa 1815 he married Barbe Hodler. She was born in 1792, and died at Anglemont, Vosges (adjacent to Bru, 19 miles southwest of Blâmont) June 15, 1819. She was described as ‘Barbe Houlder’ on all Anglemont entries, including her death entry. They had three children, one dying as an infant.

55 Bionville is located within the township of Badonviller, Meurthe-et-Moselle, 17 miles north of St. Michel-sur-Meurthe.
Joseph was described as a weaver while he lived at Anglemont. His cousin Christian Guerbert [Gerber] acted as witness on civil entries for his children and wife; he reciprocated by witnessing entries for three of Christian's children.  


The family sailed from Le Havre on the Pescatore, arriving at New York Nov. 9, 1849. The passenger list shows Joseph Schweitzer, 57, France, farmer; Catharine, 46; Catharine, 19; Elisabeth, 15; Jacob, 11; and Christian, 9.

Their household is found on the 1851 census of Wilmot, Ontario as Joseph Schweitzer, 60, France, 'Amisch,' yeoman; Catherine, 48, France, Amish; Joseph, 35; John, 24, France, Amish, labourer; Catherine, 20, France, Amish; Christian, 14, France, Amish; and Catherine, 4, France, Amish. Daughter Elisabeth is found as a 17-year-old French Amish servant at Wilmot. Daughter Magdalena/Madeleine is found at Wilmot as 'Magdalena Kennel, 22, Switzerland, Mennonite, married' with her husband 'Kennel, John, 21, Ludzingen, cabinet maker, Mennonite, married' in the household of his father Christian Kennel. (For information on the settlement of early Wilmot see ROPP).

They appear on the census of Wellesley in 1861: John Switzer, 66, France, Mennonite, labourer; and Catherine, 56, France, Mennonite. They lived next door to their son 'John Switzer' and Mary Ropp.

Catherine Wagler Suisse is last found as a 79-year-old living in the household of her daughter Elisabeth at Elma, Ontario in 1881.

Children of Joseph Suisse and his first wife Barbe Hodler include:

1. Joseph Suisse was born at Anglemont Nov. 25, 1815, and died there Feb. 3, 1816.
2. Joseph Suisse was born at Anglemont Jan. 19, 1817, and died at North Easthope, Ontario in 1900. On Aug. 21, 1847 at Liepvre he married Catherine Forwalt [Vordenwald]. She was born at Liepvre July 12, 1810, and died there March 27, 1850, a daughter of Jean Forwalt and Elisabeth Goldschmidt. Joseph is found with his family on the 1851 census of Wilmot, though he did not sail with them; presumably his remarriage to Mary Slabaugh took place after that date. They are found on the 1871 census of North Easthope, Ontario as farmer Joseph Switzer, 55, France, Amish; Mary, 46, France, Amish; Joseph, 15, Ontario; Mary, 12, Ontario; Jacob, 8, Ontario; John, 17, Ontario; and Catherine, 23, Ontario. In the same community in the same year: Barbara Switzer, 18, born in Ontario to French parents, Amish, 'of unsound mind.' On the 1891 census of North Easthope they are shown as Joseph Switzer, 70, Germany [Alsace was annexed by Germany 1870-1919], farmer, Amish; Mary, 69, Germany, Amish; and five children born in Ontario, ranging from 22 to 37 years of age.
3. Anne/Anna Suisse was born at Anglemont March 21, 1819, and died at Wellesley, Ontario Oct. 19, 1865 (her headstone says Oct. 21). She was buried in the Riser/Reschly Burial Plot Cemetery at Wellesley, which was later plowed over. On Dec. 25, 1847 at Lafrimbolle, Moselle she married Joseph Daniel Röschli (found as Richely, Reschley, and Reschly). He was born at St. Quirin Metaires, Meurthe-et-Moselle Nov. 17, 1819, and died at Wellesley March 5, 1903, a son of Daniel Röschli (found as Richely) and Barbe Peter Schmitt. He is buried in Maple View Cemetery at Wellesley.

Children of Joseph Suisse and his second wife Catherine Wagler include:

4. Catherine Suisse was born at Ribeauvillé Sept. 12, 1824, and died at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines March 18, 1827.
5. Johannes/John Suisse was born at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines July 21, 1826. He married Mary Ropp. She was born at Wilmot Feb. 25, 1836, and died at Milford, Nebraska Sept. 30, 1880, a daughter of Joseph Ropp and Anna Ulrich. They are found on the 1861 census of Wellesley, next door to John's parents: John Switzer, 35, France, Mennonite, farmer; Mary, 25, Ontario, Mennonite; Joseph, 4, Ontario; John, Ontario, 2; and Christian Switzer, 24, France, Mennonite. In 1871 they are found on the census of Mornington, Perth County as John Switzer, 44, France, Mennonite, farmer; Mary, 33, Ontario, Mennonite, French parents; seven children born in Ontario, ranging in age from 2 to 11; and Joseph Rupp, 71, France, Mennonite, widower. They resettled at Milford, Nebraska after 1876.

56 Christian Guerbert was born at Remoncourt (now in Meurthe-et-Meuse) Jan. 1, 1791, and died at Lignéville, Vosges July 22, 1841, a son of Christian Guerbert and Marie Jantzi. On Aug. 25, 1810 at Herbéville, Meurthe-et-Moselle (5 miles southwest of Blâmont) he married Magdalena/Madeleine Abresol. She was born at Rhodes Oct. 31, 1788, and died at Les Thons, Vosges March 1, 1859, a daughter of Jacob/Jacques Abresol and Magdalena/Madeleine Engel.
57 The location 'Ludzingen' of 'Ludzingen' appears on several census notations that year (e.g. Zehr and Jantzi families), all from individuals who were born in Moselle. It is probable that this was a misunderstanding of Lothringen, the German name for Lorraine.
Amish Mennonites in Tazewell County, Illinois

Their household is found on the 1881 census of Precinct J, Seward County, Nebraska (now the town of Ruby) as farmer John Switzer, 53, born in France; Mary, 43, born in Canada to French parents; and nine children ranging in age from 4 to 21, all born in Canada. They are buried in East Fairview Cemetery at Milford as 'Jacob Schweitzer b. 1826' and 'Maria Schweitzer, d. Sept. 30, 1880.'

6. Magdalena/Madeleine/Mattie Suisse was born at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines Jan. 14, 1829, and died at Shields, Nebraska Jan. 14, 1913. She married Jean/John Kennel. He was born Dec. 19, 1830, and died June 5, 1910, a son of Christian/Christophe Kennel and Magdalena/Madeleine Jantzi. His family had sailed from Le Havre on the bark Stuera and arrived at New York June 19, 1833, then resettled at Wilmot in 1837-38; he is found on the passenger list as a 1-year-old. John and Mattie appear on the 1880 census of Wellesley, Ontario as farmer John Kennel, 50, France, Mennonite; Mathlene, 52, France, Mennonite; and five children ranging in age from 16 to 23, all born in Ontario. They are found on the 1890 census of Shields as John Kennel, 59, born November 1831, Germany; and Mattie, 72, born October 1829, Germany (presumably the inaccurate birthdates were provided to the census taker by the next generation). They are buried in the Mennonite Cemetery at O'Neill, Nebraska.

7. Catherine Suisse was born at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines Oct. 15, 1830 (death record) or 1831, and died at Wilmot, Ontario June 22, 1918 of 'cardiac hypertrophy and oedema of the lungs.' On July 14, 1853 at Wilmot, Ontario she married Michael/Michel Jantzi. He was born at Bistroff, Moselle April 10, 1810, and died at Wilmot March 29, 1903, a son of Christian/Chrétien Jantzi and Anne Farny. They are buried in St. Agatha Mennonite Cemetery. His first wife had been Marie Boshart. She was born at Tagsdorf, Upper Alsace Oct. 9, 1815, and died at Wilmot April 1, 1863, a daughter of Christian Boshart and Catherine Litwiller. Michael and Catherine are found on the 1881 census of Wilmot, Ontario as farmer Michael Jantzi, 71, France, Mennonite; Cathrina, 50, France, Mennonite; and six children ranging from 12 to 27 years of age, all born in Ontario.

8. Elisabeth Suisse was born at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines Aug. 9 or 19, 1833, and died Dec. 16, 1910. On Oct. 12, 1858 she married Joseph Ropp. He was born at Wilmot Jan. 12, 1835, and died in Perth County July 4, 1884, a son of Joseph Ropp and Anna Ulrich. They lived at Wellesley until 1870, then at nearby Milverton. They are found on the 1881 census of Elma, Ontario as Joseph Ropp, 46, born in Ontario, Church of England; Elisabeth, 38, born in France, Church of England; nine children ranging from 6 to 20 years of age, all born in Ontario; and Catherine Swiser [Catherine Wagler Suisse], 79, born in Germany, Church of England. Elizabeth and Joseph are buried in Edgecomb Cemetery at Mornington.

9. Jacob/Jacques Suisse was born at Aubure (adjacent to Ste. Marie-aux-Mines) Nov. 19, 1835, and died at Milford, Nebraska Feb. 8, 1899. On Oct. 2, 1860 at Wellesley, Ontario, he married Barbe/Barbara Jantzi. She was born at Wilmot Jan. 2, 1838, and died at Milford April 17, 1915, a daughter of Joseph Jantzi and Catherine Boshart. They lived at Mornington before resettling at Milford, Nebraska. They are buried in East Fairview Cemetery at Milford. Herald of Truth, March 1899: "Jacob Schweitzer was born November 19th, 1835, and died February 8th, 1899, aged 63 years, 2 months and 20 days. He married to Barbara Jantzi, October 2nd, 1860. To this union were born twelve children, of whom six preceded him to eternity; his wife and six children survive him; also thirteen grandchildren. He was buried Feb. 10th in the Fairview cemetery near Milford, Seward Co., Neb. Services by Jos. Schlegel from Rev. 14:7,12,13 and P. P. Hershberger from I Thess.5."

Gospel Herald, May 1915: "Barbara Schweitzer, nee Jantzi; was born Jan. 2, 1838, in Waterloo Co., Ont.; died April 20, 1915, near Milford, Nebr.; aged 77 y. 3 m. 18 d. She united with the Amish Mennonite Church in her early years and remained faithful until death. She lived in matrimony with Jacob Schweitzer 40 years. He preceded her to the spirit world Feb. 8, 1899. To this union were born 12 children, of whom 4 sons and 2 daughters remain. Thirty-six grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren also remain. She leaves 2 sisters, 1 brother, 2 step-sisters, and 1 step-brother. She was laid to rest in East Fairview Cemetery in the presence of a large concourse of relatives and friends. Services by Joseph Rediger in German and William Schlegel in English. We weep not as though we had no hope."

10. Christian/Chrétien Suisse was born at Aubure Jan. 2, 1838. He appears with his family on the 1851 census of Wilmot, Ontario. We last found him on the Wellesley census of 1861 as a 24-year-old in the household of his older brother John, next door to their parents.


12. Marie Suisse was born at Aubure June 11, 1842, and died at Lièpvre March 3, 1846.

13. Régine Suisse was born at Lièpvre May 26, 1845, and died there July 2, 1846.
Camp: Kempf of Rhodes

Jean Kempf and Marie Blumel lived at Francaltroff, Moselle.\(^{58}\) The tiny village near Grostenquin is usually associated with a Güngerich family that lived there for four decades after 1770, drawing in other familiar surnames such as Ruby, Schertz, Sommer, and Stalter.

Children of Jean Kempf and his first wife Marie Blumel born at Francaltroff include:

1. **Jean Kempf** was born May 24, 1780, and died at Imling, Moselle in 1822.
2. **Christian Kempf** was born May 27, 1782, and died at Chamarandes, Haute Marne Sept. 14, 1857.

Jean Kempf remarried to Marie Neuhauser circa 1784. He died on Rinting farm at Boulay, Moselle April 7, 1796. She died at Rhodes, Moselle June 17, 1816. Their children also married children of Joseph Abresol and Barbe Würgler/Vercler.

3. André Kempf was born at Bitche (now in Moselle) in 1784, and died at Hermelange (adjacent to Lorquin and Nitting) Jan. 15, 1839.\(^{59}\) On June 8, 1810 at Lorquin he married Madeleine Abresol. She was born at Rhodes Sept. 20, 1791, and died at Hermelange Sept. 8, 1846, a daughter of Joseph Abresol and Barbe Würgler/Vercler. Their civil marriage entry described him as a hand at the mill at Hazard in Lorquin.

4. Michel Kempf was born at Coume, Moselle May 15, 1792, and died at Reherrey, Meurthe-et-Moselle Feb. 6, 1841. On Sept. 24, 1820 at Lorquin he married Marguerite Abresol. She was born at Rhodes March 21, 1795, and died at Croghan, New York in 1866, a daughter of Joseph Abresol and Barbe Würgler/Vercler. Michel and Marguerite lived in Neuf Moulin [mill number nine] at Brouville. While trying to obtain straw for his livestock, he visited the home of André Vercler in adjacent Reherrey. He died on the walk home in severe cold. His funeral was held in the home of his brother-in-law Jean Schertz and Catherine Abresol at Hérange, and he was buried in their garden. Michel and Marguerite had six children born at Brouville. Their daughter Anna emigrated with her uncle Joseph Abresol. They sailed from Le Havre on the *Zurich*, arriving at New York Nov. 11, 1846. She settled at Utica, New York and later at Croghan. In 1847 Marguerite and three of her sons Peter, Andrew, and Michael emigrated and settled at Croghan. Sons Christian and Joseph joined them in 1849. Christian resettled in the home of his cousin André Abresol/Andrew Ebersol at Spring Bay in 1856. He constructed his own home at Roanoke in 1890. He never married. He is buried in the Apostolic Christian Cemetery at Roanoke as 'Christian Kempf, March 9, 1831-Jan. 1, 1912.' His younger brother Andrew is also buried there as 'Andrew Kempf, Sept. 12, 1833-Sept. 28, 1910' (though his civil birth entry at Brouville says he was born Sept. 18, 1833). He married Barbara Beer. Background on Michel/Michael Kempf and his wife Barbara Wagner can be found in WAGNER.

Descendants of Jean Kempf

Miller **Jean Kempf** was born at Francaltroff May 24, 1780, and died at Imling, Moselle in 1822.

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\(^{58}\) The location of Jean's birth was also found erroneously as Altroff, Meuse.

Jean Kempf may have had a brother or cousin named Ulrich 'Uli' Kempf. 'Ouly Kaimp' died at Rhodes, Moselle Feb. 24, 1819. His civil death entry described him as a 64-year-old day laborer, hence born circa 1755. His wife Elisabeth Gacho had died at Rhodes Nov. 3, 1818, age 55. That entry described her husband as 'Oule Kaimp' of Rhodes. On June 10, 1817, Pierre Kemp was born at Rhodes; the entry described his mother as Marie Kemp, daughter of 'Ouli Kaimp.' Ulrich was also likely the father of Madeleine Kemp, born at Rhodes March 15, 1812. The entry described the father as Kemp of Rhodes, 58, without naming the mother; one witness was Christian Rocher.

\(^{59}\) There may be some significance to André's birthplace. Though Bitche is located in the department of Moselle, it is far afield of the other locations - 38 miles northeast of Rhodes. A Christian Kempf lived on Offerding estate at Gros-Réderching. He was born in 1734, and died at Willerwald Jan. 26, 1811. He married Elisabeth Hochstetter. She was born on Le Climont peak circa 1746, and died at Neuenkirch-lès-Sarreguemines, Moselle March 6, 1800. She was a daughter of Johannes Hochstettler and Anna Wagner (see ROPP and HOCHSTETTLER). According to J. Virgil Miller in *Both Sides of the Ocean*, the parish book of Königsbach, Baden-Durlach holds an entry for the baptism of a child Johannes to Christian Kempf, Anabaptist, and 'Elisabeth Hochstälderin' dated Jan. 16, 1766. The entry stated that the father was farming at Johannisthal, and the child had been born on the Neumatte estate at Diemeringen. *Amish Mennonites in Germany* states that Johannes Kempf of the Neumatte estate near Diemeringen was married to Barbara Eyer, daughter of Rudolf Eyer, and co-leaseholder on the Johannisthalerhof in 1793. So this was not the Jean who married Marie Blumel. But is there another connection? Could Christian Kempf be an older brother to Jean?
He was a witness to the marriage of Joseph Schrag and Marie Engel at Gosselming, Moselle Aug. 13, 1798. Their marriage entry described him as Jean Kemp, 21, a neighbor of the groom living on Les Bachats farm at Rhodes, Moselle (19 miles southeast of Francaltroff).

On June 7, 1802 at Rhodes he married Anne Abresol (also found as 'Habressol,' originally derived from Aebersold). She was born there Aug. 13, 1779, and died at Imling Jan. 2, 1814, a daughter of Joseph Abresol and Babi Würgler/Barbe Vercler. Jean's younger brother Christian as well as Anne's uncle André and brother Jacob witnessed their civil marriage entry.

Their children include:

1. **Joseph Kempf/Kemp/Camp** was born at Lorquin, Moselle Aug. 6, 1805. The civil birth entry named his father as 'Hautz Kemp,' and described him as a 26-year-old miller in the hamlet of Hazard at Lorquin. Joseph died circa 1844 in the part of Tazewell County that became Woodford County, likely on the 80 acres he purchased in 1836, now located in Section 29 of Greene Township.

2. Catherine Kempf was born at Nitting (adjacent to Lorquin) May 4, 1810, and died at Imling Dec. 2, 1820.

On June 14, 1819 at Imling, Moselle (eight miles southeast of Rhodes) Jean Kemp remarried to Anne Schmitt. She was born at Lafrimbolle June 27, 1791, a daughter of Sebastien Schmitt and his second wife Anne Strubhar (found as 'Strup').

Anne Schmitt apparently brought two children to this marriage:

- Marie Kempf was born at Imling Oct. 1, 1815, and died on Risholtz farm at Hattigny, Moselle April 1, 1868. On Dec. 22, 1832 at Gondrexange she married Christian Naßzer. He was born at Gondrexange April 21, 1800, and died on Risholtz farm March 24, 1859, a son of Christian Naßzer and Jacobine Schertz.
- Anne Kempf was born at Imling Oct. 18, 1818, and died at Wellman, Iowa April 2 or Green Township April 7, 1866. On Jan. 24, 1837 at Imling she married André Birky. He was born at Lorentzen, Lower Alsace Aug. 3, 1813, and died at Wellman March 28, 1875, a son of Jean Birky and Magdalena/Madeleine Schertz. See BIRKY/BIRKEY for more on this couple.

**Joseph Kempf/Kemp/Camp** was born at Lorquin, Moselle Aug. 6, 1805, and died circa 1844 in the part of Tazewell County that became Woodford County.

The story of his immigration has been lost over time. He was considered one of the first Amish Mennonite settlers in what is now Woodford County, arriving at Spring Bay in the 1831-34 time frame.

On Dec. 23, 1836 at Spring Bay he married Magdalena/Madeleine Engel; the ceremony was performed by her father. Magdalena was born on Jambrot farm Oct. 12, 1805 according to her civil entry created at Lagarde, Moselle, a daughter of Christian Engel and his second wife Barbe Brunner.

The Illinois Public Domain Land Tract Database shows that on June 8, 1836 'Joseph Kemp' purchased 80 acres of federal land for $1.25 an acre in Section 6 of Tazewell County. The record was rewritten when the land became part of Section 29, Township 27N (now Greene Township) in the new Woodford County.

The 1840 census of Tazewell County shows 'Joseph Kemp.' The list shows his household after Peter Summers [Sommer] and Joseph Belsey [Belsley], and before Christian Acrement [Christian Ackerman]: one male 30-40 years of age; one mail under 5; one female 30-40; one female 5-10; and one female under 5 (presumably the younger females were Magdalena's relatives.

Children of Joseph Kempf/Kemp/Camp and Magdalena/Madeleine Engel include:

1. **Christian Camp** was born at Spring Bay Oct. 29, 1836, and died Jan. 13, 1914.
2. Joseph Camp was born at Worth Sept. 7, 1842, and died at Eureka Dec. 7, 1928. On Oct. 16, 1862 in Peoria County he married Anna Haushalter/Householder. She was born in Woodford County April 10, 1844, and died April 30, 1939, a daughter of Thibaut Haushalter and Maria/Mary Zehr. The 1870 census of Metamora shows farmer Joseph Camp, 28, Illinois; Annie, 23, Illinois; Luisa, 7, Illinois; Martha, 4, Illinois; Mary, 3 Illinois; and Fredrick, 1, Illinois. They appear on the 1880 census of Metamora as farmer Joseph Camp, 39, born in Illinois to German parents; Anna, 37, born in Ohio to German parents; and six children born in Illinois. They are buried in Roanoke Mennonite Cemetery.

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60 The register entry says a marriage certificate (license) for Joseph Kemp and Madaline Ingle was issued Dec. 19, 1834. The ceremony took place Dec. 23, 1836. But it was entered on Nov. 15, 1836. The ceremony was performed by 'Christian Engle M.G.' [minister of the Gospel]. Note that the couple had their first child Oct. 29, 1836.
Amish Mennonites in Tazewell County, Illinois

On June 9, 1844 in Woodford County Magdalena Engel remarried to Christian Kennel, a veteran of the French army who had immigrated in 1842. According to county records the ceremony was performed by minister John Gentry. The application called them 'Christian Kennell' and 'Madaline Kemp.'

On May 6, 1851, Peter Engel appeared in court at Metamora requesting to be appointed guardian of Christian Kemp, 14, 'heir of Joseph Kemp,' and Joseph Kemp, 'minor heir of Joseph Kemp.'

Their mother is found on the 1860 census of Worth: Christian Kennell, 53, France; Madeline, 55, France; and Peter, 15, Illinois. The 1870 census of Worth shows farmer Christian Kennel, 62, France; and Malinda, 64, France. The 1880 census of Worth shows farmer Christ Kennel, 72, France; and Magdalena, 75, France.

Christian and Magdalena had one child: Peter J. Kennell was born at Metamora Oct. 7, 1845, and died at Peoria Feb. 18, 1932. On March 1, 1866 he married Mary Householder. She was born in 1846, and died at Eureka, Woodford County May 24, 1930, a daughter of Thibaut Haushalter and Maria/Mary Zehr. Thus Peter was not only a half-brother to Christian Camp and Joseph Camp, but a brother-in-law to Joseph as well. Peter and Mary lived at Metamora, and are buried in the Apostolic Christian Cemetery at Roanoke.

History of Woodford County (1910) dubiously characterizes Peter J. Kennell and his wife Mary Householder as pioneers: "Two other pioneers are Mr. and Mrs. Peter Kennell, each of whom were born in the county. Christian Kennell, the father of Peter, came to Woodford county from France in 1842, and settled in Worth township. His death occurred in Metamora about 18 years ago. Other members of this family are Christian and Joseph Camp..."

Christian Kennel died at Metamora circa 1892; we could not identify his burial place. Magdalena Engel died at Metamora Nov. 4, 1899. She is buried in Hickory Point Cemetery at Metamora as 'Magdalena, wife of Christian Kennel, born Oct. 12, 1805, died Nov. 4, 1899.'

Christian Camp was born at Spring Bay Oct. 29, 1836, and died at Metamora Jan. 13, 1914.

On Feb. 19, 1860 he married Magdalena Smith. She was born at Partridge May 21 (Past and Present) or 24 (obituary), 1839, and died at Metamora March 22, 1902, a daughter of Christian Smith and Catherine Bechler.

They initially resettled near Lacon in Marshall County (above and adjacent to Woodford County), but in 1865 Christian began to farm 160 acres in the northeast corner of Section 21 of Metamora, Woodford County. just east of the town center. A garbled entry on the 1870 census of Metamora might just as well describe a different family: farmer Christian Camp, 34, Pennsylvania; Catharine, 28, Pennsylvania; Lena, 7, Illinois; Barbara, 5, Illinois; Joseph, 3, Illinois; and Andrew, 1, Illinois.

The farm of 'C. Camp' is shown on the 1873 plat map. The Past and Present of Woodford County (1878): "Camp, Christian, farmer: Sect. 21, PO Metamora; is a native of Woodford Co., having been born in Spring Bay Tp., Oct. 29, 1836. His father, Joseph Camp, came from France and was one of the earliest settlers of the county. Mr. Camp was married Feb. 19, 1860, to Miss Lana Smith, who was born in Partridge Tp., May 21, 1839; they have seven children living: Katie L., Lana M., Joseph E., Christian W., Peter B., John J. and Samuel D. He settled on his present farm about thirteen years ago, and owns 160 acres of land valued at $12,000."

The 1880 census of Metamora shows Christian Camp, 43; Lena, 40; Katharina, 17; Lena, 15; Joseph, 13; Christian, 11; Peter, 9; Johny, 7; and Samuel, 2. The 1910 census of Metamora shows Christian as a 74-year-old in the household of his son Samuel.

Christian and Magdalena were buried under a joint headstone in Roanoke Mennonite Cemetery. Magdalena's obituary can be found in SMITH.

Gospel Herald, February 1914: "Christian Camp was born in Woodford Co., Ill., Oct. 29, 1836; died Jan. 13, 1914; aged 77y. 3m. 29d. He was united in marriage Feb. 19, 1860, to Miss Lana Smith who was born in Partridge Tp., May 21, 1839; they have seven children living: Katie L., Lana M., Joseph E., Christian W., Peter B., John J. and Samuel D. He settled on his present farm about thirteen years ago, and owns 160 acres of land valued at $12,000."

The 1880 census of Metamora shows Camp, 43; Lena, 40; Katharina, 17; Lena, 15; Joseph, 13; Christian, 11; Peter, 9; Johny, 7; and Samuel, 2. The 1910 census of Metamora shows Christian as a 74-year-old in the household of his son Samuel.

Children of Christian Camp and Magdalena Smith include:

1. Catherine 'Katie' Camp was born near Lacon, Marshall County Jan. 13, 1862, and died at Metamora March 15, 1951. On Dec. 24, 1895 at Metamora she married Andrew Springer. He was born in Alsace-Lorraine June 26, 1862, and...
Amish Mennonites in Tazewell County, Illinois

died at Metamora Dec. 24, 1936, a son of Valentine Springer and Marie. They are buried in Roanoke Mennonite Cemetery. *Gospel Herald*, May 1951: "Springer, Kathryn, daughter of Christian and Magdalena (Smith) Camp, was born in Marshall Co., near Lacon, Ill.; Jan. 13, 1862; passed away March 15, 1951; aged 89 y. 2 m. 15 d. In her youth she accepted Christ as her Saviour and became a faithful member of the Mennonite Church. She was united in marriage to Andrew Springer Dec. 24, 1895. In 1901 a foster daughter was accepted in this home, Hattie, now Mrs. Henry Leidig, Grandview, Wash. She is survived by one sister (Anna M. Camp, Metamora, Ill.), and 3 brothers (Peter B., Hesston, Kans.; John H., Roanoke, Ill.; and Samuel D., Metamora). She endured her long illness of about five years in much patience. Funeral services in charge of Homer Schertz."

2. Magdalena 'Lena' Camp was born near Lacon, Marshall County Dec. 4, 1863, and died in Woodford County in 1940. On April 18, 1886 at Metamora she married Valentine Forney Garber. He was born in Woodford County Feb. 16, 1862, and died there Oct. 18, 1938, a son of Joseph Garber and Anna Magdalena Schweitzer. *Gospel Herald*, July 1940: "Garber. Lena M., daughter of Christian and Magdalena (Smith) Camp, was born Dec. 4, 1863; died June 16, 1940, after patiently lingering 33 months from effects of many paralytic strokes. On Sept. 16, 1937 she had a stroke which left her speechless and helpless, but she bore it with a smile and Christian Hope. On June 6 she had the second severe stroke, becoming unconscious and remaining in that condition until death relieved her ten days later; aged 76 y. 6 m. 12 d. At an early age she united with the Metamora, Ill., Mennonite Church, remaining loyal to the end. April 18, 1886, she was united in marriage to Valentine F. Garber, who preceded her in death Oct. 18, 1938. She spent her early years in Marshall Co., Ill., then coming to Woodford Co., Ill., where she spent her remaining days. In 1920 they moved to their present home in Low Point and she was always held in high respect and will be remembered for her concern for others and her friendly disposition. She leaves the following children: Mrs. Anna Schrock of Low Point, Henry of Eureka, Mrs. Laura Srock of Metamora, Joseph of Low Point, Martha and Madeline at home; also 13 grandchildren, one great-grandchild, three brothers and two sisters (Mrs. Katie Springer, Peter Camp, John Camp, Samuel Camp, and Anna Camp), and many relatives and friends. Her father, mother, two brothers (Joseph and Christian), one grandson, one son-in-law, one daughter-in-law have gone on before. Funeral services in charge of Bro. H. R. Schertz assisted by Bro. Ezra Yordy."

3. Joseph E. Camp was born at Metamora March 29, 1866, and died there Feb. 5, 1922. On Feb. 22, 1894 at Metamora he married Phoebe Nafziger. She was born at Washington July 26, 1869, and died there Jan. 23, 1955, a daughter of John Nafziger and Katharina Gingerich. They are buried in Union Cemetery at Washington. *Gospel Herald*, February 1922: "Camp. Joseph E., son of Christian and Magdalene Camp, was born near Metamora, Ill., March 29, 1866; died Feb. 5, 1922; aged 55 y. 10 m. 7 d. On Feb. 22, 1894 was united in marriage with Phoebe Nafziger to which union were born one son and four daughters (Clifford, Dinah, Catherine, Evalyn and Naoma) all of whom are left to mourn his departure; also four brothers (Christian, Peer, John, and Samuel) and three sisters (Mrs. Katie Springer, Mrs. Valentine Garber, and Anna Camp) with many friends and relatives. His father and mother preceded him to the better world. He joined the Mennonite Church at Metamora at an early age, of which he was a constant member up to the time of his death. He was a lover of music. Several days before his death he enjoyed listening to a chorus at his home which seemed a comfort to him. He was especially gifted along mechanical lines. He took special pains in improving their place for the comfort and convenience of their home, doing a greater portion of the skilled workmanship himself, after which he was taken sick with bright's disease causing his death."

4. Christian W. Camp was born at Metamora Oct. 5, 1868, and died at Ashley, Michigan Sept. 6, 1934. On Feb. 7, 1895 in Tazewell County he married Delia M. Gingerich (twin). She was born in Woodford County Nov. 3, 1872, and died in the home of a son at Pompeii, Michigan Sept. 22, 1931. They moved to Pompeii in 1928, and are buried in Collier Cemetery at Pompeii. *Gospel Herald*, October 1934: "Camp. Christian W., son of Christian and Magdalena Camp was born near Metamora, Ill., Oct. 5, 1868; died Sept. 6, 1934, at the home of his son near Pompeii, Mich.; aged 65 y. 11 m. 1 d. The cause of his death was a blood clot on his brain. He became a member of the Metamora Mennonite Church at the age of 15 years and remained a faithful member the remainder of his life. He was married to Delia Gingerich on Feb. 7, 1895. To this union was born one son (Alvin) who now resides on the home place. He was of a quiet disposition. But his presence was appreciated by all with whom he came in contact. His advice was often sought by his neighbors and friends, and he kindly gave his services. He had a keen appreciation for good music, and was one of the pioneers of organized singing in the Mennonite Church, especially in the Metamora congregation. Among his activities in this direction he will be remembered by many friends for the singing classes which he directed in various communities. On the evening of his death he seemed to be in normal condition. After spending some time playing with his little granddaughter, he retired as usual after bidding good night to the members of the family. He passed away peacefully in his sleep at about 7 :30 the next morning. He leaves his son Alvin and daughter-in-law Frieda, two grandchildren, three sisters (Mrs. Andrew Springer, Mrs. Valentine Garber, and Anna), 3 brothers (Peter, John, and Samuel), and many friends. He was preceded in death by his wife (Delia) Sept. 22, 1931, and by a brother (Joseph) in 1922. Funeral services were held Sept. 9 at the Mennonite Church near Ashley, Mich., by Dan Oyer (reading I Thess. 4:13-18) and E. A. Bontrager of Midland, Mich. Text, II Tim. 4:6-8."

5. Peter B. Camp was born at Metamora Oct. 7, 1870, and died at Newton, Kansas April 1, 1961. On Jan. 28, 1895 in Tazewell County he married Celia Gingerich (twin). She was born in Woodford County Nov. 3, 1872, and died at Ashley, Michigan June 18, 1936, a daughter of Peter Gingerich and Katherine Nafziger. They are buried in Collier Cemetery at Pompeii, Michigan. In 1947 he remarried to Fannie Neuenchwander, becoming the fourth or her five
Descendants of Christian Kempf

Cultivator and miller Christian Kempf was born at Altroff May 27, 1782 (in what later became the department of Moselle; the French departments were not created until 1790), and died at Chamarandes, Haute Marne Sept. 14, 1857.

On Jan. 6, 1802 at Rhodes, Moselle he married Anne Pillman [Bielmann]. She was born on Les Bachats farm at Rhodes (in what later became Moselle) May 10, 1783, and died at Blevaincourt, Vosges April 5, 1811, a daughter of Jean Christian Pillman and Anne Marie Abresol. Christian's older brother Jean signed their civil marriage entry as a witness. Christian, Anne, and her parents were all living on St. Croix farm at Rhodes at the time of their marriage.

Christian was a witness to the marriage of Joseph Pillman and Marguerite Engel at Rhodes, Moselle Nov. 30, 1806. He was described on the entry as Christian Kempf, 28, a cultivator at Rhodes and brother-in-law of the groom. He apparently relocated to Bisping around that time; notes from other families describe marriages that took place in Christian's home there. A census of Mennonite families created April 24, 1809 lists Christian Kempff as a head of a household at Bisping (six residents).

Christian and Anne Pillman were living in the Moulin Rouge [red mill] at Blevaincourt, Vosges at the time of their daughter Madeleine's wedding there in 1846. Children of Christian Kempf and Anne Pillman include:
1. Marie Kempf was born at Rhodes or Bisping circa 1802. Her illegitimate son Jean Kempf was born at Imling, Moselle July 15, 1824, and died at Rhodes July 21, 1860. On Jan. 8, 1857 at Rhodes he married Madeleine Nafziger. She was born at Rhodes July 10, 1831, a daughter of Valentin Nafziger and Madeleine Esch.

2. Magdalena/Madeleine Kempf was born at Rhodes Aug. 2, 1804, and died between 1860 and 1870. On Dec. 7, 1846 at Blevaincourt, Vosges she married Joseph Strubhar. He was born at Metaires St. Quirin, Moselle March 16, 1799, and died in Butler County, Kansas Feb. 21, 1885, a son of Pierre Stroubar and his first wife Madeleine Abresol/Habresol. They settled at Danvers, McLean County in 1854 or 1855. See STRUBHAR in the Appendix for more on this couple.

3. Anne Kemp was born at Rhodes Oct. 12, 1805, and died at Montgomery, Woodford County in 1840. She is buried in Slabtown Cemetery. On July 23, 1825 at Bisping she married Pieter/Pierre Farny, one of the 'Amishmen who hired Lincoln.' They settled at Montgomery after living at Wilmot, Ontario. For more on this couple including a list of their children and Peter/Pierre's second wife see FARNY, FARNY OF BISPING.

4. Joseph Kempf was born at Bisping Sept. 28, 1809.

5. Christian Kempf was born at Bisping June 20, 1811.

6. Pierre Kempf was born at Bisping Sept. 27, 1812, and died there Feb. 11, 1828.

7. Barbe Kempf was born at Bisping March 14, 1815. According to French genealogist Jean François Lorentz, on Aug. 13, 1857 at Chamaramandes, Haut Marne she married Etienne Pierre Montignies.

8. Jeanne Kempf was born at Bisping July 22, 1816.

9. Marguerite Kempf was born at Bisping Sept. 7, 1818. She married miller Jacob Franck. In 1846 they were living at Blevaincourt.

10. Michel Kempf was born at Bisping Oct. 12, 1820, and died there Sept. 11, 1822.

11. Suzanne Kempf was born at Bisping May 6, 1823.

**Christian Kempf/Camp** was born at Bisping, Moselle June 20, 1811. He was a cousin to Joseph Kempf/Kemp/Camp (1805-circa 1844), who married Magdalena Engel.

Christian's immigration ship could not be identified, but a transcription of the passenger list survives in a *National Archives Quarterly Abstract*. A large company of Amish Mennonites families traveled together, departing from Nantes or Le Havre approximately April 7, 1831, and arrived at Baltimore May 21. Many of the families figure in these pages. Christian Kempf is found on the passenger list as farmer Christian Kemp, 18.

Christian was actually 19 when the ship arrived, but his age would have been copied off his French travel documents, typically obtained well before a voyage. This suggests that he applied to emigrate in response to renewed military conscription spurred by the French invasion of Algeria in 1830; he joined many others who desired to sail as soon as the spring weather permitted. See the Appendix, THE BALTIMORE VOYAGE OF 1831 for the relevant passenger names and more on the political issues of the time.

On Dec. 26, 1837 in Butler County, Ohio Christian married Magdalena Sommer.61 She was born in Ohio June 1, 1816, a daughter of John Sommer and Susannah Chalen. Their household is found on the 1840 census of Liberty, Butler County, Ohio under the name Christian Camp: one male 20-29 years of age [Christian]; one male 15-19; one male under 5 [son Joseph]; one female 20-29 [Magdalena]; and one female under 5 [daughter Anna].

In 1845 Christian and Magdalena resettled on 80 acres at Partridge, Woodford County.

On June 12, 1856 Christian helped a neighbor to shingle a barn. He fell from the roof, shattering his leg. He died from the effects of internal bleeding June 15.

A few weeks later Christian Moser arrived from Butler County, Ohio. He had verbally contracted to work for Christian Kempf. He helped the family for three years, then purchased 80 acres near their farm. On April 5, 1859 in Woodford County he married the widow Magdalena.

Moser was born in Alsace May 3, 1829, and died at Congerville of pneumonia Nov. 17, 1900, a son of Benedict Moser and Elizabeth Roth. He had sailed from Le Havre on the *Arcadia*, arriving at New Orleans April 14, 1852. He had worked as a farmhand in Wayne County, Ohio, earning enough money to bring over his widowed mother and siblings. He then settled them at Wauseon before heading west to Illinois.

After their marriage Magdalena joined Christian Moser on his farm. They appear on the 1860 census of Montgomery Township. The census page shows that they lived next door to brother-in-law and minister Peter Farny and his second wife Magdalena Oyer. Peter Farny's first wife Anne Kempf was Christian Kempf's older sister. The household is shown as farmer Christian Moser, 31, France; Madeline, 40, Ohio; Susan Camp, 9, Illinois; Moses, 6, Illinois; Daniel, 5, Illinois; and Catharine Moser, four months, Illinois.

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61 She is also found in genealogy databases as Mary Magdalena Summers. We could not identify the original source.
The same year, three of Magdalena's sons are found on the farm of Valentine Strubhar and Barbara Guingrich at Danvers.62 Oldest son Joseph was already a widower from a brief first marriage. They appear on the census as laborer John Campe, 19, Ohio; laborer Joseph Campe, 22, Ohio; and laborer Christian Campe, 14, Ohio [he was actually born in Woodford County]. Son Peter is found as laborer Peter Camp, 18, Illinois, in the household of 'John Switzer' [born Jean Suisse, also known as John Schweitzer] and Marie/Mary Engel on the census of Morton.

In 1865 Christian Moser purchased the shares of the Kempf farm that had been inherited by the older Kempf children. His brother Benedict Moser lived there for several years before relocating to Morton.

In 1869 and 1873 Christian purchased 80 acres to double the size of their farm. In 1875 they purchased a Sears & Roebuck home for less than $300, and erected it there. He also served on the board of directors of the Mackinaw Dells Apostolic Christian Church, occasionally hosting services in their home.

The Moser household is found on the 1880 census of Montgomery Township, Woodford County as farmer Christian Moser, 50, born in Germany; Magdelina, 65, born in Ohio to parents from Germany and Ohio; stepson Daniel Camp, 24, born in Illinois to parents from Germany and Ohio; and Catherine Moser, 20, born in Illinois to parents from Germany and Ohio.

Magdalena died at Montgomery Township July 3, 1890.63

Children of Christian Kempf/Camp and Magdalena Sommer include:

1. **Joseph Kempf/Kamp/Camp** was born in Butler County June 16, 1838, and died at Tolono, Champaign County Sept. 14, 1894.
2. **Anna 'Nance' Kempf/Kemp** was born in Butler County Sept. 16, 1839, and died in 1918. On Feb. 15, 1868 in Bureau County she married John Schmutz. He died in 1917.
3. **John Kempf/Kamp/Camp** was born in Butler County Oct. 12, 1840, and died at Peoria Feb. 5 (death entry) or 6 (headstone), 1919. On Feb. 8, 1864 at Bloomington, McLean County he enlisted to serve as a private with Company D of the 94th Illinois Infantry (his younger brother Peter had enlisted in that company Jan. 29). They mustered in at Camp Butler. On July 16, 1865 they transferred to Company H of the 37th Illinois Infantry. John mustered out Feb. 7, 1866. On June 15, 1868 in McLean County he married Elizabeth 'Lizzie' Kohler. She was born in Switzerland Sept. 11 (death entry) or 15 (headstone), 1849; and died at Goodfield, Woodford County April 26, 1916, a daughter of Christian Kohler and Susanna Maurer. She immigrated with her parents in 1862. The 1880 census of Montgomery Township shows them as farmer John Camp, 39, born in Ohio to parents from France and Ohio; Lizzie, 29, born in Switzerland; and three children born in Illinois. The 1900 census of Montgomery Township, Woodford County shows them as farmer John Kamp, 58, born in Illinois in September 1841 to parents from France and Switzerland; Lizzie, 49, born in Switzerland in September 1850; and eight children born in Illinois including a son named 'Colonel.' John and Elizabeth are buried in Mount Zion Cemetery at Deer Creek as John Kamp and Lizzie Kohler.
4. **Peter Kempf/Kamp/Camp** was born in Butler County Aug. 24, 1842, and may have died at Limestone Township, Peoria County Dec. 12, 1941. On the 1860 census of Morton laborer Peter Camp, 18, Illinois is found in the household of John Switzer [born Jean Suisse, also known as John Schweitzer] and Marie/Mary Engel. On Jan. 29, 1864 at Bloomington, McLean County he enlisted to serve as a private with Company D of the 94th Illinois Infantry (his older brother John enlisted Feb. 8). He signed up with Jean Emile Strubhar (found on military documents as John E. Stroup), who was looking for a way to expedite his naturalization. The entrance documents describe Peter as a 20-year-old farmer, a resident of Bloomington born in Butler County, Ohio; height 5-foot 5, light hair, gray eyes, and a light complexion. They mustered in at Camp Butler. On July 16, 1865 they transferred to Company H of the 37th Illinois Infantry. Peter mustered out at Houston, Texas May 15, 1866. The discharge documents calling him Peter Kamp described him as a 20-year-old farmer born in Butler County, Ohio; height 5-foot 6 with brown hair, blue eyes, and a light complexion. One source says Peter relocated to the area of Jacksonville after the Civil War to be near his hospitalized brother Joseph. We could not identify Peter on any post-war census.

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62 Valentine Strubhar was indirectly related. Christian Kempf had an older sister named Madeleine Kempf, born circa 1804. On Dec. 7, 1846 at Blevaincourt, Vosges she became the second wife of Joseph Stroubhar. He was a son of Peter/Pierre Stroubar and his first wife Madeleine Abresol/Habresol. Peter/Pierre Stroubar and his second wife, Marie Gerber, had a son Valentine, who was born at Ernestviller, Moselle Sept. 15, 1818. Another way to say this is that Valentine's father Peter/Pierre was a father to Joseph, who was an uncle to the three Kempf sons. He could be called a half-uncle.

63 On March 29, 1891 widower Christian Moser remarried to widow Emma Clara Habeck. Her father had been postmaster of Farnisville and owned Habeck's general store there; her first husband had been Charles 'Carl' Doebler (Oct. 16, 1859-April 10, 1886, buried in Slabtown Cemetery). On the 1900 census of Montgomery Township they are found as farmer Christian Moser, 71, born in France in May 1829, immigrated in 1853; Emma C., 39, born in Pennsylvania in April 1861 to German parents; five Moser children and two Doebler children, all born in Illinois. They were living next door to Albert Meyer and Catherine Moser. Christian Moser his second wife Emma Clara Habeck are buried in the Apostolic Christian cemetery at Congerville. His headstone erroneously gives his date of birth as 1828.
5. Elizabeth 'Lizzie' Kempf/Camp was born in Butler County May 31, 1844, and died at Bloomington, McLean County Sept. 9, 1925. On Oct. 9, 1866 in McLean County she married Christian Bechler. He was born at Milford, Butler County, Ohio in December 1842, and died at Sawtelle, California Dec. 2, 1914, a son of Joseph Bechler and Catherine Sommer. He enlisted in the army at Bloomington Aug. 7, 1862, and mustered in Aug. 20. He served as a private in Company E, 94th Illinois Infantry. The unit participated in the sieges of Vicksburg and Fort Morgan. He was discharged at Galveston, Texas July 17, 1865, and received a veterans pension until his death. Christian resided in National Homes for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers at Danville, Illinois and Sawtelle, California. He is buried in Los Angeles National Cemetery.

6. Christian Kempf/Camp was born in Woodford County March 10, 1846. We could not follow him after the 1860 census, when he was working as a farm hand and living in the Danvers home of Valentine Strubhar and Barbara Guingrich.

7. Susannah Kempf/Camp was born in Woodford County Feb. 19, 1849, and died at Greene Township April 20, 1935. On Feb. 3, 1873 in McLean County she married Martin L. Reed. He was born in 1851, and died in October 1937. They are found as father-in-law Martin Reed, 78, born in Pennsylvania to parents form Pennsylvania; and mother-in-law Susan Reed, 81, born in Illinois to parents from France and Ohio, in the household of Henry Moore and Lena A. Moore on the 1930 census of Greene. They are buried in Harper Cemetery at Panola, Woodford County.

8. Moses Kempf/Kamp/Camp was born at Partridge, Woodford County Jan. 12, 1853, and died at Washington, Tazewell County April 1, 1916. On Jan. 25, 1875 in McLean County he married Barbara Belsley; the ceremony was performed by minister Joseph Stuckey. She was born at Partridge Oct. 15, 1853, and died at Peoria June 20, 1940, a daughter of Jean/John Belsley and Barbara Roggy. Moses Camp is found on the 1870 census of Washington as a 19-year-old farm laborer in the household of Peter Nafziger and Barbara Gingerich. Moses and Barbara are found on the 1880 census of Partridge as farmer Moses Camp, 30, Illinois; Barbara, 26, Illinois; Joseph, 4, Illinois; and Edward, 2, Illinois. The 1900 census of Partridge shows their household as farmer Moses Kamp, 53, born in Illinois in January 1847 to German parents; Barbara, 53, born in Illinois in October 1846 [a creative adjustment] to German parents; Joseph W., 24, born November 1875 in Illinois; Edward J., 19, born October 1878 in Illinois; Ella B., 19, born October 1880 in Illinois; and Christopher A., 16, born December 1883 in Illinois; and mother-in-law Barbara R. Belsley, 83, born in Illinois in August 1816 to parents from Illinois [even more unlikely]. They are also found on the 1910 census of Partridge. They are buried in Belsley-Camp Cemetery at Spring Bay.

9. Daniel Kempf/Camp was born at Congerville, Woodford County Feb. 26, 1856, and died at Bay City, Michigan March 8, 1931. Daniel is found as a 24-year-old in the Moser household on the 1880 census of Montgomery. He married Barbara Gutzman or Gottsman. She was born in Germany Nov. 1, 1858, and died at Bay City May 7, 1923. The 1920 census of Roanoke, Woodford County shows Daniel Kempf, 63, born in Illinois to parents from Alsace-Lorraine and Pennsylvania; Barbara, 61, born in Germany; Caleb, 26, Illinois; Lilian, 24, Illinois; and Joshua, 25, Illinois. The 1930 census of Bay City, Michigan has uncle Daniel Kempf, 74, living with is daughter housekeeper Lily Kempf, 40, Illinois, in the household of Henry Wacklerle, 37, Illinois. His death entry created at Bay City described him has 75-year-old widower Daniel Kempf, a son of Kempf and Madeline Summers. Daniel and Barbara are buried in the Apostolic Church Cemetery at Kawkawlin, Michigan.

The child of Magdalena Sommer Kempf and her second husband Christian Moser was:

☐ Catherine Moser was born at Congerville, Woodford County Dec. 26, 1859, and died at Bay City, Michigan Jan. 24, 1943. On Dec. 2, 1883 she married Albert Meyer. He was born at Basel, Switzerland April 24, 1856, and died at Bay City June 8, 1927, a son of Henry Meyer and Elizabeth Hediger. The 1900 census of Montgomery Township shows farmer Albert Meyer, 44, born in Switzerland in April 1856, immigrated in 1870; Catherine, 40, born in Illinois in December 1859 to parents from France and Ohio; and 10 children born in Illinois. They lived next door to Catherine's father Christian Moser and his second wife Emma Clara Habecck. Catherine and Albert are buried in the Apostolic Christian Cemetery at Kawkawlin, Michigan.

Oldest son Joseph Kempf/Kamp/Camp was born in Butler County June 16, 1838. He married in McLean County three times in four years.

On March 20, 1859 in McLean County he married Veronika 'Fannie' Stalter. She was born on the Kirschbacherhof estate April 7 or 8 (headstone), 1839, and died in McLean County Feb. 18, 1860, a daughter of Josef [Jr.] Joseph Stalter and Katharina/Catherine Reidiger. Her headstone in Peter Maurer Cemetery (near County Road 75 N, southeast of Congerville on the Woodford-McLean county line) says she was 'Fannie, wife of Joseph Kamp, died Feb. 16, 1860, aged 20 y., 10 m., 8 d.'

Joseph is found as 22-year-old Joseph Campe in the household of Valentine Strubhar on the 1860 census of Danvers, McLean County.

On Nov. 1, 1860 in McLean County he remarried to Fannie's younger sister Jakobina/Jacobine Stalter. She was born on the Kirschbacherhof estate Sept. 29, 1840, and died in McLean County Dec. 1, 1861. She is buried in Peter Maurer Cemetery, where her headstone says she was 'Jacobine Kamp, wife of Joseph Kamp, died Dec. 1, 1861, aged 21 yrs. 2ms. 1d.'

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Company E of the 27th Illinois Infantry (also found as Hutchens's Cavalry Company) was organized at Jacksonville (in Morgan County west of Springfield) until Sept. 1. There Joseph was promoted to hospital steward and transferred to non-commissioned staff at the regiment's headquarters.

Another archives document says he was a 'host' at the headquarters. At the base of the report is the word 'died.' This led one researcher to conjecture that he was hospitalized at Jacksonville after the end of the Civil War, and that his brother Peter - who could not be found on any census - may have moved there to be close to his dying brother. Thus the theory ran that Joseph died at Jacksonville County either during or shortly after the Civil War. A glaring problem for the theory: the word 'died' on the form was not followed with a date.

Joseph married for the third time in McLean County Oct. 29, 1863. An Illinois Index entry names his bride as Rosanna Kohler. This might be verifiable from widow's pension files at the National Archives. She was also called Rosa or Rosetta; the 1900 census says she was born in Switzerland in May 1843. She was a daughter of Christian Kohler and Susanna Maurer, and immigrated with them in 1862.

The 1865 state census of Danvers shows Joseph Camp in a household that contains one male 20-29 years of age; one female 20-29; and one male under 10. The entry is seven names removed from John Strubhar, Valentine Strubhar, Joseph Stuckey, and Christian Imhoff on the same page.

The 1880 census of Tolono, Champaign County (nine miles south of Champaign) shows farmer Joseph Camp, 40, born in Ohio to parents from France and Ohio; Rosetta, 36, born in Switzerland; Susie, 14; John, 13; Peter, 8; Lydia, 6; and son Christie, 3; all children born in Illinois.

The 1890 census of Tolono, Champaign County (nine miles south of Champaign) shows farmer Joseph Camp, 50, born in Ohio to parents from France and Ohio; Rosetta, 46, born in Switzerland; Susie, 24; John, 23; Peter, 13; Lydia, 11; and son Christie, 5; all children born in Illinois.

Joseph headstone in Bailey Memorial Cemetery at Tolono says, "Joseph Kamp, died Sept. 14, 1894, aged 57 Ys. 3 Ms." This age would place his year of birth as 1837, before the marriage of his parents, rather than 1838.

Rosa Camp was living at Tolono with several of her children in 1900.

Children of Joseph Kempf/Kamp/Camp and Rosanna/Rosa/Rosetta Kohler include:

1. Mary Kamp. Her birthdate could not be determined from her barely legible headstone in Bailey Memorial Cemetery, which describes her as a daughter of J. & R. Kamp. She died at Tolono Oct. 12, 1873
2. Susie Kamp was born March 16, 1865, and died at Lake City, Calhoun County, Iowa May 18, 1952. On Dec. 26, 1890 at Urbana, Champaign County she married Edward Stout. He was born in Champaign County Aug. 14, 1867, and died at Lake City Feb. 21, 1929, a son of Jacob Stout and Ellen Moore. They are found on the 1900 census of Elm Grove and the 1920 census of Center, both in Calhoun County. They are buried in Lake City Cemetery.
3. John Kamp was born in March 1868. The 1900 census of Tolono shows his household as John Kamp, 32, born in Illinois to parents from Ohio and Switzerland; sister Lydia, 26, born in Illinois in April 1874 to parents from Ohio and Switzerland; brother and farm laborer Joseph, 19, born in Illinois in August 1880 to parents from Ohio and Switzerland; brother and farm laborer Peter, 30, born in Illinois to parents from Ohio and Switzerland; and mother Rosa, 57, born in Switzerland in May 1843.
4. Peter Kamp was born circa 1872, and died at Limestone, Peoria Dec. 12, 1941. He is found on the 1900 census of the Illinois Eastern Hospital for the Insane at Kankakee as farmer Peter Kamp, 28, born in Illinois in 1872 to parents from Illinois and Switzerland. He is also found listed in his brother's household at Tolono in the same year. The 1940 census has him as an inmate in Peoria State Hospital at Limestone Township, Peoria. Peter Kamp, 68, inmate, born in Illinois.
5. Lydia Kamp was born circa 1874. She was living at Tolono in 1900.
6. Christian 'Christie' Kamp was born circa 1877, according to the 1880 census. However, his headstone in Bailey Memorial Cemetery describes him as, "Christian, son of J. & R. Kamp, died Feb. 8, 1887, aged 8 Ys., 9 Ms., 6 Ds."

Joseph Kamp was born circa 1881. He was living at Tolono in 1900.
Ruvenacht: Rouvenacht of Rhodes

Ruvenach was a Roman who built a villa in the southeast corner of the city of Bern. The estate properties a few three miles southeast of the city of Bern became the village of Rüfenach. This village could also be described as the western side of the municipality of Worb.

The surname Rüfenacht can be found in 13th century documents from Worb. From there it spread out in three branches. The branch that yielded Anabaptists may have been one that is associated with Grosshöchstetten and Munsingen.

In German, Rüfenacht is also the occupational description of a town crier. It dates from a time when court officers read proclamations aloud in town squares.

The surname took on a number of forms in Moselle - most often ‘Rouvenacht’ - then became ‘Rüvenacht’ in Woodford County.

Jean Rouvenacht was born circa 1731. There were several branches of Rouvenachts in Moselle, we could not determine his background.

He married Marguerite Pelsy. ‘Pelsy’ is a modified version of Bälzli, the Bernese surname that became Belsley in America. She was born at Freistett, Freibourg near Rhodes, Moselle circa 1735, and died at Rhodes Oct. 1, 1809, a daughter of Rudolf Bälzli and Barbara Gerber.

A census of Mennonite families created April 24, 1809 listed Jean Rouvenac as the head of a household at Rhodes that contained seven residents.

Their son Hans Rŭvenacht (as he signed)/Jean Rouvenacht was born at Rhodes in 1765, and worked there as a cultivator on Les Bachats farm. He married widow Magdalena/Madeleine Engel. She was born circa 1764, a daughter of Johannes/Jean Engel and and Anne Rouvenacht. She had been married to Jacob/Jacques Abresol, who had died in 1788. She brought a daughter Madeleine Abresol to her second marriage (see ENGEL for background on Madeleine).

Although some sources place their deaths much earlier, we found them ‘present and consenting’ at the marriages of children in 1813 and 1817. Jean signed the civil entries ‘Hans Rüvenacht.’

Children of Hans Rüvenacht/ Jean Rouvenacht and Madeleine Engel born on Les Bachats farm at Rhodes include:

1. Christian Rouvenacht was born June 12, 1790, and died at Bickenholtz, Moselle Jan. 3, 1853. On May 12, 1813 at Bébing he married Anne Rediger.
2. Barbe Rouvenacht was born July 4, 1792, and died at Gondrecourt-le-Château, Meuse Jan. 30, 1872. On Dec. 23, 1813 at Diemeringen, Lower Alsace she married André Birky. He was born at Diemeringen Aug. 24, 1789, and died at Dehlingen Aug. 15, 1841, a son of André Birky and Barbe Schantz. Her civil marriage entry calls her ‘Barbe Revenach.’ She signed her own name ‘Barbara Rüvenacht.’
3. Joseph Rouvenacht (twin) was born Aug. 11, 1794, and died at Rhodes Sept. 2, 1794.
4. Jean Rouvenacht (twin) was born Aug. 11, 1794. The birth entry identifies father Jean as an Anabaptist cultivator living on Les Bachats farm at Rhodes, and mother Magdalena as ‘Madeleine Aingle.’ Witnesses included cultivator Joseph Abresol, 40, and laborer Jean Suisse, 49, both living at Rhodes. He may be the individual found on the passenger list of the Waverly. It departed from Le Havre, and arrived at New York May 22, 1843: Hans Rubenack, 49, France; Peter, 16; Jean, 14; Suzanne, 12; Magdalena, 19; Anna, 8; Jean Scherz, 23; and Magdalina Sommer, 36.
5. Marie Rouvenacht was born Nov. 1, 1795, and died at Rhodes May 3, 1801. Her birth entry describes father Jean as a laborer on Les Bachats farm, and mother Magdalena as ‘Madeleine Hingle.’ Witnesses included laborer Jean Suisse, 51, and Barbe ‘Virgler’ [Vercler], 38, described as the widow of Joseph ‘Habresolle’ [Abresol], both living at Rhodes.
6. Joseph Rouvenacht was born in January 1799, and died at Trois Fontaines, Champagne-Ardenne Sept. 21, 1840. On May 26, 1817 at Nossoncourt, Voges he married Madeleine Gerber (found as ‘Guerbert’). She was born at Herbéviller, Moselle Jan. 10, 1800, and died at Chermisey, Voges Feb. 8, 1853, a daughter of Pierre Gerber and Anne Abresol. Their children married Roggys, a Goldschmidt, and a Zender.

Christian Rouvenacht was born on Les Bachats farm at Rhodes June 12, 1790, and died at Bickenholtz, Moselle Jan. 3, 1853. On May 12, 1813 at Bébing he married Anne Rediger. Their civil marriage entry called them

64 Jean Rouvenacht and Marguerite Pelsy may also have had a daughter Anne, though the only known link is the location of her birth. She was born on Les Bachats farm at Rhodes in 1755, and died at Haut-Clocher, Moselle in 1838. She married Jean Hirschy. He was born at Haut-Clocher April 15, 1752, and died there in 1853, a son of Jean Hirschy and Anne Rolle.
Christian Revenach and Anne Reyniquer. She was born on Rinting farm at Bébing Sept. 24, 1798, and died May 23, 1866, a daughter of Andreas Reùtiger/André Rediger and Annette/Anne Ringenberg.

Their children include:

1. **Jean/Rouvenacht/John Ruvenacht** was born at Bébing Aug. 13, 1814, and died in Woodford County July 13, 1854.
2. Anne Rouvenacht was born on Rinting farm at Bébing Dec. 22, 1816. On March 19, 1839 at Bickenholtz she married Jean/Johannes Gungerich. He was born on Brandelfing farm at Gros-Rederching April 7, 1820, a son of Jean Gungerich and Jacobine Ringenberg.
3. Madeleine Rouvenacht was born on Rinting farm at Bébing Aug. 6, 1819, and died at Asswiller, Lower Alsace Jan. 26, 1822.
4. Joseph Rouvenacht was born at Asswiller Feb. 16, 1821, and died there Oct. 10, 1822. His civil birth entry called him ‘Joseph Raufenach.’
5. Madeleine Rouvenacht was born at Asswiller Sept. 19, 1825. Her civil birth entry called her ‘Madelaine Rauvenach.’
6. Catherine Rouvenacht was born at Asswiller Jan. 18, 1828, and died at Bickenhoatz April 9 or 19, 1844. Her civil birth entry called her ‘Catherine Roubenacht.’
7. Jacobée Rouvenacht was born at Asswiller April 28, 1830, and died at Bickenholtz June 17, 1898. On May 4, 1857 at Bickenholtz she married Guillaume Kremer. He was born on Brandelfing farm at Gros-Rederching April 7, 1820, a son of Jean Gungerich and Maria Anna Lang.
8. Christine Rouvenacht was born at Asswiller May 6, 1832.
9. Christien Rouvenacht was born at Asswiller June 4, 1833, and died the same day.
10. **Christien Rouvenacht/Christian Ruvenacht** was born at Asswiller Dec. 26, 1834, and died at Graymont, Livingston County Dec. 11, 1904.
11. Anne Rouvenacht was born at Asswiller Nov. 18, 1836.
12. Barbe Rouvenacht was born at Bickenholtz March 4, 1837, and died there March 8, 1840.
13. Barbe Rouvenacht was born at Bickenholtz March 1, 1840 (note that she was named for the older sister who died one week after her birth). On April 10, 1860 at Rhodes she married Christian Abresol. He was born at Dian-Capelle, Moselle Dec. 21, 1832, and died at Rhodes Nov. 30, 1907, a son of Joseph Abresol and Marie Sommer. Witnesses to the marriage included brother-in-law of the groom Nicolas Pelsy, 35, of Adelange; second-cousin-of-the-groom Jacob Pelsy, 38; and Joseph Sommer, 26, of Lorquin, a friend of the bride. Mother-of-the-bride Anne Rediger Ruvenacht was present and consenting.

**Older brother John Ruvenacht**

**Jean Rouvenacht/John Ruvenacht** was born at Bébing, Moselle Aug. 13, 1814.

On Jan. 3, 1836 at Bickenholtz he married Barbara Engel. She was born at Guermange Oct. 26, 1815, and died at El Paso, Woodford County Dec. 16, 1900, a daughter of Christian Engel and Catherine Roggy. She is buried in Baughman Cemetery at El Paso.

They departed from Le Havre on the *Harriet & Jessie*, arriving at New York June 23, 1847.\(^{65}\) Barbara was pregnant with her fourth child John, who would arrive in Illinois in November. The passenger list shows farmer Jean Ruffenack, 38, France; Barbara, 30; Anna, 10; Barbara, 6; and Christian, 3. Though it is not annotated, we suspect that 6-year-old Barbara had died at sea.

They settled at Panola in 1852, purchasing land in Sections 3 and 10.

Jean/John died in Woodford County July 13, 1854. He is buried in Hickory Point Cemetery at Metamora as ‘John Ruvenach.’ It is likely that he died from the Asiatic cholera epidemic that peaked in July and August of 1855.

Barbara continued to manage the family farm. The 1860 census of Panola shows her household as Barbaray Rouvenacht, 40, Bavaria; son Christian, 26, Bavaria; Anna, 15, Bavaria; John, 12, Illinois; and Catherine, 9, Illinois.

The patron’s directory of the *Atlas of Woodford County and the State of Illinois, 1873* lists the widowed Barbara as “Mrs. Barbaray Ruvenach, farming and stock raising, Section 3, Panola, immigrated from France in 1848.” The 1880 census of Panola shows her in the household of Edwin Somers and her daughter Catherine.

*Herald of Truth*, March 1901: "Barbara Ruvenach died Dec. 16, 1900, after a short illness at the home of her daughter, Mrs. E.R. Somers, in El Paso, Ill.; aged 85 years, 2 months, and 20 days. She was born in Lorraine, France, Oct. 3, 1815. She united with the Amish Mennonites in her youth and was a faithful member till her death, always filling her place whenever health permitted and she had an opportunity to be there, especially in communion. She was with us at communion just two months before her death and she was always willing to give her widow's mite to help the poor. She had been a widow over forty years. She married John Ruvenach in France; five children were born to them. They emigrated to America in the days when the journey lasted fifty-three days. They had to

\(^{65}\) The passenger list actually spelled the name of the ship 'Harriett Jessie.'
Amish Mennonites in Tazewell County, Illinois

bury their little infant of six weeks in the middle of the ocean, and soon, after a few years of hardship, the dear husband was called home. Then a widow with the small children had the hardships to endure. But she had her heavenly Father as a father to them, although she saw poverty and many trials. She went to Chicago on the lumber wagon to get provisions for her family, but by perseverance and patience and perfect trust in the Giver of all good gifts, she had a comfortable home and enjoyed peace and many tribulations; leaving seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren and many relatives to mourn the loss of one who all respected and loved who knew her. She was a faithful reader of the *Herald of Truth* for many years. She was laid to rest Dec. 18th, near Woodford, Ill., funeral services conducted by the M.E. minister in English and by John Smith and J.B. Zehr in German at the church, and by S. Stahley at the cemetery. Her niece, B.E.R.

Children of John Ruvenacht and Barbara Engel include:

1. Anna Ruvenacht was born at Asswiller Nov. 18, 1836, and died in Woodford County Aug. 16, 1870. She is buried in Baughman Cemetery.
2. Barbara Ruvenacht was born circa 1841. We suspect that she died at sea on the 1847 immigration voyage, and that her mother's obituary erroneously gave her age as six weeks, rather than six years.
3. Christian H. Ruvenacht was born Feb. 18, 1844, and died at Panola April 26, 1925. He married Barbara Engel. She was born May 19, 1845, and died June 8, 1897, a daughter of John Engel and Barbara Dettweiler. On Oct. 31, 1870 'Barbara Ruvenacht' purchased 40 acres of federal land at $14 per acre. On April 29, 1871 'Christian Ruvenacht' purchased another 80 acres at $10 per acre. The 1873 plat map of Panola shows them on property adjacent to Barabara's father John Engel. The resources of 1880 census for Metamora as Christe Rubenauer, 36, born in France; Barbara, 35, born in Illinois to French parents; Josephine, 4, born in Illinois; Gertrude Weber, 23, born in Illinois to Bavarian parents; and Joseph Weber, 17, born in Illinois to Bavarian parents. The 1920 census of Panola shows father-in-law Christian Ruvenacht, 75, who immigrated in 1848 and was naturalized in 1875; he was living in the household of Walter Kelsey and his daughter Elsie. They are buried in Baughman Cemetery.
4. John Ruvenacht was born Nov. 25, 1847, and died at Panola Sept. 21, 1922. On March 11, 1875 at Danvers he married Magdalena Engel; the ceremony was performed by elder Joseph Stuckey. She was born Aug. 19, 1849, and died June 9, 1921, a daughter of John Engel and Barbara Dettweiler. The patron's directory of the Woodford County, Illinois Atlas of 1873 lists John in Section 2 of Panola. They appear on the 1880 census of Panola as Edwin Sumers, 35, born in Illinois to parents from Pennsylvania and England; Catherine, 29, born in Illinois to parents from France; William, 8, born in Illinois to parents from Illinois; Frank, 2, born in Illinois to parents from Illinois; and mother-in-law Barbay, 60, born in Prussia to Prussian parents. They are buried in Baughman Cemetery.
5. Catherina Ruvenacht was born at Spring Bay Sept. 10, 1850, and died in 1917. She married Edwin R. Somers. He was born in Peoria Feb. 24, 1845, and died in 1944. They appear on the 1880 census of Panola as Edwin Sumers, 35, born in Illinois to parents from Pennsylvania and England; Catherine, 29, born in Illinois to parents from France; William, 8, born in Illinois to parents from Illinois; Frank, 2, born in Illinois to parents from Illinois; and mother-in-law Barbay, 60, born in France to French parents. They are buried in Evergreen Cemetery at El Paso, Woodford County.

Younger brother Christian Ruvenacht

Chrestien Rouvenacht/Christian Ruvenacht was born at Asswiller, Lower Alsace Dec. 26, 1834, and died at Graymont, Livingston County Dec. 11, 1904. Christian sailed from Le Havre on the *Belle Assise*, and arrived at New Orleans April 23, 1853. The passenger list calls him 'Rievenacker Chr. n, 18, France.' He was accompanied by the family of Jean Farny and Catherine Gerber, who settled at Spring Bay.

Christian purchased his own land in Section 3 of Panola Nov. 22, 1854, but continued to work for others to accumulate savings.

On Sept. 1, 1864 in Woodford County he married Catherine Risser. She was born at Bourscheid, Moselle (miles southeast of Bickenholtz) June 8, 1835, and died at Gridley April 24, 1926, a daughter of Chrestien Risser and Anne Roggy. Their marriage application called them 'Christian Rubenache' and 'Catherine Risser.'

The 1870 census of Panola shows farmer Christ Rubenah, 34, France; Catherine, 33, France; Annie, 4, Illinois; Barbara, 2, Illinois; and a 10-year-old servant born in Illinois whose name is illegible. Their household can also be found on the 1880 census of Panola as Christian Reuvenacht, 46, born in Prussia to Prussian parents; Alsace-Lorraine was occupied 1870-1918; Catherin, 45, born in Prussia to Prussian parents; Annie, 14, Illinois; Barbara, 12, 66 His headstone says 81 years, two months, eight days.
Amish Mennonites in Tazewell County, Illinois

Herald of Truth, December 1904: “Christian Ruvernacht was born in Alsace, Germany Dec. 26, 1834; came to America in 1852; united in marriage with Catherina Risser Dec. 1, 1864. To this union were born three children, who were all at his bedside during his last hours. He is survived by his wife, one son, two daughters, five grandchildren, one sister, and many friends to mourn his departure. He united with the Amish Mennonite church in his youth and was true and faithful to the end. He died near Graymont, Ill. Dec. 4, 1904 at age 69 y., 11 m., 15 d. Services in German by John Smith and in English by D.W. Slagel. Text, John 5:28, 29.”

Gospel Herald, May 1926: “Ruvenacht - Kathryn (Risser) died at her late home in Gridley, Ill., April 24, 1926, after an illness of four weeks, death being due to influenza and the infirmities of age. Her age was 90 y. 10 m. 16 d. She was born June 8, 1835 at Burchite, Lorraine, France. Her father, Christian Risser, died when she was just seven years old. She with her mother and three brothers went to live with her uncle near Zweibrucken, Bavaria. [Almost certainly with Andreas/André Roggy on the Offweilerhof below Contwig). In June 1853 they emigrated to America where they settled on a farm near Spring Bay, Ill. She was married to Christian Rouvenacht Sept. 1, 1864. To this union were born three children: Mrs. J.W. Baughman, Zion City, Ill., and Barbara J. and Solomon H., at home. She with her husband settled on a farm in Panola Township where they endured all the hardships of pioneer live. Her husband died Dec. 11, 1904. After living on the farm 40 years she made her home in Gridley, with her son and daughter, where they have since resided. She confessed her Savior at the age of 14 years and became a member of the Mennonite Church and continued faithful to the end. She always attended church when it was possible for her to be there. She possessed all her mental facilities to the end, and her last words were a prayer. She was of a cheerful disposition and was esteemed by all who knew her. She leaves three children, four grandchildren, and 10 great-grandchildren. Services were held at the home on April 26, Bros. D.W. Schlegel, Sam Gerber, and J.D. Hartzler took part in the service. Interment at Baughman Cemetery.”

Their children born at Panola include:

1. Ann Ruvenacht was born July 18, 1865, and died March 14, 1940. On Feb. 4, 1886 at Danvers she married Joseph William Baughman; the ceremony was performed by elder Joseph Stuckey. He was born March 5, 1863, and died Oct. 6, 1942, a son of John Baughman and Catherine Naftziger. They are buried in Mt. Olivet Memorial Park at Zion, Illinois (for the story of Zion see ROPP).

2. Barbara J. Ruvenacht was born March 24, 1868, and died at Gridley, McLean County Jan. 28, 1941. She is buried in Baughman Cemetery.

3. Solomon H. Ruvenacht was born May 9, 1873, and died at Gridley Dec. 24, 1949. He is buried in Baughman Cemetery.

'Ruewenach'

One possible source of confusion is Christian Rouvenacht of Roanoke, who likely immigrated in the 1860s. His headstone identifies him as 'Christian Ruewenach,' and says he died in September 1887, age 79 years, eight months, and eight days.

This was Christian or Christophe Rouvenacht, who was born at Longeville-les-St. Avold, Moselle Dec. 22, 1806, and died at Roanoke Sept. 2, 1887. He was a son of Christian Rouvenach and Marie Blaser.

The headstone of his wife says she died Oct. 27, 1883, age 79 years, 10 months, and 24 days. This was Marie Suisse/Schweizer (also called Maria Switzer). She was born at Rhodes, Moselle Nov. 29, 1803, a daughter of Christophe Suisse and Marie Farny. Marie Farny was an older sister to 'the Amishmen who hired Lincoln' Peter and Christian Farny. They married at Guermange, Moselle June 6, 1833.

The 1880 census of Roanoke shows them living in the household of their daughter Mary and son-in-law Joseph Cender [Zehender]. They appear as Crist Reisonock, 72, France, and Mary, 76, France. They lived next door to Joseph's sister Magdalen Cender and her husband Peter Rediger. Magdalena Cender Rediger's obituary said that her family came to Illinois in May 1855, settling at Metamora. She married Peter Rediger in August 1856, and they farmed in Bureau County. In 1863 they resettled at Roanoke. In Roanoke Mennonite Cemetery they are buried next to their former next door neighbors. See CENDER for background on her family, or REDIGER for background on her life after marriage.

Their children born at Guermange include:

1. Barbe/Barbara Rouvenacht was born April 11, 1834, and died Dec. 20, 1922. On Aug. 13, 1857 at Hermelange she married André/Andrew Springer. He was born at Bisping Nov. 3, 1834, and died at Tremont in 1915, a son of Joseph Springer and Margarette Suisse/Schweizer. They can be found on the 1880 census of Elm Grove as Andrew
Amish Mennonites in Tazewell County, Illinois

Springer, 47, France; Barbra, 47, France; Lizzie, 16, France; Andrew, 12, Illinois; Eddie, 11, Illinois; Ida, 7, Illinois; and Anne, 6, Illinois. They can also be found on the 1900 census of Tremont as flour miller Andrew Springer, 65, born in France Nov. 1, 1834; and Barbara, 66, born in France April 11, 1834. The census reported that both had immigrated in 1863, and had been in the country for 37 years; this is compatible with the 1880 census birthplaces. Their graves in Pleasant Grove Mennonite Cemetery at Elm Grove are marked with a joint bronze plaque that reads, "Barbara Springer 1837-1922, Andrew Springer 1834-1915."

2. Christiane Rouvenach (a daughter) was born May 29, 1835.
2. Joseph Rouvenach was born Sept. 24, 1836, and died at Guermange July 22, 1839.
3. Joseph Rouvenach was born at Guermange Aug. 29, 1838, and died at Guermange July 22, 1839.
4. André/Andreas/Andrew Rouvenach was born Aug. 11, 1840 (headstone April 8), and died at Peoria April 19, 1924, On Jan. 2, 1873 at Logansport, Indiana he married Fredericka Christine Miller. She was born in Württemberg Feb. 21, 1849, and died at Washington Aug. 4, 1917, a daughter of Michael Miller and Christine. The Cass County marriage entry called them 'Rechie Miller' and 'Andreas Rouvenach.' Her family had immigrated in 1854, and settled at Peru, Indiana. Andrew was naturalized in Woodford County Nov. 1 1888; the record does not give his immigration date and spells his surname 'Rouvenac.' The 1900 census of Washington shows them as carpenter Andrew Rouvenach, 58, born in France in August 1841, Ricka, 50, born in Germany in February 1850; and two children born in Illinois. It stated that they had been married 27 years; and that they both immigrated in 1868 (though this was certainly not true of Fredericka), and had been in the country for 31 years. The 1910 census of Washington names them as Andrew Rouvenac, 69, and Rickie, 59. They belonged to the East Mennonite Church of Washington. They are buried in Glendale Cemetery there.
5. Marie/Mary Rouvenach was born March 29, 1842 (per the civil entry; her headstone says March 28), and died at Fisher, Champaign County March 4, 1909. On March 13, 1870 in Tazewell County she married Joseph Cender; the ceremony was performed by minister Andrew Ropp. He was born at Niedernai, Lower Alsace June 13, 1827, and died at Fisher Jan. 17, 1910, a son of Christian Cender and Magdalena Eymann. See CENDER for more on this couple.
Abersoll: Abresol of Rhodes

The surname Abersold originated from the area around Lake Thun in Canton Bern. An Aebi was a wild boar, and an Abersold was a place where they came out of the forest and into the open to wallow in mud. Its Swiss Heimatorte or legal places of origin for citizenship rights are Konolfingen, Signau, and Grosshöchstetten.

The surname is found in France as Abersold, Abresol, and Abersol. Our family generally saw its surname spelled 'Abresol' by municipal clerks, though they often signed 'Äbersohl.' They had dozens of marriages in what is now (since 1794) the department of Moselle, France that connected them to the Belsley, Engel, Farny, Schertz, Strubhar, and Vercler families.

Jacob Abresol was born at Grostenquin circa 1720, and died at Rhodes Dec. 1, 1781. He married Anne Leichti.

Joseph Abresol was born circa 1753, and died at Rhodes Jan. 18, 1795. On April 30, 1776 at Rhodes he married Babi Würgler /Barbe Vercle. She was born at Bébing circa 1757, and died at Hattigny Jan. 1, 1846, a daughter of Jacob/Jacques Würgler and Barbe Schertz.

Their children born at Rhodes include:

1. Barbe Abresol was born Aug. 13, 1779, and died at sea in December 1846. On March 6, 1804 at Rhodes she married Joseph Martin. He was born at Angevillers Nov. 30, 1775, and died at Moussey, Moselle in 1844, a son of Nicolas Joseph Martin and Jacobée Rogy. As a widow Barbe attempted to accompany her two adult sons to America, but died during a winter Atlantic crossing. The two sons settled at Croghan, Lewis County, New York. André/Andrew Martin (married his cousin Barbara Schertz, a daughter of Jean Schertz and Vatherine Abresol) was born Jan. 4, 1805, and Joseph Martin [Jr.] (married Barbe Bechler) was born March 25, 1806, both at Langatte, Moselle).

2. Anne Abresol was born Aug. 13, 1779, and died at Imling, Moselle Jan. 2, 1814. On June 7, 1802 at Rhodes she married Jean Kempf. He was born at Franchev;'>Franc marital list gives Joseph Abersol, 63; Barbary, 35; Catherine, 32; and Joseph, 30. They settled at Utica, New York. Son Joseph is found at New Bremen, Lewis County, New York in 1865, 1875, and 1892. Barbe Schertz had a brother Christian who died before he was able to emigrate from Europe, but his widow and children came to Tazewell County in 1836 and 1840.

5. André Abresol was born March 19, 1786, and died at Rhodes May 13, 1787.

6. Christophe Abresol was born March 11, 1787; and died 11 hours later. His civil death entry was created March 12.

7. Catherine Abresol was born July 7, 1788, and died at Reherrey, Meurthe-et-Moselle Feb. 26, 1842. On Sept. 16, 1807 at Rhodes she married Jean Schertz. He was born at Rhodes in 1775, and died at Reherrey March 6, 1840, a son of Christian Schertz and Magdalena Farny. See SCHERTZ, SCHERTZ OF REHERREY for more on this couple.

8. Madeleine Abresol was born Sept. 20, 1791, and died at Hermelange, Moselle Sept. 8, 1845. On June 8, 1809 at Lorquin, Moselle she married André Kempf. He was born at Bitche (now in Moselle) in 1785, and died at Hermelange, Moselle Jan. 15, 1839, a son of Jean Kempf and Verena/Véronique Neuhauser.

9. Marie Abresol was born April 23, 1792, and died at Guerting, Moselle May 23, 1875. On Sept. 25, 1810 at Lorquin, Moselle she married Christian/Chretien Bechler. He was born circa 1785, and died at Réding, Moselle Dec. 10, 1861, a son of Pierre Bechler and Barbe Mosimann.

10. Christian/Chretien Abresol was born March 9, 1794, and died at Rhodes Dec. 29, 1798.

11. Marguerite Abresol was born March 21, 1795, and died at Croghan, New York in 1866. On Sept. 24, 1820 at Lorquin, Moselle she married Michel Kempf. He was born at Coume, Moselle May 15, 1792, and died at Reherrey, Meurthe-et-Moselle Feb. 6, 1841, a son of Jean Kempf and Verena/Véronique Neuhauser. See CAMP for background on this couple.

Jacob/Jacques Abresol was born at Rhodes Nov. 12, 1781, and died there Jan. 26, 1839. On May 28, 1803 at Farebersviller he married Marie Farny. She was born in 1788, and died at Rhodes April 11, 1840, a daughter of Joseph Jean Farny and Anne Marie Schertz.

Their children born at Rhodes include:

1. Marie Abresol was born June 16, 1808, and died at Porcelette, Moselle Dec. 2, 1889.
2. Jean Abresol was born Sept. 6, 1809. On Jan. 8, 1838 at Creutzwald he married Marie Oesch. She was born at Dalem, Moselle Nov. 28, 1818, a daughter of Joseph Oesch and Marie Nafiger.


4. Pierre/Peter Abresol/Abersol was born June 30, 1812.

5. Christophe Abresole was born May 1, 1814, and died at Rhodes Nov. 4, 1834.

6. Barbe Abresol was born Nov. 14, 1815, and died at Rhodes Nov. 8, 1823.

7. André Abersol/Andrew Abersoll was born April 24, 1817, and died at Rhodes July 15, 1817.

8. Madeleine Abresol was born May 17, 1818.

9. Joseph Abresol was born Nov. 20, 1820, and died at Sarrebourg Oct. 18, 1883. On May 29, 1849 at Haut-Clocher he married Barbe Nafziger. She was born at Haut-Clocher Oct. 26, 1829, and died there Aug. 12, 1871, a daughter of Jean Nafziger and Barbe Esch.

10. Catherine Abresol was born June 30, 1822, and died at Rhodes Jan. 8, 1841.

11. Barbe Abresol was born Feb. 28, 1824, and died at Rhodes April 8, 1840.

12. André Abresol was born March 14, 1826.

Two of the children came to Central Illinois: Pierre/Peter Abersol (born 1812, immigrated 1854), and André Abresol/Andrew Abersoll (born 1826, immigrated 1848).

**Older brother Pierre Abresol**

Much of the following information crosses over into LEMAN. Joseph Leman (1835-1926) of Woodford County, the father of 19 children, was the stepson of Pierre Abresol.

Pierre Abresol was born at Rhodes, Moselle June 10, 1812.

On Aug. 8, 1838 at Xouaxange, Moselle he married widow Catherine Pelsy. She was born at Azoudange, Moselle (five miles southwest of Rhodes) Oct. 4, 1811, a daughter of Christian Pelsy [derived from Bältzli, the English equivalent is Belsley] and Katharina/Catherine Vercler. One of her brothers was 'Red Joe' Belsley, one of the very first Amish Mennonite settlers to come to Tazewell County, arriving at the future site of Spring Bay in what is now Woodford County in 1830 (see BELSLEY).

Catherine had been married to Joseph Lehmann; he had died at Xouaxange (nine miles southeast of Rhodes) June 13, 1837. She brought one child to her second marriage with Pierre: a son Joseph Leman, born at Rhodes June 3, 1835.

Pierre and Catherine resided on St. Croix farm at Friboug, adjacent to Rhodes.

Catherine Pelsy died at Fribourg March 31, 1853. A civil death entry created April 1 erroneously reported that her husband had died instead. One of the witnesses was cultivator Joseph Jaques, 52; he had also been a witness to the birth of their daughter Jacobine a year earlier.

The bark Charles Thompson departed from Le Havre, and arrived at New York April 10, 1854. In SCHERTZ, SCHERTZ OF REHERRY we provided an excerpt from the passenger list. Consecutive entries named the members of three family groupings.

André Martin, 50; Barbara [Schertz], 44; Maria, 17; Jean, 13; and Christophe, 11.

Jean Schertz, 34; Anne [Sommer], 30; Jean, 7; Christophe, 7; André, 2; and Maria, one month.

Pierre Aberson, 42; Joseph, 18; Marie, 14; Cath., 12; Christ, 9; Anne, 7; Jacobine, 5; and Madeleine, 2.

Jean Schertze, 32.

As noted in SCHERTZ, during their crossing the United Kingdom declared war on Russia. The following day, March 28, 1854, France announced an alliance with the United Kingdom, and the Crimean War began.

'Pierre Aberson' was actually Pierre Abresol. The child 'Joseph, 18' in the Aberson passenger grouping was actually Joseph Leman, the son from Catherine Pelsy's first marriage who had become Pierre's stepson. Joseph went to Woodford County, where he used the name of his natural father (see LEMAN).

The Schertzes (siblings Barbara, Jean, and Christian) were cousins to Pierre Abresol. Recall that the Schertz's mother was Catherine Abresol/Abersol (1788-1842) a daughter of Joseph Abresol and Barbe Vercler of Rhodes, Moselle. The parents of Catherine Abresol/Abersol (mother of the Schertzes) and Jacob/Jacques Abersol (father of Pierre) were Joseph Abresol and Barbe Vercler of Rhodes.

Upon arrival André Martin and Barbara Shertz took their family to Croghan, Lewis County, New York. Jean Schertz (Barbara's brother) and Anne Sommer took their family directly to Spring Bay, Woodford County, where they died only 16 days after completing their transatlantic voyage (probable victims of a cholera epidemic).

The 'Jean Schertze' on the passenger list was actually Barbara and Jean's brother Christian Schertz. He later raised a family at Hopedale.
We could not determine Pierre Abresol's settling place or the time of his death, though it may have been in Central Illinois, where several of his daughters married. Presumably he reunited with his younger brother André, who had immigrated in 1848 and resided in Woodford County as Andrew Abersoll.

The only evidence of these Abresols that we could find on the 1860 federal census of Illinois was the presence of 15-year-old servant 'Anna Abresall, Germany' in a household at Richland, Marshall County, Illinois. She was living next door to 12-year-old John Claudin, who would later marry her younger sister.

Children of Pierre Abresol and Catherine Pelsy include:

1. Marie/Maria Abersol was born at Xouaxange, Moselle Oct. 11, 1839, and died at Elm Grove April 29, 1884. On May 8, 1860 in Woodford County she became the second wife of Christian Oesch (local records list them as Christian Esch and Mary Aversoll). He was born at Hanfeld, Bavaria Dec. 4, 1819, and died at Elm Grove Oct. 12, 1908, a son of Andreas Oesch and Catherine/Katharina Augspurger. See OESCH, CHRISTIAN OESCH (ELM GROVE) for more on this couple.

2. Catherine Abersol was born at Rhodes Feb. 2, 1842. She may have been married to Robert Müller/Miller for less than a year. He was born at Stuttgart, Germany Dec. 15, 1835, and died May 12, 1889; he is buried in Lacon Cemetery in Marshall County. He was single at the time of the 1860 federal census of Lacon, where he is found as brewer Robt. Miller, 24, Wurtemberg. Catherine died in Illinois June 24, 1861; she is buried as 'Catherine Miller' in Lacon Cemetery, where her date of birth is erroneously given as Jan. 2, 1842. Her younger sister Anna/Anne became Robert's second wife.

3. Anne Abersol was born at Rhodes Sept. 5, 1843, and died there Oct. 3, 1843.

4. Christian Abersol was born at Rhodes Sept. 10, 1844. We could not follow him after his arrival on the Charles Thompson in 1854.

5. Anne/Anna Abersol was born at Rhodes Feb. 27, 1846 (her headstone says Feb. 27, 1845), and died March 23, 1881; she is buried in the Apostolic Christian Cemetery at Roanoke. Circa 1863 she became the second wife of Robert Müller/Miller. They are found on the 1870 census of Lacon as brewer Robert Miller, 30, Wurtemberg; Anna, 26, France; Kate, 6, Illinois; Anna, 3, Illinois; Lizzie, 1, Illinois; and Thomas Specht, 28, Wurtemberg, 'works in brewery.' The 1880 census of Lacon shows laborer Robert Miller, 46; Anna, 35, France; Catherine, 17, Illinois; Lizzie, 11, Illinois; and Mary, 3, Illinois (when the youngest daughter died at Peoria Dec. 6, 1947, her death entry called her 'Anna').

6. Jacobine Abersol was born at Rhodes Aug. 7, 1847, and died there Jan. 24, 1850.

7. Madeleine Abersol/Abersole/Aversole was born at Rhodes April 22, 1849, and died at Roanoke, Woodford County May 16, 1935. On Oct. 8, 1868 at Gridley, McLean County she married John Eugene Claudin. He was born at Lacon, Marshall County Sept. 15, 1847, and died at Roanoke July 30, 1933, a son of Eugene Claudin and Marian. He was a grocer and dry goods merchant. He was naturalized in Woodford County April 11, 1865; witnesses included Jacob Sommer and Cyrus Fairchild. The 1920 census of Roanoke shows 'bench worker, machine factory' John Claudin, 71, born in Illinois to French parents; and Magdalena, 71, born in Europe. Metamora Herald, May 24, 1935: "Mrs. Madelyn Claudin, 87, widow of the late John Claudin at Roanoke, died at 9:25 p. m. Thursday, at her home. She suffered a paralytic stroke several weeks ago. For 10 years she had been an invalid. As Madelyn Abersole, she was born in Alsace, France, April 3, 1848, and came to this country when she was five years old. She was living next door to 12-year-old John Claudin, who would later marry her younger sister.

8. Jacobine Abersol was born at Fribourg (two miles northwest of Rhodes) May 19, 1852, and died in Woodford County July 16, 1910. Her civil birth entry described her parents as 38-year-old Pierre Abresol and Catherine Pelsy, residents of St. Croix, Frouerg. On Aug. 21, 1870 in Livingston County she married 'John' Gottlieb Stoller. He was born at Frutigen, Canton Bern, Switzerland April 6, 1847, and died at Latty, Ohio Jan. 6, 1918, a son of Christian Stoller and Elizabeth Hari. They farmed in Woodford County. Jacobine is buried in the Apostolic Christian Cemetery at Roanoke as 'Jacobena, wife of Gottlieb Stoller.' Gottlieb remarried to Lena Fankhauser. She was born at Sardin, Ohio Feb. 10, 1865, and died June 7, 1944, a daughter of John Fankhauser and Anna Elizabeth Soloberger. Gottlieb and Lena are buried in the Apostolic Christian Cemetery at Latty.

Younger brother André Abersol/Andrew Abersoll

André Abersol/Andrew Abersoll was born at Rhodes March 14, 1826.

According to the 1900 census, he immigrated in 1848. He not only had uncles and aunts named Bechler, Kempf, and Schertz; but also in-laws named Abresol, Oesch, Pelsy (derived form Bältzli, it was also spelled Belsley in Woodford County), Schertz, and Nafziger. This must have given him a handful of second cousins in Woodford County.
On May 20, 1849 in Woodford County he married Anna Kennel. She was born in Ohio Nov. 26, 1832 (headstone date). He was 23, she was 16.

The 1850 census of District 56 (Woodford County) shows laborer Andrew Eversall, 25, France; Ann, 19, France; Mary, five months, Illinois; and carpenter Peter Gerber [Gerber], 25, France. Their next door neighbors on either side were Christian Esch and Ann Gerber, and Peter/Pierre Gerber and his second wife Elizabeth Jordy.

Andrew was naturalized as 'Andrew Eversol' at the Metamora Courthouse Oct. 6, 1857. On the same day settlers in the Kansas Territory voted in legislators who would keep it free from slavery. Abraham Lincoln had spoken against the Dred Scott Decision before the Illinois House of Representatives in Springfield in June. Perhaps the issue inspired Andrew to be naturalized so he could vote in November.

The 1860 census of Partridge: farmer Andrew Aversoll, 32, France; Ann, 29, Ohio; Mary, 10, Illinois; Barbara, 6, Illinois; Ann, 2, Illinois; and farm laborer John Gingrich, 17, Illinois.

In June 1863 Andrew registered for the draft. The Civil War Draft Registration for the 8th District shows him as farmer Andrew Aversoll of Partridge, 36.

Repeating part of a footnote from VERCLER:

THE NEW AMISH


In 1853 Weyeneth organized an Apostolic Christian congregation ('New Amish' or Neu Täufer; since 1917 called the Evangelical Baptist Church) at Morton. His influence also led Joseph Vercler to become a minister of that congregation. Weyeneth settled at Roanoke and is buried in the Apostolic Christian Cemetery there.

In 1864 Joseph Vercler and Jacobine Engel of Woodford County purchased 800 acres at Pleasant Ridge, Livingston County, a township that had only existed since April 1859. They relocated there in 1865, and Joseph served as a minister for a new Evangelical Baptist congregation.

The 1870 census of Pleasant Ridge, Livingston County shows Andrew Ebersol, 40, France; Anna, 36, Ohio; Barbara, 16; Anna, 12; Linna, 9; Catharine, 7; Andrew, 5; John, 1 (all children born in Illinois); and Christ Giger [Geiger], 30, Germany. The 1880 census of Pleasant Ridge, Livingston County: Andrew, 54, born in France to a French father and German mother; Ann, 49, born in Ohio to German parents; Lany, 20, Illinois; Andrew, 14, Illinois; John, 11, Illinois; and Christian, 8, Illinois.

In 1893 Andrew sold a parcel of land to the Northside Evangelical Baptist Church, allowing them to extend their building.

The 1900 census of Pleasant Ridge: landlord Andrew Abersoll, 72, born in Germany in March 1828 to German parents [Alsace-Lorraine was occupied by Germany 1870-1918; note the birthdate off by two years]; and Anna, 67, born in Ohio in November 1832 to German parents. They lived next door to their daughter Lena and son-in-law Ben Farney.

Andrew died in the home of his daughter Lena at Wolcott, Indiana Feb. 8, 1904. He is buried in the Christian Apostolic Cemetery there as 'Andrew Abersoll, born Mar. 14, 1829, died Feb. 8, 1904' [note the birth date off by three years]. Anna died there Oct. 3, 1906; her small headstone calls her 'Anna Abersoll.'

1. Mary Abersol was born at Partridge May 15, 1850, and died at Forrest, Livingston County Jan. 4, 1928. She married Christian Neuenschwander. He was born at Zäziwil, Switzerland May 5, 1837, and died at Fairbury, Livingston County March 11, 1920. They are buried in Graceland Cemetery at Fairbury as Cris Neuenschwander and Mary Neuenschwander (her headstone says only that she was born in 1851).
2. Barbara Abersoll was born Dec. 4, 1853. On Dec. 17, 1873 in Livingston County she married Jacob Keller.
3. Joseph Abersoll was born at Partridge April 30, 1856, and died as an infant.
4. Anna Abersoll was born at Partridge Feb. 12, 1859, and died Aug. 20, 1939. On Jan. 24, 1882 in Livingston County she married Samuel E. Verkler. He was born at Worth June 16, 1856, and died May 5, 1892, a son of Joseph Vercler and Jacobine Engel. On Dec. 20, 1898 in Livingston County she remarried to widower William H. Dixon. He was born at Croger, Woodford County Dec. 22, 1861, and died in Michigan Dec. 25, 1935. His first wife had been Fannie Bell Smith. All four are buried in Forrest Township Cemetery in Livingston County.
5. Magdalena 'Lena' Abersol was born at Partridge April 20, 1860, and died at Fairbury Sept. 10, 1919. On Oct. 15, 1883 at Livingston County she married Benjamin B. Farney. He was born at Croghan, Lewis County, New York in October 1854 (though his headstone says 1855), and died at Wolcott, Indiana in 1945, a son of Christian Farny and Magdalena Kiefer. They can be found on the 1910 census of Wolcott. They are buried in the Apostolic Christian Cemetery at Wolcott, where their headstones call them Benj. B. Farney and Magdalena Farney.
6. Catherine 'Katie' Abersoll was born at Partridge in July 1862 (per 1900 census; her headstone says 1865), and died at Fairbury, Livingston County Feb. 3, 1947. On March 3, 1881 in Livingston County she married Andrew W.
Steidinger. He was born in May 1857, and died at Pontiac, Livingston County Dec. 16, 1943. They are found on the 1900 census of Forrest Village, Livingston County as farmer Andrew Steidinger, 43, born in Germany in May 1857 to German parents; Katie, 37, born in Illinois in July 1862 to a father from France and a mother from Ohio; and eight children born in Illinois. They are buried in Graceland Cemetery at Fairbury, Livingston County.

7. Andrew E. Abersoll was born at Pleasant Ridge, Livingston County July 19, 1865. On Feb. 9, 1893 in Livingston County he married Nellie Demoss. They are found on the 1900 census of Owego Township, Livingston County as farmer Andrew Abersoll, 34, born in Illinois in July 1865 to a father from France and a mother unknown; Nellie, 25, born in Illinois in November 1869 to a father from Ohio and a mother from Indiana; and two children born in Illinois.

8. John Abersoll was born at Pleasant Ridge, Livingston County Nov. 27, 1868, and died at Wolcott, Indiana Aug. 12, 1914. On Feb. 24, 1892 in Livingston County he married Bertha Naomi Datweiler (found as Detingler on their marriage entry). She was born Dec. 25, 1869, and died Nov. 6, 1951. They are buried in the Christian Apostolic Cemetery at Wolcott.

9. Christian Abersoll was born at Pleasant Ridge, Livingston County June 15, 1871. On June 7, 1893 in Livingston County he married Laura Bell Hauck.

Second Cousin John Abersol

Almost all of the families in this text immigrated before 1856. This portion of text is an exception, included as a response to a specific question from a descendant.

The question: was grocer John A. Abersol of Metamora, an 1871 immigrant, related to Andrew Abersoll?

The answer is 'yes.'

Recall Jacob Abresol and Anne Leichti. Their son Joseph Abresol married Babi Würgler /Barbe Vercler, and a grandson of Joseph and Babi/Barbe was Andre Abresol/Andrew Abersoll.

Another son was cultivator Andreas/André Abresol. He was born in the Dieuze ponds area circa 1766, and died at Rhodes Sept. 15, 1830.

On April 29, 1793 at Bourg-Bruche, Lower Alsace he married Barbe Bacher/Pecheur. She was born circa 1772, and died in 1851, a daughter of Jean Bacher and Catherine Görg. Their civil marriage entry described the groom as Andre Abersol, 27, son of Jacob Abersol and Ann Leger /Lichti of Rotte [Rhodes]; and the bride as Barbe Barchre, 21, a daughter of Jean Pacher and Catherine Giery [Görg]. Witnesses included Joseph Abersol, brother of the groom; Christianne Pillman, brother-in-law of both Abresols and laborer at Rhodes; André Pachre, uncle of the bride and laborer at 'Hecherich' [Echery?]; and Nicole Aourboug [Nicolas Augspurger], his cousin and a laborer at Gemaingoutte. Signatures look like Andres Bächer, Andreas Abershohl, Joseph Åbersohl; the mark 'x' indicating illiteracy for Barbe Bacher, Nicolas Augspurger, and Christian Pillman.

Their children include:

1. Catherine Abresol was born at Rhodes May 22, 1803, and died in 1876. On May 11, 1822 at Rhodes she married Joseph Bacher. He was born at Bourg-Bruche, Lower Alsace June 25, 1789, and died at Saales, Lower Alsace June 12, 1852. On May 25, 1856 at Bourg-Bruche she remarried to widower Michel Mosimann. He was born at St. Quirin, Moselle Dec. 11, 1799, and died at Bourg-Bruche Aug. 9, 1880, a son of Christian Mosimann and Elisabeth Bachler. Michel was a minister and elder of the congregation at Le Hang, Bourg-Bruche. His first two wives were Madeleine Bacher and Barbe Bacher.

2. Joseph Abresol was born at Rhodes Jan. 20, 1806. On July 8, 1817 at Pisdorf (now Bischtroff-sur-Sarre, Lower Alsace) he married Marie Sommer. The civil marriage entry described him as a cultivator at Rhodes. Marie was born at Pisdorf Feb. 26, 1801, a daughter of miller Christian/Chrétien Sommer and Madeleine Martin.

3. Christian/Chrétien Abresol was born at Rhodes Dec. 21, 1807. Christian/Chrétien Abresol was born at Rhodes Dec. 21, 1807. On March 14, 1830 at Pisdorf he married Catherine Sommer. Their civil marriage entry describes the groom as Christian Abresol, 24, born at Rhodes Dec. 21, 1807. His father André Abresol, 64, and mother Barbe Pecheur, 56, were both present and consenting. The bride was described as Catherine Sommer, 33, widow of the deceased Joseph Schertz, born at Pisdorf Feb. 14, 1797, a daughter of Christianne Sommer, 57, and Madeleine Martin, 59, both present and consenting. Witnesses included miller Jean Sommer, 33, uncle of the bride; and Joseph Abresol, 28, a cultivator at Rhodes and brother of the groom.

They were the parents of Jean Abresol/John A. Abersol. He was born at Pisdorf Dec. 14, 1830. His civil birth entry called him 'Jean Abersol.' His parents were described as Chrétien Abresol, 23, and Catherine Sommer, 33. One witness was miller Chrétien Sommer, 53, a resident of Pisdorf (likely Catherine's father despite the varying age). The father signed, 'Christian Åbersol.'

Jean/John and Catherine had a daughter Marie/Mary born in France in 1869; a son Edward would be born at Metamora in 1873. The family immigrated in 1871. It is likely that Catherine's sister Madeleine/Magdalena accompanied them. Jean/John was naturalized at the Metamora Courthouse April 8, 1880. Witnesses included Michael Yoerger and S.O. Bailey. That summer he also built a grocery store on the courthouse square at the corner of Menard and Partridge Streets. It was originally known as Abersol's Corner. The gun shop that had originally stood on the site was moved about 200 feet west, and became a home to the Abersols. The family appears on the 1880 census of Metamora as grocer John Abersol, 48, France; Katharina, 35, France; Mary, 11, France; and John E., 7, Illinois.

In 1891 daughter Marie/Mary married her father's assistant John F. Isch. Katharina/Catherine died at Metamora Sept. 12, 1893. Her joint marker in Oakwood Cemetery at Metamora says she was "aged 52 years, 6 months, and 5 days."

The 1900 census of Metamora Village shows the household of grocer John Isch, 33, born in Illinois in September 1866 to a Swiss father and French mother; wife Marie [Abersol], 30, born in France in September 1869 to French parents; Madelein, 3, born in Illinois in November 1896 to a father from Illinois and a mother from France; grocer and father-in-law John Abersol, 69, born in France in December 1830 to French parents; and brother-in-law Edward J. Abersol, 27, born in Illinois in March 1873 to French parents.

In 1891 son-in-law John Isch constructed an addition that doubled the size of the grocery store. Jean/John died at Metamora July 22, 1901. Their joint marker says he was aged "52 years, 6 months, and 5 days."

His store became Isch's Grocery and Dry Goods Store. The Isch family continued to do business there until 1992. It is now the Cozy Corner Quilt Shop.

Children of Jean Abersol/John A. Abersol and Katharina/Catherine Pelsy include:

1. Marie Abresol/Mary Abersol was born in France in September 1869, and died in Woodford County May 30, 1949. In 1891 she married grocer John F. Isch. He was born at Metamora in September 1866, and died at Washburn, Woodford County June 19, 1927, a son of Frederick 'Fritz' Isch and Magdalena Garber. They are buried under a joint headstone in Oakwood Cemetery at Metamora.

2. Edward John Abersol was born at Metamora March 21, 1873 (per his World War I Draft registration), and died at Peoria May 5, 1935. His death entry described him as a lawyer. He is found on the 1910 and 1920 censuses of Peoria. He is buried in Oakwood Cemetery at Metamora.

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67 We could not determine the means of immigration, or date the time of arrival of someone who was known at Metamora as 'Magdalena Ebersole.' She was born Madeleine Abresol at Rhodes, Moselle Dec. 25, 1837 (per the 10-year index of civil birth entries, differing from her headstone), a daughter of Joseph Abresol and Marie Sommer. Her older sister Catherine was married to a brother of 'Red Joe' Belsley. She married Samuel Hesse in Woodford County Jan. 24, 1856. The local record listed her as 'Magdalena Aversol.' Samuel's headstone says he was born Sept. 25, 1826, and died Dec. 27, 1871. The 1860 census of Metamora shows Samuel S. Hess, 32, Hanover; Magdalene, 28, France; Philip, 3, Illinois; and Mar, 1, Illinois. The 1870 census of Metamora shows harness maker Samuel Hesse, 42, Hanover; Madaline, 34, France; Philip, 12, Illinois; Maria, 4, Illinois; and Anna, nine months, Illinois. Madeleine died at Metamora March 26, 1890. Madeleine and Samuel are buried in Oakwood Cemetery at Metamora, where their joint headstone gives her name as Magdalene Hesse and her birthdate as Dec. 1, 1836.
Lehman/Leman males are Y-DNA haplogroup R-M269, subgroup U106, indicating descent from the Franks. See STAKER, BARBARIANS for background on this genetic identification.

In Canton Bern a Lehmann is a tenant, someone who rents a lodging or property. Leman is also found. The 1682 Mosestafel tableau in the Protestant Reformed Church at Steffisburg has a coats-of-arms board [Ger. Wappentafel] for Hans Leman. It shows a black letter 'L' on a white field. Heimatorten or legal places of origin for citizenship rights associated with this surname include Schlosswil and Worb (12 miles southeast of the city of Bern) and Langnau (now called Langnau im Emmental, 12 miles east of Schlosswil and Worb).

Cultivator Rudi Lehmann was born circa 1728. Some sources say he died Sept. 27, 1793, but this is only one day removed from the death of a son of the same name. In fact he was a witness on a civil death entry at La Broque June 16, 1794, and a civil marriage entry created there Nov. 16, 1795. (Background on the location La Broque can be found in ROPP). Perhaps we can trust in a single source that says he died in September 1797. He was described as deceased [Fr. feu] on the 1807 death entry of his widow; the death entry of a son said he died at adjacent Schirmeck, Lower Alsace.

In 1763 he married Barbe Joder. She was born circa 1735, and died at La Broque Jan. 14, 1807. Her civil death entry created the following day described her as cultivator Barbe Joder, 72, a resient of the nearby hamlet aux quevelles [Les Quelles]; the widow of the deceased Roidi Lmann, and a daughter of Pierre Joder and Barbe Joder. It was witnessed by cultivators Christiane Roby, 27, and Benoit Roby, 52, her grandson and son.

Children of Rudi Lehman and Barbe Joder include:

1. Rodolphe Lehmann was born circa 1750, and died at Angevillers, Moselle Sept. 26, 1793. He married Anne Bronner [Brunner]. She was born at Obernai, Lower Alsace circa 1765, and died at Harprich, Moselle Nov. 17, 1849, a daughter of Jean Brunner and Anne Mayer. On Nov. 16, 1795 at Les Quelles, La Broque Anne remarried to Jacob/Jacques Vitrich/Witrig. Their civil marriage entry described the groom as cultivator Jacob Voilrich, 22, a resident of Bambois de Plaine, a son of cultivator Pierre Voilrich and Marie Vagler. The bride was described as Anne Brune, 30, born at Obernai, a daughter of the deceased cultivator Jean Brune and Anne Mayer. Witnesses included father-of-the-groom Pierre Voilrich, 45, a cultivator at Salm; Ulrich Fongon [he signed 'Ulrich Von Gonden'], 45, a cultivator at Salm and friend of the groom; Jacob Kopferschmitte [Amish Mennonite elder Jacob Kupferschmidt], 65, a cultivator at Salm and friend of the bride; and Roidy Lehman [he signed 'Rudi Lehman'], a 67-year-old cultivator at Aux Guelles [another name for Les Quelles], a friend of the bride.

2. Marie Lehmann was born at Sarrebourg after 1750, and died in the Zufall mill at Lorquin, Moselle July 9, 1811. On Nov. 3, 1772 at La Broque she married Jean Roth. He was born circa 1738, and died at Hattigny, Moselle June 3, 1799, a son of Christian Roth and Maria Haushiger [Unziker?]?

3. Christian Lemann was born circa 1759, and died at Hattigny, Moselle Aug. 1, 1810. In 1783 he married Catherine Gerber/Guerber/Carbre. A census of Mennonite families created April 24, 1809 listed Xiianne Lemen as the head of a household at Hattigny (six residents).

4. Anne Lemann's death entry dated Feb. 22, 1797 (calling her 'Anne Leimann') said she was 34 years old, thus born circa 1763; that she was born at Les Quelles, La Broque; and that she died at La Broque Feb. 22 in the home of her cultivator husband Jacob Beller. It described her parents as Roidy Leimann and Barbe Joder. Witnesses included Jacob Beller, Jacob Kopferschmitte [Küpferschmidt], and Christian Karber [Gerber].

5. Jean 'Hans' Lehmann was born circa 1765, and died at Les Quelles, La Broque Oct. 9, 1795. In 1785 at La Broque he married Anne Sommer. She was born on the Struthof at Natzwiller, Lower Alsace circa 1772, and died at La Broque Aug. 26, 1804, a daughter of Christian Sommer and Barbe Sommer. When their one-month-old son Pierre died at 'Aux Quelles' June 16, 1794, his wife was erroneously named as Elisabeth Sommer (Anne's sister); witnesses on the civil death entry included father Rudi Lehman and younger brother Joseph Lehman. On Marcy 7, 1797 at La Broque Anne remarried to Joseph Sommer.

6. Joseph Lehmann was born circa 1774, and died at Schnellenbuhl. Lower Alsace Feb. 11, 1814. His death entry created at adjacent Heidolsheim Feb. 12 described him as cultivator Joseph Lehmann, 40, born at Miguel [Les Quelles] in the valley of Schirmeck, a son of cultivator Rutte [lined out] Lemann who had died at Miguel [Les Quelles]?, and husband of Elisabethe Sommer. It was witnessed by cultivators Jacob Stalt, 38, and Christian Beller, 25. He married Elisabeth Sommer. She was born on the Struthof at Natzwiller April 17, 1773, and died at Heidolsheim, Lower Alsace May 12, 1833, a daughter of Christian Sommer and Barbe Sommer. Elisabeth remarried to lauderer Jacques Wagner at Sélestat Jan. 18, 1817. He was born circa 1787, a son of Jacques Wagner and Barbe Joder. They lived at Heidolsheim, Lower Alsace. Son Chrétien Lehmann, born circa 1811 and also a lauderer, signed his stepfather Jacques's civil death entry March 10, 1833, then his mother's two months later.
Christian Lemann was born in 1759, and died at Hattigny, Moselle Aug. 1, 1810. Circa 1783 he married Catherine Gerber/Carbre. She was born circa 1768 in the hamlet Gensbourg near Oberhaslach, Lower Alsace, and died at Gondexange, Moselle Oct. 6, 1846, a daughter of Pierre Gerber and Anna Güngerich.

Their children include:

1. Anne Marie Lehmann was born circa 1786, and died in 1811. On Oct. 14, 1805 at Hattigny she married Christian Roth. He was born in 1779, a son of Christian Roth and Anne Mosimann.
2. Christian Lehmann was born on Risholtz farm at Hattigny April 7, 1794, and died at Gondrexange Jan. 7, 1835.
3. Barbe Lehmann was born on Risholtz farm at Hattigny July 7, 1796, and died at Gondrexange Sept. 29, 1854. On Oct. 31, 1816 at Hattigny she married Joseph Bächler/Pechler. He wasa born at Dossenheim March 17, 1790, and died at Gondexange Sept. 26, 1854.
4. Pierre Lehmann was born on Risholtz farm at Hattigny in 1800, and died at Hattigny April 10, 1808.
5. Joseph Lehmann was born on Risholtz farm at Hattigny Oct. 12, 1801.
6. Marie Lehmann was born on Risholtz farm at Hattigny June 17, 1804. On June 10, 1826 at Réding, Moselle she married Joseph Schertz. Witnesses included brothers of the bride Christian and Joseph. Schertz was born on Foulerey farm at Haussonvile in 1804, a son of Pierre Schertz and Marie Hirsch of Buhl-Lorraine.

Joseph Lehmann was born on Risholtz farm at Hattigny, Moselle Oct. 12, 1801.

On March 31, 1834 at Rhodes he married Catherine Pelsy. She was born at Azoudange, Moselle (five miles southwest of Rhodes) Oct. 4, 1811, a daughter of Christian Pelsy [derived from Bältzli, the English equivalent is Belsley] and Katharina/Catherine Vercler. Among the witnesses on their civil marriage entry was future Illinois resident Nicolas Claudon, described as a weaver at Réding.

One of Catherine's brothers was 'Red Joe' Belsley, one of the very first Amish Mennonite settlers to come to Tazewell County, arriving at the future site of Spring Bay in what is now Woodford County in 1830 (see BELSLEY).

Joseph and Catherine had one child, who would be known in America as Joseph Leman. He was born at Rhodes June 3, 1835.

The father Joseph Lehmann died at Xouaxange (nine miles southeast of Rhodes) June 13, 1837. On Aug. 9, 1838 at Xouaxange Catherine remarried to Pierre Abresol. He was born at Rhodes June 10, 1812, a son of Jacob/Jacques Abersol and Marie Farny. They resided on St. Croix farm at Fribourg, adjacent to Rhodes.

Catherine Pelsy died at Fribourg March 31, 1853. A civil death entry created April 1 erroneously reported that her husband had died instead. One of the witnesses was cultivator Joseph Jaques, 52; he had also been a witness to the birth of their daughter Jacoline a year earlier.

Joseph's path of immigration to America became somewhat of a mystery over the years. His obituary stated that he arrived in America with his mother in 1854. The year was accurate, though in fact his mother had died shortly before his departure.

We found his passenger list during a search for Martins and Schertzes. There was no 'Joseph Leman.' As a minor, Joseph's first name was placed on a passenger list under the full name of his mother's widowed second husband - an Abresol, whose surname was misspelled as 'Abreson.'

The widower Pierre Abresol, his stepson Joseph Leman (the child of Catherine's first marriage), and Pierre's six children from his marriage with Catherine boarded the bark Charles Thompson at Le Havre. It arrived at New York April 10, 1854.

As noted in SCHERTZ, during their crossing the United Kingdom declared war on Russia. The following day, March 28, 1854, France announced an alliance with the United Kingdom, and the Crimean War began.

In SCHERTZ, SCHERTZ OF REHERRY we provided an excerpt from the passenger list. Consecutive entries named the members of three family groupings.

André Martin, 50; Barbara [Schertz], 44; Maria, 17; Jean, 13; and Christophe, 11.
Jean Schertz, 34; Anne [Sommer], 30; Jean, 7; Christophe, 7; André, 2; and Maria, one month.
Pierre Aberson, 42; Joseph, 18; Marie, 14; Cath., 12; Christ, 9; Anne, 7; Jacobine, 5; and Madeleine, 2.
Jean Schertz, 32.

Upon arrival André Martin and Barbara Shertz took their family to Croghan, Lewis County, New York. Jean Schertz (Barbara's brother) and Anne Sommer took their family directly to Spring Bay, Woodford County, where they died only 16 days after completing their transatlantic voyage (probable victims of a cholera epidemic). The 'Jean Schertz' on the passenger list was actually Barbara and Jean's brother Christian Schertz. He later raised a family at Hopedale.
'Pierre Aberson' was actually Pierre Abresol, the second husband of Catherine Pelsy. He was a cousin to the Schertzes: the Schertz's mother was Catherine Abresol/Abersol (1788-1842) a daughter of Joseph Abresol and Barbe Vercler of Rhodes, Moselle. The parents of Catherine Abresol/Abersol (mother of the Schertzes) and Jacob/Jacques Abersol (father of Pierre) were Joseph Abersol and Barbe Verkler of Rhodes.

We could not determine Pierre Abresol's settling place, though it must have been in Central Illinois (see the information on his children). Presumably he reunited with his younger brother André, who had immigrated in 1848 and resided in Woodford County as Andrew Abersoll. The child 'Joseph, 18' in the Aberson grouping was actually Joseph Leman, the son from Catherine Pelsy's first marriage who had become Pierre's stepson. He went to Woodford County, where he used the name of his natural father.

Background on children of Catherine Pelsy and her second husband Pierre Abresol is provided in ABERSOL.

On Feb. 2, 1859 in Woodford County Joseph Leman married Catherine Smith. She was born at Partridge or Worth June 13, 1840, a daughter of Christian Schmidt/Smith and Catherine Bechler.

At first they lived at Spring Bay. We could not identify them on the 1860 census.

The 1870 census of Metamora, Woodford County shows farmer Joseph Laman, 31, France; Catharine, 26, Illinois; Catharine, 9; Christian, 8; Plena, 6; Louisa, 4; Annie, 2; and John, four months; all children born in Illinois; farm laborer Nicholas Bradley, 28, Switzerland; and Jacob Bradley, 25, Switzerland.

The household is found on the 1880 census of Metamora as farmer Joseph Leman, 45, France; Katharina, 14, Illinois; Christian, 17; Jacobina, 15; Louisa, 14; Anna, 12; John, 10; Samuel, 8; Joseph, 6; Emmi, 4; Benjamin, 2; Henry, six months; and laborer Stefan Burk, 20, Illinois.

Catherine died in Woodford County May 10, 1885. Her headstone in the Apostolic Christian Cemetery at Roanoke calls her 'Katherina Leman.'

On Sept. 26, 1886 in Woodford County Joseph remarried to the widow Elizabeth Heer Rehg. She was born at Doylesburg, Pennsylvania Aug. 10, 1852, a daughter of Matthew Heer and Anna Geil, and came to Illinois in 1866. Her first husband Frederick Rehg had died in 1875. She brought one son to her second marriage, William H. Rehg.

The 1900 census of Metamora has farmer Joseph Leman, 64, born in Germany in June 1835 [Alsace-Lorraine was occupied by Germany 1870-1918]; Elizabeth, 47, born in Pennsylvania in August 1852; Benjamin, 22, born in Illinois in January 1878; Henry, 20, born in Illinois in December 1879; David, 18, born in Illinois in December 1881; William, 15, born in Illinois in July 1885; Percy, 10, born in Illinois in August 1889; Eliza, 8, born in Illinois in November 1891; and Alpheus, 6, born in Illinois in September 1893.

Joseph's obituary said that he lived on a farm outside Eureka before retiring Feb. 26, 1916. He and Elizabeth then relocated into the town center.

The 1920 census of Cruger, Woodford County shows Joseph Leman, 84, France, immigrated in 1854, naturalized in 1860; Elizabeth, 67, Pennsylvania; Percida, 30, Illinois; and Eliza, 28, Illinois.

Joseph died in Woodford County July 21, 1926. He is buried in the Apostolic Christian Cemetery at Roanoke. Elizabeth died in Woodford County Oct. 9, 1927, and is also buried there (as 'Mother Elizabeth Leman').

Joseph fathered 19 children. He left 119 grandchildren, and 73 great-grandchildren.

Children of Joseph Leman and his first wife Catherine Smith born at Metamora, Woodford County include:

1. Magdalena Leman was born in 1859, and died in 1860.
2. Catherine Leman was born Feb. 19, 1861, and died at Francesville, Indiana Jan. 7, 1968 (at 106 years of age). On Feb. 19, 1879 at Metamora she married Joseph E. Pelsy. He was born at Rhodes April 2, 1854, and died at Francesville, Indiana July 24, 1930, a son of Nicolas Pelsy and Barbara Abresol. They are buried in Roseland Cemetery at Francesville.
3. Christian Leman was born July 9, 1862, and died at Roanoke April 16, 1945. On Feb. 27, 1887 at Roanoke he married Magdalena Gudeman. She was born in Woodford County May 5, 1863, and died at Peoria April 17, 1948, a daughter of Fritz Gudemann and Anna Maria Minger. Four members of her family married Lemans. They are buried in the Apostolic Christian Cemetery at Roanoke.
4. Jacobina 'Bena' Leman was born Nov. 24, 1863, and died Feb. 26, 1916. She married Samuel Schumacher. He was born in Ohio July 22, 1859, and died May 8, 1943. They are buried in the Apostolic Christian Cemetery at Roanoke.
5. Maria Leman (twin) was born in 1865, and died that year.
6. Jacob Leman (twin) was born in 1865, and died that year.
7. Louisa Leman was born Aug. 29, 1866, and died May 1, 1936. On March 14, 1886 at Roanoke she married Albert Gudeman. He was born at Morton Aug. 6, 1859, and died April 5, 1957.
8. Anna Leman was born Sept. 13, 1868, and died Aug. 7, 1929. On March 25, 1888 at Roanoke she married Frederich H. 'Fred' Gudeman. He was born Sept. 10, 1864, and died June 26, 1947. They are buried in the Apostolic Christian Cemetery at Roanoke, where their headstones call them Anna L. and Fred H. Gudeman.
8. John Leman was born March 29, 1870, and died at Eureka April 14, 1949. He married Elizabeth Zimmerman. She was born July 10, 1868, and died June 7, 1950, a daughter of Andrew Zimmerman and Elizabeth Pfister. They are buried in the Apostolic Christian Cemetery at Roanoke.

9. Samuel Leman was born July 12, 1872, and died at Metamora July 30, 1947. On March 24, 1895 he married Minnie Bittner. She was born in Tazewell County Dec. 3, 1869, and died at Eureka, Woodford County March 30, 1951, a daughter of Frederick Bittner and Anna Barbara Minger. They are buried in the Apostolic Christian Cemetery at Roanoke.

10. Joseph Leman was born July 3, 1874, and died in November 1969. He married Jakobina 'Bena' Unsicker and Mary Gerber. Bena was born Jan. 1, 1869 (per headstone), and died Dec. 23, 1927, a daughter of Jacob Unsicker and Magdalena (thought to be a Naflziger; see UNZICKER, HUNSICKE/UNSICKE OF THE ROHRHOFF). Her headstone calls her 'Bena wife of Jos. Leman Jr.' Mary Gerber was born April 9, 1870, and died May 5, 1963, a daughter of Michael Gerber and Anna Beer. The 1920 census of Metamora shows farmer Joseph Leman, 46, Illinois; Beana, 50, Illinois; and Fred, 21, Illinois. They were living next to his brother Henry in the Apostolic Christian Cemetery at Roanoke.

11. Emma Leman was born April 17, 1876, and died April 22, 1932. On Nov. 14, 1893 in Woodford County she married Ernst Anliker of Roanoke. He was born in 1869, and died in 1937. They farmed in Livingston County, then at Eureka, Woodford County in 1907. They are buried at Francesville, Indiana.

12. Benjamin Leman was born Jan. 21, 1878, and died at Forrest, Livingston County Dec. 8, 1948. On Jan. 8, 1901 at Emmetsburg, Iowa he married Caroline Anliker. She was born at West Bend, Iowa Dec. 18, 1879, a daughter of John Anlicker and Elizabeth R. They farmed at Forrest, Livingston County. They are buried in the South Apostolic Christian Cemetery at Fairbury, Livingston County.


14. David Leman was born Dec. 5, 1881, and died March 17, 1964. Circa 1905 he married Julia A. Plattner. She was born in Illinois Sept. 20, 1882, and died at Edgewood, Woodford County in June 1974, a daughter of Hans Jacob Plattner and Mary Neuswenger. They are buried in the Apostolic Christian Cemetery at Roanoke.

15. William Leman was born July 5, 1884, and died at Bremen, Indiana Nov. 21, 1970.

Children of Joseph Leman and his second wife Elizabeth Heer Rehg include:

16. Percida 'Percy' Leman was born Aug. 28, 1889, and died June 20, 1959. She is buried in the Apostolic Christian Cemetery at Roanoke.

17. Eliza Leman was born Nov. 13, 1891, and died March 9, 1986. She is buried in the Apostolic Christian Cemetery at Roanoke.

18. Alpheus Leman was born Sept. 4, 1893, and died Oct. 23, 1977. He married Lena Sauder. She was born March 21, 1893, and died Oct. 23, 1977, a daughter of Henry F. Sauder and Mary Martin. They are buried in the Apostolic Christian Cemetery at Roanoke.
Kenneth E. Baughman is a direct descendant of John Bachman and Anna Stecker/Staker. He recently participated in DNA testing under the Modified Oxford Ancestors Format matching Y chromosomes. DNA data was assimilated with reliably-documented genealogical information.

The overall Bachman/Bachmann/Baughman study sampled 42 participants. It identified four 'forebears' and a few 'orphan' lines - individuals who were not related to the remainder of the group.

According to the study, DNA findings prove that "sometime before the 15th century, descendants from a single Bachman grandfather trace back in his earliest appearance to 1359 in the mountain village of Fintersee in Canton Zug. His sons spread out to the parishes around Lake Zurich named Wadenswil, Richterswil, and Hinwil."

One prolific Amish Mennonite Bachmann family is thought to have come from the area of Richterswil on the Zürichsee in Canton Zürich. They migrated to Alsace, where a Bachmann was minister at Ohnenheim at the time of the Amish division. The Bachmanns left Alsace after 1712 to resettle in Pfalz-Zweibrücken. Fragments of that family moved south into Lorraine after the death of Louis XIV in 1739.

Elder Ŭli Bachmann represented a Zweibrücken congregation at the assembly of ministers at Essingen in 1759, and elder Jakob Bachmann represented a Zweibrücken congregation at the assembly of ministers at Essingen in 1779.

However, in German territories and in Swiss cantons a Bach is a brook, and a Bachmann is someone who lives alongside it or tends its banks. Because of its simplicity, it is generally found where German is spoken. Bachmans and Bachmanns were found in and around Steffisburg, Canton Bern, the starting point for many of the families at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines.

André Bachmann/Andrew Baughman (Metamora)

André Bachmann/Andrew Baughman was a minister and elder of the Partridge Creek meeting, and performed many marriages in Woodford County during the 1840s. Fortuitous discoveries in the civil records of Lower Alsace have recently shed light on his family.

In 1683 some Anabaptists established residence at Landenberg, a settlement that no longer exists, about eight miles north of Ste. Marie-aux-Mines. They tended cows and goats on the wooded slopes of the conical sandstone peak Climent (also found by the Old Alsatian name Winburg, or as Weinbourg/Winterberg), and lived in the hamlet at its base (now called Weinberg). After 1712 a number of families from Ste. Marie-aux-Mines joined them there.

One of the slopes of the peak fell under the administration of Bourg-Bruche and Saales; the other of Urbeis in the Val de Villé. Those arriving after 1712 and living in the hamlet were residents of the administrative district of the Val de Villé [German: Weilerthal].

Some records of Anabaptist deaths were kept by Protestant Reformed ministers at the nearby village Urbeis (three miles southeast of Climent) and catholic priests at Villé (three miles east of Urbeis). On some entries it is explicitly stated that they were buried in an Anabaptist cemetery at Winterberg. No birth entries are found, and only a few marriages.

One Anabaptist couple that was living on the wooded slopes of the peak in the 1740s was Johannes Hostettler/Hochtättler/Hochstettler and Anna Wagler. They also had descendants who migrated to Central Illinois. See HOCHSTETTLER. Other Anabaptist families found in the area included Bücker/Baecher/Becher, Hodler [derived from Hodel], Hommel [Ummel], Lortisch, Müller, Räber/Raeber/Reber, Schlabach/Schlappach [Schlapbach], and Wälli. Hodler and Schlabach descendants also came to Central Illinois.

Johannes/Jean Bachmann was born circa 1721.68 He may have died circa 1791. Circa 1748 he married Marie Reiser (the spelling of her name is found with a number of variations). She was born circa 1729, and may have died circa 1789.

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68 An Urbeis entry created Jan. 14, 1767 describes the death of Jacoby B--- Senior, anabaptista, who was buried in an Anabaptist cemetery at Winterberg. (In the European sense 'senior' did not connote a father with a son of the same name; only that he was the older of two Jacobs in the community). The surname is heavily written over, as if a mistake was corrected. It may have been Berchÿer (the two dots and the drop of a 'y' are visible above and below the lettering) or it could have been Bachman. According to the Latin-language text, it was witnessed by Joanne [Johannes] Bachman and Christani [Christian] Hodler. A signature space for Joannis Bachman is signed with Johannes's clumsy initials J.B.; a signature space for Christani
He is first found in Villé records created March 1, 1749. On that day Joanne Bachmann of the Secto anabaptistarum was named as a witness to the death of Elisabeth Binder of the Secte Calviniana [Calvinist]. Elisabetha had died at Landenberg on monte Weinberg. On the signature line his name was written in as Joannes Bachmann. He signed with an ‘x,’ indicating he was illiterate. Heinrich Goldschmid of the Secto Anabaptistarum [Anabaptist] also witnessed and signed his full name.

In 1780 a list of Anabaptists in the administrative district of Villé named their children: Jacques, 29; Barbe, 24; Jean, 20; Joseph, 18; Marie, 15; David, 12; Henri, 10; and Moïse, age 8.

One source says that between 1782 and 1794 Johannes/Jean and Marie resided at Ste. Croix-aux-Mines, Upper Alsace, but we found Johannes's distinctive 'J.B.' initials on entries at Urbeis as late as 1787.

Their children include:

1. Barbara Bachmann died as an infant at Urbeis in September 1749. Her death was recorded in Catholic records at Villé. Her parents are named as Joannis Bachmann et Marie Riserin, anabaptistarum from Urbeis. The entry was witnessed and signed by Jacob Lorsch and Heinrich Goldschmid. Johannes signed with an 'x.'

2. Jacob/Jacques Bachman was born circa 1751, and died at Golbey, Vosges July 23, 1816. He is best remembered as a representative of the congregations of the Ste. Marie-aux-Mines area with minister Hans Goldschmid at the assembly of ministers at Essingen in 1779. Circa 1769 he married Barbara Gerber. She was born circa 1747. Barbara died at Urbeis March 22, 1794. Her civil death entry described her as cultivator Barbe Kerbry, 47. It was witnessed by husband and cultivator Jacques Pachmann, 40 (we suspect 53, in line with the 1780 census), and son-in-law and cultivator Jean Schlappach, 26 (they signed 'Jacob Bachmann' and 'Johannes Schlabach'). Their children include Anna Bachmann, who married Johannes Schlabach; Jean Schlappach at Urbeis Oct. 6, 1788; Jacob Bachmann, who married Joanne Schlappach at Urbeis Dec. 2, 1788; Joseph Bachmann, who married Catherine Schlabach at Burg-Bruche in 1826; and infants who died in 1770 (David), 1771 (Joseph), 1775 (Jacob), 1776 (Joseph and Johannes), 1779 (Joseph), 1781 (unnamed), 1787 (Johannes), and 1788 (Joseph).

3. At Golbey, Vosges Jacob acted as guardian for Marie Pintré who married Joseph Roupe (see the footnote or ROPP). His civil death entry describes him as cultivator Jacob Pasham, 77 (we suspect 65, in line with the 1780 census), originally of 'St. Diez', and the widow of Elisabeth Celbrun. It was witnessed by son-in-law and cultivator Jean Bamere, 38, a resident of Golbey (he signed 'Hans Bächler'), and cultivator Joseph Roupe, 23, also a son-in-law. Jacob actually signed his own name 'Jacob Bachman,' though others often added the double 'n'.

3. Barbara Bachmann was born circa 1755. On June 9, 1776 at Urbeis she married Jean Räber. The Latin-language Protestant Reformed entry describes the groom as Joannes Reber, son of Cristani Reber et Anna Adlerin.

Hodler is signed 'Jacob Bachman.' Presumably this was Johannes's oldest son, age 16, trying to be helpful. We could speculate that the deceased person was a father or brother to Johannes, but there would be no way to confirm it.

There were two brothers named Heinrich Goldschmid and Hans Heinrich Goldschmid, sons of Jacob Goldschmid and Barbara Haab. The older brother was baptized at Richterswil, Canton Zurich Jan. 18, 1691, while the younger was baptized there July 15, 1709. The older brother Heinrich died at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines Feb. 17, 1755. Thus the minister 'Heinrich Goldschmid' who attended the assembly of ministers at Essingen in 1779 with minister Jacob Bachmann would have been the younger brother Hans Heinrich Goldschmid (born in 1709). See GOLDSMITH for more on this family.

On March 28, 1770 at Urbeis Johannes/Jean Bachmann witnessed the death entry of Elisabeth Gebbe (perhaps a Gerber?), the wife of an Anabaptist Christian Hodler. They were described as Anabaptists from Winterberg.

On March 7, 1787 at Urbeis a death entry was witnessed by Johannes Bachmann (signing his initials) and his son Jacob (signing Jacob Bachman). The deceased person was infant Johannes. The father was named as Jean.

It would be difficult to reconcile the varying ages given for Jacob, but a unifying element is provided by the marriage entry of their son Joseph Bachmann. Joseph married Catherine Schlabach at Bourg-Bruche April 3, 1826. The entry says he was born April 3, 1778 (it appears to give the location 'Searvier'). It provides the places and dates of death for both parents, which led us to the seemingly contraditory death entries.

How did Joseph Roupe become a son-in-law of Jacob Bachmann? Jacob adopted a daughter, who married Joseph. Recall ROPP, describing a son of Andre Rüp and Barbe Reber: "Joseph Roupe was born circa 1782. On Jan. 12, 1815 at Golbey, Vosges he married Marie Pintré of Lubine, Vosges. The entry stated that he was 33, an Anabaptist domestic hand living in the community of Fauconcourt (18 miles north of Golbey); and an adult son of the deceased André Roupe, who died Jan. 5, 1795 in the community of Plaine, and Barbara Rabre [Reber], who also died at Plaine Feb. 8, 1794. Marie Pintré, 23, was described as an adult daughter of the deceased Christian Pintré, who died at Lubine in March 1792, and Marie Amanne [Eyman]. Marie's parents had been residents in the home of Jacob Pashman [the signature says Bachman], also an Anabaptist. The bride's foster father was present and consenting; he was not identified by name, but was described as a cultivator in the neighborhood of Haut du Gras in Golbey [presumably this was Jacob since there is no further identification]. Witnesses included Jean Bahelaire [the signature says Bächler], 36, brother-in-law of the future groom, Pierre Bahelaire [Bächler], 60, laborer in Golbey and friend of the bride; Antoine Gabriel André, 56, laborer at Golbey, friend of the bride; and François Perroux, 57, a cultivator in Golbey, also a friend of the bride. The attempted signatures of the bride and groom were unintelligible, indicating they were illiterate."
Cultivator and valet/porter [Fr. voiturier] Heinrich Bachmann/Henry Bachman was born in 1769, according to a 1780 census, his second marriage entry, and his second wife's death entry. Despite this, a number of entries seem to indicate a birth circa 1764-66; these likely reflect a five-year 'age adjustment' first made in a time of high military conscription.

Circa 1792 he married Elisabeth Ummel/Ommel. According to a civil death entry created at Urbeis Oct. 27, 1794, 'Elisabeth Hummle' had died a day earlier. Her husband was described as Henry Pachman, 28, a resident of Urbeis; he signed with an 'x', indicating he was illiterate. Another witness was described as her brother-in-law Jean Rebre, 42, a resident of Ste. Croix-aux-Mines. His signature appeared as 'Johannes Räber.'

The child of Heinrich Bachmann/Henry Bachman and his first wife Elisabeth Ummel/Ommel was

1. Joseph Bachmann was born at Bourg-Bruche May 28, 1794, and died in his father's home at Walscheid, Moselle June 5, 1810. On March 15, 1799 Heinrich/Henry visited the municipal clerk at Bourg-Bruche with his 45-year-old father-in-law Pierre Baecher and stated that his first wife (recorded as 'Elisabeth Umler') had given birth to a child named Joseph. He explained that he had not registered the child because he was ill after her death. The date of the birth was given as May 28, in the Republic calendar year II (1793).

On Nov. 22, 1795 Heinrich/Henry was listed as a witness on a Bacher/Baecher family entry at Bourg-Bruche, Lower Alsace [Ger. Breuscheburg or Burg-Breusch] (three miles west of Climent/Weinbourg/Winterberg) Nov. 22, 1795. It described him as Henry Pachmont, a 30-year-old cultivator living in the Maison Blanche [white house] at Urbeis. This historic landmark was constructed in 1551, and was one of the oldest homes in the district of Villé. It is still standing. The farm there had given employment to Anabaptists since the late 1600s. The same entry was also witnessed by his future wife, whose age was given as 22.

On June 9, 1796 at Bourg-Bruche Heinrich/Henry remarried to Barbe Bächer/Baecher. Their civil marriage entry described the groom as farm hand Henry Pachmont, 30, widower of Elsbette Ommel [Ummel]; a cultivator at the white house in Climent. The bride was described as Barbe Pach, 20 [this age would be more reliable than the one mentioned earlier], a daughter of Petre Pache [Peter/Pierre Bächer/Baecher] and Genivive Cherche [Freni or Véronique Schürch], and a cultivator at the mill at Bourg-Bruche. Witnesses included Ulrich Pecheur [Fischer], 30, of Saales, Vosges; cultivator Jean Ravre [Reber], 45, of Ste. Croix-aux-Mines, a brother-in-law of the bride; cultivator Perte Pach, 43, the father of the bride living in the mill at Bruche; and Joseph Stauffer, 53, of Saales. Henry signed 'Henri Bachman,' but Barbe and her father signed with an 'x', indicating they were illiterate.

A census of Mennonite families created April 24, 1809 lists Henry Bachman as a head of a household at Walscheid (six residents).

Heinrich/Henry and Barbe later resided in the forestier's house (No. 119) in the Haberacker forest on the west side of Reinhardsmunster, Lower Alsace (25 miles north of the district of Villé). The Haberacker forest crosses into adjacent Dabo, Moselle.

Barbe died at Reinhardsmunster Jan. 15, 1829. Her civil death entry described her as Barbe Bächer, 54, wife of Henry Bachmann, 60, living at Haberacker. It stated that she was born at 'Neuenberg, Canton Saal, department
Wasgau' [Saales, Vosges] to parents Pierre Bächer and Rosine Garchen. It was witnessed by husband Henry Bachmann, a 60-year-old valet, and son André Bachman, a 33-year-old valet.

Children of Heinrich Bachman/Henry Bachman and his second wife Barbe Bächer/Baecher include:

2. André Bachmann/Andrew Baughman was born at Urbeis Feb. 7, 1797. His civil birth entry described his parents as cultivator Henry Bachmann, a resident of Urbeis, and Barbe Pacher. It was witnessed by cultivator Jean Schlapach, 30, and cultivator Marie Labrux, 28. Signatures included 'Heinri Bachmann.' He died at Roanoke, Woodford County Nov. 17, 1864.

3. David Bachmann was born at Bourg-Bruche, Lower Alsace Dec. 1, 1798, and died at Reinhardsmunster March 20, 1825. His death entry calls him Davit and says he was born at 'Brisch, St. Dieu, Vauge,' giving his age as 26 years, three months. His father Henry and brother André, ages 55 and 28, signed as witnesses to his death; all three were described as valets/porters.

4. Madeleine Bachmann [twin] was born at Walscheid, Moselle Dec. 15, 1807, and died at Stainville, Meuse Jan. 12, 1845. Her civil birth entry gave the age of her father 'Henry Bachmann' as 38, and was signed 'Heinrich Bachmann.' It also describes him as a laborer and resident of Thomastall, Walscheid. On Nov. 22, 1830 at Reinhardsmunster Madeleine married Jean Jacques Franck. On their civil marriage entry the groom was described as farm operator Jean Jacques Franck, 23, a resident of Harcholin [Les Harcholins is now part of Laffrémolbe, Moselle], born at Goxwiller, Lower Alsace March 2, 1807 [their records show he was born Dec. 2, 1804], a son of distiller Jean Paul Franck. The bride was described as day laborer Madeleine Bachman, 23, a resident of Reinhardsmunster; born at Walscheid, Meurthe Dec. 15, 1807, a daughter of cultivator Henry Bachman, 61, of Reinhardsmunster, and the deceased Barbe Baecher. Witnesses included friend-of-the-groom and wheelwright Jean Blaise, 29, of Reinhardsmunster; brother-of-the-bride André Bachman, 36, of Reinhardsmunster; and day laborer Jean Schirge, 23, a relative of the bride. Her death entry created at Stainville Jan. 13, 1845 described her as a 37-year-old born at Wals in the district of Sarrebourg, a daughter of the deceased Henry Bachmann and Barbe Baecher. It was witnessed by her husband, 37-year-old Jacob Frank, who was described as a miller on Nantel, a farm at Stainville.

5. [Twin]. The 10-year index of Walscheid civil records says that an unnamed female infant died shortly after birth Dec. 15, 1807.

6. Catherine Bachmann/Bachman was born at Walscheid, Moselle Aug. 28, 1810, and died at Metamora in 1885. On June 21, 1840 in what became Woodford County she married Daniel 'David' Schertz. See SCHERTZ, THE SCHERTZ FAMILY OF OBERSTINZEL for more on this couple.

7. Barbe/Barbara Bachmann was born at Walscheid, Moselle April 15, 1813. She is found on the Platina passenger list. We could not follow her after arrival.

On Oct. 9, 1830 at Reinhardsmunster Heinrich/Henry married a third time. The municipal clerk who filled out the civil marriage entry failed to note that the parents of the bride and groom were deceased. He gave them current ages that were more likely their ages at the time of death.73

The groom was described as cultivator Henry Bachmann, 61, widower of Barbe Baecher; born at Urbeis in 1769 to cultivator Jean Bachmann, 70, and Marie Rieser, 60, residents of Urbeis. The bride was described as day laborer Marie Catherine Léhé, 60, widow of Jean Schirge; a resident of Cirey, Meurthe [now Cirey-sur-Vezouze in Meurthe-et-Moselle], born at Barr, Lower Alsace March 30, 1770 to weaver Jean Jacques Léhé, 59, and Anne Marie Pfetz, 39, residents of Heiligenstein, Lower Alsace. Witnesses included cultivator Pierre Becher, 48, brother-in-law of the groom living at Ebersviller, Lower Alsace; cultivator André Bachman, 36, son of the groom living at Haberacker; David Léhé, 42, brother of the bride living at Ebersviller; and Gefois Léhé, 33, living at Cirey.

Heinrich/Henry's third wife died before his emigration from Europe.

A son of Heinrich/Henry and his second wife Barbe, André Bachmann/Andrew Baughman, was born at Urbeis Feb. 7, 1797.

On Jan. 2, 1818 at Reinhardsmunster he married Lisbeth/Elizabeth Behr. Their civil marriage entry described the groom as André Bachman, born at Arbeil [Urbeis] Feb. 7, 1797, living at Haberacker, Reinhardsmunster; a son of cultivator Henry Bachman and Barbe Becher. The bride was described as Lisbeth Behr [Bär], born at Dabo Aug. 9, 1792, a daughter of cultivator Chrétien Behr and Catherine Dellebach [Dellenbach], who had both died at

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73 Before 1792 records for Reinhardsmunster had to be kept by the Catholic or Protestant Reformed churches in nearby communities. The État Civil system of administrative record-keeping instituted in 1792 had a format for municipal clerks to follow. Often when adults were married for the second or third times, their parents were not named. But when they were, the clerk was supposed to give their age and place of residence, and whether or not they were present and consenting. If they had died, the date and place were supposed to be obtained from a copy of their death entry. In this instance, the clerk likely knew that there were no death entries for Anabaptists who had died before 1792. He simply gave a name and age with no further comment. We can assume that the ages given in the noted entry were their ages at death, as recalled by the bride and groom.
Laschbach, Dabo. Witnesses included brother-of-the-bride and potter Lorent Behr, 28, of Dabo; and royal forester Antoine Dunckel, 54.

Children of André Bachmann/Andrew Baughman and Lisbeth/Elizabeth Behr born at Reinhardsmunster include:

1. Elisabeth/Lisbeth Bachmann was born July 14, 1819. Her birth entry describes her parents as 23-year-old laborer André Bachmann and Lisbeth Baer of Haberacker.

2. Catherine Bachmann was born July 16, 1821, and died Jan. 3, 1871. Her birth entry describes her parents as Anabaptist cultivator André Bachmann, 24, and Elisabeth Behr. She had an illegitimate child David Bachmann born at Haberacker, Reinhardsmunster May 10, 1838; the birth entry described her as a domestic at Haberacker, and was witnessed by her grandfather Heinrich/Henry. On Jan. 16, 1844 in Woodford County she married Pierre/Peter Kennel. The ceremony was performed by justice of the peace John Gentry. Pierre/Peter was born at Assenoncourt, Moselle April 17, 1816, and died at Metamora Nov. 13, 1885, a son of Pierre Kennel and Catherine Schertz. See the KENNEL footnote for more on this couple.

3. Joseph Bachmann was born Aug. 16, 1826, and died at Metamora Dec. 31, 1897.

The Platina departed from Le Havre, and arrived at New York Aug. 28, 1839. The passenger list shows Andres Backmann, 42, shoemaker; Elizabeth, 41; Elizabette, 20; Cathrina, 18; Joseph, 13; Barbara, 26; Cathrina, 28; David, 14 [Catherine's son David would have been 14 months old]; and Hendrick [Heinrich/Henry], 74. They brought "six chests, one bureau, two muskets, one set of bedding, and cooking utensils."

In late 1839 Andre/Andrew and Lisbeth/Elizabeth settled on a farm two miles west of Hanover (which became Metamora in 1845).

The 1840 census of Tazewell County shows the household of Andrew Baughman: one male 70-79 years of age; one male 40-49; one male 10-15; one female 50-59; one female 30-39; and one female 20-29. This may have been Heinrich/Henry, André/Andrew, Joseph, Lisbeth/Elizabeth [Behr], Elisabeth/Lisbeth, and Catherine. Theirs was the last entry on a page; on the next page were Peter Engle [Engel], John Engle [Engel], and John Vercel, indicating that they had already settled at Hanover/Metamora.

We found no record of Heinrich/Henry's death or burial in Woodford County. He was described as deceased on the death entry of his daughter Madeleine created in France Jan. 13, 1845.

The 1850 census of Tazewell County shows farmer Andrew Baughman, 51, France; and Eliza, 55, France. Since André/Andrew and Lisbeth/Elizabeth arrived in America in middle age, and he later became an elder, it is likely that he was ordained as a minister in Europe. Andrew became elder of the Partridge Creek meeting after the death of Joseph Engel in 1852.75

Lisbeth/Elizabeth died at Metamora Dec. 4, 1854. Only her first name can be made out on her weathered headstone in Hickory Point Cemetery at Metamora. Her age was given as 64 years.

Andrew remarried to Anna 'Nancy' Gerber. She was born at Anglemont, Vosges April 9, 1817, and died at Roanoke Nov. 28, 1864, a daughter of Christian Guerbert [Gerber] and Madeleine Abresol [Aebersold]. She was the widow of Christian Engel, a son of Christian Engel and Catherine Roggy.76 Anna and Christian had immigrated in 1849, and Christian had died in an accident a short while later.

The 1860 census of Roanoke shows Andrew Bachman, 62, Bavaria; Annie, 43, Bavaria; and four of her children brought to the marriage: Joseph Engel, 17, Illinois; John, 13, Illinois; Anna, 12; and Peter, 11.

As elder Andrew visited Springfield in 1864. There he successfully obtained the signature of the governor on a military service exemption for members of his congregation. They were permitted to pay $300 in lieu of service.

Andrew died Nov. 17, 1864, and Anna died within a few days on Nov. 28 (according to medical bills). They had both been ill since the spring. They are buried in Hickory Point Cemetery at Metamora. Anna's headstone calls

74 Plattina is the Spanish diminutive form of plata or platinum. In metallurgy it is an alloy of platinum that enhances the shine of silver plate.

75 Christian Ropp in his article The Amish Mennonites in Illinois, Herald of Truth, April 1, 1895: "Sixty-two years ago, that is say, in 1833, the first congregation took its beginning in Woodford Co., and is now known as the Partridge Cong. In that year elder Christian Engel organized it with seven or eight families. Other ministers and elders afterward were John Nafziger, Andrew Baughman, John Gingerich, Joseph Engel, Peter Beller, Peter Nafziger, Joseph Maurer, Christian Oesch, and Joseph Bachman, the last of whom is still living there."

76 Catherine Roggy Engel tended to Andrew and Anna on their deathbeds, caring for her grandchildren, and died the next month. She is buried in Baughman Cemetery at Panola.
her 'Anna Baughmann,' and says that she died Sept. 4, 1864, age 50. Andrew's headstone is worn with age; his name can be made out as 'Andrew Bachman' beneath a carving of an open book, but the dates have sunk below the soil.

Andrew died intestate, and his estate was administered by his son Joseph Bachman/Baughman.

The children that Anna 'Nancy' Gerber Engel brought to her marriage with Andrew were:

1. Joseph Engel was born in 1843. He may have married Jennie Johnson Dec. 29, 1867. That household is found on the 1870 census of Roanoke as farmer Joseph Engle, 27, France; Jane, 22, Illinois; and Charles, 1, Illinois.

2. John Engel was born Aug. 18, 1845, and died April 14, 1924. On March 6, 1876 he married Mary Anne Thorpe. She was born Nov. 15, 1854, and died June 24, 1942. The 1900 census of El Paso shows them as John Engel, 54, born in France in August 1845 to French parents; Mary A., 46, born in Illinois in November 1853 to English parents; and two children born in Illinois. They are buried in Evergreen Cemetery at El Paso.

3. Anna Engel was born in 1849 (headstone date), and died in 1922; she is buried in Evergreen Cemetery at El Paso. She married George J. Thorpe. He was born July 3, 1846, and died in 1886. She is found on the 1900 census of El Paso as capitalist Anna Thorpe, born in Illinois to German parents in February 1849, and two daughters born in Illinois. They are found on the 1880 census of Panola as farmer George J. Thorpe, 33, born in Illinois to English parents; Annie, 31, born in Illinois to Prussian parents; and Bertha, 9 months, born in Illinois.

4. Peter Engel was born in 1850. We could not follow him after he was named as an heir in 1864.

Joseph Bachman/Bachmann/Baughman was born at Reinhardsmunster, Lower Alsace circa Aug. 16, 1826, and died at Metamora Dec. 31, 1897.

On June 3, 1849 in Woodford County he married 16-year-old Barbara Steider. Woodford County marriage application and registration records erroneously name the groom and bride as Fettie Berkey and Barbara Stiter. Valentine 'Felt' Birkey was actually the minister who performed the ceremony.

Barbara was born circa Sept. 13, 1932, and died of apoplexy at Metamora Oct. 20, 1904, a daughter of Joseph Steider and Catherine Miller. She had arrived in Woodford County in late March or early April. They can be found on the 1850 census of Tazewell County next door to his parents, as Joseph Baughman, 23, France; and Barbary, 18, France.

Their household appears on the 1860 census of Metamora as farmer Joseph Bachman, 33, France; Barbaray, 28, France; Catherine, 10; Elisabeth, 8; and Andrew, 3; all children born in Illinois.

Joseph was ordained as a minister of the Partridge Creek meeting in 1865. He became elder in 1867.

In 1870 they appear at Metamora as farmer Joseph Baughman, 44, France; Barbara, 39, France; Catharine, 19; Eliza, 18; Annie [Andrew], 16; Binna, 7; Joseph, 5; Lanna, 3; and Sarah, six months. Also in 1870 the census of Panola shows two of Anna's children living together there: farmer John Ingle, 23, Illinois; farmer Peter, 21, Illinois; and Anna, 15 or 19, Illinois.

The 1880 census shows them as farmer Joseph Bachman, 54, born in France to French parents; Barbara, 49, born in France to French parents; Joseph, 15; Lena, 12; Sarah, 10; and Peter, 8; all children born in Illinois.

Herald of Truth, March 1898: "On Dec. 31st, 1897, at his home nearly a mile west of Metamora, occurred the death of Bish. Joseph Bachman, after a lingering illness of over a year; aged 71, 1 month, 13 days. He had been preaching the Gospel for over 32 years, and was 30 years a bishop [elder] in the Amish Mennonite Church. His aged companion (whose maiden name was Steider), was joined to him in wedlock on June 3, 1849, and survives him. This union was blessed with seven children, one daughter preceded him to the spirit world. He bore his sufferings with patience. In his death the church loses a wise counsellor, and the family a kind, loving husband and father. But we believe our loss is his gain, for he died in the assurance of a home with his Redeemer. Funeral services were conducted at the house by John Smith and Andrew Schrock at the meeting house. He was laid to rest in the Old Black Partridge graveyard [now Hickory Point Cemetery at Metamora]. Peace to his ashes."

Joseph Bachman is buried as Joseph Bachmann in Hickory Point Cemetery, where his headstone says he died Dec. 31, 1897, and gives the age 71 years, 4 months, 13 days. Barbara's headstone there says she died Oct. 20, 1904, age 72 years, one month, and 7 days.

Children of Joseph Bachman/Bachmann/Baughman and Barbara Steider born at Metamora include:

1. Catherine Bachman was born Jan. 15, 1851, and died at Washington May 29, 1928. On Feb. 11, 1868 she married Johannes/John C. Naefziger (the application calls them 'John Noffsinger' and 'Cate Baughman'). He was born at Washington in 1843, and died there in 1892, a son of Christian Naefziger and Magdalena Schertz. They appear on the 1870 census of Washington as John Noffsinger, 26, Illinois; Catherine, 19, Illinois; and Peter, 1, Illinois. Gospel Herald, June 1928: "Katherine, daughter of Joseph and Barbara Bachman, was born near Metamora, Ill., Jan. 15, 1851; died at her home at Washington, Ill., 1928; aged 77 y. 4 m. 14 d. Death came suddenly, due to a serious attack of heart trouble. At the age of 14 years she accepted Christ as her Savior and joined the Amish Mennonite
Amish Mennonites in Tazewell County, Illinois

5. Joseph J. Bachman was born June 24, 1865, and died at Metamora Aug. 9, 1938. On March 7, 1889 he married are buried in Hickory Point Cemetery at Metamora, where the joint headstone calls her 'Phoebe Bachman.'

2. Elizabeth 'Eliza' Bachman was born in 1852, and died before her father's obituary was created in 1897. She is last found as an 18-year-old on the 1870 census.

4. Jakobina 'Bina' 'Phoebe' Bachman was born July 6, 1863, and died at Peoria July 4, 1940. On March 6, 1887 she was united in marriage with Jacob Gingrich. He was born Sept. 28, 1859, and died June 26, 1932.

3. Andrew Bachman was born July 10, 1854, and died at Roanoke Feb. 27, 1940. On March 4, 1879 he married Mary M. Garber. He was born Sept. 9, 1851, in Tazewell Co., Ill; died Sept. 30, 1908; aged 43 y. 16 d. She united with the A. M. Church in her youth and was a faithful worshiper at church, attending whenever her health would permit. On March 6, 1887, she was united in marriage with Jacob Gingrich, who preceded her in death eight years ago. To this union were born nine children (Mary, Joseph, Edward, and Lloyd at home, Sol of Roanoke, Amelia Scott of Peoria, Arthur and A."

3. Andrew Bachman was born July 10, 1854, and died at Roanoke Feb. 27, 1940. On March 4, 1879 he married Mary M. Gerber (also found as Garber). She was born at Washington May 9, 1851, and died June 12, 1916, a daughter of Joseph Gerber and Anne Suisse. "Gospel Herald, January 1917: "Mary Maria Bachman (nee Garber) was born May 9, 1851, in Tazewell Co., Ill; died June 12, 1916; aged 65 y. 1 m. 3 d. She was united in marriage to Andrew J. Bachman Mar. 4, 1879. To this union were born six sons and three daughters (Joseph H., David E., Anna M., Jacob B., Peter S., Bertha E., Matilda P., William E., Andrew R.) all of whom with the father survive. She leaves to mourn her loss 29 grandchildren, and a host of friends. Funeral services at the Roanoke Church by A. A. Schrock, A. L. Buzzard, and Clayton F. Derstine."

5. Joseph J. Bachman was born June 24, 1865, and died at Metamora Aug. 9, 1938. On March 7, 1889 he married Elizabeth Schlabach. She was born at Elm Grove Sept. 14, 1865, and died at Metamora Sept. 30, 1908, a daughter of Jacob Schlabach and Madeleine Herschberger. "Gospel Herald, October 1908: "Elizabeth Slabauch was born Sept. 14, 1865; died Sept. 30, 1908, at the age of 43 y. 16 d. She united with the A. M. Church in her youth and was a faithful member until death. On March 7, 1889, she was united in marriage with Joe Bachman. This union was blessed with four sons and two daughters. Her health had been failing for some time, the cause of which proved to be tuberculosis. On Sept. 30, she was in bed until three o'clock, but no one thought her end so near. She died that night. She leaves to mourn her sudden departure, her husband, four sons, two daughters, parents, two sisters, two brothers and many friends. Funeral services were held on Oct. 4, by A. L. Buzzard at the house, from Jno. 14:1-27, and Peter Summers spoke from I Thess. 4:13. At the Roanoke Church Peter Zimmerman spoke in German from Rev. 21 and A. L. Buzzard in English from II Cor. 5:1. Interment in the cemetery nearby."

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6. Magdalena 'Lena' Bachman was born June 22, 1868, and died at Metamora Nov. 10, 1921. On March 6, 1888 she married Christian D. Schlabach. He was born at Waterloo, Ontario March 16, 1864, and died at Peoria July 17, 1952, a son of Christian Schlabach and Elizabeth Garber. Gospel Herald, November 1921: "Magdalena Schlabach (nee Bachman) was born June 22, 1868; died Nov. 10, 1921, at her home near Metamora, Ill.; aged 53 y. 4 m. 18 d. Early in life she united with the Mennonite Church and remained a faithful and consistent member until the end. She enjoyed the services, and whenever health permitted her place at church was never vacant. March 6, 1888, she was united in marriage with Christian Schlabach. To this union were born four daughters and one son, namely: Martha, Laura, Anna, Freda, and Raymond. Her long and trying illness was a sad ordeal for all the family, to linger around her bedside, but she bore it patiently, and with Christian fortitude; passed away quietly away, with a bright hope, and full assurance of the life beyond. She was a faithful wife, a devoted mother, who was especially concerned in the spiritual welfare of her children. She will be remembered by her cheerful disposition, and the kindness shown to all she came in contact with. She leaves her husband, three daughters, and one son at home, one married daughter and husband, two grandchildren, three brothers, three sisters, and a host of friends. Funeral services at the house were conducted by Bro. Peter Garber and at the Harmony Church by Bro. A. A. Schrock. Text, Gen. 3:19. Peter Garber."

7. Sarah Bachman was born Feb. 4, 1870, and died at Roanoke Dec. 12, 1964. On Oct. 16, 1888 she married John W. Kennell. He was born at Worth in 1862, and died Feb. 4, 1946, a son of Peter Kennel/Kennell and Anne Madeleine Schertz. Gospel Herald, January 1965: "Kennell, Sarah, daughter of Joseph and Barbara (Steider) Bachman, was born in Metamora Twp., Ill., Feb. 4, 1870; died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. John W. Hostetler, Roanoke, Ill., Dec. 12, 1964; aged 94 y. 10 m. 8 d. On Oct. 16, 1888, she was married to John W. Kennell, who died Feb. 4, 1946. Three sons, 3 brothers, and 4 sisters also preceded her in death. Surviving are one son and 3 daughters (Barbara - Mrs. Chris Zoss, Amana - Mrs. John E. Hostetler), 26 grandchildren, 47 great-grandchildren, and 5 great-great-grandchildren. She was a member of the Amish Mennonite Church. Funeral services were held at the Linn A.M. Church, Dec. 14, with Harold Hostetler, Christy Christner, and Dan Hostetler officiating; interment in Roanoke Mennonite Cemetery."

8. Peter B. Bachman was born Dec. 19, 1871, and died Oct. 23, 1956. On Feb. 12, 1895 he married Elizabeth Ulrich. She was born at Roanoke May 12, 1874, and died at Washington April 19, 1963, a daughter of Peter P. Ulrich and Magdalena King. They can be found on the 1900 census of Metamora as farmer Peter Bachman, 28, born in Illinois in December 1871 to German parents; Lizzie, 27, born in Illinois in May 1873 to German parents; and two children born in Illinois. Gospel Herald, December 1956: "Bachman, Peter B., son of Joseph and Barbara (Steider) Bachman, was born Dec. 19, 1871, near Metamora, Ill.; passed to his eternal Reward Oct. 23, 1956; aged 84 y. 10 m. 4 d. On Feb. 12, 1895, he was united in marriage to Elizabeth Ulrich, who survives. To this union were born six children, all surviving (Elma-Mrs. Albert Sommer, Metamora; Freda-Mrs. Lester Smith, Washington, Ill.; and Corena, at home; Raymond and Milton, Washington, and Elton, Metamora). One sister (Mrs. Sarah Kennell, Roanoke, Ill.), also survives. Two brothers and four sisters preceded him in death. He accepted Christ as his personal Saviour in his youth, uniting with the Metamora Mennonite Church to which he was faithful to the end. His illness began more than eight years ago, but his suffering became especially intense during the last two years. He always bore his suffering well, patiently waiting for the time when God would call him home. Funeral services were held Oct. 25 at the Metamora Church, with Roy Bucher officiating. Interment was made in the Hickory Point Cemetery. "Gospel Herald, May 1963: "Bachman, Elizabeth (Ulrich), was born at Roanoke, Ill., May 12, 1874; died at Washington, Ill., April 19, 1963; aged 88 y. 10 m. 7 d. In 1895, she was married to Peter B. Bachman, who died in 1956. Surviving are five children (Alma-Mrs. Albert Sommer, Frieda-Mrs. Lester Smith, Corena, Milton, and Ray), 19 grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren, one sister, and two brothers. One son preceded her in death. She was a member of the Metamora Church, where funeral services were held April 22, in charge of Roy Bucher and Heinz Janzen; interment in Hickory Point Cemetery."

**John Bachman (Danvers)**

**Jacob/Jacques Bachman** and Catherine Güngerich are only known from mentions on the marriage entries of their children. Jacob was born on the estate Alter Hof at Hassel, near St. Ingbert in the Duchy of Pfalz-Zweibrücken circa 1745-1755. He may have died there in 1798. They lived on the Heidelbingerhof estate, above the Monbijou estate and about two miles southeast of the city of Zweibrücken. Their children include:

1. Barbe Bachmann was born on the Heidelbingerhof estate July 1, 1768, and died at Lorentzen, Lower Alsace Nov. 28, 1836. She married miller André Schertz, who was born at Lorentzen in 1765, and died there March 2, 1804.
3. Christian/Cristophe Bachmann may have been born at Lorentzen, Lower Alsace Dec. 28, 1774 (this date is questionable, and conflicts with Jacob's date), and died Feb. 17, 1809. He worked as a farmhand and laborer at Rhodes at the time of his marriage to Barbe Engel at Gélucourt March 18, 1798. The marriage entry gives his birth date but states that he was 22. She was described as a 20-year-old, born on Krafel farm at Gélucourt May 9, 1777, a daughter of the deceased Michel Engel and Margarett/Marguerite Würgler/Vercler of Krafel farm. Christian Engel,
32, from Jambrot farm at Lagarde (a cousin of the bride, and later elder of the Partridge Creek meeting) and his brother-in-law Christian Nafziger, described as a 30-year-old laborer, ‘gave away’ the bride;77 other witnesses included her uncle Joseph Vercler, 46, described as a laborer at Maizières-lès-Vic (he was married to Marie Abresol, as noted in VERCLER) and brother Joseph Engel, 21, farmhand and cultivator. Their children born on Marimont farm at Bourdonnay include:

a. Cristophe Bachmann was born at Gelucourt Dec. 26, 1798, and died after one hour. One witness on the death entry was uncle Joseph Engel, 23, of Kraftel farm at Gelucourt.

b. Barbe Bachmann was born at Bourdonnay Dec. 21, 1801. On Dec. 15, 1827 at Bourdonnay she married Pierre Gerber, 26, who was living on Marimont farm at Bourdonnay. He was born at Eckbolsheim near Strasbourg in Lower Alsace April 1, 1801, a son of Ulrich Gerber and Catherine Müller. Witnesses included her widowed mother Barbe Engel, 50, described as a cultivator on Marimont farm; and Christian Vercler, 32, a brother-in-law.

c. Catherine Bachmann was born at Bourdonnay March 15, 1803. She married Christian Vercler. They lived on Marimont farm at Bourdonnay.

d. Marie Bachmann was born at Bourdonnay Oct. 12, 1804.

e. Etienne Bachmann was born at Bourdonnay April 5, 1806, died there April 10, 1806.

f. Madeleine Bachman, born at Bourdonnay Nov. 26, 1808. On Dec. 29, 1827 at Bourdonnay she married Joseph Nafziger. He was born on the castle estate Ketzing near Gondrexange Oct. 31, 1796, a son of Christian Nafziger and Jacobine Schertz. One witness was Christian Vercler, 32, cultivator on Marimont at Bourdonnay.

4. Jacob/Jacques Bachmann was born at Saales, Lower Alsace March 4, 1775, and died on Marimont at Bourdonnay July 27, 1836. He married Barbe Vercler at Hélocourt Feb. 2, 1804. The civil entry describes him as a 28-year-old cultivator at Bourdonnay; she was 22, a daughter of Joseph Vercler and Marie Abresol of Hélocourt. The entry listed witnesses: Christian Rup of Aigney [Igney, Meurthe-et-Moselle], 47; ‘Christianne Belzele’ (Christian Belsley) of Hélocourt, 27, described as a brother-in-law of the bride; and Joseph 'Engel' (Engel), 28, also described as a brother-in-law of the bride.

5. Catherine Bachman/Bachmann was born at Lorentzen May 22, 1780. On March 11, 1800 at Diemeringen she married Joseph Engel. He was born at Hélocourt Sept. 23, 1776, and died at Sarrebourg May 25, 1812, a son of Michel Engel and Grateli/Margaret/Marguerite Würgler/Vercler (also found as ‘Margarethe Wirkler’ and ‘Margarette Vürckler’). See ENGEL for background on this couple.

Oldest son Johannes/Jean Bachman worked as a cultivator at Lorentzen. On June 28, 1798 at Puttelange-lès-Farschviller he married 20-year-old Magdalena/Madeleine Nafziger. She was a daughter of Jean Nafziger, a cultivator from Puttelange, and Catherine Schertz.

The couple lived in several locations in Moselle. An 1816 entry from Dalem described Johannes/Jean Bachman as a farmer from Dalem; the 1821 Niedervisse marriage entry of his daughter Madelaine describes him as a resident of Niedervisse. Their children include:

1. Johannes/Jean/John Bachman was born at Puttelange-lès-Farschviller June 3, 1800. His birth entry may have been a joke among friends. In the margin, where it ordinarily would give the name of the child, there is written “Jacob Naffzinger? Bien entendu Jacob Bachman,” or, “Jacob Naffzinger? Of course Jacob Bachman.” Later the entry says that the child was named Jacob Bachman. However, it is obvious that the child was given the first name of the father and both elderly witnesses who accompanied Jean Bachman to the municipal clerk - Jean Naffzinger, 66 (the maternal grandfather), and Jean Zubert, 60.

2. Madeleine (twin) Bachman was born at Dalem Jan. 3, 1813. Following the death of her twin sister, she was apparently called by her name, ‘Marie.’ She died at 11 months on Dec. 5, 1813.

3. Marie (twin) Bachman was born at Dalem Jan. 3, 1813. She died first, at nine months of age, on Oct. 7 or 26, 1813.

4. Pierre Bachman was born at Dalem Jan. 11, 1816.

5. Magdalena/Madaline Bachman was born at Niedervisse April 27, 1821, and died at Liesem, Germany Dec. 21, 1891. She married Johannes Nafziger in 1844.

Johannes/Jean/John Bachman was born at Puttelange-lès-Farschviller June 3, 1800, and died at Danvers, McLean County Oct. 10, 1881.

77 Elder Christian Engel was described not as a relative (he was a cousin to Barbe’s father) but as a good friend of the couple.
78 This location is easily confused with Marimont-lès-Bènestroff [Ger. Morsberg], a crossroads village 1½ miles southeast of Bènestroff.
On March 12, 1831 at Grostenquin he married Anna Stecker/Staker. She was born at Tragny [Ger. Tranach], Moselle June 7, 1803, and died in Woodford County Dec. 24, 1890, a daughter of Joseph Stecker (#1) and Barbe Farny.

They sailed from Le Havre on the packet ship *Erie* with their two oldest children and widower Joseph Stecker (#1), arriving at New York May 25, 1838.79

Jean Bachmann appeared for the first time as 'John Bachman' on the 1840 census of Fairfield. A male checked off in the '70-80' age column for his household was presumably Joseph Stecker (#1).

He also filed a *Declaration of Intent* at the Hamilton Court House in September 1840 as 'John Bachman,' in a group with John Stecker/Staker (the group is listed with John's information).80 His naturalization took place at Hamilton on Oct. 5, 1843; Christian Emeluth and Peter Salzman were witnesses.

While in Ohio the family took on the name Baughman to separate themselves from a nearby family with a reputation as 'hotheads.' John would certainly have been aware that 'John Baughman' was also the name of a Methodist minister who was well known in Butler County (found as one of the first entries on the 1830 census of Hamilton).

The Bachman/Baughmans appear as the next door neighbors of Joseph Staker and Frena Roth on the 1850 census of Madison, Butler County. The census lists John 'Bohman,' 49, a farmer from Germany with personal property worth $2,600; wife Ann, 48; Barbara, 21; John, 18; Joseph, 10; Francis, 8; Malinda, 5; and Joseph Shertz or Shirtz, 34, from Germany.

They moved from Butler County to Danvers in about 1860. There they joined the Hessian Amish worship group called the South Danvers congregation. The 1870 census of Danvers lists farmer John 'Boughman', 70, from France; Anna, 65, from France; and 'Lenia,' 22, born in Ohio. They can also be found on the last page of the 1880 census of Danvers as farmer John 'Bauchman,' 80, and Anna, 75, keeping house. His birthplace is listed as France, while the birthplace of his parents is unknown. Anna and her parents are listed as France.

*Danvers Dispatch*, Oct. 14, 1881: “John Boughman died at his home in this place on Monday last, after an illness of less than a week. He was eighty-one years of age. The funeral services took place at the Baptist church on Wednesday, and were conducted by Rev. Jos. Stuckey, pastor of the church, of which the deceased was a member.”81

Anna's obituary translated from *Christlicher Bundesbote*, a German-language publication of the Central Conference Mennonite Church, Jan. 8, 1891: "Baughman. - On 24 December 1890 in Woodford County, Ill., Anna Baughman, at the age of 85 years and 6 months, of old age. She was a loved and faithful sister. Her husband died nine years ago, and two of her five children preceded her. On the 25th the body was brought to Danvers and on the following day into the meeting house, where many of her relatives and acquaintances paid respects and where words were spoken by Joseph Stuckey and preacher Royer. The funeral took place in Stout's Grove Cemetery."

John and Anna are buried at the Stout's Grove Cemetery in Danvers, near their oldest daughter, her husband, and other Schertz family members. Their stones are worn smooth, but county records give their inscriptions as “John Bachman, died Oct. 10, 1881, 81 years, 4 months, 7 days” and “Anna his wife, died Dec. 24, 1890, age 86 years.”

Their children include:

1. Barbara Bachman was born June 10, 1829, well before her parents' civil marriage. She died Aug. 3, 1908. On Aug. 11, 1850 in Butler County she married Joseph Schertz (June 18, 1827-May 23, 1914), a son of Joseph Schertz and Marie Lehmann. The 1870 census of Mackinaw shows Joseph and Barbara with 10 children. Their daughter Mary Schertz married John W. Stecker, the oldest son of Nicholass Staker and Magdalene Eimer. Barbara and Joseph are buried in Stout's Grove Cemetery at Danvers.

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79 The 4-year-old son can be found on the 1900 census of Manson, Iowa as 67-year-old retired farmer John Baughman. On that year's census he stated that he had been in the country 61 years.

80 Another 'loose end' is Caroline Staker, who is found as a 17-year-old housemaid from Germany on the census of Fairfield, Butler County in August 1850. She worked for Hamilton-Fairfield merchant George P. Bell, 50. It is probable that this was Catherine, born in 1834, a daughter of Christian Stecker/Staker.

81 In death he is easy to confuse with the younger John Bachman of Morton, who was born on May 18, 1844 and died June 20, 1913, according to his gravestone in the Apostolic Christian Cemetery. The younger John Bachman was one of the original deacons of the Egly Mennonite Church of Groveland (now the Evangelical Mennonite Church of Groveland).
2. **John Baughman.** The best evidence suggests that he was born March 2, 1833 on the Rehlingerhof estate near Tawern in the Trier-Saarburg District of what is now the Rheinisch-Pfalz, on March 2, 1833. The birth was entered in civil records at either Trier (nine miles north) or Saarburg (six miles east) on March 4. The Rehlingerhof estate was leased by Oesches with connections to Dalem (where John's grandparents were living) and Oderfang Mill at St. Avold (where John's uncle Christian Farny/Stecker/Staker worked). He died at Manson, Iowa Nov. 6, 1914. On Jan. 4, 1859 he married Catherine Naßziger. She was born in Butler County Jan. 9, 1836, and died at Manson, Iowa Sept. 11, 1914, a daughter of minister Jacob Naßziger of Hochheim (now a district of Worms) and Barbara Krehbiel of Weitersweiler; her uncle (Jacob's brother) was minister 'Apostle Peter' Naßziger. The couple moved to Fanola, Woodford County in 1859 and joined the Gridley Prairie congregation, an Amish Mennonite church at Waldo, Livingston County. They can be found on the 1860 census of Dry Grove, McLean County. In 1878 they became charter members of the Flanagan Mennonite Church, a Stuckey Amish congregation. *Gospel Herald*, October 1914: "Catharine Naßziger was born in Butler Co., Ohio, Jan. 9, 1836; died Sept. 11, 1914; aged 78 y. 8 m. 26 d. She was united in marriage to John Baughman Jan. 14, 1859. To this union were born three girls and nine boys, all but one survive her. Lena died July 7, 1875. The family resided in Central Illinois until 1896, when they moved to Manson, Ia., where they have resided since. Besides the 11 children who survive her, are her aged husband, a twin sister, 33 grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, and many relatives and friends. We mourn not as those who have no hope, for we are assured that she has made her "calling and election sure." Sister Baughman was sick only a short time, but her feeble condition rendered her unable to cope with the disease. Her death was due to stomach trouble. She was conscious until the end and told her loved ones who were with her that she was going to leave them and was ready to go. Sister Baughman was a consistent member of the Mennonite Church since her girlhood and remained faithful until the end... She was borne from her home to the last resting place in Rose Hill Cemetery by six of her sons Sept. 14, 1914. All except two of her children were present at the funeral. Funeral services were conducted by Peter Schantz of Normal, Ill. Peace to her ashes." *Gospel Herald*, November 1914: "John Baughman - Death came as a welcome release to Bro. John Baughman of Manson, Ia., Friday morning, Nov. 6, 1914, at the home of his son, Jacob N. Baughman. The deceased was born in Sandburg, Germany Mar. 2, 1833. He came to America when five years old, locating in Butler Co., Ohio. Later he moved to Woodford Co., Ill. Nineteen years ago he came to Manson, Ia., where he has since resided. He was borne to the grave by six of his sons, from the home of his son, to the Mennonite Church, Sunday, Nov. 8, thence to Rose Hill Cemetery of this place. Bros. D. D. Zehr and Joseph Egli conducted the services. Bro. Baughman was married to Catherine Naßziger in 1853. Sister Baughman preceded him to the spirit world just eight weeks before. Twelve children came to them, one of whom passed to the beyond when a child. One sister, 11 children, 34 grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren are left to mourn, but not as those who have no hope. Bro. Baughman united with the Mennonite Church early in life and remained steadfast until the end.... Bro. Baughman was a good neighbor and no one ever came to him for aid or comfort that did not receive more than was expected. Kindness was personified in our brother. Peace to his ashes."

3. **Joseph Bachman/Baughman was born at Trenton or Middletown, Butler County in March 1840.** According to his headstone as 'Joseph Bachman' at Elk Creek Cemetery in Astoria, Butler County (two miles west of West Middletown), he died July 13, 1865, age 25 years, four months. Joseph served with Company M, 4th Ohio Volunteers from Circleville, Ohio during the Civil War, and returned to Butler County to die from wounds. If Joseph was wounded with the 4th Ohio Volunteer Infantry at the very end of the war, it is likely it was during the Appomattox Campaign March 28-April 9, 1865. Their final engagement in that campaign came with a victory at the Battle of Sayler's Creek at Petersburg, Virginia. They marched to Washington D.C. and participated in the Grand Review May 23. The 4th Volunteers mustered out one day before his death.

4. **Veronica 'Francis' or 'Fannie' Bachman/Baughman was born in Butler County circa 1842, and died at Danvers, McLean County Oct. 13, 1919.** On Nov. 2, 1865 she married Jacob C. Augspurger in Butler County, Ohio; the ceremony was performed by minister Nicholas Augspurger. Jacob was born at Madison, Butler County April 4, 1843, and died at Danvers Oct. 13, 1890, a son of Jacob Augspurger and Catherine Heiser. Jacob C. is buried in Stout's Grove Cemetery, where a small headstone inscribed ‘F.’ may represent a plot once reserved for his wife, or a deceased infant who has not been identified. *Herald of Truth*, 1890: “On the 13th of October, near Danvers, McLean Co., Ill., of brain fever, Jacob C. Augspurger, aged 47 Y., 6 M., 8 D. He was buried on the 15th in the presence of many friends and relatives. Services in Danvers by Pre. Annot in English and Jos. Stuckey in German, from Heb. 9: 27.” Veronica is buried in Park Lawn Cemetery at Danvers, with son John Augspurger and his wife Kate Saltzman, under the erroneous birth date May 4, 1849 (recall that the 1850 census had Francis, 8, and Malinda, 5) and her correct date of death, Oct. 13, 1919.

5. **Magdalena 'Lena' Bachman/Baughman was born in Butler County Jan. 9, 1847.** She married John R. Miller March 5, 1872. They are listed on the 1880 census of Danvers as John R. Miller, 38, farmer from Ohio whose father was from Baden and mother from Prussia; Lena, 33, born in Ohio of French parents; Anna E., 7; John H., 3; and Fanny E., 1. Lena died April 10, 1883, and is buried in the Danvers Cemetery. John R. Miller moved to Fremont, Nebraska after...
3. Katharina Nafziger. Hermann Guth gives only the information that she had an illegitimate child at Rheinfelden (in
1. Christian Nafziger was born in 1727, and died Dec. 8, 1813. He lived at Waltembourg, and served as an elder at
Mennonite elders in 1759. Their children were:

from Niedervisse; and Pierre Schertz, identified as a 34-year-old farmer from Dalem.

Puttelange, Niedervisse, and Dalem. Catherine died seven years after her husband, in their home at Dalem Dec. 23,
1819. Her death entry was witnessed by sons-in-law Johannes/Jean Bachman, identified as a 47-year-old farmer
from Niedervisse; and Pierre Schertz, identified as a 34-year-old farmer from Dalem.

Their children's marriages connect a number of families found in this text:

1. Johannes/Jean Nafziger was born at Rahling (adjacent to Bining) Feb. 6, 1774, and died at Niedervisse Nov. 19, 1824.
On Feb. 24, 1798 at Bistroff he married Anne Blank. She was born at 'Benning' (probably Béning farm a half-mile
below the center of Bertring, adjacent to Hingsange farm) Nov. 1, 1774 and died at Niedervisse on May 21, 1838. The
wedding entry describes her parents as Nicolas Blank, a 52-year-old farmer from La Chapelle Farm at Bistroff, and
Magdaline Hychy. Witnesses included Magdaline's brother Joseph Hychy, a 49-year-old farmer on La Ferme Rouge,
Linstroff [Ger. Linsdorf, now part of Grostquin]; Christian Gingerich, 24, a cultivator at La Capelle (La Chapelle
farm at Linstroff), described as a brother-in-law of the bride (he was married to her sister Magdeleine Blank); and Jean
Schertz, 38, miller in Bischwald Mill at Bistroff.
2. Katharina/Catherine Nafziger was born on the Janauerhof at Bining in 1734, and died at Dalem Dec. 20, 1812.

Johannes/Jean Nafziger married Katharina/Catherine Schertz, who was born circa 1749. They farmed at
Puttelange, Niedervisse, and Dalem. Catherine died seven years after her husband, in their home at Dalem Dec. 23,
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Schertz, 38, miller in Bischwald Mill at Bistroff.
2. Katharina/Catherine Nafziger was born on the Janauerhof at Bining Dec. 4, 1776. She married Joseph Schertz, who
was born on Leyvillerhoff at Ebersville-la-Petite (now Macheren-Petit Ébersviller, four miles east of St. Avold) Dec. 8,
1772. He was a son of Christian Schertz and Madeleine Farni. They were the parents of Barbara Schertz, wife of oohn
Stecker/Staker, and Jean/John Schertz, his business partner. For a list of their children see SCHERTZ, SCHERTZ OF
DALEM.
3. Magdalena/Madeleine Nafziger was born at Lorentzen in 1778. She married Johannes/Jean Bachman. They were the
parents of John Bachman, husband of Anna Stecker/Staker.
4. Christian Nafziger was born at St. Avold March 20, 1779. On March 28, 1804 at Puttelange-lès-Farschviller he
married Katharina/Catherine Schanz (1782-1866), a daughter of Peter Schanz and Magdalena Wagler. They farmed on
the Frönsburgerhof at Lembach, Lower Alsace. During the Napoleonic Wars Christian and Katharina relocated
to live on the Mottenhof near Lebach in the Saar Region. The family fell into poverty, partly owing to the move. They
later lived at Weiskirchen, and on the Reckeringhof next to Grevenmacher, Luxembourg. Christian died on the
Diesburgerhof at EIFEL, Luxembourg April 25, 1849. Catherine emigrated in 1849, and died in America in 1866. The
couple had nine children; one is particularly relevant to other parts of this text:

a. Joseph Nafziger was born on the Mottenhof estate near Lebach in the Saar region (about 30 miles north of
Bistroff) Aug. 11, 1807, and died at German, Fulton County, Ohio Jan. 16, 1889. He was a cousin to John
Bachman, Barbe Schertz, and John Schertz. On June 27, 1834 at Porcellete, Moselle (16 miles above Bistroff)
he married Magdalena/Madeleine Weiss (their marriage entry calls them Naffziger and Weisse). She was born at
Thionville, Moselle Jan. 9, 1812, and died June 12, 1883, a daughter of Christian/Chrétien Weiss and
Madeleine Springer. They accompanied his cousin John Bachman, Anna Stecker/Staker, and Joseph Stecker
(#1) when they sailed from Le Havre on the packet ship Erie, arriving at New York City May 25, 1838. After
arriving in New York, the Nafzigers may have accompanied the Bachmans and Steckers to Ohio. But while the
others headed southwest to Butler County, the Nafzigers headed northwest to the last unsettled part of the state.
Joseph bought land in Section 23 of Fulton County from minister Peter Wyse in 1841. An Amish Mennonite

The paternal side of John Bachman's family tree is not as well known as the maternal side, where he is
descended from Nafzigers. However, new insight into the Bachman side is given in the postscript.
group from Mulhouse, Upper Alsace had pioneered there in 1834. The family spelled its surname 'Nofziger' following arrival in Ohio. Joseph Nofziger, 73, and his wife Magdalena, 67, can be found on the 1880 census of German living next to Jonathan and Jacob Nofziger, two of their six children. *Herald of Truth*, July 1883: “June 12th, in Fulton County, O., after long suffering, Magdelena, wife of Joseph Nafziger, aged 71 years, five months and three days. She was for many years a member of the Amish Mennonite church, and was a loving mother and useful neighbor. She was buried on the 14th, on which occasion words of comfort were spoken to the large congregation from John 14:13.”

5. Barbara/Barbe Nafziger was born at St. Avold March 29, 1781, and died at Dalem Nov. 10 or 11, 1838. On April 30, 1808 at Ernsteinville she married Joseph Engel. He was born on Bening Commune at Harprich (a farm and tile factory, also known as Bening-les-Harprich) April 24, 1761, and died at Niedervisse Feb. 5, 1820, a son of Johannes/Jean Engel and Anne Rouvenacht. See ENGEL for a list of their children.

6. Anne Nafziger was born on Neuhof farm near St. Avold Sept. 15, 1788, and died at Dalem April 26, 1865. On May 18, 1811 she married Pierre Schertz. He was born at Chazelles (now Chazelles-sur-Albe) May 17, 1783 and died at Dalem Feb. 25, 1853. He is described as a farmer at the “château de la Dalem.” He was a son of Christian Schertz and Madeleine Farni, and brother to Joseph Schertz. They had nine children.

7. Marie Nafziger was born in 1790, and died at Creutzwald Feb. 27, 1839. On Sept. 26, 1814 at Dalem she married cultivator Joseph Oesch of Hellering [Ger. Helleringen]. He was born at Sulzthal, Lower Alsace about 1783, the oldest son of Christian Oesch and his first wife Barbe Zehr. Marriage witnesses included Pierre Schertz, 31, of Dalem; Josephe Engel, 56, of Dalem; Christian Oesch, 33, brother of the groom from Hellering; and Joseph Blank, 54, of Porcelette.

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**Bachmann of Arnstadt**

**Roanoke**

The free state of Thuringia [Ger. *Thüringen*] is a region of dense forest located near the center of Germany, bordering the states of Bavaria and Hesse. Arnstadt is the oldest place name in Thuringia. Bachmann and its derivations are found there.

The most famous native of Arnstadt was Johann Sebastian Bach. He lived just outside the village, and became church organist from 1703 to 1707. Many birth, death, and marriage records for this community no longer exist. It was the site of a prisoner of war camp during World War II. Mainly Polish and Russian soldiers were held there. Allied bombing began over the town Feb. 6, 1945, and lasted until the surrender of the camp in April.

Six Bachmanns from Arnstadt, Thuringia came to Central Illinois. We suspect they were a widowed mother **Anna Bachmann/Bachman**; her three sons Andreas/Andrew, Jacob, and Peter; a daughter Magdalena; and Heinrich Bachmann/Henry Bachman, who may have been an uncle to Anna’s four children, a younger brother to their deceased father.

We suspect but cannot prove that they immigrated in three parties.

- The packet ship *Tusquina* sailed from Rotterdam to New York, arriving Sept. 21, 1846. The passenger list shows #148 Andreas Bachmann, 24; and farther down the same page, #156 Magdalena Bachman, 18. *The Past and Present of Woodford County, Illinois* says that Andrew arrived at New Orleans from Germany in 1846. We could not identify a passenger list for that arrival in National Archives images.
- The two youngest sons sailed from Le Havre on the *Superb*, and arrived at New Orleans April 14, 1848. They are found on the passenger list as #146 farmer Peter Bachmann, 17, Hessia; and #147 farmer Jacob Bachmann, 20, Hessia.
- A third party, arriving before November of 1854, may have been comprised of mother Anna and her brother-in-law Heinrich/Henry.

In Illinois they would drop one ‘n’ to become Bachman.

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83 The location 'Neuhof' has caused some confusion for genealogists, who have assumed it is in Germany. The location is partially lined out in the entry, but there are enough letters visible to see that the following location is 'St. Avold,' and there was a Neuhof/Neuhof at St. Avold near the Oderfang Mill. Neuhoff Farm was surrounded by orchards between the Oderfang and Merbette ponds.

84 At Arnstadt it was found that 1,200 malnourished survivors were held in tents with only 200 cots; a number of mass graves were also discovered. Although the town was originally liberated by allied soldiers, it was turned over for Russian occupation, and became part of Communist East Germany.
The mother Anna is found on the 1860 census of Cazenovia as 'Anna Bachman, 64, France' in the household of her son Jacob and daughter-in-law Jakobina Zook.

Children of Anna Bachmann/Bachman and an unidentified husband include:

1. Andreas Bachmann/Andrew Bachman was born at Arnstadt, Thuringia June 2, 1820 (The Past and Present of Woodford County says Hesse-Darmstadt June 4, his death certificate says July 4, his headstone says June 5), and died from hepatitis at Roanoke, Woodford County Jan. 10, 1881.

The Past and Present of Woodford County, Illinois says that Andrew arrived at New Orleans from Germany in 1846. "He came here without any money, and now [1878] owns 480 acres in this township [Section 7], and 58 acres of timber in Partridge, all of which he has earned by his own labor." Another account described him as 'penniless' when he arrived in Woodford County.

On April 20, 1857 in Tazewell County he married Katharina/Catherine Sutter; the ceremony was performed by minister Andrew Ropp. She was born in Bavaria Aug. 23, 1831 (her headstone calls her Catherina Bachman and says 1833), and died at Roanoke Jan. 28, 1888, a daughter of Johannes/John Sutter and Barbara Oesch. The Past and Present of Woodford County, Illinois says she was born in 'Old Berne, Germany.' This may have been the territory of Altbayern or Old Bavaria, which encompasses Upper Bavaria, Lower Bavaria, and the Upper Pfalz.

Andrew and Katharina are found on the 1860 census of Roanoke as farmer Andrew Bauchman, 40, Bavaria; Caroline, 26, Baden; Madeline, 2, Illinois; and John, five months, Illinois. They can be found on the 1880 census of Roanoke as farmer John Bachman, 20, born in Illinois; farmer Andrew, 60, 'Arnstead' [Arnstadt]; Catherine, 44, Byrn [Bayern or Bavaria]; Samuel, 17; Jacob, 11; Barbra, 15; Lena, 22; and Emma, 5; all children born in Illinois. Katharina's death certificate said that she had been insane for a number of years, and died of general disability.

Andrew's death was reported at the Metamora court house by Andrew J. Bachman and Joseph Steider. His son Jacob Bachman was executor of his will. It left one-third of his possessions to his widow, $100 to his oldest daughter Magdalena, and divided the remainder among all six children.

Andrew Bachmann and Katharina Sutter are buried in Roanoke Mennonite Cemetery. Their children include:

a. Magdalena Bachman was born March 2, 1858, and died at Metamora Aug. 16, 1917. She is buried in Roanoke Mennonite Cemetery. Metamora Herald, Aug. 24, 1917: "Funeral services for the late Magdalena Bachman of Roanoke township was held Sunday morning, in charge of Revs. Andrew A. Schrock and Peter Garber. Services were held at the residence of the deceased's brother, Samuel Bachman, at 9 o'clock and final services were held in the Roanoke A.M. Church at 10:30. Burial was in the A.M. cemetery. Miss Bachman passed away early Thursday morning of last week. She suffered a severe attack of illness last spring but later improved somewhat. She made her home on her farm northeast of Roanoke until sickness overtook her, after which she resided with her brother at whose death occurred. Deceased was born in Roanoke township March 2, 1858. Her parents and one sister have preceded her to the heavenly home above. She leaves to mourn one sister and three brothers, Emma A Studer of Roanoke, Jane and Sam of Cazenovia and John of Secor. Eight nieces, fifteen nephews, three aunts, and uncle and many cousins and friends likewise mourn her departure. She united with the Amish Mennonite church in her youth and remained a faithful member to the end."

b. John Bachman was born Dec. 29, 1859, and died at Roanoke Sept. 30, 1944. On Jan. 27, 1883 he married Susanna Bertsche. She was born at Eppenbrunn Dec. 20, 1861, and died at Roanoke Aug. 27, 1922, a daughter of Johannes/John Bertsche and Katherina Naflziger. They are found on the 1900 census of Roanoke as farmer John Bachman, 40, born in Illinois in December 1859; Susan, 38, born in Germany in December 1861; and six children born in Illinois. Gospel Herald, January 1923: "Bachman - Susanna, daughter of John and Katherine Bertsche, was born at Eppenbron, Rheinpfalz, Germany, Dec. 20, 1861; died suddenly and unexpectedly at her late home at Roanoke, Ill., Aug. 27, 1922; aged 60 y. 8 m. 7 d. Death was caused by a cerebral hemorrhage. She had been ailing somewhat for several days, but her condition was not considered serious until Sunday morning, when she peacefully fell asleep. At the age of twelve years she came to America with her parents. Jan. 27, 1883, she was united in marriage to John Bachman and to this union were born seven children. One son (Albert) preceded her to the heavenly home. She leaves her husband, four sons (Andrew, Benjamin, Henry and Alvin) and two daughters (Lydia and Kathryn); also four grandchildren, three brothers, four sisters and many other relatives and friends. She united with the Mennonite Church at the age of fifteen years and remained a faithful member until death. In the home she was a patient, faithful Christian companion, a kind and considerate mother, laboring early and late for the welfare of those whom God had entrusted to her care. Her main enjoyment was reading and meditating on God's Word, and was never found reading anything outside the Bible, her church literature, and good religious books. When her eyesight failed her she had others read the Bible to her, manifesting a remarkable familiarity with the Word as it was read to her. Funeral services Aug. 30, conducted at the home by Bro. Joseph Kennell and at the Linn Township Mennonite Church by Bro. Joseph Reber in German and Bro. Valentine Strubhar in English. Texts, Psa. 90; 1 Thes. 4:13-18; Matt. 24:42-44; Matt. 16:26." John is shown as a widower on the 1930 census of Roanoke.

On Oct. 27, 1941 he remarried to Clara S. Carver. Gospel Herald, October 1944: "Bachman - John, son
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of Andrew and Catherine Sutter Bachman, was born in Roanoke Twp., Woodford Co. Ill., Dec. 29, 1859; passed away Sept. 30, 1944, at his home in Roanoke, Ill.; aged 84 y. 9 m. 1 d. He united with the Amish Mennonite church in his youth and remained a faithful member until death. On Jan. 27, 1883, he was united in marriage to Susan Bertsche, who preceded him in death Aug. 27, 1922. To this union were born seven children, five of whom remain to mourn his departure: Andrew S., Eureka; Kathryn Ellen Wooley and Alvin, Secor; and Benjamin D. and Henry D., Roanoke. All of these were present at his bedside when he was called home. One son (Albert) and one daughter (Lydia) preceded him in death. He also leaves one sister (Emma Studer, Roanoke), one brother (Jacob C., Lowpoint), six grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. He farmed in the vicinity of Roanoke until 1919, when he retired and moved to Roanoke, where he spent the remainder of his life. On Oct. 27, 1941, he was united in marriage to Clara S. Carver, who tenderly and faithfully stood by his side and did all that loving hands could do for him. Funeral service were held Oct. 3, in charge of Joseph Reber, assisted by D. M. Hostetler. John and Susan are buried in Roanoke Mennonite Cemetery.

c. Samuel Bachman was born Aug. 20, 1861, and died at Metamora Jan. 10, 1925. On March 6, 1890 in Tazewell County he married Barbara Good. She was born at Hopedale Feb. 24, 1867, and died at Metamora April 20, 1954, a daughter of John Good and Catherine Stalter. Their household is found next door to brother Jacob on the 1900 census of Metamora: farmer Samuel Bachman, 37, born in Illinois in August 1862; Barbara, 32, born in Illinois in February 1868; and three children born in Illinois. They are buried in Stewart-Harmony Cemetery at Metamora. Gospel Herald, April 1925: "Samuel Bachman was born near Roanoke, Ill., Aug. 1862; died of heart trouble and complications, at his home, Jan. 10, 1925, at the age of 62 y. 4 m. 20 d. He was baptized and received into the Church in his youth and remained a faithful member until death. On March 6, 1890, he was united in marriage with Barbara Good of Hopedale, Ill., to which union were born two sons and two daughters. They established their early home near Cazenovia, Ill., where they have since resided. He is survived by his wife, his children, (Will R., Mrs. Ida M. Stringer, Martha J., and Roy J.) one granddaughter, two brothers, (John, and J. C.), one sister (Mrs. Chris Studer), father, mother, and two sisters having preceded him to the great beyond. Services at the house conducted by Bro. Jon Kennell, and at Harmony Church by Bro. Peter Garber and Bro. Joe Kennell. Interment in Harmony Cemetery. Father's chair is vacant, Father's voice is hushed; Father, thy toils are over, Peacefully sleep 'neath the dust." Gospel Herald, May 1954: "Bachman, Barbara, daughter of Joseph B. and Catherine Good, was born near Hopedale, Ill., Feb. 24, 1867; passed away at the home of her daughter, Martha Bachman, Metamora, Ill., April 20, 1954; aged 87 y. 1 m. 23 d. On March 6, 1890, she was united in marriage to Samuel Bachman, who preceded her in death on Jan. 10, 1925. To this union two sons and two daughters were born (Martha, of Metamora; Ida Stringer, and Roy, both of Lowpoint, Ill.; and William, deceased). Also surviving are eight grandchildren, six great-grandchildren, and four sisters (Phoebe Birkey and Sarah Bellar, both of Eureka, Ill.; Katie Horsch, Fisher, Ill.; and Mary Birkey, Shickley, Nebr.). Her parents, three brothers and two sisters preceded her in death. She accepted Christ as her Saviour in her youth and remained a true Christian until death. Funeral services were held at the Roanoke Mennonite Church in charge of John Hostetler, Ezra Yordy, and Dan Hostetler. Burial was made in the Stuart Harmony Cemetery.

d. Barbara Bachman was born Jan. 25, 1865, and died of peritonitis at Cazenovia Sept. 3, 1886. She is buried in Roanoke Mennonite Cemetery.

e. Jacob C. Bachman was born Nov. 16, 1868, and died of a stroke at Lowpoint, Woodford County June 21, 1946. On March 12, 1892 in Champaign County he married Katherine Studer. She was born in the city of Bern, Canton Bern Nov. 23, 1872, and died at Metamora Sept. 15, 1943, a daughter of Gilgian Studer and Katrina Yongen. They are found on the 1900 census of Metamora as farmer Jacob L. Backman, 31, born in Illinois in November 1868 to German parents; Kate, 26, born in Switzerland in November 1873; and four children born in Illinois.

f. Emma Bachman was born May 22, 1875, and died at Eureka July 14, 1968. On Jan. 18, 1894 in Woodford County she married Christian Studer. He was born in the city of Bern Nov. 11, 1869, and died at Roanoke Feb. 23, 1957, a son of Gilgian Studer and Katrina Yongen. Gospel Herald, April 1957: "Studer, Chris, son of Gilgian and Katrina Studer, was born Nov. 11, 1869, near Berne, Switzerland; passed away at his home near Roanoke, Ill., Feb. 23, 1957; aged 87 y. 3m. 12 d. He had been in failing health for the past few years. Coming to the U. S. at the age of 15, he had lived in Roanoke, Ill., area the greater part of his life. On Jan. 18, 1894, he was married to Emma Bachman. To this union were born seven children, two sons passing on in infancy. Just recently the couple celebrated their 63rd wedding anniversary. He became a member of the Roanoke Mennonite Church in his early manhood, and enjoyed serving there in the capacity of Sunday-school superintendent, teacher, and chorister during earlier years. Surviving are his wife, three sons (Gilgian, Eureka, Ill.; Clarence h., and Lloyd C., Roanoke), two daughters (Esther-Mrs. Clarence Yordy, Morton, Ill.; and Erma-Mrs. Willard Martin, Delavan, Ill.), 12 grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren, one sister (Mrs. Eliza Birkey, Fisher, Ill.), and a host of relatives and friends. Preceding him in death were five brothers and two sisters. Services held at the Roanoke Church on Feb. 25 were in charge of Wesley Jantz, assisted by Ezra Yordy. Interment was made in the
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2. Magdalena Bachmann/Bachman was born at Arnstadt, Thuringia. Her headstone gives the birth year 1826, the 1860 census suggests 1828, and the 1870 census suggests 1829. She died at Peoria Dec. 10, 1888.

On Nov. 5, 1848 in Woodford County she married Henri Detweiler or Henry Detweiler (he signed his name 'Detweiler'). Their names appear on the marriage entry as Henry Detweiler and Madaline Baugman. Dettweiler was born at Dehlingen, Lower Alsace July 19, 1824, and died at Peoria April 2, 1903, a son of Christian/Chrétien Dettweiler and his third wife Katharina/Catherine Schertz.

He was born the son of a debtor, ran a steamboat aground, lived through a steamboat explosion, transported passengers fleeing a cholera epidemic, knew Lincoln, ran arms for Union troops on the Mississippi River into the south during the Civil War, became the premier riverboat pilot and captain on the Mississippi River, owned an ice cream company, and served five years as Peoria city treasurer. For background on this couple see DETTWEILER.

3. Jakob Bachmann/Jacob Bachman was born at Arnstadt, Thuringia Dec. 6, 1827, and died at Minonk, Woodford County March 27, 1895.

On Nov. 14, 1854 in Tazewell County he married Jacobine 'Phoebe' Zook; the ceremony was performed by minister Andrew Ropp. She was born in France Dec. 8, 1824, and died at Cazenovia, Woodford County June 25, 1894, a daughter of Bartholomew Zook and an unidentified first wife.

They are found on the 1860 census of Cazenovia as farmer Jacob Bachman, 51, Germany; and Jacobine, 25, France; Joseph, 4, Illinois; Christian, 3, Illinois; Anna, 2, Illinois; Henry, three months, Illinois; Anna Bauchman, 64, France; farm laborer Daniel Kinsinger, 19, France; and farm laborer John [illegible], 13, France.

The 1873 Atlas of Woodford County shows 'J. Bachman' on 155 acres in the northwest corner of Section 36 (the southeast corner of the county, two miles east of the business area of Cazenovia). The household is found on the 1880 census of Cazenovia as farmer Jacob Bachman, 52, Germany; and Jacobene, 55, France; Christopher, 23, Illinois; Henry, 20, Illinois; Bartholomew, 19, Illinois; Barbara, 16, Illinois; and Peter, 14, Illinois.

Herald of Truth, February 1895: "On the 25th of June 1894, in Cazenovia, Woodford Co., Illinois, after a protracted period of suffering, sister Bina Bachman, aged 69 y., 6 m. She manifested great patience and fortitude in her sickness and waited for her Savior's call. She was a faithful member of the Amish congregation in Woodford County. She leaves five sons and two daughters to mourn, though not without hope, the loss of a dear mother. Buried on the 27th in the Roanoke graveyard. Funeral services by J.P. Schmidt, J. Smith, D. Orendorf, and Christian Rieser."

Herald of Truth, April 1895: "On the 27th of March 1895, in Woodford County, Illinois, of asthma, which he suffered a long time, Br. Jacob Baughman, aged 67 y., 3 m., 21 d. His wife departed this life nine months ago and his will that he might follow her soon was fulfilled. He leaves five sons and two daughters. He was a faithful member of the Amish Mennonite church. Buried on the 29th in the Roanoke graveyard. Funeral services by E. Hartmann in English and J.P. Schmitt in German."

Children of Jakob Bachmann/Jacob Bachman and Jacobine 'Phoebe' Zook born at Cazenovia include:

a. Joseph A. Bachman was born Sept. 19, 1855, and died at Cazenovia Oct. 5, 1932. On Feb. 10, 1880 in Woodford County he married Elizabeth Birkey. She was born April 22, 1855, and died at Morton May 21, 1900, a daughter of Valentine Birkey and Magdalena Naffziger. They are shown on the 1880 census of Cazenovia as Joseph Bachman, 24, born in Illinois; and Elizabeth, 23, born in Illinois. Widower Joseph's household is found on the 1900 census of Cazenovia as farmer Joseph Bachman, 44, born in Illinois in September 1855 to German parents; Lydia, born in Illinois in April 1883 to parents from Illinois; and Aaron, born in Illinois in April 1891 to parents from Illinois. Herald of Truth, October 1900: "On the 21st of May, 1900, near Morton, Tazewell Co., Ill., Elizabeth, wife of Jos. A. Bachman, aged 45 years, 29 days. She was born Apr. 22, 1855. She was married to her surviving husband Feb. 10th, 1880. She leaves besides her husband a son and a daughter, an aged mother, a brother, four sisters and many friends. She took Christ for her Savior in her youth and was always willing to follow in His footsteps. The day before her departure she called her husband to the bed and told him she was going home, where it would be better than here. To her daughter she said, she was going home to live with Jesus. These precious words are indeed a great comfort to all her friends. Services were conducted by Peter D. Schertz and John Birkey, assisted by John Smith and Daniel Orendorf. May we all so live that at the end we can say, I am going home to live with Jesus." On Aug. 10, 1902 in Woodford County Joseph remarried to Magdalena 'Lena' Schertz. She was born at Hopedale March 30, 1866, and died at Eureka Dec. 14, 1950, a daughter of Christian Schertz and Magdalena Nafziger. They are shown on the 1910..."
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b. Christian/Christopher Bachman was born March 7, 1857, and died at Cazenovia Sept. 19, 1934. On Jan. 16, 1881, he was united in marriage to Elizabeth Yordy, near Roanoke, Ill. The following children were born to this union and remain in contemplation of the promised comfort and refuge in community. On Jan. 16, 1881 in Woodford County he married Elizabeth Yordy. She was born at Elm Grove Dec. 6, 1854, and died at Cazenovia Jan. 28, 1928; aged 73 y. 1 m. 22 d. In the year 1881 she was united in marriage to Christian Bachman. To this union were born four children (Phoebe, Joel, Mrs. John Bachman, and Solomon). She is survived by her husband, two sons, two daughters, one brother, one sister, 12 grandchildren. She accepted Christ as her personal Savior in her youth and united with the Mennonite Church of which she was a faithful member until death. The consistent Christian life that she lived at all times and her cheerful, sociable disposition were greatly admired by all who knew her. Recently she expressed herself to members of the family, and others, that she was ready to meet her Redeemer. Thus we have reasons to believe that she died rejoicing in the Lord. 

Gospel Herald, February 1951: "Lena (Schertz) Bachman, daughter of Christian and Lena (Nafzinger) Schertz, was born March 30, 1866, at Hopedale, Ill.; died Dec. 14, 1950, at the Mennonite Home for the Aged at Eureka, Ill., where she lived since Nov. 11, 1932. She accepted Christ in her youth and remained faithful until death. She was married to Joseph Bachman, in 1920, who died in October, 1932. Surviving are one stepson (Aaron, Pomeroy, Iowa), and two sisters (Mrs. Katie Nafzinger, Hopedale, Ill.; Mrs. Dan Birkey, Beemer, Neb.). Funeral services were held at the Metamora Mennonite Church Dec. 18, in charge of H. R. Schertz. Burial was made in the Harmony Cemetery."

b. Christian/Christopher Bachman was born March 7, 1857, and died at Cazenovia Sept. 19, 1934. On Jan. 16, 1881 in Woodford County he married Elizabeth Yordy. She was born at Elm Grove Dec. 6, 1854, and died at Cazenovia Jan. 28, 1928; aged 73 y. 1 m. 22 d. In the year 1881 she was united in marriage to Christian Bachman. To this union were born four children (Phoebe, Joel, Mrs. John Bachman, and Solomon). She is survived by her husband, two sons, two daughters, one brother, one sister, 12 grandchildren. She accepted Christ as her personal Savior in her youth and united with the Mennonite Church of which she was a faithful member until death. The consistent Christian life that she lived at all times and her cheerful, sociable disposition were greatly admired by all who knew her. Recently she expressed herself to members of the family, and others, that she was ready to meet her Redeemer. Thus we have reasons to believe that she died rejoicing in the Lord. 

Gospel Herald, October 1934: "Christian Bachman was born of German parentage on March 7, 1857, near Cazenovia, Woodford Co., Ill.; died Sept. 19, 1934; aged 77 y. 5 m. 17 d. His entire life was spent in this immediate community. On Jan. 16, 1881, he was married to Elizabeth Yordy, near Roanoake, Ill. The following children were born to this union and remain in contemplation of the promised comfort and refuge in Christ: Phoebe, at home; Joel, in Michigan; Mary, Mrs. John Bachman and Sol, living near Cazenovia. Twelve grandchildren and two great-grandchildren survive, also a brother and a sister (Peter Bachman and Barbara - Mrs. Andrew Schrock, of Metamora). His affiliations were with the Mennonite Church, in his youth and to the end of his life. His life was usefully lived for the interests and welfare of the Church, family, and community. Mother preceded him in death seven years ago. This ends the life of a noble parentage. We cherish the memory of pious admonitions and persisting prayers and can feel the influence in our lives." They are buried in Stewart-Harmony Cemetery at Metamora.

c. Anna 'Annie M.' Bachman was born Dec. 3, 1858, and died at Kalona, Iowa Dec. 18, 1933. On Jan. 26, 1882 at Cazenovia she married Jacob C. Yotty. He was born in Woodford County April 27, 1853, and died at Kalona, Iowa Aug. 23, 1920, a son of Christien Jordi or Christian Yotty and Katharina/Catherine Staker. 

Gospel Herald, February 1934: "Annie, daughter of Jacob and Jacobena Bachman, was born in Woodford Co., Ill., Dec. 3, 1858; died at the home of her daughter (Mrs. Jacob J. Speas) in Kalona, Iowa, Dec. 18, 1933; aged 75 y. 15 d. On Jan. 26, 1882, she was united in marriage to Jacob C. Yotty, who preceded her in death Aug. 23, 1920. To this union were born two sons (Christian and Bartholomew) and two daughters (Elizabeth, wife of John H. Speas, and Jacobena, wife of Jacob J. Speas) all of Kalona. She lived with her family in Woodford Co., Ill., until 1914, when they moved to Fayette Co., Iowa; where they lived until 1920, when they moved to Washington Co., Iowa, where she remained until death. She accepted Christ in her youth, uniting with the Mennonite Church, and as long as her health permitted, her seat in church was seldom vacant. On Sunday, April 3, 1930, on her way to church she was stricken, since which time she has been confined to her home. About a year and a half ago it became evident that she was suffering from a cancer, which finally caused her death. She suffered a great deal during her illness, never complaining, fully resigned to the Lord's will. She leaves four children, seven grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, all of Kalona, Iowa; two brothers (Christian and Peter Bachman), one sister (Mrs. Barbara Schrock of Woodford Co., Ill.) and a host of relatives and friends. Her husband, parents and three brothers preceded her in death. Funeral services were held at the East Union Mennonite Church near Kalona, Dec. 19, by Bro. D. J. Fisher (Text, Heb. 9:27), after which the
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remains were taken to her former home in Woodford Co., Ill., where final services were held at the Roanoke Mennonite Church on Dec. 20 by Bro. Ezra Yordy. Burial in the cemetery near by."

d. Henry Bachman was born March 19, 1860, and died at Peoria Feb. 3, 1917. On Dec. 4, 1902 in Woodford County he married Emma Speas. Metamora Herald, Feb. 9, 1917: "End comes to Henry Bachman, Cazenovia Business Man. Strangulated Hernia Developed Friday Morning and Death Followed Saturday Evening After an Operation. Henry Bachman, member of the firm of Bachman Bros., for many years engaged in the grain, lumber and coal business in Cazenovia, passed away at about 6 o'clock last Saturday evening in a Peoria hospital after an operation had been performed for strangulated hernia. His affliction developed to a critical stage only last Friday morning and he was immediately taken to the hospital. The operation was performed the same day. Hundred of friends in this part of the county learned with surprise and sorrow of Mr. Bachman's sudden taking away and on every tongue there were naught but words of eulogy and expression of deep regret over the loss of a friend and a kindly man, who had held a high place in the estimation of the people of the community for so many years. Mr. Bachman was born in Cazenovia township March 19, 1860, and had resided in that township all his life of nearly 57 years. He was a son of Jacob Bachman, one of the earliest settlers in the township, long since deceased. In his youth he joined the Amish and Mennonite church and remained a faithful worker to the end. On Dec. 4, 1902, he was united in marriage with Emma Speas and to this union were born two children. Martha and Sarah, both of whom with their mother survive. Four brothers and two sisters also survive, namely: Joseph A., Chris, Mrs. Anna Yotty, wife of J. C. Yotty, of Iowa; Bart, Mrs. Barbara Schrock, wife of Andrew A. Schrock, and Peter. With his brother, Mr. Bachman bought the grain, lumber and coal business of the late Peter Schertz at Cazenovia many years ago and conducted the combined business until several years ago when the grain, lumber and coal departments were disposed of the firm continuing in the farm implement and automobile business, however, up to the present time. The funeral was held on Tuesday services being held at the residence in Cazenovia at 9 o'clock in the morning, and at the Harmony A. and M. church east of Cazenovia at 11 o'clock. Samuel Garber of Washington and Christian H. Schertz of Eureka were in charge of the services. There was a large gathering of neighbors and friends at the services, attesting the esteem in which the deceased had been held. The interment was in the Harmony cemetery."

f. Barbara Bachman was born June 24, 1863, and died at Metamora Feb. 13, 1935. On Jan. 12, 1888 in Woodford County she married Andrew A. Schrock. He was born Oct. 28, 1863, and died at Metamora April 7, 1949, a son of Andrw Schrock and Catherine Kramer. He served as bishop of the Metamora Mennonite congregation for 43 years. Gospel Herald, March 1935: "Barbara, youngest daughter of Jacob and Catherine Schrock, was born June 24, 1863; died at her home in Metamora, Ill., Feb. 13, 1935; aged 71 y. 7 m. 19 d. In youth she accepted Christ as her Savior and was faithful until death. On Jan. 12, 1888, she was united in marriage to Andrew A. Schrock. To this union were born six sons and two daughters (Emanuel, William, and Andrew Jr. of Low Point, Ill., Elizabeth of Peoria, Daniel of Metamora, David and Kathryn at home). One son (Joel) preceded her in death; also four grandchildren. She also leaves 14 grandchildren, one brother (Peter Bachman of Mecmarota), nephews, nieces, relatives and a host of friends. We dare not say mother is gone, she is just away; her Lord and Master said, Come, and she answered the call. One of the last things she said when she retired for the night previous to her death, was, "If I don't see you any more here, I hope we will all meet in heaven." They are buried in Stewart-Harmony Cemetery at Metamora. Mary's name is carved on a joint standing headstone, but she is buried beneath an embedded stone that gives specific dates of birth and death.

g. Peter Bachman was born Aug. 28, 1865, and died at Cazenovia April 21, 1940. On Dec. 10, 1889 in Woodford County he married Elizabeth Ann Dellenbach. She was born at Worth April 2, 1871, and died at Hanover (later Metamora) March 8, 1836, a daughter of Jacob Dellenbach and Magdalena Schrock. Gospel Herald, April 1836: "Bachman - Elizabeth Annie, daughter of Jacob and Magdalena Dellenbach, was born April 2, 1871; died at her home in Metamora, Ill., March 8, 1836; aged 64 y. 11 m. 6 d. She accepted Christ as her Savior and united with the Mennonite Church in her youth. She was always interested in her church and Sunday school work. Her place was seldom vacant when her health permitted. On December 19, 1889, she was united in marriage to Peter Bachman of near Cazenovia, Ill. To this union were born four sons and three daughters. She was afflicted five years ago with an ailment that confined her to her home most of the time. She was a faithful wife and mother, always willing to help anyone in need, and will be missed in the home, the Church, and the community. She leaves her sorrowing husband, three sons (Jacob H., Arthur H., Rudolph J., all of Low Point, Ill.), three daughters
(Ella M. Nafziger of Hopedale, Ill., Lena E. Fenton of Topeka, Kans., Pearl M. Jackson of Metamora, Ill.), one brother (Jacob Dellenbach of Flanagan, Ill.), 20 grandchildren, and a host of relatives and friends. Her parents, three sisters, four brothers, one son (Elmer L.) and one grandchild (La Veta Jackson) preceded her in death. Funeral services in charge of H. R. Schertz, interment at Harmony Cemetery.” Peter's death entry described him as a farmer. *Gospel Herald*, May 1940: "Peter, son of Jacob and Jacobena Bachman, died April 21, 1940, at the home of his son (Jacob Bachman) where he had been making his home since last November. He was born Aug. 28, 1865, in the same home where he passed away, at the age of 74 y. 8 m. 23 d. He united with the Mennonite Church in his youth and was always interested in church and Sunday school work; his place at services being seldom vacant when his health permitted. Dec. 10, 1889, he was united in marriage to Elizabeth Dellenbach and resided on the farm until nineteen years ago, when they moved to Metamora, Ill. To this union four sons and three daughters were born, of whom the following are left to mourn his departure: Jacob H., Arthur R., Rudolph J., of Low Point; Ella M. Nafziger of Hopedale; Lena E. Fenton of Oklahoma City, Okla.; and Pearl M. Jackson of Metamora. Also 20 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren survive. His wife, his parents, two sisters, four brothers, one son (Elmer), and one grandchild (La Veta Jackson) preceded him in death. Funeral services in charge of Bro. H. R. Schertz. Intermment at the Harmony Cemetery."

4. Peter Bachmann/Bachman was born in Germany Aug. 31, 1830, and died April 18, 1907. He may be the ‘Peter Bauchmann, 20, Pa.’ found on the 1850 census of Tazewell County in the household of Michael Somers, 25, Illinois, and Elizabeth, 19, Germany.

On Aug. 19, 1855 in Bureau County he married Magdalena Albrecht. She was born April 18, 1835, and died June 2, 1907, a daughter of Jacob Albrecht and his first wife Katharina Ackerman. See ALBRECHT in the Appendix for background on her family.

The 1860 census of Senachwine, Putnam County shows farmer Peter Bachman, 29, Baden; Madeleine, 25, Bavaria; Elizabeth, 3, Illinois; May, 1, Illinois; farm laborer John Caifer, 39, Berlin Russia; farm laborer Joseph Friedenprings, 32, Bavaria; and Anna Eutsi, 14, Bavaria. They were listed immediately before the household of Henry Bachman, indicating they were next door neighbors.

The 1880 census of Senachwine has farmer Peter Bachman Sr., 50, born in Baden to parents form Baden and France; Magdaline, 46, born in Bavaria; Mary, 21, Illinois; Peter Jr., 18, Illinois; Joseph, 15, Illinois; and Benjamin, 10, Illinois.

Peter Bachman was naturalized at the Bureau County courthouse Sept. 6, 1889; one witness was Owen G. Lovejoy (the son of deceased congressman Owen Lovejoy, see OWEN LOVEJOY AND ABRAHAM LINCOLN in the Appendix). Peter’s country of birth was given as Germany.

The 1900 census of Senachwine has farmer Joseph Bauchman Jr., 34, born in Illinois in January 1866 to German parents; Meary, 31, born in Illinois in November 1868 to German parents; Arthur AP., 9, born in Illinois in February 1891; Ralp. C., 7, born in Illinois in July 1893; Raymond L., 2, born in Illinois in June 1898; Lena L., 2, born in Illinois in June 1898, father and retired farmer Peter, 69, born in Germany in August 1930, year of immigration unknown; and mother Magdalena, 65, born in Germany in April 1835, year of immigration unknown.

They are buried in Willow Springs Cemetery at Tiskilwa, Bureau County. Their children include:

a. Mary Bachman was born in Putnam County Dec. 26, 1856, and died Jan. 22, 1904. On Jan. 1, 1889 in Bureau County she married Joseph Stauffer. He was born in Alsace Aug. 7, 1855, and died in Senachwine Township, Bureau County July 8, 1903, a son of Joseph Stauffer and Anna Tschantz. They are buried in Willow Springs Cemetery.

b. Elizabeth ‘Lizzie’ Bachman was born in Putnam County Jan. 5, 1857, and died at Thurman, Colorado June 1, 1893. In 1877 she married Joseph Gerard/Schrock. He was born at Ugny-sur-Meuse, Meuse May 17, 1852, and died at Albany, Oregon May 6, 1943, a son of Christophe Gerard/Christian Schrock and Elisabeth Cender. On the 1880 census of Roanoke, Woodford County, she was reported to have been born in Illinois, with both parents from Arnstadt [Arnstadt]. For background on this couple see SCHROCK.

c. Peter E. Bachman was born in Putnam County Jan. 31, 1862, and died in Bureau County Aug. 17, 1831. On Feb. 6, 1887 in Livingston County he married Phebe P. Smith. She was born in Livingston County Aug. 8, 1866, and died at Tiskilwa Jan. 28, 1939, a daughter of Johannes Peter Schmidt/John P. Smith and Catherine Birckelbach/Burgelbaugh/Birkelbaw. They are buried in Willow Springs Cemetery.
d. Joseph Bachman was born in 1866, and died in 1917. He married Mary E. Ringenberg. She was born in 1868, and died in 1955, a daughter of John Ringenberg and Lena Albrecht. They are buried in Willow Springs Cemetery.

e. John Bachman was born in Putnam County Sept. 15, 1868, and died at Princeton, Bureau County May 19, 1956. He married Lena M. Schaefer. She was born at Putnam, Putnam County April 25, 1872, and died Nov. 6, 1965, a daughter of Christian Schaefer and Elizabeth ‘Lizzie’ Hoppler. They are buried in Mount Bloom Cemetery at Tiskilwa.

f. Benjamin J. Bachman was born in Putnam County July 10, 1871, and died at Princeton, Bureau County April 9, 1915. On March 10, 1901 in Bureau County he married Rosa K. Bachman. She was born in Illinois circa 1875, and died in 1958. They are buried in Oakland Cemetery at Princeton, Bureau County.

HEINRICH BACHMANN/HENRY BACHMAN

Heinrich Bachmann/Henry Bachman may have been an uncle to Anna’s four children, a younger brother to their deceased father. He was born circa Sept. 28, 1810 (obituary count); thus he was too old to have been a child of Anna.

Circa 1853 he married Anna Rediger. She was born in the region of Lorraine, France circa 1828, and died in Putnam County Sept. 15, 1885.

They appear on the 1860 census of Senachwine, Putnam County as farmer Henry Bachman, 50, Baden; Anna, 30, France; Henry, 5, Illinois; and David, 1, Illinois; with two farm laborers. They were listed immediately after Peter Bachman, indicating they were living next door.

The 1880 census of Senachwine shows retired farmer Henry Bachman Sr., 70, born in Bavaria to parents from France; Anna, 50, born in Lothringen [Lorraine]; farmer Henry Jr., 25, Illinois; and farmer David, 21, Illinois. 

Herald of Truth, March 1883: “On the 19th of February, in Putnam county, Ill., Henry Bachman, aged 72 years, 4 months and 21 days. Buried on the 21st at the Amish Mennonite meeting-house. Funeral services by Joseph Burkey and Andrew Oesch.” His headstone calls him Heinrich Bachman, and appears to say he was “72 Jahr, 1 Monat, und 20 Tagen alt.” This suggests he was born Dec. 31, 1810. Her headstone says she was “Anna, wife of Heinrich Bachman, died Sept. 15, 1885, age 57 yrs. [illegible] m. 12 d.” This suggests that despite census reports she was born in 1828.

They are buried in Willow Springs Cemetery at Tiskilwa, Bureau County.

Children Heinrich Bachmann/Henry Bachman and Anna Rediger born at Senachwine include:

1. Henry Bachman was born Oct. 5, 1854, and died at Princeton, Bureau County March 26, 1936. In the second half of 1880 (after the census) he married Catherine Rediger. She was born in Bureau County Aug. 17, 1858, and died there Oct. 21, 1881, a daughter of Pierre/Peter Rediger and Madeleine/Magdalena Cender. Her headstone in Willow Springs Cemetery says she was “Catharine, wife of Henry Bachman, died Oct. 21, 1881, aged 23 Y 2 M. 1 D.” On July 29, 1888 in Bureau County he remarried to Catherine Ella Schertz. She was born in Butler County, Ohio July 27, 1861, and died in Bureau County Oct. 14, 1951, a daughter of Peter G. Schertz and Mary A. Augspurger. Their household is found on the 1900 census of Wheatland, Bureau County; on the same page as boarder Benjamin Bachman, 30 (who we assume to be his cousin). Henry and the two Catharines are buried in Willow Springs Cemetery at Tiskilwa.

2. David Bachman was born in Putnam County Feb. 24, 1859, and died in Bureau County Dec. 10, 1946. On March 21, 1882 in Bureau County he married Barbara Zehr/Sears. She was born at Eureka, Woodford County Aug. 1, 1860, and died at Tiskilwa, Bureau County Jan. 29, 1932, a daughter of Christian Zehr and Phoebe Eigsti.

85 The clues that lead to this identification: Mary is found on the 1880 census of Macon, Bureau County: farmer Jacob Ackerman, 40, Bavaria; Mary, 37, Bavaria; niece Mary Ringenberg, 12, Bavaria; and niece Anna, 4, born in Illinois to Bavarian parents. On the same page in the household of Jacob Eigsti, 46, is niece Lettie Ringenberg, 6, born in Illinois to Bavarian parents. Jakob/Jacob Eigsti was married to Veronica ‘Fannie’ Albrecht. Her parents were Christian Albrecht and Catherine Roggy (see ALBRECHT in the Appendix). Christian’s obituary that he had a surviving daughter called Mrs. John Ringenberg. The Illinois Statewide Marriage Index lists the marriage of John Ringenberg and Lena Albrecht in Bureau County Dec. 14, 1872.
Gerber and Garber

The Amish Mennonite Gerber family has been historically associated with Langnau, Canton Bern, where there have been large tanneries since the 16th century. In German a hide tanner is a 'Gerber.' The literal translation of *gerber* from French is the verb, 'to stack,' so the name has also been associated with wood gatherers. A 'Gerber' harvests grain and binds it into shocks. To the earliest Amish Mennonites in Pennsylvania 'Gerber' probably made the most sense, and this adaptation carried over as families moved west. In Tazewell County, the surname 'Gerber' came to be used interchangeably with 'Gerber.'

For example, the Elm Grove Gerbers had their name spelled both ways on censuses: 'Gerber' in 1860, 'Gerber' in 1870, and 'Garber' again in 1880. This has caused some confusion for genealogists who find Gerber grandparents with Garber grandchildren. 'Gerber' is also found as 'Guerber' and occasionally 'Guertb' in French records. 'Garber' is often found as 'Garver' in American records.

The surname 'Graber,' though almost as common, is entirely unrelated. In Switzerland, a *Graber* was a ditch digger.

Gerber of Elm Grove

Our interest in Gerbers originally stemmed from a question posed at the 2003 Staker reunion in Morton. At 93 and 91, sisters Pearl and Ethel Staker were the senior members of the Staker family. How did Josephine Gerber, their mother, fit into the Gerber family of Tazewell County? Finding the solution was not so easy − it connects Gerber families from Elm Grove, Tremont, and Danvers.

Pearl and Ethel's great-great-great-grandparents were Michel Gerber and Christina Blank. Their son, cultivator Johannes/Jean Gerber, was born circa 1741. He married Catherine Gingerich. They lived in the hamlet Kreutzfeld at Saverne, Lower Alsace, then on Roderhof farm at Ins-viller, Moselle. Johannes/Jean died on Roderhof farm Dec. 24, 1799.

Their children include:

1. Anne Elisabeth Gerber (also found as Guerber) was born circa 1762, and died at Destry, Moselle Aug. 4, 1837. She married Pierre Farny, who was born circa 1761, and died at Bening-lès-Harpich, a part of Harprich May 7, 1805 (one witness was brother-in-law Ulrich Sommer). For a list of their children see FARNY, FARNY OF BISTROFF.

2. Anne Marie Gerber was born at Kreutzfeld circa 1768, and died at St. Jean-Kourtzerode, Moselle Jan. 7, 1835. Circa 1802 she married Jacob Bächler/Bechler. He was born circa 1749-52. He had been married to Elisabeth Gerber, and also already had two illegitimate children with Ann Engel. Jacob and Anne Marie's daughter Catherine Bechler came to Woodford County, where she married Christian Schmitt-Smith. See BECHLER/BECKLER for background on their children, and SMITH for background on their daughter in Illinois. We can offer no explanation why this family had a later child also names Anne Marie; perhaps one was simply Anne, and Catholic recordkeepers simply added to it out of habit. Or, the second Anne Marie was adopted into the family.

3. Joseph Gerber was born circa 1767, and died circa 1827. He was a laborer on Les Bachats farm at Rhodes. He married Marie Rouvenacht, who was born Nov. 14, 1767, and died at Rhodes Nov. 13, 1804, two days after the birth of a child. Their children include:
   a. Anne Gerber was born at Guermange July 14, 1791. On Aug. 8, 1810 at Merville, Meurthe-et-Moselle she married Jean Gerber. He was born at Cloquinhoff, Sarcelous Dec. 25, 1791, a son of Jean Gerber and Marguerite Stivi [Stibi]. Their civil marriage entry was witnessed by the two fathers: cultivator Joseph Guelbert, 45, a cultivator at Ville-en-Vermois; and farmer Jean Guelbert, 50.
   b. Joseph Gerber was born April 11, 1796, and died at Laxou, Meurthe-et-Moselle Sept. 2, 1835. On Feb. 14, 1818 at Bouxieres-aux-Chênes, Meurthe-et-Moselle he married Anne Blanck. She was born at Vergaville, Moselle May 18, 1799, a daughter of Nicolas Blanck and Anne Schwartz.
   c. Jean Gerber was born at Rhodes Dec. 28, 1797. On Aug. 21, 1841 at Bains-les-Bains, Vosges he married Augustine Faron. She was born there June 8, 1814, a daughter of Louis Faron and Marguerite Aubert.
   d. Barbe Gerber was born at Rhodes July 8, 1799, and died at Nancy, Meurthe-et-Moselle March 27, 1869. On Sept. 10, 1824 at Bar-le-Duc, Meuse she married Joseph Hodler. He was born at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines, Upper Alsace July 18, 1798, and died at Vandoeuvre-lès-Nancy, Meurthe-et-Moselle June 7, 1858. Their civil marriage entry described the groom as cultivator Joseph Hodler, a resident of Bar-le-Duc, a son of cultivator Jean Hodler of Angomont and the deceased Anne Goldschmidt, who died at Ribeauvillé, Upper Alsace June 19, 1805. The bride was described as cultivator Barbe Guerbre, a resident of Bar-le-Duc, and a daughter of cultivator Joseph Guerbre, a resident of Savonnières [in Indre-et-Loire] who was present and consenting, and the deceased Marie Revenach, who had died at Rhodes Nov. 13, 1804.
Jean Gerber/Guerber was born at Kreutzfeld circa 1768, and died at Hoste-Haut, Moselle July 19, 1822 (his civil death entry was created there the following day). His civil death entry described him as Jean Guerber, 54, born at Keutzhoff, Saverne, Lower Alsace, the husband of Madeleine Guerber. On July 1, 1793 at Insuller he married Madeleine/Magdalena Gerber/Guerber. She was born in 1771, and died at Wilmot, Ontario after 1851, a daughter of Jean Gerber and Barbe Gingerich of Vittersbourg, Moselle. As a widow Madeleine and several of her children sailed from Le Havre on the Greaton, arriving at New York June 4, 1834. She is found listed after her son as John Guerber, 24; and Magdalene, 62. She is last found as Machtalana, 80, in the household of her son John on the 1851 census of Wilmot. Children of Jean Guerber/Guerber and Madeleine/Magdalena Gerber/Guerber include:

- a. Catherine Guerber/Gerber was born Feb. 12 or 13, 1796, and died at New Bremen, Lewis County, New York March 25, 1849. On April 2, 1816 at Farébersviller, Moselle she married Joseph Farni/Farney (the 10-year civil index lists the marriage as Joseph Farny and Anne Guerber). He was born there April 26, 1795, and died at New Bremen April 18, 1873, a son of Jean Farni and Marie Schertz. They are found on the Greaton passenger list as Joseph Farni, 38, France; Catherine, 37; Marie, 16; Joseph, 17; John, 14; Pierre, 12; Magdauleine, 9; and Christian, 7. Circa 1850 in Lewis County Joseph remarried to widower Barbe/Barbara Mosimann. She was born at St. Quirin, Moselle circa 1791, and died at New Bremen Oct. 27, 1868, a daughter of Jean Mosimann and Marie Breechbühl/Prachbull. Her first husband had been Christian Zehr (1784-1847). They are buried in the Old Amish/Zehr Cemetery at Croghan.

- b. Marie Madeleine Gerber was born circa 1771, and died at Vallerange, Moselle Nov. 10, 1818. She married weaver Ulrich Sommer, who was born circa 1759, and died at Harprich Feb. 20, 1820.

- c. Anne Marie Gerber was born at Pfalzweyer circa 1773, and died at Romelfing, Moselle Aug. 6, 1842. She married Jean Bachmann, who was born circa 1766 and died at Romelfing April 17, 1828, a son of Jean Bachmann and Anne Marie Riser.

- d. Valentin Gerber was born at Kreutzfeld April 22, 1774, and died at Dolving, Moselle Oct. 22, 1848. On May 21, 1796 at Sarraltroff, Moselle he married Anne Hirschi. She was born at Haut-Clocher Jan. 9, 1779, and died at Maçoncourt April 4, 1866, a daughter of Jean Hirschi and Anne Rouvenacht. Witnesses included brother-in-law Joseph Engel, 26, and Christian Schertz, 33. They had eight children at Sarraltroff and Dolving.

- e. Madeleine Gerber was born at Kreutzfeld April 4, 1775. On April 6, 1795 at Insuller she married Joseph Engel. He was born at Assenoncourt April 7, 1770, and died at Desty Dec. 28, 1823. At the time of the marriage, Joseph was a farmhand; his father was described as a miller at the mill at Gosselmin, and his mother was deceased. Magdalena was described as a farmer and cultivator on the Roderhof at Insuller. Witnesses included the bride's brother-in-law Ulrich Sommer, 35; the groom's great-uncle Michel Engel, 52; the bride's cousin Pierre Gerber, 42 (the three three all came from Vittersbourg); and the bride's oldest brother Jean Gerber, 25. Joseph and Madeleine lived on the Roderhof at Insuller; Gauchebach Mill at Desty; and Dalem (see ENGEL for a list of their children).

- f. Pierre/ Peter Springer was born at Kreutzfeld Feb. 4, 1780. When Pierre signed his father's death entry at Insuller in 1799, he was a laborer on Roderhof farm there. On Oct. 12, 1802 at Altviller, Moselle he married Barbe Schertz. She was born on Leyvillerhoff near Petit-Ebersviller, Moselle Nov. 7, 1783 (according to her marriage entry), and died at Insuller March 14, 1809, a daughter of Christian Schertz and Madeleine Farni. Marriage announcements were posted at Altviller (the current residence of the bride) and Insuller (the current residence of the groom). Father-of-the-bride Christian Schertz of Altviller witnessed the ceremony. Pierre later labored on the grounds of the Chapelle Sainte Anne d'Albéschaux at Fribourg. Peter and Barbe lived together at Insuller less than eight years. An entry for Barbe's death was created at Insuller May 15, 1809; it was signed by witnesses Peter Gerber, 32 (husband) and 'Xtian' [Christian] Schertz, 65 (father). Peter/Pierre Gerber's children by his first wife Barbe Schertz include:

  - a. Jean Gerber was born at Insuller Jan. 13, 1804. On July 3, 1825 at Hoff he married Barbe Springer. She was born in Mattmuhl (‘grain mill’) at Sarrebourg; her deceased parents were Jörg/Georges Springer and Madeleine Würgler/Vercler. Witnesses included brothers of the bride Christian Springer, 34, and Peter/Pierre Springer, 28 (later of Butler and McLean Counties).
b. Joseph Gerber was born at Insviller May 25, 1806 (his headstone says May 6). A birth entry created at Insviller identified him as 'Josephe Guerber.' It erroneously stated that his father was 'Josephe Guerber,' a 27-year-old farmer on Roderhof at Insviller, but correctly identified his mother as Barbara Schertz. Uncle Joseph Schertz, 62, signed as a witness. Joseph sailed from Le Havre Nov. 10, 1830, and arrived in New York City Feb. 10, 1831. Portrait and Biographical Album of McLean County (1887) says, "...From there he proceeded to Canada to visit a friend, Christian Farney by name, and ten days later started for Stark County, Ohio, where he worked as a wagon maker. There he also met his future wife, Miss Magdalena Sommers, and they were united in marriage on the 11th of January, 1835." Magdalena/Madeleine Sommer was born on Sommerhof near Neuviller, Lower Alsace Aug. 2, 1815, a daughter of Joseph Sommer and Anne Marie Göerig. Joseph and Magdalena settled in Illinois in 1838, purchasing 240 acres at Montgomery Township. They can be found on the 1880 census of Montgomery, Woodford County as farmer Joseph Gerber, 74; and Magdalena, 64. Joseph died 20 years before his wife, on Feb. 2, 1882; she followed Aug. 10, 1902. They are buried in Imhoff Cemetery at Danvers. Their children include:

1) Christian Gerber was born in Stark County, Ohio Dec. 20, 1834, and died Oct. 16, 1911. He is buried in Gerber Cemetery at Elkton, Missouri. On Feb. 13, 1862 he married Rosina Moser/Mosser. She was born at Orrville, Ohio March 19, 1842, and died in Adams County, Indiana June 8, 1919. On Oct. 16, 1916 in French Township, Adams County, Indiana Rosina remarried to Michael Zehr. He was born Oct. 8, 1844, and died in Adams County July 13, 1936. All three are buried in Evangelical Mennonite Cemetery at Berne, Indiana.

2) Jacob Gerber was born in Stark County, Ohio Oct. 20, 1837, and died Jan. 7, 1864. He is buried in Maurer Cemetery at Danvers. On Oct. 27, 1861 in Tazewell County he married Catherine 'Kate' Ropp; the ceremony was performed by minister Andrew Ropp. She was born at Pekin (a part which later became Elm Grove) April 6, 1843, and died at Danvers May 21, 1907, a daughter of Jacob Ropp and Elizabeth Schlegel; she is buried in Pleasant Grove Cemetery. They had one son. Following Jacob Gerber's early death she remarried to her cousin Joseph W. Ropp (1840-1920), a son of Andrew Ropp and Jacobine Vercler, and had five more children. Jacob and Catherine were the parents of:

a) Samuel Gerber was born at Carlock Sept. 8, 1863, and died at Groveland Oct. 28, 1929. He was ordained to the ministry by John Smith May 2, 1897, and ordained a bishop of the Pleasant Grove Amish Mennonite Church by John C. Birky May 21, 111 by John C. Birky. On Dec. 30, 1886 he married Magdalena Sears [Zehr] at Tiskilwa. She was born in Morton Dec. 7, 1866, and died Jan. 10, 1930. They are buried in Pleasant Grove Mennonite Cemetery. "Gerber. - Bishop Samuel Gerber, son of Jacob and Catherine (Roop) Gerber was born near Carlock, Ill., Sept. 8, 1863; and passed away at his home near Groveland, Ill., Oct. 28, 1929; aged 66 y. 1 m. 20 d. On Dec. 30, 1886, he was united in marriage with Magdalena Sears of Tiskilwa, Ill. He leaves to mourn his sudden departure his lifelong companion, two sons, and three daughters (Rosa Gerber, Mrs. Martha Wubben, O. J. Gerber, M. S. Gerber, and Mrs. Ruth King); also 8 grandchildren, 4 brothers (one brother preceding him in death), and a host of relatives and friends. His father and mother preceded him in death. When he was but four months old, his father was accidentally killed. Later he and his mother moved to near Tremont, where he grew to manhood. Death came to him very suddenly - but we believe not unexpectedly, as he would often talk to those about him telling them that his time was short here in this life. And he often expressed a desire to go and meet his God. In his early life he accepted Christ as his Savior, uniting with the Pleasant Grove Mennonite Church near Tremont, where on May 2, 1897, he was ordained to the ministry. Fourteen years later, on May 21, 1911, he was ordained bishop. During his 32 years of service as minister and bishop he officiated at 38 marriages, many funeral services, baptized 362 converts, and ordained two bishops and four ministers. His greatest concern was for the welfare of the Church. 'Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints.’ Funeral services which were largely attended, were held at the Pleasant Grove Mennonite Church near Tremont, in charge of the brethren, Sanford C. Yoder, of Goshen, Ind., and J. D. Hartzler, of Flanagan, Ill. Texts, Ezek. 24:15-19; Rev. 14:13. Interment in adjoining cemetery."
Anna Gerber was born in Montgomery Township Feb. 9, 1840, and died at Bingham, Nebraska Feb. 16, 1924. On Dec. 5, 1861 she married Iddo Yoder. He was born in Mifflin County, Pennsylvania Nov. 2, 1838, and died Dec. 14, 1900, a son of Joseph Yoder and Catherine Lantz. They are buried in Alliance Cemetery at Alliance, Nebraska.

Johannes/John Gerber was born in Montgomery Township Feb. 22, 1843, and died May 9, 1843. He is buried in Maurer Cemetery at Danvers.

Joseph E. Gerber was born in Montgomery Township Sept. 28, 1844, and died at Carlock, McLean County Aug. 14, 1897. On Jan. 14, 1875 he married Magdalena Ehrisman. She was born Feb. 3, 1848, and died April 3 or 13, 1916, a daughter of Daniel Ehrisman and Catherine. They are buried in North Danvers Mennonite Cemetery. Herald of Truth, September 1897: "On the 14th of August 1897, near Carlock, McLean Co., Ill., Joseph E. Gerber, aged nearly 53 years. He was buried on the 15th inst., at the North Danvers Mennonite M.H., where a large number of people had assembled. He leaves a sorrowing companion and two sons to mourn his death, one son and one daughter having died before him. He also leaves an aged mother 82 years old, and seven brothers and sisters. Funeral services were held by Joseph King and Joseph Stuckey."

Peter S. Gerber was born in Montgomery Township Nov. 15, 1846, and died March 18, 1930. On Jan. 19, 1869 in McLean County he married Catherine Habecker. She was born at Groveland June 8, 1851, and died at Carlock, McLean County July 21, 1918, a daughter of John Habecker and Magdalena Roth. They are buried in North Danvers Mennonite Cemetery.

Eli Gerber was born in Montgomery Township May 24, 1849, and died Oct. 2, 1931. On Nov. 20, 1873 in McLean County he married Jakobina/Phoebe Gundy. She was born in 1850, and died Oct. 3 or 8, 1877; she is buried in Lantz Cemetery at Dry Grove. On July 15, 1879 in Sangamon County he remarried to her sister Fannie Gundy Miller, who was born Aug. 6, 1844, and died Aug. 28, 1932. Eli and Fannie are buried at Burwell, Nebraska.

Samuel B. Gerber was born in Montgomery Township July 17, 1851, and died March 16, 1940. On Jan. 20, 1874 he married Catherine C. Naffzinger. She was born Dec. 20, 1855, and died Dec. 31, 1929. He is buried at Upland, Calif.

Elizabeth Gerber was born in Montgomery Township Sept. 2, 1853, and died April 6, 1936. On Dec. 26, 1871 she married John Henry Myers. He was born Aug. 24, 1850, and died Oct. 14, 1918. She is buried in Park Hill Cemetery at Bloomington.

Daniel Gerber was born in Montgomery Township April 26, 1857, and died April 9, 1930. On Feb. 4, 1886 in McLean County he married Carolina Magdalena Myers. She was born Dec. 16, 1865, and died April 20, 1957. He is buried in Park Hill Cemetery at Bloomington.

Magdalena Gerber was born at Insuiller Nov. 22, 1807, and died at Farnsville in 1848. She had a daughter Barbe born at Fribourg Jan. 1, 1830; Joseph Guingrich was likely the father, as he was employed as a laborer on Ste. Croix farm at Fribourg at the time and married Magdalena at Montigny, Meurthe-et-Moselle (22 miles south of Fribourg) Feb. 21, 1830.88 He was born in Vallerade farm at
Albestroff Dec. 14, 1803 and died at Danvers March 6, 1875, a son of Jean Guingrich and Marie Müller. See GINGERICH for a list of their children.

Peter/Pierre Gerber remarried to Barbe Farny at Insviller June 20, 1809. She was born circa 1782, a daughter of Joseph Farny and Anne Schertz of Nolweyer Mill at Bisping. She was an older half-sister to Christian and Peter Farny, 'The Amishmen who hired Lincoln.' His children with Barbe Farny were all born on Albéschaux farm at Fribourg, yet those born before 1819 were entered in civil records at Rhodes.

d. Pierre Gerber was born May 2, 1810. He died within a day. Father Pierre Gerber's age is given as 40 on the entry, rather than 30.

e. Catherine Gerber was born April 16, 1811. Her father's age was given as 38 on this entry.

f. Barbe Gerber was born Jan. 11, 1813, and died at Rhodes Dec. 2, 1814.

g. Barbe Gerber was born Feb. 25, 1815.

h. Pierre Gerber was born May 9, 1817.

i. Felte Gerber was born Dec. 27, 1819. His first name may have been meant to be 'Velte,' a German form of Valentine.

j. Criche [Chrétien/Christian?] Gerber was born May 12, 1821.

k. Farni Gerber was born Aug. 9, 1825. His surname is found on the Fribourg entry as 'Guerbert.'

L0. Vreni/Véronique Gerber was born at Kreutzfeld Feb. 28, 1781. On May 5, 1803 at Linstroff, Moselle she married Joseph Schmitt. She SCHMITT for more on this couple.

11. Marie Gerber was born at Kreutzfeld circa 1782, and died at Danvers Set. 29, 1864 (headstone). On April 16, 1806 at Dolving she married wdower Peter/Pierre Strubhar. He was born at Lafrimbolle circa 1773, and died at Oberstinzel, Moselle Aug. 20, 1835, a son of Christian Stroubhar and Anne Fongond. See STRUBHAR in the Appendix for more on this couple.

12. Christian Gerber was likely born at Insviller circa 1787.

Christian Gerber (also found as Guerber) was likely born at Insviller, Moselle circa 1787. An 1839 ship's passenger list gives his age as 52, yielding that birth year. His 1840 naturalization application would indicate that he was born circa 1780. An even more dubious source, his 1807 marriage entry created at a time of high military conscription, stated that he was born at Insviller in 1765.

On Feb. 6, 1807 at Hoff (adjacent to Sarrebourg, now part of that community) he married Catherine Springer. She was born in Mattmuhl ('grain mill') at Sarrebourg Aug. 14, 1783, a daughter of miller Jörg/Georges Springer and Magdeleine Würgler/Vercler.

The births of some of their children were registered at Hartzviller, six miles southeast of Hoff and Sarrebourg. Some were registered in both places.

Christian and his family sailed from Le Havre on the ship Iowa, arriving at New York City May 23, 1839. The ship's passenger list includes: Christian Gerber, 52, from France; Catharine, 52; Magdalene, 28; Catharine, 26; Anna, 22; Christian, 19; and Pierre, 17. They were accompanied by the family of Joseph Schertz and Marie Lehmann coming from Bihl (now Buhl-Lorraine).

They appear for the first time on the 1840 census of Fairfield, Butler County, Ohio, living next door to brother-in-law Christian Springer (Springer also appears on the 1830 census of Madison as a neighbor of Christian Augspurger). Christian 'Garver' has a household with one male born 1835-39; two males 1820-24; he is marked as 1770-79; a female who is presumably his wife as 1770-79; and a female 1810-1829. The tick marks on the 1840 census do not necessarily mean that all persons in his household were related to him, but the two males 15-20 can be readily identified. They were older son Christian and younger son Peter.

Father Christian Gerber appeared at the Hamilton, Ohio Court of Common Pleas in September 1840 with Peter Litwiller and next door neighbor Christian Springer. Others who appeared in that month include John Stecker/Staker, his brother-on-law John Schertz, and Christian Reeser. His naturalization Declaration of Intent indicated that he desired to begin the two-year waiting period required for citizenship. It stated that his age was 60. It also mentioned two sons, Christian and Peter, 19 and 17.

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89 Hoff was annexed by Sarrebourg in 1953. It is now called Sarrebourg-Hoff. Note the spelling of Catharine Springer's name: a cross between the French Catherine and the German Katharina. Her daughter's name was also spelled this way.

90 The document mentions the two sons Christian and Peter, but gives their ages as 18 and 17.
The father, Christian Gerber, revisited the court again in September 1844. He was naturalized as 'Christian Garber,' in an entry that identifies him as a native of France. Witnesses were John B. Weller and Christian Springer.91

Children of Christian Gerber (also found as Guerber) and Catherine Springer include:

1. Madeleine Gerber was born at Hoff, Moselle May 3, 1809. Jörg Springer was a 58-year-old witness on the civil birth entry.
2. Catharine Gerber was born at Hoff July 16, 1811.
3. Barbe Gerber was born at Hoff Oct. 29, 1813, and died at Hartzviller, Moselle Jan. 8, 1818.
4. Anne/Anna Gerber was born at Hartzviller March 14, 1816 (despite March 15, 1817 on her headstone), and died in Livingston County Feb. 1, 1902. Circa 1843 she married Jean Ringenberg/John Ringenberger. He was born July 17, 1811, and died in Livingston County Oct. 29, 1886, a son of Pierre Ringenberger/Peter Ringenger and Anna/Anne Schrag/Schrock. They became one of the very few couples in this genealogy who divorced. See RINGENBERGER for background.
5. Christian Gerber was born at Hartzviller June 12, 1819, and died April 22, 1907. On Oct. 25, 1844 in Butler County he married Anna/Nancy Roth. She was born May 24, 1826, and died Sept. 14, 1887, a daughter of Nicolaus Roth and Verena Zimmerman, and a younger sister to Frena Roth (the wife of Joseph Stecker/Staker); she is also buried in Railroad Cemetery. Recall the story told in STAKER. Anna was staying with Joseph Stecker/Staker and Frena at Madison. Her granddaughter, Cecilia Ropp, wrote in the Roth-Zimmerman Genealogy: “My grandmama, Anna Roth, after coming to this country with her mother and family, made her home with her sister Fannie [Frena] Staker in Ohio. Her brother-in-law Joseph Staker operated a livery barn. It was the custom at that time for the young men of the community to gather there on Saturday evenings. Joseph Staker noticed that Christian Gerber and his brother [Peter] were quite different from most of the other boys, because they saved their money and had no bad habits. So, he told his sister-in-law that some day he would ask a young man to his home to take dinner and expected her to be very congenial. Then one fair day, as Anna was doing the family washing beside the creek, her little niece [Barbara Staker] came to call her and said, 'Mother wants you to come home as we are having company.' So it did not take very many months till the young man married the young maiden, then 17 years old.” The 1850 census of Union, Butler County shows younger brother Peter and his future bride Barbe/Barbara Bechler both living with them: farmer Christian Garven, 30, France; Nancy [Roth], 23, France; Peter, 26, France; Christian, 3, Ohio; Catharine, nine months, Ohio; Peter, 5, Ohio; laborer Arnold Blash, 26, Germany; and Barbara Backler [Bechler], 19, Germany. The 1880 census of Elm Grove describes 'Chris Garber' as a 60-year-old farmer from France, with both parents born in France; and Anna as a 55-year-old keeping house, born in France, with a father born in France (Niclaus Roth was born in or near Ste. Marie-aux-Mines) and a mother born in Germany (Verena Zimmerman was born in Baden). Cecilia Ropp: “My grandfather [Christian] Gerber told me that they had only $15 to begin housekeeping. But he also proudly told me that they lived to see all of their children have homes of their own.” Children of Christian Gerber and Anna Roth that we found documented in the censuses of 1860, 1870, and 1880 include:92
   a. Peter F. Gerber was born in Butler County Aug. 1, 1845, and died June 16, 1910. On Feb. 4, 1867 in Tazewell County he married Mary Ackerman. She was born in Bavaria June 20, 1846, and died June 16, 1910, a daughter of Johann Ackermann/John Ackerman and his first wife Magdalena/Madeleine Birkey. They farmed in Tremont, and are buried in Mt. Hope Cemetery at Elm Grove.
   b. Christian Gerber was born in Butler County April 21, 1847, and died at Edna Mills in Clinton County, Indiana March 9, 1931; he is buried in the Mennonite Cemetery there. On Feb. 18, 1873 he married Catherine Ehresman. She was born at Ross, Indiana Aug. 4, 1853, and died Jan. 26, 1892, a daughter of Johannes/Johhn Ehresman and Veronica 'Fanny' Ehresman. On July 23, 1893 in Tippecanoe County, Indiana he remarried to Josephine Zimmerman. She died at Edna Mills March 10, 1931. The circumstances of their coincidental deaths are not known. Christian was a minister in the Defenseless Mennonite Church, and likely the Defenseless Mennonite 'Christian Gerber of Illinois' mentioned by Delbert Gratz in The Bernese Anabaptists as a minister in the Rossville-Buck Creek area of Indiana, where services were “altogether in German.”
   c. Catherine Gerber was born in Butler County Nov. 20, 1849, and died May 17, 1926; she is buried at Gibson City, Ford County. On Aug. 23, 1868 in Pekin she married John Ropp. He was born Sept. 3, 1845, and died Dec. 1, 1912, a son of Jacob Ropp and Elizabeth Schlegel. The Illinois Statewide Marriage Index lists them as 'John A. Roop' and Catharine Gerber. They farmed at Gibson City.

91 John B. Weller was born in Hamilton in 1812; he used a stint as prosecuting attorney of Butler County to launch a career in Democratic politics, and was serving as a Congressional representative from the State of Ohio when he acted as a character witness at Christian Gerber's naturalization in 1844. He later became a senator and governor of California, and died in New Orleans in 1875. He can be found in the Biographical Directory of the U.S. Congress. Weller did not serve as character witness for other entries on the same page.
92 Tazewell County did not keep birth records before 1878.
d. Francis/Fanny/Fannie Gerber was born at Elm Grove Aug. 7, 1852, and died Dec. 13, 1924. On Sept. 27, 1883 in Tazewell County she married Moses D. Ropp. He was born in Tazewell County Sept. 1, 1851, and died at Pekin June 23, 1913, a son of Jacob Ropp and Elizabeth Schlegel. They lived at Pekin, and are buried in Railroad Cemetery.

e. Daniel Gerber was born at Elm Grove May 27, 1855. He died March 10, 1856, and is buried at Railroad Cemetery.

f. Phoebe Gerber was born at Elm Grove Feb. 18, 1857. She died before the 1860 census.

g. Joseph Gerber was born at Elm Grove April 20, 1859; he died before the 1870 census.

h. Susan Ann Gerber was born at Elm Grove Nov. 20, 1861; she died Feb. 4, 1940. On Sept. 30, 1883 she married Peter Birky. He was born at Tremont Jan. 29, 1857, and died at Groveland May 27, 1947, a son of Andreas/Andrew Birky and Catherine Litwiller. They are buried in Evangelical Mennonite Cemetery at Groveland.

i. Amos Gerber was born at Elm Grove Aug. 1, 1864, and died in Tazewell County Oct. 4, 1941. On Oct. 17, 1897 he married Mary Birkey. She was born Oct. 10, 1864, and died in Tazewell County Feb. 25, 1953. They are buried in Evangelical Mennonite Cemetery at Groveland. The 1900 census shows Amos as head of household, living with Mary and his 81-year-old father Christian on the family farm at Elm Grove.

j. Caroline Gerber was born at Elm Grove Feb. 24, 1868, and died at Highmore, South Dakota May 20, 1948. On July 31, 1898 at Pekin she married Jacob Goldschmidt/Goldsmith. He was born at Allschwil (on the Swiss side of the border with Hegenheim) June 11, 1873, and died at Harlem, Montana June 6, 1946. He was a son of Joseph Goldschmidt/Goldsmith and Marie Anne Goldschmitt, and came to Morton in 1893 after living in Fulton County, Ohio for 10 years (see ZIMMERMAN for background on his parents). According to the 1900 census, they also lived in a home on the family farm at Elm Grove. However, because of severe allergic reactions, they sold the land and most of their belongings to move to Highmore in 1907. He helped to establish the Missionary Alliance Church of Highmore.

6. Peter/Pierre Gerber was born at Hartzviller July 4, 1821. His headstone in Railroad Cemetery at Elm Grove gives the dates July 14, 1820-March 18, 1892.

Youngest son Peter/Pierre Gerber was born at Hartzviller July 4, 1821 (civil entry) or July 14, 1820 (headstone), and died March 18, 1892.

Peter and his future bride Barbe/Barbara Bechler are both found in the household of older brother Christian Gerber and his wife Anna/Nancy Roth at Union, Butler County in 1850.

On Feb. 1, 1852 he married Barbe/Barbara Bechler at Collinsville, Butler County. The ceremony was performed by Nicholas Augspurger. It is listed in History of the Amish Mennonite s of Butler Count y, Ohio. The entries given there were transcribed as they appeared in the handwritten journal found in the pocket of minister Nicholas Augspurger after his death, and many have spelling errors. It describes the couple as 'Peter Garver and Barbra Heckler.'

Barbe/Barbara was born in Alsace-Lorraine March 28, 1832, and died May 4, 1893. She was a daughter of Christian Bächler/Bechler and Elisabeth/Eliza Zimmerman. Her family arrived from Le Havre at New Orleans on the Marcia Cleaves July 26, 1840. For background on that disastrous journey, see GINGERICH; for background on her father and earlier generations, see BECHLER/BECKLER.

Almost immediately the Gerber brothers, a pregnant Anna, and Barbe/Barbara made preparations to join her father. In the spring of 1852, they traveled by flatboat down the Ohio River and up the Illinois River. They landed at Peoria when it was still called Fort Clark. Anna's daughter Fanny was born there June 7.

The 1864 plat map of Elm Grove shows two blocks of adjoining land adjacent to the Railroad Schoolhouse on Allentown Road. It is labeled as the residence of 'P. Garver.' The Grantor's General Index of Deeds shows transactions where Christian and Peter 'Garver' paid $3,300 on April 9, 1852; on June 27, 1857, they bought the smaller adjoining block for $1,000. In both instances the seller was Peter Menard, a son of a former lieutenant governor, who was mentioned earlier as the next door neighbor of Nicholas Staker in Tremont after 1859. Only one purchase falls under the name of only one brother: next door neighbor John Ropp sold property below the two large blocks to Christian 'Garber' for $3,000 on Feb. 27, 1861.

Despite some unclear entries, it is possible to draw a picture of their families from census reports.93 Many of the children appear to have died in infancy. The 1880 census describes Peter as a 57-year-old farmer born in France, with both parents born in France; and Barbara as a 40-year-old born in France, with both parents born there as well.

93 Although the 1860 and 1870 censuses of Elm Grove gave Anna's first name as 'Nancy,' causing some confusion later, the 1880 census correctly names Anna. In the 1800s 'Nancy' was considered the American equivalent of Anna, just as Veronica, Verena, and Frena became 'Fanny' and Jacobina often became 'Phoebe.'
The *Peoria Herald*, March 19, 1892: “Peter Garber, an old and well-known farmer, who fell on the tumbling shaft of a horse-power and had his neck dislocated, died Thursday night from his injuries. He was an old resident of this county and was in his 71st year.”

The brothers Christian and Peter and their wives are buried in Railroad Cemetery at Elm Grove.

Peter and Barbe/Barbara had 11 children born at Elm Grove:

1. Magdalena ‘Malinda’ Gerber was born Jan. 22, 1853, and died at Archbold, Ohio Feb. 22, 1936. She is found with the family on census lists as late as 1870. In 1880 she married Defenseless Mennonite minister Daniel Rupp. He was born in Ohio March 4, 1846, and died May 11, 1921, a son of Johann/John Rupp and Magdalena Mary Lauber. He had three children with first wife Catherine Short [Schad] (1849-1875), who he married Aug. 14, 1869; then eight more with Magdalena. Delbert Gratz, discussing the Ohio Conference of Mennonites in *Bernese Anaabaptists*, wrote, “...In 1884 one of their ministers, Abraham Steiner – through the influence of Henry Egly, a former minister of the Old Order Amish near Berne, Indiana, who had left that church because he believed in a greater emphasis on individual conversion and organized the Defenseless Mennonite Church – led about half of the Zion Mennonite Church membership to form a new congregation. They held meetings for several weeks with the aide of Henry Egly and Daniel Rupp of Archbold, Ohio...This church was moved to Bluffton in 1939 and is still used by the Defenseless Mennonites, more commonly called Egly Mennonites, now officially called Evangelical Mennonites.” Daniel continued to minister at the Archbold Evangelical Mennonite Church, where the couple is buried in Rupp Cemetery.

2. Christian J. Gerber was born in 1854, and died in 1927. He is found on Elm Grove census lists as late as 1880, when he was described as a 25-year-old working on the farm. He married Mary Guth in Tazewell County Aug. 22, 1886. She was born in 1861, and died in 1931. A Mary Guth with a birth date 1861 can be found on the 1870 census of Silver Creek, Stephenson County, III. They lived in Medford, Kansas, where he is found on the Reno County census in 1910 and 1920. In 1920 he was listed as a 65-year-old farmer from Illinois, with both parents born in France; his wife Mary was 58 years old (born in 1861). They are buried in Sterling Mennonite Cemetery at Nickerson, Kansas.

3. Elizabeth ‘Lizzie’ Gerber was born May 15, 1856, and died at Morton Jan. 17, 1950. On June 28, 1885 at Groveland she married Daniel Ackerman. He was born at Groveland in 1860, and died Nov. 24, 1932, a son of Johann Ackermann/John Ackerman and his first wife Magdalena/Madeleine Birkey. See ACKERMAN for more on this couple including her obituary.

4. Valentine Gerber was born Jan. 3, 1858, and died at Groveland April 25, 1927. He is buried in Lakeside Cemetery at Pekin.

5. Catherine ‘Katie’ Gerber was born circa 1861-62. She married John C. Meyer in Tazewell County May 7, 1894. He was born in 1864, and died in 1938; he is buried in Colicicote Cemetery at Peoria. They lived in Peoria.

6. Mary Gerber was born March 8, 1862, and died at Elm Grove Sept. 8, 1935. The 1900 census shows her living with younger brother Aaron on the family farm at Elm Grove. She is buried in Lakeside Cemetery at Pekin.

7. Veronika Gerber was born circa 1865-66, and died Sept. 24, 1876; she is buried in Railroad Cemetery at Elm Grove.

8. Lydia Gerber was born circa 1867-68. She married William Stolz in Tazewell County Feb. 28, 1889.

9. Anna/Annie Gerber was born in 1870, and died in 1955. According to the *Metamora Herald* obituary of her sister Elizabeth, she was single in 1950. She is buried in Lakeside Cemetery at Pekin.

10. Josephine Gerber was born in December 1873, and died July 19, 1953. She became the mother of Pearl and Ethel Staker.

11. Aaron Gerber was born Oct. 19, 1876, and died at Elm Grove Oct. 26, 1946. The 1900 census shows him living on the farm with sister Mary. He is buried in Lakeside Cemetery at Elm Grove.

On March 23, 1897, Peter and Barbe/Barbara’s daughter Josephine Gerber married Daniel Staker, born Dec. 30, 1873. Daniel was a son of Christian Staker and Magdalena Ropp, and a superintendent of the Defenseless Mennonite Church of Groveland. He died June 4, 1944; his obituary can be found in the June 23, 1944 issue of the *Metamora Herald*.

Their children born at Groveland include:

1. Earl Staker was born at Groveland June 26, 1901, and died there March 4, 1902.

2. Pearl Josephine Staker was born at Groveland Jan. 4, 1910, and died at Morton July 1, 2007. She is buried in the Evangelical Mennonite Cemetery at Groveland. A teacher and nurse, she graduated from Bradley University with a B.S.; received her L.P.N. from Brooklyn, N.Y.; and received her R.N. at Rochester, Minn. She first taught school in a one-room schoolhouse at Crandall, Ill. She also taught in Groveland and Pekin public schools 1934-63. She served as a school nurse in River Grove, worked at St. Francis Hospital, and did private duty nursing at Rochester, Minn.; Peoria; and Miami Beach, Fla.

3. Ethel Marie Staker was born at Groveland Feb. 17, 1914, and died at Morton April 19, 2010. She graduated from Bradley University with a B.S., and from Illinois State University with an M.S. in Education. She taught at Pleasant Hill School 1934-35, then taught first grade 1936-78 in Pekin Public Schools, retiring in 1978. She is a member of the Evangelical Mennonite Church of Groveland and the First Mennonite Church of Morton.
RAILROAD SCHOOLHOUSE ON THE GERBER FARM

The Railroad Schoolhouse was located on the farm of Christian and Peter Gerber at Elm Grove. Christian served on its board after construction in 1856. A home now stands on the site at 15436 Mennonite Church Road, just south of the abandoned railroad grading. Railroad Cemetery is directly behind it. The recollections of Walter Ropp paint a good picture. These paragraphs have been edited for relevance and grammar:

"During the years 1835 and 1836 there was an attempt made to build a railroad from Indianapolis to Peoria. The western end was graded from Pekin to Tremont when the Panic of 1837 stopped the work.

About that time a schoolhouse was built on the east side of the lane, a few rods south of the new grade, and named the Railroad School – even though there was no railroad within 100 miles.

With hard times on hand, it was made of logs with a plank floor and hand-split clapboards on the roof and, we would suppose, a big wide-open fireplace. But not so. For heat they went modern with a large wood burner in the middle of the room.

Most everything was donated. This included the labor (old-time strength and awkwardness). The seats were mere oak planks with the hard side on top and stout peg legs beneath. These, with homemade desks, finished the job.

August Unsicker, who died a few years ago aged 93, said, “My, but that old hut was a refrigerator. I guess the heat all went through the clapboards until some unnamed genius thought there should be a ceiling to hold it down.” Well, he should know. He shared with the older Ropps the sufferings and blessings educational that were to be found inside its old mud-chinked walls. 94

Pioneer days included babies abundant and soon the old cabin wouldn’t hold all the pupils, so they built a new frame house in 1856. This was very modern with two entry rooms, three large windows on each side, and a full-length blackboard in the main room; and the main room twice as large as others of that time. The seats and desks were made in Massachusetts, and were better than any then in use in Pekin. That brought out their school board to look them over when the first term began.

John Young, Christian Garber [Gerber, older brother of Peter], and Peter Ropp were the building directors of all this modern stuff – and grandpa and Garber were both Amishmen.

Most of the Ropp children went to this school. Aunt Lydia [Lydia Garber, wife of Moses Ropp] said that there were winter days between 1860-64 when at the least 16 little brown, dark or tow-headed Ropps of various sizes, shapes, and degrees were hanging around. Luckily, the teachers could make them all sit up and take notice by calling out a very few names...

Others there besides the Ropps were the Garbers (three families) [one Garber, two Gerber], Youngs and Nieukirches each two, Unsicker, Schrock, Egger, Dunkel, Hieser, Litwiller, Birky, Yordy, King, Ringenbergs, Sommer, Gregg, Ripper, Hodgson, Hobie, Wagler, Hochstettler, and Zimmerman and others that I know nothing of.

The farms were small, the families large, and the new house was soon filled to capacity and beyond. In 1863, 92 were enrolled; John Garber said, “96 – I was there – the teachers always kept the windows closed for fear someone would spill out.”

It was no one teacher’s school. An intimation that he couldn’t handle that many would have been a shock to the patrons. Most any kind of teaching seemed to do, just so the pupils were there all day.

In the jam of so many classes, the little folks were neglected the most, often being there all day without reciting. John Garber said that when he was in his second grade he came home all pleased one evening, and said to his mother, “Mamma, the teacher had me read my lesson twice today.” When some of the parents brought complaints, older pupils were asked to help, till as many as three or four classes were out.

Many of the children didn’t begin until they were eight or nine, going to private German school first. With this their home and church language, they could understand their early school work better, and then with some self-acquired knowledge of English they soon caught up.

Big boys and girls came in after husking and began to drop out in March, with dropouts of a day or two anytime for butcherings, wood saving, a public sale, shooting matches, or some company came. This with beginners from 6-9 coming in at any time made the school a thoroughly ungraded gathering. Bright and eager to learn, or indifferent and listless, they just went to school.

As a rule the school was orderly, they tell us. With so many it just had to be. Their teachers were all men. A one-armed man, Mr. Thornton Montgomery, was often mentioned as one of their good teachers. Their games were much like those now being played. With so many boys the ball and bat were much in use, both of them homemade. Andy Over, and town ball instead of baseball.

When you consider that at old Railroad so many had to begin in a new language brought over from England, the expression of a culture in many ways so different from their home life, their scholastic attainments will compare very favorably with most of the others of that day. They learned to read and write, to spell, enough arithmetic for the home and farm, and geography so that they could always find their way back to Pekin when traveling.

94 August Unzicker was born at Morton Sept. 25, 1849, and died at Roanoke Sept. 27, 1939. He was a son of Peter Unzicker and Katherina Kennel, and a grandson of Superior passengers Johannes Kennel and Magdalena Naffziger.
The old district was entirely too large, so a division came in 1872. The south half was built new in a fine grove of sugar trees on the John Young farm. It furnished its own name, Sugar Grove School. Uncle Moses Ropp was one of the directors and his younger children attended. This division kept the schoolhouse in the north district, but way off at one side. It was in good condition, so they made use of it for five years or more and then built new, half a mile northeast of Christian Gerber's pasture, where hills, trees, and schoolhouse met in a happy triangle and a new name was born, Elm Hill School. Jacob S. Ropp, Chris Wagler, and Ben Ropp were the directors, and they succeeded in building a good, modern white pine building for $600. Chris Schvitza and Adam King painted it two coats inside and out for $15.

In 1870 a railway was laid on the old grading, and the Railroad School finally had a right to its name... In 1883 it was damaged and partly unroofed by a storm, and what-to-do came before the community. A meeting was held, and a committee raised funds and restored it, largely for a meeting place for funerals. Now it belonged to Tom, Dick, and Harry, so an “everybody's Sunday School” was held there. This died and revived several times until 1896, when the group that became Bethel Church (now Bethel Mennonite Church) took charge. In 1911 they put up their own house of worship on the corner half a mile south and Railroad Schoolhouse went to its doom, only a memory now.

On a knoll back of the schoolyard is a small cemetery [Railroad Cemetery]. Some of the family that died before 1880 are buried there. The school house was finally destroyed by a fire in 1926.

The Gerbers
Metamora and Washington

We were surprised to find a marriage connection between the Gerbers noted above and the Gerbers who endured hardships to arrive at Hanover (which later became Metamora) and Washington in 1840. Like the Gerbers above, these are also found – as often as not – as 'Garber.' And like that family, a Bechler figures in their genealogy.

In February 1684 Christen Gerber of Eyschachen at Langnau (now Langnau im Emmental) and his wife Barbara Farni traveled to Ste. Marie-aux-Mines in Alsace (Ger. Markirch im Elsas). They were accompanied by Barbara's sister Anna at the urging of their mother. They returned, and later that year Barbara delivered a baby boy. Barbara and Anna took the child to be baptized at Steffisburg's Protestant Reformed Church in accordance with legal requirements.

Peter Gerber was baptized at Steffisburg Nov. 7, 1684. A lengthy note in the Täufrodel (baptism register) labels parents Christian and Barbara as Anabaptists, and notes that sister Anna seemed to have been influenced by the Anabaptists she met on her journey.

Peter's son Johannes/Jean Gerber was born circa 1705-10. He may have been the first Gerber to settle in Gensbour, arriving there around 1750. Gensbourg is a hamlet near the larger town of Oberhaslach in Lower Alsace, between Strasbourg and the border of Lorraine. He may have been the 'Hans Gerber' who accompanied elder Jacob Kupferschmidt to the assembly of ministers at Essingen in 1779. Jean lived long enough to see his descendants prosper, dying at Gensbourg on April 19, 1795. He is described as 'Johnys' [Johannes] Gerber on his death entry recorded at Oberhaslach, signed by grandson Nicholas.

His son Pierre Gerber was born in 1731, and died after July 1809. He established a sawmill on the Hasel River at Gensbourg in November 1790. He married Anna Gänggerich of Salm. Pierre may have been the 'Peter Gerber' mentioned on the Dutch Naamlyst in 1789 as a minister in the principality of Salm.

Their children include:

1. Joseph Gerber was born circa 1766, and died in 1848. As a cultivator at Gensbourg he married Magdalena Fritz. She was born in 1770, and died at Gresswiller April 11, 1823. They had four children. Their son Christian Gerber, born at Rosheim, Lower Alsace in about 1796, became a cultivator on Vallerae farm at Albestroff and married Catherine Salzman, sister of Michael Salzman.
2. Christian Gerber was born in 1766, and died at La Broque, Salm Dec. 3, 1854. He became a minister at La Broque. He was well known as one of the elders who appealed to the French government for Anabaptist exemption from military conscription in 1811 and 1829 (one co-signer was Christian Engel, later elder of the Partridge Creek Meeting). He married Anne Kupferschmidt (1766-1842) of Salm, a daughter of elder Jacob Kupferschmidt and Suzanne Eymann/Eiman.
3. Catherine Gerber (also found as Carbre) was born circa 1768, and died at Gondevange, Moselle Oct. 6, 1846. Circa 1783 she married Christian Lemann. He was born in 1759, and died at Hattigny, Moselle Aug. 1, 1810, a son of Rudi/Rudolf Lehmann and Barbe Joder.
4. Nicholas Gerber was born at Gensbourg in 1772, and died in July 1840.
5. Michel Gerber was born circa 1774. On May 2, 1793 at Oberhaslach, Lower Alsace he married Elizabeth Gingerich. Their civil marriage entry described the groom as a 19-year-old son of Peter Gerber and Anne Gingerich, and the bride as an 18-year-old daughter of Peter Gingerich and Barbara Gingerich; it was witnessed by Ulrich von Günden.
6. Ulrich Gerber was born in 1776, and died Dec. 20, 1803. He married Katharina/Catherine Müller. She died May 20, 1814. They lived at Eckbolsheim, a village below Strasbourg. Their son Jean Gerber was born at Eckbolsheim Nov.
17, 1802. On March 23, 1825 at Rhodes he married Marie 'Ausbourg.' She was born at Rhodes May 6, 1806, a daughter of Jean Ausbourg and Catherine Palz [Belzley]. Witnesses included Joseph 'Guingerich' [Joseph Guingrich], 21, who was living at Ste. Croix farm at Fribourg near Rhodes; and Christophe Rocher, 61, maternal uncle of the bride. Another son of Ulrich and Katharina/Catherine, Pierre Gerber, married John Bachman's aunt Barbe Bachmann.

Middle son Nicholas Gerber, also called 'Nikki,' was born at Gensbourg circa 1769-70. He became a farmer, dairyman, and laborer. His wife Magdalena Bächler/Madeleine Bechler was born circa 1779, a daughter of Christian Bächler/Bechler and Madeleine Oesch/Esch of Bourscheid, Moselle.95 Nicholas and Magdalena departed Le Havre on the Marcia Cleave on May 8, 1840, arriving in New Orleans on July 26, 1840. The second leg of the journey proved more perilous than the ocean crossing. When their steamboat took on water, the passengers rested for two weeks near Baton Rouge. There the elderly Nicholas and Magdalena contracted yellow fever. They were detained at Memphis. They died five days apart in July 1840, and were buried at Memphis. The story of this voyage and the subsequent disaster was told in GINGERICH. Children of Nicholas Gerber and Magdalena Bächler/Madeleine Bechler include:

1. Farmer and cultivator Peter/Pierre Gerber was born at Gensbourg Dec. 8, 1793, and died at Metamora Nov. 2, 1857.
2. Magdalena/Madelaine Gerber was born March 30, 1796. In 1813 she married Peter/Pierre Gingerich of Kutzenhausen. He was born 1793-94, a son of Christian Güngerich and Katharina Wagler. Their children were all born at Kutzenhausen. All remained in Europe except Peter, who ministered at Metamora and Washington:
   a. Catherine Gingerich was born March 8, 1815. On Jan. 22, 1831 at Kutzenhausen, Lower Alsace she married Daniel Stalter. He was born on the Bickenaschbacherhof estate Dec. 5, 1805, a son of Christian Stalter and Magdalena Hauter. Their civil marriage entry described two of the witnesses as 45-year-old laborer Joseph Stalter, living at Mont Bischof, brother of the groom; and 43-year-old laborer Jacques Stalter, living at Heidelbing, brother of the groom. Daniel and Catherine farmed on the Karlsburgerhof estate on July 26, 1840. The second leg of the journey proved more perilous than the ocean crossing. When their steamboat took on water, the passengers rested for two weeks near Baton Rouge. There the elderly Nicholas and Magdalena contracted yellow fever. They were detained at Memphis. They died five days apart in July 1840, and were buried at Memphis. The story of this voyage and the subsequent disaster was told in GINGERICH. Children of Nicholas Gerber and Magdalena Bächler/Madeleine Bechler include:

   3. Elisabeth Gerber was born July 30, 1807, and died at Metamora Oct. 7, 1856, a son of Christian Nafziger and Catherine Maurer. They sailed from Le Havre on the Marengo, arriving at New Orleans Nov. 25, 1837. They lived at Washington, had nine children, and are buried in Union Cemetery. As an elder Jean/John performed dozens of marriages in Woodford County. Herald of Truth, March 1885: "On the
26th of February, in Tazewell Co., Illinois, of the infirmities of old age, Anna Gräber Naffziger, aged 77 years, 6 months and 27 days. She was born on the 30th of July, 1807, in Gensbourg, Alsace, France. She was married to John Naffziger on the 20th of March, 1832, in Burscheid, in Lotheringen (Lorraine). Her husband died twenty-eight years ago. She was a member of the Amish Church. Services by E. M. Hartman, Esch, and Peter Stuckey. For a list of their children see NAFFZIGER, THE NAFZIGERS OF WASHINGTON.

6. Barbara Gerber was born December 1809. Perhaps she also died as an infant; no one is known about her than the birth entry made at Oberhaslach.

7. Christian Gerber was born Feb. 2 or April 18, 1814, and died at Washington July 21, 1877. On March 24, 1842 he married Catherine Nafziger. She was born at Burscheid June 2, 1818, and died Oct. 3, 1876, a daughter of Christian Nafziger and Catherine Maurer. Christian and Catherine are buried in Union Cemetery, Washington. They may have had several more children than we can account for:
   a. Anna Gerber was born in 1844, and died 1845; she is buried in Union Cemetery.
   b. Katharina/Catherine Gerber was born Aug. 5, 1851, and died April 11, 1900. On Jan. 2, 1879 she married Michael Kinsinger. He was born Sept. 29, 1849, and died April 10, 1912. They are buried in Union Cemetery.
   c. Lydia Gerber was born in 1857. She died the same year and was buried in Union Cemetery.
   d. Nicholaus Gerber was born in 1858. He died the same year and was buried in Union Cemetery.

8. Jean Gerber was born May 13, 1817, and died within the year.

Farmer and cultivator Peter/Pierre Gerber was born at Gensbourg Dec. 8, 1793, and died at Metamora Nov. 2, 1857.

On May 19, 1813 at Kutenhausen he married Magdalena Gingerich. She was born June 6, 1795, and died Nov. 2, 1848, a daughter of Christian Güngerich and Katharina Wagler. She is buried in Hickory Point Cemetery at Metamora. Peter/Pierre remarried Jan. 1, 1850 to Elizabeth Jordy; they had no children together.

They are found on the 1850 census of District 56 (Woodford County) as farmer Peter Garber, 57, France; Elizabeth, 47, Germany; and Jacobina, 23, Germany. Peter and Magdalena are buried in Hickory Point Cemetery at Metamora. Although some birthdates given below may vary from those found elsewhere, we verified each one from microfilms of the originals.

Children of Peter/Pierre Gerber and his first wife Magdalena Gingerich born at Gensbourg include:

1. Christian Gerber was born Nov. 2, 1814, and died at Metamora Dec. 9, 1893.
2. Joseph Gerber was born Nov. 7, 1816, and died at Washington Jan. 16, 1903. On Feb. 15, 1848 in Woodford County he married Anne Suisse. She was born at Imling, Moselle March 2, 1826, and died Nov. 9, 1905, a daughter of Christian/Christophe Suisse and Marie Guerber. She was a niece to Johannes/Jean Suisse (1807-1885), known at Morton as John Schweitzer or Switzer. They are buried in Union Cemetery, Washington, as 'Garber' and 'Switzer.' Herald of Truth, Feb. 5, 1903: 'Joseph Garber was born Nov. 7, 1816, in Alsace, France, died near Washington, Ill., Jan. 16, 1903, of old age, aged 87 Y., 2 M., 9 D. He leaves a wife, six sons, two daughters, 41 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren to mourn his departure, but not as those who have no hope. One son preceded him to the spirit world. He was a member of the Amish Mennonite church and was faithful to the end. Funeral services were held at the Union M.H. by Peter Summer and Andrew Schrock in German and John Smith in English. Text, Matt. 1:21.'
   One of their children, Peter Garber (1849-1939), served as minister of the Partridge Mennonite Church.
3. Peter/Christophe Garber was born Oct. 11, 1820, and died in 1880. On Dec. 24, 1850 in Woodford County he married Barbara Suisse. She was born at Imling, Moselle Dec. 31, 1829, and died April 11, 1917, a daughter of Christian/Christophe Suisse and Marie Guerber. She was a niece to Johannes/Jean Suisse (1807-1885), known at Morton as John Schweitzer or Switzer. See SCHWEIZER for her obituary. They are also buried in Union Cemetery, Washington as 'Garber' and 'Switzer.'
5. Magdalena/Madlène Gerber was born March 24, 1825, and died in 1901. On June 8, 1846 in Woodford County she married farmer Peter Schertz. The ceremony was performed by elder Jean/John Nafziger. Peter was born Feb. 8, 1825, and died Oct. 15, 1886, a son of Christian Schertz and Katharina/Catherine Engel. They can be found on the 1880 census of Limestone, a neighborhood of Peoria.
6. Anne Gerber (also known as Anna Garber) was born July 10, 1827, and died at Worth May 17, 1898. On Aug. 20, 1846 she married Christian Esch (also known as Christian E. Esch). He was born on the Dorst farm at Walschbronn, Moselle Aug. 26, 1819, and died at Worth May 25, 1888, a son of Christian Oesch and Magdalena Nafziger. See ESCH/OESCH for background on this couple.
7. Katharina/Catherine Gerber was born May 15, 1830, and died in 1866. She married Willis Tripplet, who died after an accident Aug. 3, 1861. They lived in Peoria, where their only child Emily H. Schertz was born April 5, 1854. After the death of her mother she was adopted by Annie Esch, with whom she lived until her marriage to Joseph D. Schertz March 2, 1873. She died at Eureka Dec. 18, 1935.
8. Elizabeth Gerber was born July 31, 1832, and died Dec. 26, 1848.

Christian Gerber was born Nov. 2, 1814, and died at Metamora Dec. 9, 1893.

On Jan. 25, 1840 at La Broque he married Magdalena Dellenbach [Dällenbach]. She was born at Donon, Grandfontaine, Lower Alsace Oct. 7, 1814 (her headstone and obituary say Sept. 17), and died at Metamora Jan. 19, 1899, a daughter of Jacob/Jacques Dellenbach and Marie Neuhauser.

Their civil marriage entry describes the groom as Chrétien Gerber, 25, a servant at Guevelles at Oberhaslach. His parents were described as Pierre Gerber, 46, and Magdelaine Gingrick, 45, cultivators at Niderhaslach. The bride was described as Magdelaine Tellepach, 25, born at Grandfontaine Oct. 6, 1814 and living at Salm. Her parents were Jacob Tellepach, who had died Nov. 26, 1835, and Marie Nauhauser, 57, who was living at Salm. Witnesses included Jean Kingrich, 39, and Nicolas Augsberger, 38, both of Salm. The signatures included Madalen Tellenbach, Peter Gerber, Christiane Guerber, Johannes Gingrich, Magdalena Gingrich, and Nikolaus Augspurger.

They sailed from Le Havre on the packet ship Sully, and arrived at New York May 13, 1842. The passenger list shows Christian Gerber, 27, 2 trunks, 1 bed; Magdalena [Dellenbach], 27; Marie Neuhauser [mother of the Dellenbachs], 66, 1 trunk, 1 bed; Joseph [Dellenbach], 22, 2 trunks, 1 bed; and Jacob [Dellenbach], 20, 1 trunk, 1 bed.

Although Christian clearly wrote his signature 'Christian Gerber,' he is often found in Illinois as a Garber. The 1870 census of Worth has farmer Christian Garber, 52, France; Madelin, 56, France; Mary, 21, Illinois; and Elizabeth, 18, Illinois.

Christian died at Metamora Dec. 9, 1893. Herald of Truth, Jan. 1, 1894: "On the 9th day of December, 1893, in Woodford County, Ill., Christian Garber, aged 79 years, 11 months, and eight days. He was born in France in 1814, was married in 1840, and came to America in 1842. God blessed him with eight children, of whom four died in childhood. His widow, four children, 32 grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren mourn his death. He was a true member of the Amish church. His remains were laid to rest in the Metamora graveyard. Funeral services were held in the Metamora meeting house by John Smith, John Lugibill, and Peter Sommer." He is buried in Hickory Point Cemetery at Metamora.

Madeleine/Magdalena died at Metamora Jan. 19, 1899. Herald of Truth, March 1899: "Magdalena Garber, nee Dellenbach, fell asleep in the Lord at the home of her son-in-law, Peter Steider, near Metamora, Ill., where she had been making her home for some time, on Jan. 19, 1899, at the ripe old age of 84 years, 4 months, and 2 days. Her husband Christian Garber preceded her to eternity about five years ago. Eight children were born to them, of whom four survive the mother to mourn her departure, but they mourn not as those who have no hope. She was laid to rest Jan. 21st from the Metamora meeting house. Services were held by Pre. Peter Zimmerman from Rev. 20:12-15 and Elder Andrew Schrock from 1 Peter 1:1-7 in German, and Elder John Smith from the same texts in English." She is buried in Stewart-Harmony Cemetery at Metamora.

Children of Christian Gerber and Madeleine/Magdalena Dellenbach who grew to adulthood include:

1. Joseph Gerber/Garber was born in Woodford County May 25, 1843, and died at Kokomo, Indiana May 21, 1921. He is buried in Mast Cemetery at Kokomo. On March 5, 1867 in Tazewell County he married Katharina Naßziger. She was born in Tazewell County June 18, 1848, and died at Garden City, Missouri Feb. 5, 1900, a daughter of Daniel Naßziger and Elizabeth Sommer. Her headstone calls her 'Catharine, wife of Joseph Garber.' In 1881 they moved from Illinois to Garden City, Missouri. Joseph lived at Kokomo in his last years.

2. Catherine Gerber/Garber was born at Metamora Oct. 6, 1846, and died there Aug. 8, 1926. On March 2, 1869 in Woodford County she married Peter Steider. He was born at Diane-Capelle, Moselle June 2, 1839, and died at Metamora, Woodford County Aug. 10, 1914,a son of Joseph Steider and Catherine Miller For background on this couple see STEIDER.

3. Mary Gerber/Garber was born in Woodford County Aug. 3, 1848, and died there Feb. 24, 1941. His family brought him to Tazewell County in 1859. On Jan. 17, 1875 she married Ferdinand Schertz. He was born in Butler County, Ohio June 26, 1850, and died at Roanoke Dec. 21, 1916, a son of Henry Schertz and Elizabeth Imhoff. They appear on the 1880 census of Roanoke as farmer Ferdinand Schertz, 29, born in Ohio to parents from Alsace and Baden; Mary, 30, born in Illinois to Alsatian parents; and two children born in Illinois. They are buried in Stewart-Harmony Cemetery.

4. Elizabeth 'Lizzie' Gerber/Garber was born in Woodford County May 25, 1851, and died Dec. 31, 1828. On Feb. 16, 1875 in Woodford County she married August Schertz. He was born at Lafayette, Indiana Aug. 11, 1852, and died Dec. 14, 1938, a son of Henry Schertz and Elizabeth Imhoff. August is found on the 1870 census of Washington as an 18-year-old in the household of Joseph Naßziger, 25. Lissy and August appear on the 1880 census of Metamora as farmer August Schertz, 28, born in Indiana to French parents; Lissy, 29, born in Illinois to Bavarian parents; and two children born in Illinois. They lived only three households from Lizzie's sister Catherine and brother-in-law...
Amish Mennonites in Tazewell County, Illinois

Peter Steider. They moved from Woodford County to Aurora, Nebraska in 1893. August appears on the 1830 census of Aurora as widower August Schertz, 77, born in Ohio to parents from Germany and France. They are buried in Aurora Cemetery.

**Garber**

**Elm Grove**

When Christian and Peter Gerber arrived at Elm Grove in 1852, there was already a Garber family living there. A widow and 11 children had come from Ohio about 10 years earlier. Christian and Pete purchased the acreage next to them.

**Hans Gerber/John Garber** was born at Hartlisberg (in Steffisburg a mile northwest of the village enter) Jan. 25, 1788, and baptized at Steffisburg Feb. 3, 1788. The entry described his parents as Hans Gerber von Langnau, living at Hartlisberg, and Anna Lüthi of Biglen. It was witnessed by Christen, Niklaus, and Magdalena Gerber.

On March 19, 1813, he received a five-year passport at Bern. His departure from Canton Bern April 7, 1818 was documented by the passport seal of a notary.

On May 26 he entered into a 'redemptioner' contract with ship captain Joseph Rush at Amsterdam, promising to work in America in exchange for the 200 franc ($50) transatlantic fare. He boarded the ship Susquehanna at Amsterdam June 18, and arrived at Philadelphia Aug. 28, 1818.

Minister Christian Zug/Zook of East Whiteland Township near Malvern, Chester County, Pennsylvania, a benefactor to many Amish Mennonite families arriving at Philadelphia, heard about John's redemptioner contract. He paid the contract value to the ship captain, and John worked on his farm for two years to repay him. (This was the same farm where Andreas Ropp stopped on his journey in 1826).

On June 30, 1824 in Mifflin County, Pennsylvania John Garber married Eva Caroline Paithe. She was born near New York City March 20, 1799, died at Elm Grove Nov. 26, 1874, and is buried in Railroad Cemetery. Her father was Mennonite John Paithe, who was born to a Dutch family in New York State, and her mother Barbie Bressman was born in Holland. They brought her to Mifflin County from New York as an infant.

Following the marriage John and Eva lived in Mifflin County. About 1830 the Garbers moved to Ohio. Their exact whereabouts in the state from 1830 to 1842 has been a minor mystery. We believe the family is recorded on the 1840 census of Rush Creek, Fairfield County.

In *The Mennonites of America*, C. Henry Smith writes that residents of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania prospecting for new farmland in 1798 reached what later became Fairfield County by floating down the Ohio River, then up the Hocking River. They established Lancaster, the village that became the county seat. According to Delbert Gratz in *The Bernese Anabaptists*, "Mennonites first settled in Ohio in 1803 near Bremen, south of Columbus. These pioneers came from Lancaster County, Pennsylvania." The village of Bremen is located in Rush Creek Township. In *The Complete History of Fairfield County, Ohio*, Hervey Scott states that the first Amish Mennonites did not come until 1834, settling in what became the villages of Pleasant and Berne.

The 1840 census recorded only the names of heads of households, denoting other family members as tick marks in age/sex categories. The Rush Creek Township report gives the name 'John Garver' and matches mother, five boys, and five girls precisely. The father was placed in the 40-50 age range; John would have been 51 when the census was taken.

The family was said to have traveled to Illinois in 1840. However, if youngest child Noah was born in Ohio in December 1840 as he later reported, it is likely that the move took place in 1841. They went by steamboat on the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers as far as St. Louis, then boarded a smaller boat to reach Wesley City.

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96 Children Emanuel and Anna erroneously gave the birthplaces of their parents as Switzerland and Pennsylvania on later census reports.
97 The date of their move from Pennsylvania to Ohio is open to question. Daughter Mary was born in 1829. The location of her birth was given as Pennsylvania on the 1850 census; however, later census reports by her grown children indicate that she was born in Ohio. The next daughter, Lydia, was born in Ohio in 1831.
98 One suggested location for the Garbers was Monroe County, on the east-central boundary of the state, touching West Virginia. It was also suggested that they might have moved to Butler County, Ohio in 1835 (there was a John Garver in Fairfield, Butler County, but not this one). The location we found might account for some of the misunderstandings: Fairfield, the name of the county, is also the name of a community in Butler County, Ohio; the communities Liberty and Madison appear in both Fairfield County and Butler County; and the county seat of Fairfield County is Lancaster (!). Moreover, the township adjacent to Rush Creek is called Berne.
In Tazewell County they settled in a log house on the Peoria-Indianapolis Road (now Illinois Highway 9), in a part of Pekin that later became Elm Grove. The intersection near the Garber house was called Neukirk Corner. The Neukirk family owned a brick house where passengers stayed while stage coaches changed horses. Former baron and major in the Polish army Ludwik Chlopicki ran an inn/tavern within walking distance to the west of the corner (see the Appendix, BARON LUDWIK CHLOPICKI).

On a business trip to Ohio John contracted cholera and died. His probate papers set the date of this event as July 27, 1845. He was buried before the news reached Eva. This left her with 11 children in a log house, supported by 15-year-old son Samuel and 14-year-old son Emanuel.

Two daughters were married on Christmas Eve of 1846: Mary to Samuel King, and Lydia to Moses Ropp. Sybilla married Peter Ringenberger in 1948. The household appears on the 1850 census of Elm Grove as farmer Emanull Garber, 22 [24], Pennsylvania; Eva, [illegible age], Pennsylvania; Samuel, 23 [25], Pennsylvania; Lydia, 18, Ohio; Catharine, 17, Ohio; Daniel, 15, Ohio; John, 14, Ohio; David, 12, Ohio; Nancy, 10, Ohio; and Noah, 8, Ohio. Samuel married Marie/Mary Litwiller late in 1850. Eva remained with son Emanuel, who established a reputation as a progressive farmer and veterinary surgeon who liked to tinker with mechanics.

Probate Records K 1858-59 indicates that Andrew Ropp acted as guardian for the younger children John, David, Anna, and Noah.

Eva died Nov. 26, 1874. She is buried in Railroad Cemetery, near the graves of Christian and Peter Gerber.

Children of John Garber and Eva Caroline Paithe include:

1. Samuel Garber was born in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania Sept. 2, 1824, and died at Emden, Ill. Dec. 7, 1909. On Dec. 8, 1850 he married Marie Litwiller in Tazewell County; the ceremony was performed by minister Andrew Ropp. She was born in Butler County Dec. 28, 1833, and died Nov. 18, 1856, a daughter of Peter Litwiller and Marie Mosiman. They had at least two children who did not survive to adulthood: Marie, born 1853, died Oct. 12, 1865; and Peter, born in 1856, died April 11, 1858. Mother Marie/Mary also died early, on Nov. 18, 1856. The mother and her two children are buried in the Garber grouping of graves in Railroad Cemetery. On July 27, 1858 in Tazewell County Samuel remarried to Catherine 'Kate' Staker, a daughter of Christian Farny/Stecker/Staker and Magdalina Gabriel; the ceremony was performed by minister Andrew Ropp. She was born in Moselle March 22, 1834, and died July 13, 1893. They can be found on the 1860 census of Sugar Creek, Logan County and the 1880 census of Prairie Creek, Logan County. They are buried in Prairie Rest Cemetery at Delavan. See STAKER for details of their marriage.

2. Emanuel 'Man' Garber was born in Mifflin County, Pennsylvania Oct. 28, 1825, and died in Washington May 2, 1901. On June 6, 1854 in Tazewell County he married Véronique/Frances 'Fanny' Schweitzer; the ceremony was performed by minister Johannes/Jean Suisse (John Schweitzer or Switzer at Morton) and Marie/Mary Engel. Walter Ropp: “About 1860, when Man Garber lived on the Sommer farm, Mr. Young had a field of corn down at the road.” One morning Garber noticed him out looking around to see how it was coming up, and turned suddenly and came over to where he was working. “Garber,” he said, “your chickens are rooting up all my corn.” “Alright,” Garber replied, “Shoot ‘em, shoot ‘em.” After a while Garber heard a shot and over came Young. And the Garbers had chicken for dinner. A year or so later, Garber had rye on his field, with Young's field in corn again. May and June were dry and warm, and one day, in came Mr. Young all excited. “Garber, your chinch bugs are coming across the road to my corn.” “Alright,” said Garber, “Shoot ‘em! Shoot ‘em!” They are buried in Glendale Cemetery at Washington.

3. Sybilla Garber was born in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania in 1827, and died before 1880. On Feb. 7, 1848 she married Peter Ringenberger. He was born on Hingsange farm at Linstroff June 3, 1815, and died Jan. 18, 1892, a son of Pierre Ringenberger/Peter Ringenberger and Anna Schrag/Schrock (see RINGENBERGER for more on this couple).

99 The exact location of the Garber home is marked 'E. Garber' on the 1864 plat map, above that of 'I.S. Young,' and next door to brother-in-law Peter Ringenberger, Railroad Schoolhouse, and the Peter Gerber farm. The southwest corner of the 'Neukirk corner' intersection is now the location of Bethel Mennonite Church. The Ringenberger and Garber farms could later be described as the west 80 acres and east 80 acres of the Sommer Seed Corn Farm.

100 John Young was a director of the Railroad Schoolhouse and then the Sugar Grove School, which was constructed on his farm in 1872. He provided work for the Garber family and a number of others found in this text. He was born March 20, 1816, died April 1, 1880, and is buried in Haines Cemetery at Cincinnati Township.

101 Sybilla was portrayed as a heroine in French potboiler fiction. The actual historical figure was born in 1160. During the Crusades she married a cousin of Louis VII of France and Frederick Barbarossa. After his death she remarried to Guy de Lusignan. Their son became king of Jerusalem in 1186, but died that year. After agreeing to annul her marriage to Guy, she was made queen of Jerusalem. Proving loyal to her husband, she immediately renounced her promised annulment to share authority.
4. Mary Garber was born in Mifflin County, Pennsylvania or in Ohio July 12, 1829, died at Elm Grove May 21, 1901, and is buried in Pleasant Grove Mennonite Cemetery. On Dec. 27, 1846 at Elm Grove she became the second wife of Samuel King. He was born in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania Feb. 12, 1808, and died at Elm Grove Aug. 15, 1895, a son of Christian König/King and Magdalena Yoder. For the details of their marriage see KING.

5. Lydia Garber was born in Ohio July 14, 1831, and died at Berkley, Kentucky Jan. 16, 1909. On Dec. 27, 1846 she married Moses Ropp, a son of Andreas Ropp and Elisabeth Eymann. Walter Ropp. “He was nearly six foot four and fat enough to weigh 160. Garbers were inclined to be rather short. She was very short. When he extended his arm she could stand under it.” See ROPP for more on their marriage.

6. Catherine Katie Garber was born in Ohio April 8, 1833, and died at Washington June 24, 1911. On Feb. 26, 1854 in Tazewell County she married Jakob Jacob Kennel; the ceremony was performed by minister Andrew Ropp. He was born at Dreisen, Kirchheimbolanden Nov. 16, 1821, and died at Washington March 22, 1909; a son of Johannes Kennel and Magdalena Nafziger (see NAHZGER). His family had been passengers on the 1830 voyage of the De Rham from Le Havre to Boston and New York; he was also a nephew to 'Apostle Peter' Nafziger. They are buried in Hirstein Cemetery at Morton.

7. Daniel Garber was born in Ohio in 1835. He died Dec. 31, 1854 from infection following a threshing accident. He is buried in Railroad Cemetery at Elm Grove.

8. John Garber was born in Ohio in 1836. He married Anna 'Nancy' Smith in Tazewell County May 2, 1858. She was born at what is now Congerville circa 1840, and died in 1861, a daughter of Christophe Schmitt/Christian Smith and Magdalena/Magdalaine Schrag/Schrock. Despite their short marriage they had four children named Peter, David, Anna, and Eva. The 1880 census of Boynton shows farm laborer Peter J. Garber, 21, born in Illinois, parents from Ohio, living in the household of Benjamin F. Miller, 37. The 1880 census of Little Mackinaw shows David Garber, 19, born in Illinois, parents from Pennsylvania, working on the farm of Christian Birky, 70. The 1880 census of Roanoke, Woodford County shows servant Eva Garber, 18, born in Illinois, parents from Baden, living in the household of merchant Jacob Engel, 32.

9. David Garber was born in Ohio June 30, 1838, and died at Big Horn, Wyoming July 30, 1931. On May 19, 1859 in Tazewell County he married Magdalena 'Melinda' Kinsinger. She was born at Hamilton, Butler County Feb. 14, 1840, and died at Big Horn July 30, 1931, a daughter of Johannes John Kinsinger and his first wife Barbara P. Smith [Peter Schmidt]. David worked at brother-in-law Moses Ropp's Sinking Creek sawmill until 1870, when they moved to Grant, Missouri. They are found on the 1870 census of Grant as farmer David Garber, 30, Ohio; Melinda, 29, Ohio; Sara A., 7, Illinois; Manuel, 5, Illinois; Edward, 2, Illinois; and William, 7 months, Illinois. When others moved away, they moved again to Wyoming and Montana. Walter Ropp wrote that, “...He took up a claim and became a hunter and frontiersman again in his old age, where he died at the good old age of 90.” They are buried in Big Horn Cemetery.

10. Anna 'Nancy' Garber was born in Ohio April 30, 1839, and died at Fisher, Ill. Feb. 3, 1902. On Jan. 8, 1860 in Tazewell County she married Peter Schrock; the ceremony was performed by minister Andrew Ropp. Peter was born Aug. 1, 1839, and died April 5, 1922, a son of Johannes/John Schrock and Catherine Salzman. Peter and Anna lived near the Stakers in Morton. They are buried in East Bend Mennonite Cemetery at Fisher.

11. Noah Garber was born in Ohio in December 1840 (according to the 1900 census), and died May 9, 1902. However, he appears as an 8-year-old from Ohio in the 1850 census, and as an 18-year-old from Ohio in the 1860 census. He served in the Civil War as a private in Company G, 108th Illinois U.S. Infantry. His records describe him as laborer and a resident of Elm Grove; age 23; 5 foot-4¼; gray eyes; fair complexion; light hair. He signed a one-year enlistment at Springfield Oct. 1, 1864. 18-year-old Christian Smith Jr. (a son of Christophe Schmitt/Christian Smith and Magdalena Schrag/Schrock) and 21-year-old Jacob Kinsinger (a son of Johannes/John Kinsinger and his first wife Barbara Peter Schmidt) enlisted with him. During his enlistment the 108th moved from Memphis to New Orleans. On March 27 they engaged Confederates at Spanish Fort, a defensive point on Mobile Bay, Alabama. The siege lasted 13 days. From there they were repositioned at Montgomery, Alabama; Selma, Alabama; Jackson, Mississippi; and Vicksburg, Mississippi, where Noah mustered out Aug. 5, 1865. On Aug. 30, 1874 in Tazewell County he married Medora Shepard. Walter Ropp wrote that, “Noah, the youngest brother, was very short, easy going, and good natured, and seemed to think he had to get rid of that Pekin whiskey. He worked at [brother-in-law Moses] Ropp's mill too... All at once Noah married one of those bush ladies [a Southern settler living below Elm Grove]. They had two girls, the youngest died, and soon the bush lady flew the coop. Grandma [Eva] had little Mary [the granddaughter] quite a while; later she [Mary] married and Noah lived with her, but not long.” Noah appears on the 1900 census of Pekin as a 60-year-old laborer and rooming house boarder.
The Groveland Gerbers

On Aug. 7, 1838 in Tazewell County elder Christian Engel performed a marriage ceremony. The groom was Jean/John Gerber, who was born in France circa 1802; beyond this, he is an unknown. The bride was Catherine Oyer. She was born at Niderhoff, Moselle Oct. 15, 1809, a daughter of Joseph Oyer and his first wife Catherine Schrag.

Their farm was located at NW1/4-SW1/4, Section 5, Groveland.

The family is found on the 1850 census of Tazewell County as farmer John Gerber, 48, France; Catherine, 40, France; Joseph, 11, Illinois; Catharine, 8, Illinois; John, 7, Illinois; Daniel, 5, Illinois; and Andrew, 2, Illinois.

Jean/John Gerber died Oct. 15, 1856.

They appear on the 1860 census of Groveland as widow Catharine Gerber, 50, France; farmer Joseph, 20, Illinois; Catharine, 19, Illinois; John, 16, Illinois; Andrew, 11, Illinois; and Daniel, 9, Illinois [this was likely David, the only child born after 1850]. The 1870 census of Groveland has Catharine Gerber, 60, France; farmer Joseph, 30; John, 24; Daniel, 23; Andrew, 21; and David, 18 (all children born in Illinois).

Catherine Oyer died at Eureka, Woodford County Nov. 15, 1897. She is buried in the Apostolic Christian Cemetery at Roanoke as 'Catherine Oyer Gerber.'

Their children born at Groveland include:

1. Joseph Gerber was born in Tazewell County in November 1839. On Feb. 16, 1880 in Tazewell County he married Catherine Schertz. They are found on the 1880 census of Roanoke, Woodford County as Joseph Garber, 40, born in Illinois to French parents; Catharine, 31, born in Indiana to German parents; and William Peter Schertz, 11, Illinois.

2. Catherine Gerber was born in Tazewell County July 28, 1841, and died Nov. 21, 1895. On Jan. 2, 1862 in Tazewell County she married Jean/John Sommer. He was born in France Oct. 23, 1837, and died at Metamora, Woodford County Sept. 29, 1917. The 1900 census of Metamora shows widower and farmer John Sommer, 62, born in France in October 1837 to French parents and immigrated in 1848; with four children born in Illinois. They are buried in the Apostolic Christian Cemetery at Roanoke, Woodford County.

3. John Gerber was born in Illinois May 8, 1843, and died in Peoria County Jan. 4, 1920. On April 12, 1871 in the Zion Evangelical German Methodist Church at Groveland he married Sophia Schmidt. She was born in Saarland, Germany May 9, 1847, and died at Morton Sept. 13, 1931, a daughter of Johann Phillip Schmidt and Maria Louisa Rupp. Their household is found on the 1880 census of Groveland as farmer John Gerber, 36, born in Illinois to French parents; Catharine, 31, born in Indiana to German parents; and William Peter Schertz, 11, Illinois; widower and father-in-law Philip Smith, 69, born in Illinois to a father from Illinois and a mother from Germany; laborer Chris Schwartz, 15, born in Germany to German parents; and John's brother David Gerber, 27, born in Illinois to German parents. They are buried in the Zion Evangelical German Methodist Cemetery at Groveland.

4. Daniel Gerber was born at Groveland circa 1845, and died Dec. 17, 1885. He may be the laborer Dan Gerber, 30, born in Illinois to German parents on the 1880 census of Fon du Lac.

5. Andreas/Andrew Gerber was born at Groveland Feb. 12, 1848, and died at Eureka, Woodford County Aug. 28, 1924. On Aug. 27, 1874 in the Zion Evangelical German Methodist Church at Groveland he married Katharina Schmidt. She was born in Saarland, Germany May 15, 1853, and died at Eureka Jan. 4, 1923, a daughter of Johann Philipp Schmidt and Maria Louisa Rupp. They are found on the 1880 census of Metamora, Woodford County as farmer Andreas Gerber, 32, born in Illinois to French parents; Katharina, 28, born in Germany to German parents; Kathi, 3, Illinois; and Jacob Schmidt, 33, Germany, working on farm. They are buried in the Apostolic Christian Cemetery at Roanoke, Woodford County.

6. David Gerber was born at Groveland circa 1852. He is found in the household of his older brother John on the 1880 census of Groveland.

102 Although town boundaries and names were were adopted or established in 1849, there was a village of Groveland before this date.
Apostolic Gerbers
Morton

A minor piece helps to sort out the tangle of Gerbers and Garbers in the area: an Apostolic Gerber family that settled in Morton in 1864. While the females married within the community, the males moved on to ministries elsewhere. John Gerber moved his family from a farm near Rittman in Wayne County, Ohio to West Bend, Iowa in 1859. He died there shortly after completing the trip.

His wife Mathilda Zimmerman (1810-1894) resettled the family at Morton five years later. She is buried in the Old Apostolic Christian Cemetery at Morton, where she is identified as 'Mother' on her headstone.

John and Mathilda's children born in Wayne County, Ohio include:

1. Christian Gerber was born Dec. 12, 1848 (he gave Dec. 12, 1847 on a passport application), and died at Cropsey/Fairbury, Ill. in 1910. On March 3, 1872 he married Barbara Roth at Morton. She was born at Washington May 2, 1847, a daughter of Andrew Roth and Anna Zimmerman. They lived on a farm near Cropsey, and he ministered at the German Apostolic Church in Fairbury. His May 9, 1906 passport application said he was a 58-year-old living at Fairbury, Livingston County.

2. John Gerber [Jr.] was born March 7, 1849, and died at Bremen, Indiana in 1912. He returned to West Bend from Morton, where he met and married Mary Falb. She was born in 1854, and died in 1945. In 1889 they moved to Bremen. In 1911 he established the First Bremen Apostolic Christian Church on land he donated, and served as minister in its first year.

3. Maria Gerber was born Aug. 23, 1850, and died at Morton Sept. 11, 1908. She married Christian Ackerman. He was born at Morton Feb. 12, 1844, and died there Sept. 18, 1884, a son of Christian Ackerman and Anna Belsley. They are buried in the Apostolic Christian Cemetery.

4. Lydia Gerber was born March 11, 1852, and died April 27, 1942. She married Joseph Belsley, who was born Oct. 15, 1846, and died Aug. 21, 1929. They are buried in the Apostolic Christian Cemetery.

5. Anna Gerber was born in 1856, and died in 1880. She is buried in the Old Apostolic Cemetery near her mother.
Bechler and Beckler: Variations of Bächler

In Canton Bern a Bächler was someone who lived by a brook [Ger. Bach]. The Heimatorte or legal places of origin for citizenship rights associated with this surname are Erlenbach im Simmental (the birthplace of Jacob Amman) and Trub.103

Bavarian Becklers

**Johannes or Johann Pechler** [a French variation of Bächler] married Magdalena Birky. Their son **Christian Beckler** was born in 1811 on the Wahl estate, a livestock and dairy farm [Ger. Schweighof] located near Wolfratshausen, three miles east of Lake Starnberg [Ger. Starnberger See] and 21 miles southwest of Munich, Bavaria. For background on the Wahl estate, see BIRKY/BIRKEY, THE BIG BIRKEYS. Johannes Pechler and Christian Eichelberger later leased Perlach castle [Ger. Schloss Perlachsoed] outlying Munich on its southeastern side.104 The Pechler family was living there in 1815.

In 1818 the castle was sold to Andreas/André/Andrew Burkey and Catherine/Katharina Ackermann (who later became Illinois settlers). From 1818 until July 23, 1843 Johannes Pechler and his wife Magdalena Birky lived at Johanneskirchen.105 This was a district in the borough of Bogenhausen on the northeast edge of Munich.

The village of Strasstrudering, now a neighborhood on the east side of Munich, is within walking distance of Johanneskirchen. In a local history of Strasstrudering, Helmut Gingerich found mention of a marriage in the Royal County Court of Munich Aug. 29, 1835. It names the parents of the groom as Johann Pechler and Magdalena Birky. The groom was Christian Beckler, who was born in 1811. The bride was Jacqueline Holly [or Ger. Jakobi, Jakobea], who was born on the Horterhof estate at Heiligmoschel in the Pfälz (40 miles northwest of Annweiler) May 29, 1807, a daughter of Jakob Holly and Magdalena Unzicker.

At the time of the marriage Christian was already living on his own farm at Strasstrudering. The previous February he had purchased it at auction from a Kirschner family. Christian had agreed to pay 3,850 florins and make payments on an outstanding mortgage.

On July 24, 1846 the Munich county court forwarded documents to Upper Bavarian government offices for confirmation. They released Christian Bechler and Jacobine Holly from Bavarian citizenship, and provided passports for emigration to America.

On Aug. 8, 1846 Christian and Jacobine sold the Strasstrudering farm to Christian's father for 8,900 florins.

According to Friedrich Blendinger's *Die Auswanderung nach Nordamerika aus dem Regierungsbezirk Oberbayern in den Jahren 1846-1852*, they emigrated with 5,600 florins. They sailed from Le Havre on the brig *Daniel Kilby*, arriving at New Orleans Nov. 22, 1846.106 One page of the passenger list shows Bürk [Birky] Magdaline, 19; Elisabethe [Birky], 18; Bircky [Birky] Joseph, 29; Cath. Augustin [Eigsti], 21; Barbara [Eigstil], 20; Valentin Birky, 26; Behler [Beckler] Christian, 38; and Jacobine [Holly Beckler], 36. The Birks were brothers and sisters later known in Tazewell County as the 'Little Red Birks,' while the two Eigstis were sisters.

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103 The document *Rodel weggezogener Mannrechten 1694-1754* is preserved in the state archive of Canton Bern. It was a register for those who had departed from the canton and wished to give up their citizenship rights. Often this was necessary so that property left behind could be sold or divided among family members. The date of the entry does not indicate the date of emigration, only the date the application was accepted. In some cases it may not have named the principal emigrant, but rather his child or heir. Two Bächler entries are given. The first is dated Jan. 16, 1726. Caspar Bächler had departed from Lenk to go to Mimbach (now in Germany). Lenk im Simmental is a remote village, reached by traveling southwest of Spiez and Lake Thun on a roundabout 30-mile route in mountains. The second entry is dated Sept. 19, 1731. Johannes Bächler had departed from Eggwil (seven miles southwest of Trub). These entries may or may not be relevant to our searches.

104 Government secretary and later governor Johann Sebald Neusönner purchased land near Munich in 1696. The following year he began construction of a two-story house. It adjoined a courtyard that was surrounded by barns and stables. The home was expanded to four stories in 1727.

The location of Perlach Castle [Ger. Perlachsoed] would now be described as Fasangartenstrasse 3 in the district Ramersdorf-Perlach, a subdistrict of Munich. The location is now a private home that is registered as a national monument. An image can be found on Wikipedia. It has also been called Neusönner Castle.

105 A church dedicated to Saint John the Baptist in the 13th century still stands there.

106 The National Archives cover page says “22nd October 1846, Kilby from Havre.” The passenger list is filed and found among their images as if this date was correct. But the cover page of the passenger list itself, signed by Captain Peter Carter, said it was handed in Nov. 22, 1846 (by law the day of arrival).
Amish Mennonites in Tazewell County, Illinois

The household of the farmer who had once lived in a castle can be found on the 1850 census of unincorporated Tazewell County as Christian Becktler, 50, Germany; and Pena, 40, Germany. Christian's age was exaggerated by 11 years. The census page shows four familiar families: Christian Wagler lived on one side of the Becklers (across Allentown Road), while three 'Burkie' residents lived on the other (east on Allentown Road), found as Walter Burkie, 24; Andrew Burkie, 22; and Joseph Burkie, 28. Despite erratic ages, these were the households of three sons of Valentine Birky and Elisabeth Unzicker, the 'Little Red Birky's' (Walter Birky and Elizabeth Springer, Andrew Birky and Catherine Littwiller, and Joseph Birky and Barbara Eigsti). They had emigrated from the Gern estate on the west side of Munich.

In 1851 or 1852 they were joined by Magdalena Zeitler, who would have been six or seven years old. Magdalena was an illegitimate daughter of Christian's sister Susanna Pechler and Jacob Zeitler.

In 1853 they welcomed Daniel Augsburger, an illegitimate son of Jacobine Holly's sister Elisabeth Holly and Joseph Augsburger (see AUGSPURGER). According to Herbert Holly, Daniel explained his reasons for departing on his travel application: "A sister of my mother Elizabeth Holly (Jakobea Holly born on the Horterhof/Pfalz in 1807) lives married and in good conditions in Pirot/Illinois [Peoria?]. But the marriage is childless. Therefore I intend to emigrate to her which offers me the best prospects of a good future."

The 1855 Illinois State Census lists Christian Bachler in the 40-50 year age range. When he was naturalized at Pekin May 10, 1855, he gave his age as 42 years. On federal censuses he appears to have been born circa 1811.

Beckler sold 101 acres in Tremont to Nicholas Stecker/Staker Jan. 5, 1858. Full payment was made Feb. 4, 1859. The boundary between the two townships Elm Grove and Tremont confuses many because it actually cuts off the western side of the merchant area Tremont Village. The farms of Nicholas and his neighbor across the road Valentin Birky (Little Red Birky's) were both squarely on the town boundary.

The household is described on the 1860 census of Elm Grove as farmer Christian Beckler, 48, Bavaria; Jacobena, 40, Bavaria; Madalena [Zeitler], 16, Bavaria; and laborer John Kinsinger, 46, Bavaria (see KINSINGER).

Herbert Holly and Helmut Gingerich have identified Madalena as Magdalena Zeitler, an illegitimate daughter of Christian's sister Susanna Pechler and Jacob Zeitler. She had a brother of about the same age named Jacob, who may have been the 'Jacob Shedler, 14, Bavaria' found in the Elm Grove household of Christian Zimmerman and Elizabeth Stalter.

John Kinsinger had come from Butler County after the death of his wife Barbara Peter Schmidt. Presumably he and Christian entered into a 15-year agreement trading John's work for future land ownership. This was especially helpful because Kinsinger could read and write English, and often acted as a business mediator or appeared in court for his German-speaking neighbors.

An Agricultural Schedule compiled for tax purposes shows that on July 23, 1860 Christian and Jacobine only owned 19 acres.107

On March 10, 1861 in Tazewell County John Kinsinger remarried to Barbara Wagler, his neighbor across Allentown Road; the ceremony was performed by minister Andrew Ropp. She was born in Butler County Feb. 19, 1837, and died at Tremont Oct. 9, 1902, a daughter of Jacob Berse/Christian Wagler and Catherine Ulrich.

The 1864 plat map of Elm Grove shows the home of 'C. Beckler' on the north side of Allentown Road, on approximately 40 acres of timbered land at the southern edge of Section 2. His neighbors across the road were Jacob Berse/Christian Wagler and the Pleasant Grove Baptist Church. Immediately to the east was the timbered lot that would become the Pleasant Grove Amish Mennonite Church and Pleasant Grove Mennonite Cemetery. Traveling farther east on Allentown Road, one would have come to the Menard estate and the home of 'V. Birkey' (Valentin/Walter Birky and Elizabeth Springer) and 'D. Augusberger' (Daniel Augsburger and Marie/Mary Oesch).

The 1870 census of Elm Grove misidentifies the household, which was still next door to Christian Wagler, as farmer Christian Burky, 59, Bavaria; Jacobine, 60, Bavaria; and Madalen, 22, Bavaria.

Jacobine's grave in Landes Mennonite Cemetery is marked by an obelisk. All that is legible is "Jacobina, died June 21, 1875, at 67 years of age" (or so the stone was read for the cemetery book in 1980).

On Jan. 15, 1876 Beckler sold John Kinsinger the Section 2 land that he had worked. The one-dollar transaction was legally documented in the county deed book. Beckler then relocated across the town boundary into Tremont.

107 The same document listed the land acreage of other residents with familiar names living along Allentown Road in Elm Grove: (spellings as found) Christ Wagner [Berse/Wagler], 170; John Becky[Birky], 70; Jacob Hostetler [Hochstettler], 0; Andr. Bergy [Birky], 185; Pete Wagler, 0; Joseph Hiser [Heiser], 120; Joseph Ropp, 120; Samuel King [König], 80; Christ Garber, 100; John Ropp, 60; Jacob Ropp, 100; John Forney, 120; John Burky, 80; Jacob Stalter, 50; Nicholas Saker [Stecker/Staker], 101; Valentine Birky, 74; Jos. Landes, 320; and Chris Kofman [Kauffman], 41.
On the 1880 census of Tremont, Christian is described as a 69-year-old widowed retired farmer from France living with 35-year-old Lena, who was born in Germany to French parents. We could not locate Christian's grave. He may have been buried on his own property or near Jacobine in Landes Mennonite Cemetery, where several graves lack markers. There is a slim possibility that he is buried in Springdale Cemetery at Peoria as "Christian Bechler, 1815-July 29, 1886."

**MAGDALENA ZEITLER**

Magdalena was born at Munich Jan. 21, 1845 (per local records searched by Herbert Holly, and her headstone), an illegitimate daughter of Christian Beckler's sister Susanna Pechler and Jacob Zeitler. She had been living at Peoria for three years when she died there Oct. 27, 1924. Her death entry describes her as a retired housewife.

Between 1880 and 1900 she married Paul Stahl. He was born Oct. 9, 1851 (per the 1900 census) or Oct. 9, 1852 (headstone), and died Feb. 5, 1905. He also came from Strasstrudering. His father Johannes Stahl had purchased the farm of Johann Pechler in 1848.

The 1900 census of Tremont shows farmer Paul Stahl, 48, born in Germany to German parents Oct. 9, 1851, immigrated in 1879; Magdalena, 56, born in Germany to German parents Jan. 4, 1844, immigrated in 1850; and niece Katie Detter [Katie Zeitler], born in Illinois Nov. 31, 1888 to a father born in Germany and a mother born in the United States. The 1910 census of Tremont shows widow Magadelna Stahl, 64, immigrated in 1852. The 1920 census of Tremont has widow Lena Stahl, 74, born at 'Munch Germany' [Munich], immigrated in 1851, naturalized in 1881; and roomer Ursula Bachman of Switzerland, 74.

Magdalena and Paul are buried in Mt. Hope Cemetery at Tremont. The county cemetery book names 'Lena Zeitler.'

**JACOB ZEITLER**

Magdalena's brother or half-brother Jacob Zeitler was born in Bavaria circa 1845, and died after August 1895 (per the Civil War Pension Index). We could not determine his year of immigration.

He may have been the 'Jacob Shedler, 14, Bavaria' living in the household of Christian Zimmerman and Elizabeth Stalter on the 1860 census of Elm Grove.\(^{108}\)

According to The History of Peoria, Illinois (1880), 'Jacob Zeisler' enlisted Nov. 11, 1861, then reenlisted at the expiration of his term as a veteran. This early enlistment seems unlikely, because he was described as an 18-year-old living at Elm Grove when he enlisted at Pekin Dec. 16, 1863.\(^{109}\) He mustered in at Camp Yates at Springfield Dec. 25, 1863.

Company A of the 11th Regiment, Illinois Volunteer Cavalry had just returned to Springfield for a 30-day furlough, and Jacob was assigned to them as a private. The company was comprised mainly of German immigrants from Peoria and Cook Counties. They had already participated in the battles of Shiloh, Corinth, and Lexington. Their first commanding officer, Colonel Robert Green Ingersoll, had resigned his commission after being captured at the battle of Lexington Dec. 18, 1862. Ingersoll was paroled by his captors on the promise that he not fight again, and subsequently resigned his commission.

When Jacob joined them, the 11th Cavalry had merged with Winslow's Cavalry Brigade in the district of Vicksburg, Mississippi. They made a number of expeditions in support of General William Tecumseh Sherman's march to Meridian, Mississippi in February and March of 1864, including forays as far as Gaines Landing, Arkansas; and Bayou Lacon, Louisiana. They moved to the district of Memphis, Tennessee in December 1864. There they were assigned to protect the Memphis & Chaleston Railroad January-September, 1865.

Over the course of the war the regiment had lost two officers and 32 enlisted men to wounds, while eight officers and 237 enlisted men died from disease. Jacob mustered out at Memphis Sept. 30, 1865, and started the return to Springfield Oct. 2. He was paid and discharged there Oct. 20.

On Dec. 9, 1873 in Tazewell County Jacob married Rosina Roth. She was born at Langenburg, Germany Jan. 10, 1856, and died at Pekin June 2, 1943. They may have divorced before the 1880 census of Minier (a village within Little Mackinaw Township). It shows laborer Jacob Zeitler, 36, Bavaria; Marie, 5, Illinois; and Christian [Dorothea], 3, Illinois.

A county list called Paupers and Indigent Inhabitants of Institutions, and Boarders at Public Expense in Private Homes names Rosanna Seitler at Little Mackinaw Jan. 30, 1880. A county list of paupers compiled in 1882 shows Roseanne Zeitler, 24, Germany; and Minnie, 1, born in Illinois to German parents. Rosina Roth remarried to Jacob Friederich in Tazewell County April 10, 1887. Her death entry called them Rosina K. Frederich or Rosina K. Roth and Jacob Frederich, and said she was buried in Lakeside Cemetery at Pekin.

Children of Jacob Zeitler and his first wife Rosina Roth born at Minier include:

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\(^{108}\) Christian Zimmerman is erroneously called 'Andy Zimmerman' on that census, the name of his older brother.

\(^{109}\) The Illinois Civil War Muster and Descriptive Rolls Database describes only the 1863 enlistment. The History of Peoria, Illinois also says that he mustered out as a corporal, while other sources say he was a private.
1. Mary Zeitler was born Oct. 30, 1874, and died at Geneva, Nebraska Nov. 21, 1868. She is buried in Salem Cemetery at Schickley, Nebraska. On Nov. 24, 1892 she married Daniel Birky. He was born at Hopedale Feb. 28, 1870, and died at Lund, Kansas April 13, 1901. *Herald of Truth*, May 1901: “Apr. 13th, 1901, near Lund, Decatur Co., Kansas, of a complication of diseases originating from an attack of rheumatism, Bro. Daniel Birkey, aged 31 years, three months, and seven days. One sister and two children preceded him. He leaves a beloved companion, three children, three brothers and three sisters and his aged parents to mourn their loss, which we believe to be his eternal gain. His labors on earth are ended, his works do follow him. Peace to his ashes. Funeral services conducted by Josiah Rediger and Jacob Stauffer in German and Ammon Stoltzfus in English.” On Oct. 16, 1902 at Milford, Nebraska Mary remarried to Christian Herman Detweiler. He was born at Gridley, McLean County Jan. 13, 1866, and died at Geneva, Nebraska March 12, 1950, a son of Christian and Mary Detweiler, was born at Gridley, Ill., Jan. 13, 1866; passed away at the hospital in Geneva, Neb., March 12, 1950; aged 84 y. 1 m. 29 d. He was a member of the Mennonite Church from the time of his youth, when he accepted Christ as his personal Saviour; he remained faithful till death. In 1888 he was united in marriage to Barbara Eigsti, who passed away Jan. 31, 1902. To this union were born six daughters. Two daughters (Mary and Ella) and his first wife preceded him in death. Surviving are four daughters (Mrs. Susie Springer, Mrs. Lydia Saltzman, Mrs. Nellie Reeb, of Schickley, Nebr.; and Mrs. Barbara Reeb, of Eureka, Ill.). On Oct. 16, 1902, he was united in marriage to Mary Birky, who survives. To this union were born four children (Edwin, Milford, Nebr.; Fred, Scottsbluff, Nebr.; Mrs. Lavern Roth, Filer, Idaho; and Perry, at home). Also surviving are three stepchildren (Mrs. Lydia Roth, Jacob Birkey, of Delavan, Ill.; Joe Birkey of Milford, Nebr.), 28 grandchildren, 24 great-grandchildren, 16 stepgrandchildren, 13 stepgreat-grandchildren, one brother (Valentine Detweiler, Thomas, Okla.), and many other relatives and friends. One brother and three sisters preceded him in death. He was always ready to lend a helping hand when needed. Funeral services were held at his home and at the Salem Mennonite Church, Shickley, Nebr., March 24, conducted by P. R. Kennel, assisted by Ammon Miller and Lee Schlegel. Text: *Gen. 15:15*. Interment was made in the church cemetery. *Gospel Herald*, January 1969: "Detweiler, Mary, daughter of Jacob and Rosina Zeitler, was born near Minier, Ill., Oct. 30, 1874; died at the Fillmore County Hospital, Geneva, Neb., Nov. 21, 1968; aged 94 y. 22 d. On Nov. 24, 1892, she was married to Daniel Birky, who died Apr. 13, 1902. On Oct. 16, 1902, she was married to Chris Detweiler, who died Mar. 12, 1950. Surviving are two daughters (Lydia - Mrs. Henry Reeb and LaVerne - Mrs. Herman Roth), three sons (Jacob A. Birky, Fred Detweiler, and Perry Detweiler), two stepdaughters (Nellie - Mrs. Fred Reeb and Barbara - Mrs. Carl Reeb), 44 grandchildren, 124 great-grandchildren, and 48 great-great-grandchildren. Preceding her in death were two daughters (Mary and Katie Birky), two sons (Joe Birky and Edwin Detweiler), and two stepdaughters (Lydia - Mrs. Jake Saltzman and Susie - Mrs. John Springer). She was a member of the Salem Church, Shickley, Neb., where funeral services were held Nov. 24, with Jacob Birky, Lee Schlegel, and Peter Kennel officiating."

2. Dorothea 'Dora' Zeitler was born Nov. 7, 1878, and died at Pekin Oct. 24, 1942. On Dec. 20, 1894 in Tazewell County she married Frederick Anthony Sampen. He was born at Pekin Aug. 26, 1876, and died there March 1943, a son of Fred Sampen and Mary Bastian. They divorced after 1900. On June 4, 1935 she remarried to James Madison Smith. He was born April 26, 1876, and died Aug. 29, 1958, a son of William F. Smith and Mary E. Brown. She is buried in Lakeside Cemetery at Pekin as Dora Sampen Smith.

On May 29, 1882 Jacob Zeitler remarried to Catherine Birkey. She was born Dec. 10, 1852, and died Jan. 17 or Sept. 26, 1893, a daughter of Christian 'Harry' Burky and Marie/Mary Stalter (her paternal grandparents were Valentine Birky and Magdalena Unzicker of the 'Little Red Birky's').

Two entries for Jacob appear in the *Civil War Pension Index*. One card calls him 'Jacob Sitlar, alias Jacob Zeitler,' while the other calls him 'Jacob Zeitler, alias Jacob Sitlar.' They indicate that he became an invalid Aug. 28, 1890. On the line 'Widow' it names Catherine Zeitler (his second wife Catherine Birkey), and on the line 'Widowed' it gives the date Sept. 26, 1893 (Catherine is thought to have died Jan. 17, 1893, and this may have been the date that news of the death was received or entered). On the line 'Minor' it names 'Paul Stahl (gdn.)' and the date Aug. 23, 1895. We assume this means that Paul Stahl was appointed as legal guardian of invalid widower Jacob on that date.

Jacob or Catherine may be buried under a simple bronze plaque that says only Zeitler. It is located in Lakeside Cemetery at Pekin, the same place where his son George was buried in 1924.

Children of Jacob Zeitler and his second wife Catherine Birkey born at Minier include:

4. George Zeitler was born Sept. 21, 1885, and died Jan. 3, 1924. He was killed by an explosion at the Corn Products Refining starch plant at Pekin. He is buried with 10 others under the Corn Products Stone in Lakeside Cemetery at Pekin.

5. Katie Zeitler was born Nov. 30 (headstone) or 31 (1900 census), 1888, and died June 10, 1986. She married Joseph Oertle. He was born June 9, 1876, and died Nov. 27, 1963. Katie is found as 'niece Katie Detter, born Nov. 31, 1888' in the household of her aunt and uncle Paul Stahl and Magdalena Zeitler on the 1900 census of Tremont. Katie and Joseph are buried in the Apostolic Christian Cemetery at Tremont.

**Bächler of Garrebourg**

The generations of this family begin with a set of nine siblings born circa 1752-70. Their parents could not be identified.

One location that is associated with them is Garrebourg [Ger. Garburg or Karburg], Moselle. Many of the family events that took place there occurred before 1792, the year the État Civil system of administrative record keeping was established.

Many events in the next generation took place at Bourscheid, Moselle (six miles northwest of Garrebourg, touching St. Jean-Kourtzerode, Waltembourg, and Zilling) and Haselbourg (adjacent to Garrebourg on its southwest side).

**NAFZIGER OF WALTEMBOURG AND ST. JEAN-KOURTZERODE**

The Bächlers would have been strongly influenced by the religious leadership of an Amish Mennonite minister and elder living in their area, whose descendants came to Central Illinois.

Christian Nafziger was born at Theirachern, Canton Bern circa 1706. He married Anna Bleuer Dec. 8, 1740. She was born at Waltembourg circa 1719, and died Dec. 9, 1785.

Their son Christian Nafziger was born at Waltembourg in 1727. He married Catherine Sommer. She was born at Waltembourg in 1734. According to Herman Guth, Christian became a minister and elder of the congregation at Struth, Lower Alsace, where he is found in 1787. However, in old age they resided in her home town Waltembourg. Catherine died there July 13, 1794, and Christian died there in the home of his son (also named Christian) Dec. 8, 1813. They were buried at Bourscheid.

Their son Christian Nafziger was born at Waltembourg Jan. 20, 1779. He lived at Kurtzerode (adjoining Waltembourg and Bourscheid), and died there May 27, 1829. On Jan. 20, 1800 at Friboug, Moselle he married Catherine Maurer. She was born on Risholtz farm at Hattigny, Moselle in 1787, and died at Washington in 1845, a daughter of Peter/Pierre Maurer and Marie Barbe Risser.

As a widow Catherine Maurer accompanied five of her children to Central Illinois in 1837. For background on this family, see NAFZIGER, THE NAFZIGERS OF WASHINGTON.

The nine Bächler siblings include:

1. Jacob Bächler/Bechler was born circa 1752. He married Elisabeth Gerber, a daughter of Joseph Gerber and Elisabeth Zimmerman. She died at Fuellengarten, Dossenheim-sur-Zinsel Dec. 18, 1795 (according to the marriage entry of daughter Madeleine). Their children include:
   a. Marie Barbe Bächler was born circa 1777, and died at Garrebourg May 6, 1814. Her civil death entry described her as the wife of Florent Frölicher/Freliger. He was born at Garrebourg May 3, 1765, a son of Jean Pierre Frölicher/Freliger and Anne Barbe Dumeny.
   b. Madeleine Bächler/Pechler was born at Garrebourg Sept. 24, 1780. On Nov. 24, 1806 at Herbéviller, Meurthe-et-Moselle she married Christian Rüpp. Their civil marriage entry describes the groom as Kristian Rouppe, 25, a son of Andre Rouppe and Barbe Rabre, who had died at Banbois. He was born at Banbois, Plaine, Vosges, and rsided at Herbeviller. (Christian Rüpp was a cousin to Central Illinois settler Andreas Ropp. See ROPP for background on this couple, including more information from their marriage entry). Madeleine's parents were described as Jacob Bächler of Henrydorff [Henridorff, Moselle] and the deceased Elisabeth Kelberyt [Gerber]. Elisabeth had died at 'Fillergarthen' Fuellengarten, Dossenheim-sur-Zinsel] Nov. 18, 1795, as attested on a document signed by 10 esidents of euville, district of Saverne. The 26-year-old bride was born at 'Carbourg, district of Phalsbourg' Garrebourg]. Witnesses included cultivator Kristian Kuelberyt, 45, a maternal uncle of the bride; and

110 The civil marriage entry for Christian Gerber's second marriage to Marie Eymann at Herbéviller, Meurthe-et-Moselle March 10, 1797 named his parents as Joseph Guerbert [Joseph Gerber] and Elisabethe Simermane [Elisabeth Zimmerman]. When Jacob and Elisabeth's daughter Madeleine married Christian Rüpp at Herbéviller, Nov. 24, 1806, the civil entry described witness and cultivator Kristian Kuelberyt [Christian Gerber] as a maternal uncle of the bride - and thus a brother to Elisabeth.
Jacob Bochler, 54, father of the bride and resident of Henrydorf. Their signatures appear as Christian Gerber and Jacob Bächler.

In the interim before his second marriage, Jacob accepted guardianship of two children. He may not have been their natural father.

- Christian Bechler was born at St. Jean-Kourtzerode May 25, 1800, and died there April 10, 1814. His civil birth entry identifies his parents as laborer Jacob Bechler and Anne Engel, living on the community farm. It was witnessed by cultivator and shopkeeper Michel Bältzli, 61, and farmer Andreas Bechler, 30 [Jacob's youngest brother]. Anne Engel was a daughter of Jean Pierre Engel and his first wife Magdalena/Madeleine Rouvenacht. She had given birth to an illegitimate child born at St. Jean-Kourtzerode in 1788. She was thought to have been 16 or 17 years of age at the time of the first birth, thus born in 1771 or 1772. Anne was present and consenting as a resident of St. Jean-Kourtzerode when her first child was married there in 1817. See ENGEL for background on Anne Engel and her first child Jean George Engel, who came to Woodford County in 1837. Christian's civil death entry said he died at age 16 (actually 13) "in the home of his father," but did not identify his parents.

- André Béchler may or may not have been a child of Anne Engel. When he died at St. Jean-Kourtzerode May 1, 1814, his civil death entry said he died at age 14 "in the home of his father," but did not identify his parents. The état civil system of civil administration adopted by the French government provided a printed template for all birth, marriage, and death entries. These were kept in the front of the record books, and can often be found on FHL microfilm reproductions. Every village's records were inspected at least once a year for compliance with the format. The names of the parents were required items on all entries involving minors. Thus we can assume that the names of Christian and André's parents, though known, were intentionally omitted from the two death entries, for a reason that would have been acceptable to an inspector (normally the birth of an enfant naturel by itself would not have been exceptional). In many of these situations in this time frame this meant that the mother was not married to the true natural father, who was a French soldier.

The two deaths at St. Jean-Kourtzerode in the spring of 1814 coincided with the return of local soldiers and its occupation by allied troops, and may have been brought on by typhus or other highly-contagious diseases that afflicted both sides.\(^{111}\) We suspect that circa 1802 Jacob remarried to Anne Marie Gerber, though we could not identify a civil entry from the area surrounding St. Jean Kourtzerode or Inswiller, Moselle, the place where her parents were living. Was there an Anabaptist ceremony, but not a civil ceremony? Numerous documents from varied locations were necessary before a civil ceremony could be contemplated. Or, was this a reflection of the Napoleonic wars, and an indication that Jacob had gone to a remote area in that year? Anne Marie was born in the hamlet Kreutzfeld at Saverne, Lower Alsace circa 1768, and died at St. Jean-Kourtzerode Jan. 7, 1835, a daughter of Johannes/Jean Gerber and Cathrine Gingerich. She was a sister-in-law to Anne Engel. On April 5, 1785 at Inswiller her younger sister Madeleine Gerber had married Anne Engel's older brother Joseph Engel. Anne Marie's brothers and sisters also married into the Bachmann, Farni/Farny, Hirschi/Hirschy, Rüfenacht/Rouvenacht, Schertz, Springer, and Stroubhar/Strubhar families (see GERBER AND GARBER for background information) whose descendants came to Central Illinois. Jacob Bächler/Bechler and Anne Marie Gerber had three children born at St. Jean-Kourtzerode:

c. Catherine Bechler was born Jan. 24, 1803 (the 10-year index entry names mother Jeanne Gerber, but the actual entry names Anne Gerber), and died there June 13, 1804.

d. Catherine Bechler was born April 8, 1805 (the entry names mother Anne Marie Gerber). Her civil birth entry describes her parents as 56-year-old cultivator Jacob Bechler and Anne Marie Gerber. She may have sailed from Le Havre on the packet ship Poland, and arrived at New York July 26, 1837. A discussion of this possibility can be found in DETTWEILER. On May 26, 1838 in Tazewell County she married Christian Schmitt/Smith. He was born at Zimming, Moselle Jan. 21, 1803, and died at Metamora in 1876, a son of Christian Schmitt and Barbara Guingerich. Catherine died at Eureka, Woodford County in 1860. See SMITH, THE SMITHS OF ZIMMING for background on this couple.

e. Madeleine Bechler was born July 17, 1809. Her civil birth entry called her Magdelain Bechler, and described her parents as 60-year-old farm equipment operator Jacob Bechler and Anne Gerber. Jacob Bächler died at St. Jean-Kourtzerode July 9, 1816. His civil death entry identified him as Jacques Bechler "epoux de la surowante de Barbe Engel," and failed to give an age. We took this expression to mean that the witness only knew him as a legal substitute or proxy husband for Anne Engel, and guardian to her children. A clearer description might have been, 'husband and father of the children of Elisabeth Gerber and Anne Marie Gerber, and...

\(^{111}\) On Oct. 16-19, 1813 French troops occupying the German states were defeated by converging allied troops at the Battle of Leipzig. They have been described by historians as 'fatigued and diseased.' The following month Napoleon Bonaparte declined surrender terms proposed by the Austrian Empire's foreign minister. But his withdrawal into central France opened the way for the allied occupation of Alsace and Lorraine in January 1814. Paris was occupied March 31, and Napoleon abdicated for the first time April 6. He would return for the 100 Days culminating in his second abdication after the Battle of Waterloo.
guardian of the child/children of Anne Engel.' The two witnesses providing information were laborers Paulorentz Laquellier, 50, and Michel Schwartz, 44, described as friends of the deceased from Brouviller. A 45-year-old Michel Schwartz would also be a witness at the marriage of Anne Engel's illegitimate son Jean George Engel at St. Jean-Kourtzerode Jan. 7, 1835, her civil death entry called her Anne Guerber, gave her age as 70, and said she was born at Gretzfeld, Saverne.

2. **Christian Bächler/Bechler** was born circa 1753.
3. Elisabeth Bächler/Bechler was born circa 1754, and died at Mêtaires-St. Quirin, Moselle Jan. 15, 1805, age 50. The 10-year index of records records her death as Marie Elizabeth Pecher, however, the birth entries of children found in the same index call her Elisabeth Pechalier). She married Christian/Christ Mosimann. He was born Feb. 10, 1760, and died on La Charmille farm at St. Quirin March 17, 1812, a son of Christian/Christiane Mozimann and Margueritte Greet Liechti. See MOSIMAN for a list of their children.

4. **Peter Bächler/Pierre Bechler** was born circa 1756.
5. Joseph Bächler/Bechler was born before 1759, and died before Jan. 10, 1805 (the date of his son Michel's marriage). He married Margueritte Saltzmann. She was born circa 1764, and died at Haselbourg Feb. 10, 1814, age 50. They farmed at Haselbourg.
   a. Michel Bächler was born in the hamlet Shaffeneck (now simply the Rue du Schaffeneck) at Haselbourg July 20, 1779, and died at Zilling, Moselle Dec. 14, 1841. He married Barbe Martin at Zilling Jan. 10, 1805. One witness was laborer Jean Oesch, 30. Barbe was born at Zilling May 10, 1780, and died there June 3, 1842, a daughter of Christian Martin and Barbe Koch (for background on her family see MARTIN). Zilling is a tiny village (present population about 270). A census of Mennonite families created April 24, 1809 lists three heads of household there: Xianne Martin (three residents); Jean Esch (six residents); and Michel Bechler (three residents).

6. Barbe Bächler/Bechler was born circa 1759, and died at Haselbourg March 29, 1819, age 60. She married Christian Salzman/Saltzmann. He was born circa 1746, and died at Haselbourg Jan. 8, 1834, age 88. His death entry described him as a valet/porter [Fr. *voiturier*]. Their children include:
   a. Catherine Salzman/Saltzmann was born circa 1777.
   b. Michel Salzman/Saltzmann was born circa 1777, and died at Haselbourg April 18, 1853. On Feb. 20, 1815 at Haselbourg he married Marie Eymann. She was born at Luine (in what became the department of Vosges) circa 1790, a daughter of Jean Eymann/Eiman and Anne Goldschmidt. Michel's death entry described him as a 76-year-old cultivator at Waltembourg.
   c. Joseph Salzman/Saltzmann was born circa 1790, and died at Haselbourg Oct. 13, 1853. On Feb. 20, 1815 at Haselbourg he married Marie Barbe Suisse/Schweitzer. She was born at Fribourg, Moselle Feb. 27, 1794, and died at Vaucouleurs, Meuse Feb. 18, 1862, a daughter of Joseph Suisse and Marie Abresol. 
   d. Chrétien/Christian Salzman/Saltzmann was born at Haselbourg circa 1792.
   e. Madeleine Salzman/Saltzmann was born at Haselbourg circa 1793. On Oct. 10, 1828 at Haselbourg she married Antoine Schwaller. He was born at Dabo, Moselle Feb. 8, 1800, a son of Hubert Schwaller and Marie Anne Kimmerer.

7. **Michel Bächler/Bechler** was born at Garrebourg circa 1761.
8. Andreas/Andrés Bächler/Bechler was born circa 1766-71. Andreas is found as a witness to the marriage of his brother Michel and second wife Marie Bertschi at Bourscheid in 1797 (age given as 27 in early 1798). He is also found as a 30-year-old witness to the birth of Christian Bechler (son of Jacob Bechler and Anne Engel) May 25, 1800. He married Anne Marie Meyer, and worked as a cultivator on the St. Jean-Kourtzerode community farm. They had three children born at St. Jean-Kourtzerode (below Bourscheid):
   a. Michel Bechler was born April 8, 1793. His German-language civil birth entry described his parents as plowman Andreas Bechler and Anna Maria Meyner.
   b. Jean Pierre Bechler was born Nov. 2, 1795.
   c. Josephe Bachler was born July 22, 1799. His civil birth entry gave his father's age as 33.

9. Madeleine Bächler/Bechler was born circa 1769, and died at Bourscheid April 12, 1805, age 36. Circa 1789 she married Nicolas Oesch/Esch. He was born on the Rauschenbourg estate at Ingwiller, Lower Alsace circa 1762, and died at Bourscheid Dec. 17, 1813, a son of Abraham Oesch and Anna/Anne Koch. His civil death entry was witnessed by son-in-law Christianne Rogi, 22, and neighbor Christianne Naefzieger, 38, both cultivators. For a list of their children see ESCH/OESCH.

**CHRISTIAN BÄCHLER/BECHLER**

Christian Bächler/Bechler was born circa 1753, and died at Bourscheid, Moselle Sept. 14, 1809, age 56. Circa 1779 he married Magdalena Oesch/Madeleine Esch. She was born on the Rauschenbourg estate at Ingwiller, Lower Alsace circa 1755, and died at Bourscheid Jan. 18, 1807, age 51, a daughter of Abraham Oesch and Anna/Anne Koch. Christian witnessed entries with an 'x', indicating that he was illiterate.
His civil death entry described him as 56-year-old Boursheid cultivator Christianne Bechler. It was witnessed by brother-in-law Nicolas Esch, 59, and neighbor Christianne Nafzieger, 38, both cultivators. The same pair had earlier witnessed Madeleine’s death entry.

Their children born on the Rauschenbourg estate at Ingwiller include:

1. Magdalena/Madeleine Bächler/Bechler was born circa 1779. She married Nicholas Gerber, who was born at Gensbourg, Lower Alsace circa 1772, a son of Pierre Gerber and Anna Güngerich. They both died of yellow fever at Memphis, Tennessee in July 1840 while attempting to travel to Central Illinois. The story of their disastrous immigration on the *Marcia Cleaves*, and background on their children who came to Tazewell County, can be found in GINGERICH and GERBER AND GARBER.

2. Johannes Bächler/Jean Bechler was born Nov. 24, 1779, and died at Waltembourg Dec. 17, 1813. On Nov. 24, 1803 at Bourscheid he married Barbe Nafziger. She was born at Waltembourg Dec. 4, 1783, and died there May 21, 1845, a daughter of Christian Nafziger and Catherine Sommer. Witnesses included father-of-the-bride Christianne Nafzieger, 30; and uncle-of-the-bride Nicolas Esch, 40; both cultivators living at Bourscheid. The groom signed Johannes Bihler. Their marriage was mistakenly entered in the 10-year index of Bourscheid records as one between Jean Beckler and Madeline Echs (the garbled name of the groom’s mother).

3. Anna Bächler/Anne Bechler was born circa July 1784, and died at Parcy-sur-Saulx, Champagne-Ardenne June 2, 1867. On Oct. 29, 1809 at Bourscheid she married Valentin Roggy. He was born on the Waderhof estate at Lorentzen, Lower Alsace circa June 1778, and died at Schalbach, Moselle April 13, 1849, a son of Jean Roggy and Katharina Birki/Catherine Bircky. Their civil marriage entry described the groom as Faletin Roki, age 31 years and four months, born at Lorentzen; he was a son of cultivator Jean Roki and Catherine Birki, who were residents of Lorentzen. The bride was described as Anne Bechler, age 25 years and three months, a daughter of the deceased cultivator Christianne Bechler [he had died only six weeks earlier] and Magdelaine Esch. It was witnessed by maternal uncle Nicolas Esch, 49, and second cousin Christienna Nafzieger, 38, both cultivators. See ROGGY for background on this couple. Valentin had two brothers and two sisters who settled in Central Illinois: Christian/Chrétien Roggy (married Madeleine Oesch and Catherine 'Kate' Engel), Barbara/Barbe Roggy (married Joseph Engel), Anne/Anna Roggy (married Chrétien/Christian Risser), and Peter/Pierre Roggy (married his second cousin Madeleine Roggy).

4. Michel Bächler/Michael Bechler was born in 1789 or 1790. Elisabeth Bechler may belong in this family. She was born circa 1790. See BECHLER OF MONTGOMERY.

Michel Bächler/Michael Bechler was born in France in 1789. He married Marie/Mary, who was born circa 1792. According to a profile of their daughter-in-law Barbara Maurer, they immigrated in 1828 or 1829.

On Aug. 7, 1838 Michael purchased 160 acres in Section 30 of Township 26N, Tazewell County, for $1.25 an acre. The 1850 census of District 56/Woodford County shows farmer Michael Bechler, 60, France; Mary, 58, France; and Caroline Bard, 11, Louisiana. They were living next door to Joseph and Jacob Dellenbach (found as Delabaugh).

Marie/Mary died in Woodford County Aug. 18, 1850. On Aug. 23, 1854 ministers André Bachmann/Andrew Baughman, John Nafziger, and John Engel paid Michael one dollar for a 2.54-acre tract of land. A meeting house for the Partridge Creek congregation was constructed there.

The 1860 census of Worth shows Michel/Michael’s son-in-law farmer Peter Shertz, 53, Bavaria; daughter Barbara, 34, France; Elizabeth, 13, Iowa; Catherine, 10, Illinois; Joseph, 8, Illinois; Peter, 6, Illinois; David, 3, Illinois; Madeline, four months, Illinois; farmer [father] Michael Beckler, 70, France; and Elizabeth Beckler, 54, France. We could not identify Elizabeth further.

Michel/Michael died in Woodford County Sept. 28, 1863. ‘Beckler’ headstones in Hickory Point Cemetery at Metamora give dates of death and say that Mary was 58, Michael was 74. Mary’s headstone describes her as ‘Ehefrau von Michel Bechler’ - wife of Michel Bechler.

Children of Michael Bechler and Marie/Mary born in France include:

1. Jean/John Bechler was born March 4, 1821, and died in Woodford County in October 1871.
2. Barbara Bechler was born circa 1826. She married a Rapp, then Peter Schertz, then Henry Ide. See SCHERTZ, SCHERTZ OF OBERSTINZEL for background on her husbands and children.

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112 Our single source for the birth year 1789 and names of Michael's parents was the late minister/historian Steve Estes.
113 The *Illinois Public Domain Land Sales Database* lists Michael Bachler.
Jean/John Bechler was born in France March 4, 1821, and died in Woodford County in October 1871. On April 30, 1846 in Tazewell County he married Barbara Maurer; the ceremony was performed by minister Andrew Ropp. She was born in France March 1, 1829, and immigrated in 1846.

They are found on the 1860 census of Partridge, Woodford County as Barbara Buckler, 30, Louisiana; Rebecca, 11, Illinois; John, 13, Louisiana; Barbara, 9, Louisiana; Mary, 7, Illinois; Anna, 5, Illinois; and Joseph, 2, Illinois. The 1870 census shows farmer Barbara Buckler, 44, France; farm hand John, 23, Illinois; Barbara, 19, Illinois; and Joseph, 13, Illinois.

The 1873 plat map of Partridge Township shows 'John Bechler Hrs.' [heirs] on 157.46 acres in north-central Section 1 (in the northeast corner of the township, this section is adjacent to Marshall County).

After John's death, widow Barbara Maurer of Partridge Township was profiled in *Past and Present of Woodford County* (1878):

"Bechler, Barbara, farmer; Sec. 1; P.O. Lacon; Christian; owns 160 acres of land, worth $4,000; born in France March 1, 1829; came to America in 1846. Married John Bechler in Peoria Co. He was born in France March 4, 1821, and came to this country when about 7 or 8 years old. He died in October, 1871. They have had eight children, six of whom are living - John, born March 1, 1847; Rebecca, born Feb. 15, 1849; Barbara, born Jan. 20, 1851; Mary, born Feb. 25, 1853; Anna, born Jan. 13, 1855; Joseph, born Sept. 20, 1858; Christopher, born Dec. 29, 1860, died same day; Kate, born March 10, 1862, died Nov. 5, 1862. [Oldest son] John is unmarried and lives with his mother, and has managed the farm for the past nine years. Mrs. Bechler's maiden name was Mour."

Barbara is found on the 1900 and 1910 censuses of Lacon, Marshall County, living with her daughter Rebecca Bechler Freeman. In 1900 Barbara reported that she was born in France in March 1829, and immigrated in 1845. In 1920 she reported that she was born in France, and immigrated in 1848. Rebecca's birth state was reported to be Louisiana.

**PETER BÄCHLER/PIERRE BECHLER**

Pierre Bächler/Pierre Bechler was born circa 1756, and died at Hattigny, Moselle March 13, 1827. Circa 1777 he married Barbe Mozimann/Mosimann. She was born circa 1759, and died at Turquestein-Blancrupt May 13, 1819. She must have been a member of the extensive Mozimann/Mosimann/Mosiman family on la Charmille farm at St. Quirin (in what is now the department of Moselle), where their first child was born. Thus her parents may have been Christian/Christianne Mozimann and Margueritte Gretel Liechti.

The accumulation of evidence suggests that several of their children were born in the area of two adjacent communities in Lower Alsace, Dossenheim-sur-Zinsel and Neuwiller-lès-Saverne. The civil marriage entry of one son says that in life they were cultivators at Füllengarten. The tiny hamlet Fuellengarten [Ger. *Füllengarten*, fill garden] is found on a remote mountain road in a northern projection of the community Dossenheim-sur-Zinsel, 15 miles northeast of Garrebourg. The projection is surrounded by the horseshoe-shaped community Neuwiller-lès-Saverne [Ger. *Neuviller*]. The road south goes downhill through the village center of Neuwiller-lès-Saverne before passing through the village center of Dossenheim-sur-Zinsel.

The subsequent movements of Peter's and his brother Michel's families led east-to-west along the path of what is now French auto route N4. It connects Saverne, Sarrebourg, Hattigny (with St. Quirin below it), and Vandoeuvre-lès-Nancy.

The 1814 marriage entry of Peter's son Hans/Jean described his parents as farm equipment operators at Mâron, Meurthe. Mâron is 15 miles southeast of the city of Nancy, and is now in the department of Meurthe-et-Moselle. It is 76 miles west-southwest of Fuellengarten. Peter's brother Michel was also described as a resident at Mâron when one of his sons was born there in 1815.

The 1818 marriage entry of son Nicolas said they were residents of Cirey in the department of Meurthe. Cirey-sur-Verouze in the department of Meurthe-et-Moselle is 50 miles east of Maron.

According to the 1823 civil marriage entry of their son Simon, his mother Barbe Mozimann had died at 'Ausman' May 13, 1819. Her civil death entry had been obtained from Turquestein. In the 1828 civil marriage entry of her son Valentin, her place of death is given as Turquestein. The entry created at Turquestein describes her as Barbe Mozimann, 50 [she would have been 60], wife of beggar [Fr. *mendiant*] Pierre Pacheler. Her death had been reported by two foresters.

Peter's death entry created at Hattigny, Moselle March 13, 1827 gave his age as 71, and was witnessed by two sons.
Children of Peter Bächler/Pierre Bechler and Barbe Mozimann/Mosimann include:

1. Hans/Jean Bächler was born on La Charmille farm at St. Quirin circa 1777, and died at Vézelise, Meurthe-et-Moselle (20 miles southwest of Nancy) July 24, 1844. On Dec. 28, 1814 at Golbey, Vosges (adjacent to Autrey) he married Barbe Pintre. She was born at St. Die circa 1784, and died at Vézelise Dec. 21, 1867. Their civil marriage entry describes the groom as Jean Bahaire, 36, a son of Anabaptist farm equipment operators Pierre Bahaire and Elisabeth Mause of Maron, Meurthe, in the district of Nancy [Mâron, Meurthe-et-Moselle]. The bride was described as Barbe Pintre, 25, a resident of the hamlet Haut du Gras at Golbey, where she was living with her guardian [Fr. vitrice] Jacob Pashans [Bachmann]. She was a daughter of Anabaptist Chrétien Pintre, who had died at Lubine in March 1792, and Marie Amane [Eymann]. The event was witnessed by Jacob Pashans, 65, guardian of the bride living at Golbey, and Joseph Roupe, 40, a resident of St. Die and a friend of the bride [her cousin]. As noted in ROPP, Joseph Roupe was actually born circa 1782, a son of André Rüp and Barbe Reber; in the following year he would marry Barbe’s sister Marie Pintre. Signatures included Hans Bächler, Jacob Bachmann, and Joseph Rüb. Jean/Hans was described as a cultivator and resident of Golbey when he appeared as witness Jean Baxiere (1816) and Jean Bachelaire (1819) on the civil birth entries of two of Joseph and Marie's daughters. Jean/Hans Bächler and Joseph Roupe were brothers-in-law through their marriages to the Pintre sisters, as well as cousins. The death entry of Jean Becler created at Vézelise July 24, 1844 described him as a 67-year-old shopkeeper who had died in his home; born at la Charmille, Saint Curin, a son of the deceased Pierre Becler and Elisabeth Mozimann; and the husband of Barbe Elisabeth Pintet, 53. It was witnessed by his son Christian Becler, 22.

2. Peter/Pierre Bächler was born circa 1784, and died at Vandevouvre-lès-Nancy March 7, 1848. We found two Bächler entries in the civil records of Autrey, Vosges. The civil birth entry of a daughter Elisabeth born at St. Sauveur, Meurthe-et-Moselle Aug. 25, 1823 described her parents as Pierre Bechler and Barbe Rhode, anabaptiste farmers at Norrois, St. Sauveur. He signed 'Peter Bächler.' A birth entry created June 18, 1831 documented the birth a day earlier of daughter Annette Bockler to cultivator Pierre Bockler, 50, and Barbe Rouge [Roth], 44. It was signed 'Petter bächler.' A death entry created June 26, 1831 documented the death of eight-day-old Annette a day earlier. She was described as a daughter of cultivators Pierre Bockler and Barbe Rouge. It was witnessed by cultivator Pierre Nicolas Bockler, 36, described as an uncle of the deceased. However, his signature looks like 'Hans bäch.' Peter's civil death entry was created at Vandevouvre-lès-Nancy on the day of his death. It described him as day laborer Pierre Pechler, 58, husband of Barbe Rhodes, 59, and a resident of Brispané, Vandoeuvre. He was born at Hosmel [?] in the district of Saverne, a son of the deceased Pierre Pechler and Barbe Moissimann. Witnesses included his brother Nicolas Pechler, 54, and neighbor Nicolas Kremer, 28.

3. Christian Bechler was born circa 1786, and died at Réding, Moselle Dec. 10, 1861. On Sept. 25, 1810 at Lorquin, Moselle he married Marie Abresol. She was born at Rhodes, Moselle April 23, 1792, and died at Guerting, Moselle May 3, 1875, a daughter of Joseph Abresol and Barbe Vercler. Their son Joseph emigrated from Europe in 1852, and served as a minister in the Amish Mennonite community in Oxford County, Ontario.

4. Nicolas Bechler was born circa 1787, and died between 1849 and 1881. On July 22, 1818 at Fouconcourt, Vosges he married Anne Brechbiel. Their civil marriage entry described the groom as cultivator Nicolas Brechri, 29, a resident of Angomont (now in Meurthe-et-Moselle). He was born at 'Flicarictez, Neuville' [Fuellengarten, Dossenheim-sur-Zinsel] in Lower Alsace, a son of cultivator Pierre Bechler and Barbe Moisimann of Cirey in the department of Meurthe (now Cirey-sur-Vezouze in the department of Meurthe-et-Moselle). The bride was described as Anne Brechbiel [Brechbiul], who was born at Chazelles Sept. 15, 1796, a resident of Fouconcourt [Vosges]. She was a daughter of the deceased farm equipment operator Christian Brechbiel, who had died at Chazelles Feb. 1, 1810, and Elisabeth Roup, who had died there April 20, 1807. One witness was cultivator Joseph Eymann, 49, maternal uncle of the bride, a resident of Fouconcourt. The groom signed 'Clauis Bechler.' Anne died at Vandevouvre-lès-Nancy April 18, 1849, Nicolas remarried to Catherine Seherzt. She was born at Causelmin, Switzerland circa 1806, and died at Nancy, Meurthe-et-Moselle April 13, 1881, a daughter of Nicolas Schertz and Marie Martin.

5. Joseph Bechler was born at Dossemheim March 17, 1790, and died at Gondrexange, Moselle Sept. 26, 1854. On Oct. 31, 1816 at Hattigny, Moselle he married Barbe Lemann. She was born on Risholtz farm at Hattigny July 7, 1796, and died at Gondrexange Sept. 29, 1854, a daughter of Christian Lemann and Catherine Gerber/Carbre.

6. Andreas or André Bachler/Andrew Baechler (he signed his own name 'Andreas Bachler') was born on a farm at St. Jean-de-Choux, Lower Alsace July 14, 1794, according to his civil marriage entry. However, no civil birth entry is found at either St. Jean-Saverne - the name of St. Jean-de-Choux since 1920 - or at nearby Saverne.

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114 Joseph Bechler was born at Fraqufeling, Moselle Aug. 31, 1817, and died at East Zorra, Oxford County, Ontario March 30, 1891. On Aug. 4, 1846 at Hattigny, Moselle he married Catherine Steinmann. She was born at Imling, Moselle Feb. 28, 1824, and died at East Zorra Sept. 13, 1908, a daughter of Peter Steinmann and Anne Abresol. Joseph was ordained as a minister in Europe. They sailed from Le Havre on the St. George, and arrived at New York April 26, 1852. The passenger list shows Joseph Beckler, 34; Catherine, 32; Anne, 11; Christian Gamelle [Kennel?], 27; Magdelene Steinmann, 26; and Maria, 34. They arrived at Tavistock, Ontario that year. They are buried as Joseph G. Baechler and Catharine Steinmann in the Amish Mennonite Cemetery at East Zorra-Tavistock.
7. Simon Bächler was born circa 1798, and died at Ville-en-Vermois, Meurthe-et-Moselle Dec. 7, 1877. On Nov. 24, 1823 at Ville-en-Vermois he married Barbe Blanck. She was born at Bouxières-aux-Chênes, Meurthe-et-Moselle Oct. 12, 1804, and died at Ville-en-Vermois March 3, 1874, a daughter of Joseph Blanck and Madeleine Eymann. Their civil marriage entry described the groom as Simon Pechkler, 25, born at Ausman, Canton Néville [actually a location in or near Turquestein, Moselle], and a resident of Haraucourt [in Meurthe-et-Moselle]. He was the son of Pierre Pechkler, who was present and consenting, and the deceased Barbe Mosimann, who had died at Ausman May 13, 1819. The bride was described as Barbe Blanck, 18, born at Bouxières-aux-Chênes, a resident of Girardcourt at Ville-en-Vermois. She was a daughter of cultivator Joseph Blanck and Magdelaine Aimé [Eymann], who were present and consenting. Witnesses included cultivator Michel Pechkler, 50, an uncle of the groom living at Montey, Vandouvre [now Vandouvre-lès-Nancy]; André Pechkler, 27, brother of the groom and farmer at Domeny [Adomenil farm] at Rehainviller; uncle of the bride Christian Kerbert [Gerber] of Saulxures, 68; and uncle of the bride and cultivator Nicolas Blanck, 50. The document was signed Simon Bächler.

8. Valentin Bächler was born at Dossenheim in March 1802 (though no civil birth entry is found there), and died at Gironcourt-sur-Vraine, Vosges Aug. 8, 1854. On July 11, 1828 at Sarrebourg, Moselle he married Barbe Engel. Their civil marriage entry describes the groom as Valentin Bächler, aged 26 years and three months, a resident of Donnelay. His parents were described as the deceased cultivator Pierre Bächler of Füllengarten, Dossenheim, who had died at Hattigny March 13, 1827, and the deceased Barbe Mosimann, who had died at Turquestein May 13, 1819. The bride was described as Barbe Engel, age 27 years and five months, born at Gelucourt Feb. 7, 1801, a resident of Mattenmühl [grain mill] at Sarrebourg. She was a daughter of the deceased miller Josseph Engel, who had died at Sarrebourg March 25, 1812, and Catherine Bachmann, miller at the mill, who was present and consenting. Valentin's civil death entry created Aug. 9 described him as Valentin Bechler, 52, a resident of Gironcourt, and husband of Barbe Engel. It stated that he was born on Bonnefontaine farm in the community of Lenchent, district of Saverne, a son of the deceased Pierre Bechler and Elisabeth Mouzimann, who in life had been cultivators on Risholtz farm at Hattigny. One witness was Christian Bechler 32, a shopkeeper at Vezelise; he signed 'Christem Beheler.' The Rue de Bonne Fontaine runs north out of the village of Danne-et-Quatre-Vents, Moselle, between Saverne and Phalsbourg, in a forest adjacent to Dossenheim. We could not identify Lenchent.

**Andreas or André Bachler/Andrew Baechler** (he signed his own name 'Andreas Bachler') was born on a farm at St. Jean-de-Choux, Lower Alsace July 14, 1794, according to his civil marriage entry. On Aug. 21, 1819 at Rehainviller he married Anne Roupe. She signed her own surname 'Rüp.' It was originally derived from Rüpp, and she was a cousin to Andreas Ropp, the patriarch of the Ropp family in Central Illinois.

Their civil marriage entry described the groom as André Pastielle, 25, who had been a cultivator at Rehainviller for three years. He was born on a farm at St. Jean-de-Choux, Saverne July 14, 1794. His parents Pierre Pastielle and Elizabeth Mozimann were residents of Autrey, Vosges, and were present and consenting. The bride was described as Anne Roupe, 19 years and six months of age, born at Nasseville [Natzwiller], Vosges Jan. 28, 1801. She was a daughter of cultivator Christian Roupe and Magdelaine Prahpille [Brechbühl] of Adomènil (a destination for small pilgrimages. The forest road heads north to Asswiller, the location of the castle estate Bonne-Fontaine [Ger. Gutenbrunnen] associated with the Oesch/Esch family.

8. Simon Bächler was born circa 1798, and died at Ville-en-Vermois, Meurthe-et-Moselle Dec. 7, 1877. On Nov. 24, 1823 at Ville-en-Vermois he married Barbe Blanck. She was born at Bouxières-aux-Chênes, Meurthe-et-Moselle Oct. 12, 1804, and died at Ville-en-Vermois March 3, 1874, a daughter of Joseph Blanck and Madeleine Eymann. Their civil marriage entry described the groom as Simon Pechkler, 25, born at Ausman, Canton Néville [actually a location in or near Turquestein, Moselle], and a resident of Haraucourt [in Meurthe-et-Moselle]. He was the son of Pierre Pechkler, who was present and consenting, and the deceased Barbe Mosimann, who had died at Ausman May 13, 1819. The bride was described as Barbe Blanck, 18, born at Bouxières-aux-Chênes, a resident of Girardcourt at Ville-en-Vermois. She was a daughter of cultivator Joseph Blanck and Magdelaine Aimé [Eymann], who were present and consenting. Witnesses included cultivator Michel Pechkler, 50, an uncle of the groom living at Montey, Vandouvre [now Vandouvre-lès-Nancy]; André Pechkler, 27, brother of the groom and farmer at Domeny [Adomenil farm] at Rehainviller; uncle of the bride Christian Kerbert [Gerber] of Saulxures, 68; and uncle of the bride and cultivator Nicolas Blanck, 50. The document was signed Simon Bächler.

8. Valentin Bächler was born at Dossenheim in March 1802 (though no civil birth entry is found there), and died at Gironcourt-sur-Vraine, Vosges Aug. 8, 1854. On July 11, 1828 at Sarrebourg, Moselle he married Barbe Engel. Their civil marriage entry describes the groom as Valentin Bächler, aged 26 years and three months, a resident of Donnelay. His parents were described as the deceased cultivator Pierre Bächler of Füllengarten, Dossenheim, who had died at Hattigny March 13, 1827, and the deceased Barbe Mosimann, who had died at Turquestein May 13, 1819. The bride was described as Barbe Engel, age 27 years and five months, born at Gelucourt Feb. 7, 1801, a resident of Mattenmühl [grain mill] at Sarrebourg. She was a daughter of the deceased miller Josseph Engel, who had died at Sarrebourg March 25, 1812, and Catherine Bachmann, miller at the mill, who was present and consenting. Valentin's civil death entry created Aug. 9 described him as Valentin Bechler, 52, a resident of Gironcourt, and husband of Barbe Engel. It stated that he was born on Bonnefontaine farm in the community of Lenchent, district of Saverne, a son of the deceased Pierre Bechler and Elisabeth Mouzimann, who in life had been cultivators on Risholtz farm at Hattigny. One witness was Christian Bechler 32, a shopkeeper at Vezelise; he signed 'Christem Beheler.' The Rue de Bonne Fontaine runs north out of the village of Danne-et-Quatre-Vents, Moselle, between Saverne and Phalsbourg, in a forest adjacent to Dossenheim. We could not identify Lenchent.

**Andreas or André Bachler/Andrew Baechler** (he signed his own name 'Andreas Bachler') was born on a farm at St. Jean-de-Choux, Lower Alsace July 14, 1794, according to his civil marriage entry. On Aug. 21, 1819 at Rehainviller he married Anne Roupe. She signed her own surname 'Rüp.' It was originally derived from Rüpp, and she was a cousin to Andreas Ropp, the patriarch of the Ropp family in Central Illinois.

Their civil marriage entry described the groom as André Pastielle, 25, who had been a cultivator at Rehainviller for three years. He was born on a farm at St. Jean-de-Choux, Saverne July 14, 1794. His parents Pierre Pastielle and Elizabeth Mozimann were residents of Autrey, Vosges, and were present and consenting. The bride was described as Anne Roupe, 19 years and six months of age, born at Nasseville [Natzwiller], Vosges Jan. 28, 1801. She was a daughter of cultivator Christian Roupe and Magdelaine Prahpille [Brechbühl] of Adomènil (a château at Rehainviller), who were also present and consenting. One witness on the wedding document was described as cultivator Joseph Goldschmidt of Adomèneil, 28, a friend of the bride. Signatures read Andreas Bachler, Peter Bächler, Anna Rüp, Madlen Brechbühl, and Joseph Goldsmidt.

'Pastielle' and 'Passielle' appear to be nothing more than the way a French-speaking municipal clerk would mistranscribe 'Bachler' if it was poorly written in old German script. This strongly suggests that the surname was copied off a document, and not spoken to the clerk.

After marriage the couple lived at Donnelay, Moselle. Circa 1835 they relocated to Salonnas, Moselle (12 miles northwest of Donnelay).

One of their sons, André/Andrew Baechler, reached his 21st birthday in 1849. Smitten with stories of adventures in the gold fields, he left home bound for Australia. He would not be reunited with his parents until he joined them in Central Illinois in 1866.

Another son, Simon Baechler, sailed to America in early 1855. His parents sailed from Le Havre on the packet ship *St. Denis*, and arrived at New York April 16, 1855. Their party appears on the passenger list as Andrew

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115 Bonnefontaine farm is located on the Rue de Bonne-Fontaine leading north out of the village of Danne-et-Quatre-Vents. In 1717 a Catholic shrine was constructed around a wellspring there. Its waters were used in religious ceremonies, and it became a destination for small pilgrimages. The forest road heads north to Asswiller, the location of the castle estate Bonne-Fontaine [Ger. Gutenbrunnen] associated with the Oesch/Esch family.

116 This may only reflect confusion with the residence of brother Peter/Pierre.

117 The 959-ton *St. Denis* was launched at New York in 1848. It departed from New York on its last voyage Jan. 3, 1856, bound for Le Havre. On Jan. 6 it encountered high waves that caused it to take on water and eventually founder. The first mate,
Bachler, 50; Anna, 55; Joseph, 20; and Elizabeth, 18. They were accompanied by their daughter Marie/Mary Baechler and son-in-law Jean Ropp or Rupp: Jean Rupp, 30; Maria, 24; and Maria, 11 months.

In Illinois they reunited with son Simon. They purchased a farm in Tazewell County, worked it for three years, then in 1858 sold it to live with their children

The 1860 census of Hopedale shows farmer Andraus Bechler, 64, Germany; Anna, 60, Germany; Simon, 26, Germany; Elizabeth, 28, Germany; and laborer Lana, 30, Germany. The 1870 census of Yates, MacLean County shows them living in the household of son Simon as Ando Baechler, 74, France; and Anna, 70, France.

Andreas/André/Andrew died in McLean County March 9, 1874. Their joint headstone in Chenoa Cemetery identifies him as "Andrew Baechler, March 9, 1874, aged 76 years."

Anne/Anna died there July 16, 1870. Herald of Truth, September 1870: "On the 16th of July, near Chenoa, McLean county, Ill., Anna, wife of Andreas Bachler, aged 70 years and 6 months. She was first struck by Palsy and afterwards suffered from Consumption. She was sick for 15 months, and could not lay down for the last six months, but she bore her affliction with great patience and with a good hope. Her maiden name was Rupp, was born in France, lived 51 years in the bonds of matrimony and left a husband, 7 children, 19 grand-children, and one great-grand-child. She was a member of the Omish Mennonite church. A funeral sermon was preached by Pre. Joseph Stuckey from 1 Cor. 15:35." Their joint headstone in Chenoa Cemetery identifies her as "Anna, his wife, July 16, 1870, aged 70 years."

Children of Andreas/André/Andrew Baechler and Anne/Anna Roupe, uniformly born in summer at two-year intervals, include:

1. The civil entry index of Rehainviller, Meurthe-ets-Moselle says that Anne Pasielle, a daughter of André, was born there July 5, 1820. She died there July 30, 1824.
2. Christian Baechler was born at Rehainviller May 4, 1822 (his civil birth entry called him 'Christian Pasielle'). On June 4, 1850 at St. Louis, Upper Alsace he married Marie Madeleine Wenger. She was born at St. Louis Oct. 27, 1833, a daughter of Joseph Wenger and Anne Marie Zimmerman. Their civil marriage entry describes the groom as cultivator Christian Passielle, born at Rehainviller May 4, 1826, a resident of St. Médard, Meurthe [presumably the village of that name in the department of Moselle]. He was a son of cultivator André Passielle and Anne Roupe, residents of Salommes. The bride was described as Madelaine Wenger, born at St. Louis Oct. 27, 1833, and was a resident of Michelfelden (a neighborhood in St. Louis). She was a daughter of the deceased cultivator Joseph Wenger (he had died Dec. 18, 1840) and Marie Anne Zimmerman, who was present and consenting. Witnesses include cultivator Chrétien Wenger, 25; and cousin of the groom Christophe Roupe, a cultivator from Bacha [Les Bachats farm], Rhodes [he signed 'Christophe Rupp']. The groom's father signed 'Andreas Bachler.' Someone signed for the groom, writing 'C. Passielle dit Baechler' - C. Passielle also called Bachler.
3. The civil entry index of Rehainville says that Madeleine Passielle, a daughter of André, was born July 25, 1824.
4. Anne/Anna Baechler or 'Annie Beckler' was born Sept. 29, 1826, and died at Chenoa, McLean County May 13, 1902. On April 2, 1850 at Salommes she married Joseph Rupp. He was born on Les Bachats farm at Rhodes, Moselle Jan. 4, 1821, and died in Illinois Aug. 24, 1860, a son of Jean Roup and Marie Vercler. For background on their marriage and her remarriage to Christian Claudon see ROPP.
5. André/Andrew Baechler was born at Donnelay, Moselle Aug. 27, 1828 (his civil birth entry called him 'Joseph Bekler'), and died in 1874. On Jan. 6, 1869 in McLean County he married Marie/Mary Habecker. She was born in the hamlet Neuhof near Kirchheimbolanden May 9, 1842, and died at Momence, Kankakee County in 1912, a daughter of Johannes/Johann/John Habecker and his second wife Maria Magdalena Klein. According to Historical Encyclopedia of Illinois, History of Kankakee County; he sailed via London to Australia in 1849. He remained there for eight years before sailing to San Francisco, where he spent a year in the gold camps. He spent another seven years passing through Idaho, British Columbia, and Montana. From Montana he traveled to Livingston County, and purchased a farm there. His parents and siblings had immigrated in 1854 (see BECHLER/BECKER). The 1880 census of Yates, McLean County shows Andrew Baechler, 51; France; Mary, 39, Germany; Edward, 10, Illinois; Oliver J., 6, Illinois; Oscar E., 4, Illinois; Elvin E., 2, Illinois; Matilda, 1, Illinois; and mother-in-law Ella Habecker, 80, Germany. The family relocated to Momence in the spring of 1899. They are buried in Momence Cemetery as Andrew and Mary Baechler. born at Kirchheimbolanden.
6. Marie/Mary Baechler was born at Donnelay July 28, 1830 (her civil birth entry called her Marie Bekler'). On April 3, 1853 at Salommes she married her cousin Jean Rupp. He was born on Les Bachats farm at Rhodes, Moselle Oct. 18, 1824, and died April 4, 1913, a son of Jean Roup and Marie Vercler. They settled at Bloomington, McLean County. They purchased a farm in Tazewell County, worked it for three years, then in 1858 sold it to live with their children.

There was substantial newspaper coverage of the inquiry in New York when it came out that the captain and all 34 passengers had gone down with the ship.
County. Jean Rupp was ordained at Hopedale or Tremont, and served as a minister at Weston. See ROPP for more on this couple and their children.

7. Joseph Baechler was born at Donnelay June 12, 1832 (his civil birth entry called him 'Joseph Bekler'), and died at Pagny-sur-Meuse, Meuse Sept. 8, 1871. He came to America with his parents in 1855, but returned to France, most likely in 1859. On April 15, 1861 at Sampigny, Meuse he married Madeleine Sommer. She was born at Han-sur-Meuse (adjacent to Sampigny) Jan. 1, 1841, a daughter of Joseph Sommer and Madeleine Geny [Jenni].

8. **Simon Baechler** was born at Donnelay July 13, 1834. His civil birth entry called him 'Simon Beckler.'

9. Elisabeth Baechler was born at Salomones July 26, 1836 (her civil birth entry called her 'Elisabeth Beklere'), and died at Princeton, Bureau County in 1874. On April 15, 1859 in Tazewell County she married Nicolas/Nicholas Roggy; the ceremony was performed by minister Andrew Ropp. He was born on the Diefenbacherhof at Riedseltz June 16, 1828, and died at Princeton Feb. 8, 1909, a son of Jean Roggy and Anne Catherine Güngerich. He had been in California during the Gold Rush. On Oct. 4, 1877 in Bureau County Nicholas remarried to Mary Yordy. She was born May 2, 1857, and died at Princeton Jan. 20, 1932. The 1900 census of Princetown shows Nicholas Roggy, 71, born in France in June 1828, immigrated in 1848; Mary, 43, born in Germany in May 1857, immigrated in 1872; and son Ralph A., 6, born in Illinois in June 1893 to parents from France and Germany. Elisabeth and Nicholas are buried under a joint headstone in Oakland Cemetery at Princeton.

**Simon Baechler** was born at Donnelay, Moselle July 13, 1834. Simon sailed from Dunkirk to London, arriving there Jan. 15, 1855. English documentation spells his name Simon Baechler, gives his profession as **agronome**, and says he was born at Donlay [Donnelay].

An agronomist uses plants for food, fuel, fiber, or land reclamation. In 1855 the term would have described a cultivator/fruit grower who specialized in grafting to produce hybrids.

Simon continued via New Orleans to Peoria and Tazewell County. In Tazewell County he was reunited with his parents a few months later.

Why would a 20-year-old French male immigrate three months before the remainder of his family? The Crimean War had begun in October 1853. Allies troops including the French had landed on the Crimean Peninsula in September 1854, and earned a few quick victories. British troops were severely punished by Russians in the Battle of Balaclava Oct. 25 (the 'Charge of the Light Brigade'), and the front lines spent the winter in brutal siege warfare. We can speculate that older brother Joseph had obtained an exemption from military training, and Simon had not.

On Feb. 9, 1856 Simon and Joseph Baechler submitted **Declarations of Intent for Naturalization** at Pekin. They stated that they had arrived at New York in 1855, and held allegiance to Louis Napoleon. In Illinois Simon worked with his father until 1859. That spring he undertook a trip back to Europe to seek a wife. He was accompanied by Christian Mosiman, an Ohio-born son of elder Michael Mosiman. They applied for passports at New York City May 20, 1859; Simon signed Christian's application as 'Simon Bächler.'

On the trip Simon married his sister-in-law Elisabeth Wenger. She was born at St. Louis, Upper Alsace March 14, 1842, a daughter of Joseph Wenger and Anne Marie Zimmerman. She was a twin, born 10 minutes after her sister Anne. Their civil birth entry described their father as a shopkeeper at Michelfelden, St. Louis, Upper Alsace. Christian and Simon returned to Central Illinois with Elisabeth in the autumn of 1859. Though we could not find an exact match, there is a possibility. The **Bavaria** sailed from Hamburg via Southampton to New York, arriving Nov. 3, 1859. Its passenger list shows this trio: merchant H. Becher, 29, U.S., 29; Jane, 26; and C. Mosimann, Germany, 25.

Simon and Elisabeth were married in Tazewell County Nov. 14, 1859. From this point on, the spelling of her given name would be 'Elizabeth.' Simon was naturalized at the Peoria Court House Oct. 26, 1860. His country of former allegiance was France; his witnesses were Daniel Gingrich and J.R. Campbell. Simon and Elizabeth farmed with his father for two more years. In 1862 they resettled near Hopedale on the Little Mackinaw River.

Over the next five years a number of families from Hopedale and Tremont resettled on prairie land in the area of Weston, McLean County. According to *The History of McLean County, Illinois* heads of households included Christian Claudon, Jacob Orendorff, Jean/John Rupp, Peter Garber, Peter Sommer, Simon Baechler, and Simon's brother Joseph (who later returned to live in Europe).

"Simon Baechler and John Rupp [his brother-in-law] were both preachers, having been ordained to the ministry while living near Hopedale and Tremont." They met in homes until 1870, then in the Yates Township Centre Schoolhouse two miles southwest of Weston. Joseph Stuckey of Danvers served as elder to the congregation.

Simon purchased 180 acres of prairie in Section 13 at Yates. He served as Roads Commissioner of Yates Township 1874-77. In the spring of 1879 he purchased 70 adjoining acres. His household appears on the 1880
census of Yates as Simon Baechler, 46, Lorraine, parents born in Alsace and Lorraine; Elizabeth [Wenger], 27, Alsace, parents born in Switzerland; and four children born in Illinois.

In 1881 the Baechlers relocated to 160 acres in Indian Grove, Livingston County (adjacent to Weston). They can be found on the 1900 and 1910 censuses of Indian Grove. The 1900 census shows landlord Simon Baechler, 65, born in Germany in June 1834, immigrated in 1955; Elizabeth, 58, born in Germany in March 1842, immigrated 1859; and daughter Anna, 35, born in Illinois in December 1864 to German parents.

Simon died at Indian Grove Jan. 3, 1921. Elizabeth died there Feb. 23, 1934. Graceland Cemetery at Fairbury holds a joint headstone names them as "Simon Bechler, July 13, 1834-Jan. 31, 1921, and Elizabeth his wife, March 14, 1842-Feb. 23, 1934." However, they may actually be buried in the Weston Cemetery, which is now a prairie nature preserve.

**MICHEL BÄCHLER**

Miller Michel Bächler was born at Garrebourg (found as 'Carbory' or 'Carborg' on his death entry) circa 1761. He married Maria/Marie Mosimann. She was born on La Charmille farm at St. Quirin (now in Moselle) circa 1764. Documents supporting the marriage of her daughter Marie called the location ‘Scharm.’ She died at Bourscheid, Moselle Oct. 31, 1797.

Marie was a daughter of Christian/Christiane Mozimann and Margueritte Gretel Liechti. She was a younger sister to Michel Mosimann, who was the father of Tazewell County minister Michael Mosiman.

Civil birth entries for Michel and Marie's children born at Bourscheid, as well as the listing of her death entry in the 10-year index of records, erroneously described her as Marie Moyemont. Her civil death entry called her Marie Mosimag and Marie Mosimang.

Entries at Bourscheid describe Michel as a plowman [Ger. Ackermann].

Children of Michel Bächler and his first wife Maria/Marie Mosimann include:

1. Marie Bächler was born at Neuville [now Neuwiller-lès-Saverne] circa 1788. On Jan. 4, 1813 at Badonviller, Meurthe-et-Moselle she married Jacob Muller [Müller]. Their civil marriage entry described the groom as cultivator's assistant Jacob Muller, 33; born at La Broque, Vosges and a resident of Badonviller; a son of cultivator Louis Muller and Marie Sommer of Fribourg. The bride was described as Marie Bächler, 25; born at Neuville, Saverne, Lower Alsace, and a resident of Badonviller; a daughter of miller Michel Bächler of St. Mard and the deceased Marie Mosimann. Witnesses included Moÿse Sommer, 55; and Christian Sommer, 48; farmers at Chamois (La Charmille farm at St. Quirin) and uncles of the groom.

2. Barbe Bechler (as her name was spelled in her civil birth entry) was born at Bourscheid Sept. 12, 1793, and died there (the entry calls her Marie Barbe Bechler) Aug. 23, 1796. Her birth entry was witnessed by Christian Bächler and Nicholas Oesch/Esch. Her death entry was witnessed by Hans Coffiman [Kaufmann?] and Nicholas Oesch/Esch.

3. Anne Bechler was born at Bourscheid July 7, 1793, and died there (the entry calls her Anne Marie Bechler) Feb. 8, 1796.

4. Barbe Bechler was born at Bourscheid April 7, 1797. Her civil birth entry described her parents as Michel Bechler and Marie Mosimang; witnesses included Nicolas Oesch, 36, and Christian Bechler, 50. On Sept. 11, 1834 at Vignot, Meuse she married Jean Eymann. Their civil marriage entry described the groom as miller Jean Eyman, born Jan. 10, 1790 in the Anabaptist mill at St. Jean, canton Sarbruck, and a resident of Vignot; a son of the deceased Chrétien Eymann, who had died June 10, 1819, and Marie Zehr, who had died Jan. 3, 1804. The bride was described as Barbe Becler, who was born at Bourscheid April 8, 1797, a daughter of Anabaptist Michel Becler, who had died June 4, 1826, and Marie Mosimang, who had died Oct. 31, 1797. Four Eymann children were brought to the marriage. Witnesses included miller's assistant Jean Gerber, 28, who was living with the groom. Signatures read B. Becler and Johannes Eymann. The complete set of marriage announcement documents that was publicly posted on the two Sundays before the ceremony has been preserved on FHL microfilm 1352618. Information about Barbe can also be found on the birth entry of her son Christophe Eymann; it was created at Vignot April 18, 1830.

On Jan. 25, 1798 at Bourscheid Michel remarried to Marie Bertschi. Their civil marriage entry was witnessed by brother Andres Bächler, 27 [he signed Andreas Bächler]; brother-in-law Nicola Ösh, 30; Christen Salsman [he signed Christian Saltzman], 40; and Joseph Heimroth, 30. The Bourscheid 10-year index identifies them as Michel  

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118 St. Jean would also be described as Sankt Johann. It was absorbed by the city of Saarbrücken in 1909. The city is now located in the state of Saarland, Germany. It was occupied by French troops at the time of the marriage.
Bechler and Mariy Bretschi. She was born circa 1775, a daughter of Nicolas Bertschi and Susanne Letwiller of Bischwald Mill at Bistroff, Moselle.119

They lived at Imling, Moselle (10 miles southwest of Bourscheid) 1801-08. Imling is considered a suburb of Sarrebourg, the center of an administrative district. Mennonite families there included Abecker [Habegger/Habecker], Aberos, Blanck, Creadil [Krehbel/Krayenbühl], Kupferschmidt, Nafziger, Neuhauser, Rediger, Ringenberg, Schrack [Schrab], Sommer, Stooit [Stucki], and Suisse [from Schweizer, later Schweitzer].

The family was living at St. Mard, Meurthe-et-Moselle 1812-13. The 1815 birth entry of son Joseph described them as residents of Maron, Meurthe-et-Moselle. Before 1817 they relocated again to the forested land called the Bois du Prieuré du Montet on the west side of Vandoeuvre-lès-Nancy (below the city of Nancy).

Marie died at Vandoeuvre-lès-Nancy, Meurthe-et-Moselle Nov. 20, 1818. Her civil death entry described her as Marie Anne Bertier, 48, the wife of 54-year-old cultivator Michel Peckler. Her parents were identified as the deceased Nicolas Bertier and Susanne Detwine [Dettweiler?], and her birthplace was given as 'Chevalmère (Allemagne).’ Michel's residence was given as 'Moulet' (possibly Mouilly, Meuse, between Nancy and Vignot).

Michel died in the mill at Vignot, Meuse June 4, 1826. His civil death entry described him as a 65-year-old miller born at Carbo (Garrebourg) and living at Vignot, the widower of Marie Pelletiere. One witness was described as 33-year-old miller Jean Eyman; he signed as Johannes Eymann. Johannes would later marry Michel's daughter Barbe.

The entry also described him as a "...natif de Carbory, Département de la Meurthe, "...fil des defuncte Michel Bechler et Marie Mauzimann de leur vivant demeurant au dit Carbory" - born at Carbo, Meurthe [Garrebourg, Moselle], a son of the deceased Michel Bechler and Marie Mosimann who resided at Carbo.

Children of Michel Bächler and his second wife Marie Bertschi include:

5. Christian Bächler was born at Bourscheid, Moselle Jan. 21, 1799, and died at Imling, Moselle Aug. 22, 1800. The Bourscheid 10-year index identifies him as Christianne Bechler.

6. Catherine Bächler was born circa 1796. She was likely adopted into this family after the death of the daughter Catherine (1802-04). On March 30, 1817 at Igney, Meurthe-et-Moselle she married Jacob Müller. Their civil marriage entry described the groom as farm equipment operator's assistant Jacob Müller, 22, born at St. Croix-aux-Mines, Upper Alsace Aug. 15, 1794, a son of Pierre Müller of Ste. Marie-aux-Mines and [illegible]. The bride was described as Catherine Perkleler, 21, born at Montel, Vandoeuvre, a daughter of cultivator Michel Peckeler and Marie Becki. Witnesses included father of the groom and cultivator Pierre Müller, 55; friend of the groom and cultivator Nicolas Sert [Nicolas Zehr], 43, of Igney; cultivator Michel Peckler, 54, a resident of Montel; and friend of the couple and cultivator Christiann Martin, 27.

7. Catherine Bächler/Bechler was born at Imling, Moselle Jan. 18, 1801.

8. Susanne Bächler was born at Imling July 31, 1801, and died at Dompecevrin, Meuse Jan. 18, 1878. On June 12, 1828 at Vignot she married Jean Türck. He was born at Flavigny-sur-Moselle Oct. 5, 1806, and died at Commercy, Meuse Feb. 13, 1857, a son of Pierre Tück and Catherine Kennel. Their civil marriage entry described the groom as Jean Tück, a miller living at Liéry or Cirey, born at Stavigny, Meurthe Oct. 6, 1806 [perhaps meant to be Sampigny], a son of the deceased Pierre Tück who had died at Colombey, Meurthe Jan. 22, 1826, and the deceased Catherine Kennel who had died at Houdmont, Nancy March 21, 1823. The bride was described as Susanna Becler, born at Imling July 31, 1804, a resident of Vignot. She was a daughter of the deceased Michel Bächler who had died at Vignot June 5, 1826, and Marie Anne Berti, who had died at Vandoeuvre Nov. 21, 1818. Witnesses included friend of the couple Jean Eyman, 36, a miller; friend of the couple Jean Christian Rhote, 45, a farm equipment operator; brother of the bride Christophe Becler, 26, living at St. Julien; and Pierre Blanc, 28. Signatures included S. Bacler, Christian Roth, Johannes Türk, and Johannes Eyman.

9. Pierre Bächler was born at Imling May 30, 1806, and died at Allichamps, Haut-Marne Oct. 8, 1874. On Oct. 28, 1828 at Robert-Espagne, Meuse he married Elisabeth Engel. She was born at Domèvre-sur-Vezouze, Meurthe-et-Moselle April 23, 1809, and died at Attancourt, Haut-Marne July 10, 1888, a daughter of Joseph Engel and Marie

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119 L’Etang de Bischwald is the large pond next to Belgrade Farm in Bistroff, which was home to Engels, Jantzis, Stecker/Stakers, and Zehrs. Imling records mention that Marie's sister Magdalena 'Bertechy,' 17, died there May 15, 1794; she was described as the wife of Joseph Ringenberg. It is likely that Marie Bertschi was mentioned on an entry made at Linstroff Dec. 2, 1796. That entry records that Marie 'Bertechy', 24, a day laborer at Hingsange Farm in Linstroff, had reported the death of her grandmother, Marie Meyer, 72. Her deceased grandfather was Jean 'Bertechy' of Bischwald Mill. Witnesses included Jean Oyer, 47-year-old day laborer; and Joseph Schertz, 24; both of Hingsange Farm.
Marie/Mary married Nicholas Maurer in Butler County, Ohio. The Maurers would settle in District 56 (Woodford County) by the 1850 census, and a short while later purchased land in Montgomery Township. A handwritten journal found in the pocket of minister Nicholas Augspurger after his death was transcribed with its original spelling errors. The transcription was published ‘as is’ in Grubb's The History of the Amish Mennonites of Butler County, Ohio (1916).

The Maurers had in Woodford County a son Nicholas, born September 9, 1854. The birth was registered in the 1854 index of Baptisms, Burials and Marriages. Nicholas married Sarah Reeder in 1880, and they lived at Attancourt in the 1880 census.

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Marcia Cleaves

Elisabethe Gerber. Their civil marriage entry described the groom as miller Pierre Bechler, 22, born at Imling May 30, 1806 to the deceased miller Michel Bechler and the deceased Marie Bertchi. The bride was described as Elisabeth Lange, 22, born at Dommeure, a daughter of miller Joseph Lange and Elisabeth Gerber, who were present and consenting. Witnesses included brother of the groom and miller Christian Bechler, 24; brother-in-law of the groom and miller Jean Turke, 22, a resident of Sorey; second cousin of the bride and artiste veterinaire Jean Gerber, 37; and brother of the bride Nicolas Lange [Engel], 24. Signatures included Pierre Becler, Nicolas Lange, Joseph Engel, Johannes Türk, and Gerber. The civil death entry of Pierre Pecler created at Allichamps described him as a 66-year-old resident of Attancourt who was born at Heiming [Héming near Imling].

Madeleine Bächler was born at Imling May 19, 1808.

Jean Bächler was born at St. Mard, Meurthe-et-Moselle June 19, 1812, and died at Montplonne, Meuse March 15, 1843. His civil birth entry described his parents as miller Michel Bächler, 44, and Marie Bertschy, residents of St. Mard. Before 1843 he married Suzanne Neyhouser. She was born at Râon-sur-Plaine, Vosges in 1817, and died at Gondrecourt-le-Château, Meuse Sept. 9, 1875, a daughter of Jean Neuhauser and Marie Augsbourger.

Joseph Bächler was born at Mâron, Meurthe-et-Moselle June 10, 1815, and died at Gondrecourt-le-Château, Meuse Jan. 16, 1859. His civil birth entry described his parents as miller Michel Peheler, 54, and Marie Perqui, residents of Mâron. On Feb. 22, 1847 at Montplonne, Meuse he married his brother Jean's widow Suzanne Neyhouser, and adopted her children.

Christian Bächler/Bechler was born at Imling, Moselle Jan. 18, 1801. The Imling 10-year index identifies him as Christiane Pechler, a son of Michel Pechler and Marie Perchi. His civil birth entry called him Christian Packer, and identified his parents as miller Michel Packler and Marie Pertschi.

Circa 1826 he married Elisabeth/Eliza Zimmerman. She was born circa 1805, possibly at Emmendingen, Baden like her sister Marie, who was born there April 17, 1801 (according to Marie’s civil marriage entry with Pierre Serach/Peter Schrock created at Robert-Espagne, Meuse Aug. 25, 1825). Elisabeth/Eliza and Marie were daughters of Jacob Zimmerman and Elisabeth Becher/Becker, who sailed with the Schrocks in 1831.

In 1828 Christian was described on his sister Susanne's marriage entry as a miller at Julien. Presumably this was what became St.-Julien-sous-lès-Côtes, Meuse, a village only three miles from Vignot and Commercy. Christian, Elisabeth/Eliza, and four children sailed from Le Havre on the Marcia Cleaves May 8, 1840. They traveled with Christian's cousin Magdalena Bächler/Madeleine Bechler, a daughter of Christian Bächler/Bechler and Magdalena Oesch/Madeleine Esch, and her husband Nicholas Gerber.

They arrived at New Orleans June 26, 1840. The passenger list categorized them with passengers from France, and describes Christ Bechler, 39, miller; Eliza, 35; Joseph, 13; Marie, 9; Barb, 7; and Nicholas, 3. The Marcia Cleaves voyage was significant because two passengers died and one was born on the transatlantic passage. Many of the passengers continued their journey on a paddlewheel steamboat that foundered near Baton Rouge, indirectly resulting in more deaths from yellow fever. Nicholas Gerber and Magdalena Bächler/Madeleine Bechler were detained at Memphis, and died there five days apart in July of 1840. The story of the disastrous journey can be found in GINGERICH.

Christian and Elisabeth/Eliza may have died before Christmas Day of 1848. On that day their daughter Marie/Mary married Nicholas Maurer in Butler County, Ohio. The Maurers would settle in District 56 (Woodford County) by the 1850 census, and a short while later purchased land in Montgomery Township.

Children of Christian Bächler/Bechler and Elisabeth/Eliza Zimmerman include:

1. Joseph Bechler was born at Robert-Espagne, Meuse July 16, 1827. His civil birth entry said ‘Joseph Békler’ was a son of miller Christophe Békler, 25, and Elisabeth Zimmerman.

2. Marie/Mary Bechler was born circa 1831, and died in Woodford County between 1860 and 1864. She lived in Butler County in the 1840s, where she married Nicholas Maurer on Christmas Day of 1848; the ceremony was performed by minister Nicholas Augspurger. The entry was transcribed from Augspurger's journal as “Nicholas Mouer and Mary Heeler.” See MAURER for more on this couple who lived at Montgomery Township, Woodford County.

3. Barb/Barbara Bechler was born March 28, 1832, and died at Elm Grove May 4, 1893. She appears on the 1850 census of Union, Butler County as 19-year-old Barbara ‘Backler’ living with the Gerbers. On Feb. 1, 1852 she married Peter Gerber at Collinsville, Butler County. The ceremony was performed by minister Nicholas Augspurger, and 'transcribed as that of Peter Garver and Barbra Heckler.’ It took place only a month or two before their departure to resettle in Illinois. See GERBER AND GARBER for more on this couple.

120 A handwritten journal found in the pocket of minister Nicholas Augspurger after his death was transcribed with its original spelling errors. The transcription was published ‘as is’ in Grubb's The History of the Amish Mennonites of Butler County, Ohio (1916).
4. Nicholas Bechler was born circa 1837. He may have been the Nicholas Bachler who married Mrs. Sophia Young in Montgomery County July 21, 1863.

**Bechler of Montgomery**

**Elisabeth Bechler** was born circa 1790. According to a profile of a son in *Biographical and Historical Memors of Eastern Arkansas* (1891), she was Swiss-born, and married Swiss-born farmer Christian Bechler. They had three sons before Christian died in France in 1830.

However, it is more likely that Elisabeth was actually an unmarried mother descended from the Bächler family at Garrebourg. We could speculate that she was a daughter of Christian Bächler/Bechler and Magdalena Oesch/Madeleine Esch.

Elisabeth's oldest son Joseph was born at the home of friend Christian Kempf at Bisping, Moselle Dec. 3, 1810. Joseph's civil birth entry described him as an illegitimate child [Fr. *enfant naturelle*] of Elisabeth Bechler. There is little question of this, because the description was repeated on his marriage entry 24 years later. That entry described Elisabeth, who was present and consenting, as a 44-year-old servant at Rahling, Moselle.

Elisabeth's two younger sons Peter and Christian were born at a location described in *Portrait and Biographical Album of Henry County* (1888) as 'Nanchich, Germany,' and in *Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Prairie County, Arkansas* (1890) as 'Nahinch.' Others sources say 'Nahinch' and 'Nahrinch' and France. We could not identify this location. (Recall that Alsace-Lorraine was occupied by Germany 1870-1918, and thus a book published in 1888 would have considered it part of Germany, widening the possibilities). On American censuses they reported their own birthplaces as France. It is possible that someone confused the originating administrative office named on their travel documents with their birthplace, as often happened with emigrants from Moselle and Meurthe-et-Moselle - the German-language equivalent of Nancy, Meurthe-et-Moselle is **Nanzig**.


Children of Elisabeth Bechler include:

1. **Joseph Bechler** was born in the home of Christian Kempf at Bisping, Moselle Dec. 3, 1810 and died in Waldo Township, Livingston County May 7, 1878. Dec. 3, 1810. His civil birth entry created at Bisping described him as an illegitimate child [Fr. *enfant naturelle*] of Elisabeth Bechler.

2. Peter Bechler/Beckler was born May 25, 1812 (headstone date), and died in Henry County, Iowa Aug. 18, 1892. On Sept. 30, 1866 at Crawfordsville, Iowa he married widow Christina 'Tena' Yoder. She was born in Holmes County, Ohio Sept. 10, 1832, and died in Henry County Nov. 30, 1821, a daughter of Yost Yoder and Anna 'Nancy' Hostetler. Her first husband had been Jonas Beight. They are found on the 1870 census of Wayne, Henry County as farmer Peter Becker, 55, France [he also gave his birthplace as France on an 1885 state census of the same location]; Diana, 36, Ohio; Elizabeth, 2, Iowa; Moses, 15, Ohio; David, 12, Ohio; and Miner, 10, Ohio. They are found one family removed from Peter's brother Christian on the census page. They are buried under a joint headstone in Sugar Creek Cemetery at Wayland, Iowa. From *Portrait and Biographical Album of Henry County, Iowa* (1888): "Peter Beckler, a farmer residing on Section 29, Wayne Township, Henry Co., Iowa, was born in Nanchich, Germany in 1812, and is a son of Christian and Lizzie Beckler. The former was a farmer in the old country. Three children were born there - Peter, Joseph, and Christian. The children were all small when the death of the father occurred. The widow remained true to his memory, and resided in Germany until after Joseph was married. His wife was Kate Summer. All the sons came later to America, and the two youngest were married in this county. Joseph and Peter came together in 1836 and located at Cincinnati [actually Butler County, just above Cincinnati]. Joseph being married began farming, and our subject secured work by the month. He made that his home for eight years and during this time made several trips to New Orleans, being engaged for some time at Natchez in the interval. In 1848 he came to Lee County, Iowa, and in 1852 made a journey to California across the plains, the trip taking seven months to complete. He later went to Oregon and for his board during the winter split 200 rails a day. Mr. Beckler then went to the California gold mines and later purchased a team of oxen, and for twelve years did teaming for the miners. From the mines he went to Washington Territory, and teamed for eighteen months, saving carefully his money, and when he returned to Iowa in 1864 a snug sum in cash was invested in lands in this county and upon them his family resides.

121 Neunkirch is the German name for the village Neuenkirchen-lès-Sarreguemines, Moselle. However, no Bechler civil birth entries were found there.
Peter had reached by this time the age of fifty-two, and had never felt the influence of a woman's love, but time brought great changes later in the old bachelor's heart. Jonas Beight, with his wife and four children moved to this country from Holmes County, Ohio, and settled in Washington County, about four miles north where our subject lived the same year he returned from California. Her husband died in the spring of 1866, and Peter took a kindly interest in the widow and her children, so much so that he proposed and was accepted in marriage the same autumn, and the ceremony was performed by Rev. Benjamin Eicher, of Washington County. Peter Beckler has grown rich as his years have sped, and yet in his seventy-fifth year, he is jolly and social and able to do much work around the farm. [His brother] Christian Beckler was for several years a resident of Wayne Township, and wedded Barbara Conrad. He owns a fine farm in the county, but is a resident of Stuttgart, Ark. Joseph is not living, having died March 11, 1877 [actually March 7, 1878], but his widow resides near Flemington, Ill. They are found on the 1870 census of Wayne Township, Mt. Pleasant post office as farmer Peter Becker, 55, France; Diana, 36, Ohio; Elizabeth, 2, Iowa; Moses, 15, Ohio; David, 12, Ohio; and Minner, 10, Ohio. Only one household separated them from that of Peter's brother Christian. *Gospel Herald*, December 1921: "Tena Yoder Beckler was born Sept. 10, 1832, in Holmes Co., Ohio; died Nov. 30, 1921, at the home of her daughter, Lizzie Koebel near Wayland, Iowa; aged 89 y. 2 m. 20 d. At the age of eighteen she united with the Mennonite Church and remained a faithful and consistent member until the end. She enjoyed the services whenever health permitted and her place at the church was never vacant. In 1853 she was united in holy matrimony to Jonas Beight. To this union were born six children: Moses, David, Menno, Rufus, Samuel, and Lena. In 1866 Jonas Beight died and some time later she was married to Peter Beckler. This union was blessed with three children: John (who died in infancy), Lizzie and Emma. Peter Beckler died in 1892. There remain four children (Mose Beight, Menno Beight, Lizzie Koebel, and Emma Wengler), four grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, one sister (Rachel Kauffman), one brother (J. Z. Yoder), and a host of friends. Funeral services conducted by S. Gerig in German and L. L. Miller in English."

Christian Bechler/Beckler was born in December 1827, and died at Stuttgart, Arkansas Nov. 13, 1893. According to *History of Henry County, Iowa* (1879) he immigrated with his mother via Le Havre and New Orleans in 1839. He settled in Lee County, Iowa in 1846, and was naturalized at Burlington Oct. 4, 1848. He then followed the Gold Rush to California 1849-52. On March 15, 1853 at Trenton, Iowa he married Barbara Conrad. She was born in Wayne County, Ohio Feb. 14, 1829, and died at Stuttgart, Arkansas July 9, 1899, a daughter of Daniel Conrad and Mary Klopfenstein. Their first child was born at West Point, Lee County in 1854. In 1855 they relocated in Henry County, and their next 10 children were born at Mount Pleasant 1855-72. They are found on the 1870 census of Wayne Township as farmer Christian Beckler, 44, France; Barbara, 40, Ohio; Peter, 15, Iowa; Mary, 11, Iowa; Annie, 9, Iowa; Jacob, 7, Iowa; John, 4, Iowa; and Catharine, 1, Iowa. They were one family removed from Christian's brother Peter on the census page. The first organized religious service for Amish Mennonites in Washington and Henry counties had taken place in the home of Daniel Conrad during the time that Christian was in California. Conrad hosted elder Joseph Goldsmith (the same individual mentioned elsewhere in connection with Wilmot, Ontario and Butler County, Ohio) as he brought together the elements of a traditional congregation. Christian was ordained as a minister prior to 1860. John von Gunden, whose family is mentioned elsewhere in this text, was also ordained in 1860, with Peter Tschantz as deacon. Goldsmith continued to visit the area from Lee County, where he had lived since 1846. Circa 1857 he relocated to oversee two congregations himself. Minister Benjamin Eicher represented the area in the national assembly of ministers [Ger. *Diener Versammlung*] at Danvers in 1866. The Iowa participants considered themselves subordinate to the example of Central Illinois congregations, and on Oct. 23, 1866 Eicher was raised to the elder position by minister/elder Joseph Stuckey. In 1872 Eicher returned the favor by attending the dedication of the North Danvers Mennonite Church. Events in Iowa about this time ran parallel to those in Central Illinois - so much so that older generational conservatives began to rail against progressive leaders. In 1874 the national assembly of ministers took place in John Eicher's barn. There the buttons on Benjamin Eicher's clothing became a source of dispute. From that point his congregation accepted its progressive nonconformity. Goldsmith died in Henry County in 1876. On the 1880 census of Wayne 'C. Beckler' reported that he was born in France to French parents. In 1883 the Bechlers relocated to Arkansas. *Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Eastern Arkansas* (1891): "Christian Bechler is accounted a prosperous farmer, stockman and miller, of Belcher Township, Prairie County, Ark. ... now the owner of 448 acres of land, all of which is under fence. He was born in 1827, and when only fourteen years of age, became weary of life in his native land, and began to turn his thoughts to the new world across the water, where adventuristic spirits could find wider scope of opportunities, and more congenial surroundings. He first landed in New Orleans, and in 1840 went to Ohio, and in 1846 to Iowa, thence to California in 1849 ... they still own the farm on which they first settled in Henry County, Iowa, which comprises 160 acres. In 1883 they came to Prairie County, Ark., and as above stated, own an excellent farm. They expect to make this State their home, and are interested in everything pertaining to its welfare. He is a Republican, and he and his wife are members of the Mennonite Church, and are the parents of the following family: Daniel (deceased), Benjamin J. and John (deceased), Peter, Mary (Mrs. L. J. Anderson, of Arkansas County, Ark.), Anna (Mrs. C. B. Zimmerman, of Prairie County), Jacob, Katie, Frances and Cordelia, the last two being twins. Mr. Bechler is one of a
family of three sons born to Christian and Elizabeth (Bechler) Bechler, both of whom were born in Switzerland, and emigrated to France where the father died in 1830, the mother’s death occurring in New Orleans, La., in 1843. Their children are: Joseph (now deceased), Peter (a resident of Iowa), and Christian.”

**Joseph Bechler** was born in the home of Christian Kempf at Bisping, Moselle Dec. 3, 1810. His civil birth entry created at Bisping described him as an illegitimate child of Elisabeth Bechler.

On Nov. 3, 1834 at Tanconville, Meurthe-et-Meuse he married Catherine 'Kate' Sommer. She was born in the hamlet Guindrimont at Bertrambois (adjacent to Tanconville) Feb. 1, 1808, a daughter of Joseph Sommer and Elisabeth Barbe Gerber. She brought an illegitimate daughter Marie Catherine to the marriage.

Their civil marriage entry described the groom as weaver Joseph Bechler, 23, an illegitimate child of Elisabeth Bechler and resident of Bertrambois. The bride was described as Catherine Sommer, 27, a resident of Tanconville and a daughter of Joseph Sommer, 72, and Elisabethe Barbe Kerber, 73, who were present and consenting. The mother of the groom was described as servant Elisabeth Bechler, 44, a resident of Rahling who was present and consenting. The two mothers were illiterate, and signed with an ‘x’.

The family sailed from Le Havre on the Old Line packet ship *Francis DePau*, and arrived at New York July 22, 1836. The passenger list shows Joseph Baechler, 26; Catharina, 27; Marie, 5; Peter Baechler, 24 [Joseph’s brother]; Joseph Sommer, 74; and Barbe, 75 [Catherine’s parents]; as well as others who are mentioned in SOMMER.

Bechler is found as 'Joseph Beeker' on the 1840 census of Milford Township, Butler County, Ohio. The 1850 census there shows farmer Jos. Beeker, 39; France; Catharine, 41; France; Mary, 18, France; Joseph, 12, Ohio; Barbaray, 10, Ohio; and Christian, 7, Ohio.

The 1860 census of Montgomery Township, Woodford County shows the household as Joseph Bachler, 49, France; Catherine, 51, France; and Joseph, 23, Ohio. The 1870 census of Waldo Township, Livingston County has farmer Beckler, 59, France; and Catharine, 60, France. The prior census page shows the household of their son Joseph.

Joseph died in Waldo Township May 7, 1878. *Gospel Herald*, July 1878: "May 7th, in Livingston Co., Ill., Bro. Joseph Baechler, aged 67 years, and 8 months. Buried the 9th in the presence of many relatives and friends, at which time J. P. Smith and Jacob Naffziger spake words of comfort to the living, from 1 Cor. 15. He was a faithful brother of the Amish church, and he leaves a widow and 4 children to mourn their loss."

The 1880 census of Nebraska Township in Livingston County shows her living in the household of daughter Marie Catherine/Mary and son-in-law Christian R. König/King as mother-in-law 'Kate Beckler,' 72, France.

She died in Waldo Township Jan. 28, 1892. *Herald of Truth*, February 1892: "On the 28th of January, 1892, near Flanagan, Livingston Co., Ill., of general debility, Sister Catharine, widow of the late Bro. Joseph Baechler, aged 85 years, 11 months and 26 days. Of their seven children three remain, also 25 grandchildren and 46 great-grandchildren. She was buried in the Waldo graveyard on the 30th, followed to the grave by many relatives and friends. Funeral services were held in Steinman's meeting house by Stephen Staehley, Daniel Orendorf, Joseph Zehr and R. Schmitt."

Joseph and Catherine are buried in Waldo Cemetery at Flanagan.

The child that Catherine Sommer brought to her marriage was:

- Marie Catherine/Mary Bechler was born at Tanconville, Meurthe-et-Meuse April 4, 1831, and died at Pontiac, Livingston County May 25, 1920. On June 24, 1852 in Butler County she married Christian R. König/King. He was born on the Glastahlerhof estate at Rodalben in the Pfalz Dec. 22, 1819, and died at Nebraska, Livingston County Jan. 15, 1904, a son of Johannes Konig and Jakobea Rediger. For more on this couple see KING.

Children of Joseph Bechler and Catherine Sommer include:

1. Pierre Bechler was born at Tanconville, Meurthe-et-Meuse Sept. 18, 1835, and died there Jan. 20, 1836.
2. **Joseph S. Bechler** was born at Milford, Butler County Sept. 30, 1836, and drowned in the Big Blue River south of Milford, Nebraska July 4, 1882.
3. Barbara Bechler was born at Milford Nov. 20 (headstone) or 23, 1838, and died at Columbus, Kansas Jan. 23, 1904. On Jan. 24, 1860 at Gridley, McLean County she married Jonas M. Troyer. He was born in Licking County, Ohio.

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123 Joseph Sommer was born in 1762, a son of Joseph Sommer and Marie Hazeman. In 1787 at La Broque he married Elisabeth Barbe Gerber. She was born in 1761, a daughter of Jean 'Carber' and Anne Liechti.
April 17, 1836, and died at Columbus, Kansas March 8, 1904, a son of Jonas Troyer and Elizabeth Miller. They are buried in Beasley Cemetery at Treece, Kansas.

4. A child was born at Milford circa 1840, and died as an infant.

5. Christian Bechler/Beckler was born at Milford, Butler County, Ohio in December 1842, and died at Sawtelle, California Dec. 2, 1914. He enlisted in the army at Bloomington Aug. 7, 1862, and mustered in Aug. 20. He served as a private in Company E, 94th Regiment, Illinois Infantry. The unit participated in the sieges of Vicksburg and Fort Morgan. He was discharged at Galveston, Texas July 17, 1865, and received a veterans pension until his death. On Oct. 9, 1866 in McLean County he married Elizabeth 'Lizzie' Kempf/Camp. She was born in Butler County, Ohio May 31, 1844, and died at Bloomington, McLean County Sept. 9, 1925, a daughter of Christian Kempf and Magdalena Sommer. Christian resided in National Homes for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers at Danville, Illinois and Sawtelle, California. He is buried in Los Angeles National Cemetery.

6. A child was born at Milford circa 1844, and died as an infant.

Joseph S. Bechler was born at Milford, Butler County Sept. 30, 1836.

On Jan. 10, 1865 in McLean County he married Magdalena 'Malinda' Farny. The ceremony was performed by minister Joseph Stuckey. Magdalena was born in Woodford County Dec. 2, 1846, and died at Wood River, Hall County, Nebraska Feb. 28, 1913, a daughter of Peter/Pierre Farny and his second wife Magdalena Oyer. They are found on the 1870 census of Waldo as farmer J.S. Beckler, 33, Ohio; Magdalena, 24, Illinois; Barbara, 6; Peter, 4; Mary, 2; and Emanuel, two months; all children born in Illinois. His parents are found on the next census page. His family is also found on the 1880 census of O Precinct (later Milford), Seward County, Nebraska.

Joseph drowned in the Big Blue River south of Milford July 4, 1882. He is buried as 'Joseph S. Beckler' in East Fairview Mennonite Cemetery at Milford.

In 1883 Magdalena remarried to widower Peter Erb. He was born in Alsace March 30, 1840, and died at Milford Aug. 18, 1912, a son of Peter Erb and Marie Gerber. His first wife had been Elizabeth Jausi (circa 1840-1881).

They appear on the 1910 census of Seward County, Nebraska, where Magdalena's age was stated as 66.

Gospel Herald, September 1912: "Bro. Peter Erb was born March 30, 1840, in Alsace, Germany; died Aug. 18, 1912, near Milford, Nebr. He was united in marriage to Elizabeth Jansi. To this union were born twelve children. His wife and six children preceded him to the spirit world. He was again married to widow Lena Beckler. His death was caused by heart trouble and dropsy, from which he suffered very much for several months; but he bore it all patiently and often expressed a desire to depart from this world, and be with Christ. He was a faithful member of the Mennonite Church. Leaves to mourn his departure, wife, 2 sons, 4 daughters, 4 step-children, 91 grandchildren and 20 great-grandchildren. Funeral services at the East Fairview Church near Milford, Nebr., conducted by the brethren Wm. Schlegel, Jos. Rediger and Jacob Stauffer. Peace to his ashes."

Gospel Herald, March 1913: "Erb. Magdalena Farney was born Dec. 2, 1846, in Illinois; died near Woodriver, Nebr., at the home of her daughter, Feb. 28, 1913; aged 67 y. 2 m. 26 d. She was married to Joseph Beckler. To this union were born three sons and three daughters. After Bro. Beckler's death by drowning she was later married to Peter Erb. They lived in matrimony until 6 months ago. She was a faithful member of the A. M. Church from her youth. She leaves two sons, two daughters, 49 grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren. Husband, one son, one daughter, and six grandchildren preceded her. Funeral March 1, at the A. M. Church near Woodriver, Nebr. Services by A. E. Stoltzfus (Text, Jno. 14:1-16) and J. E. Zimmerman (Text, I Pet. 1:24)."

Magdalena Farney is buried as 'Magdalena Erb' in Wood River Mennonite Cemetery. Her second husband Peter Erb is buried in East Fairview Cemetery at Milford.

124 Wood River is approximately 100 miles west of Milford. The congregation at Wood River was established in 1904-05 by families from Milford.
In a Württemberg dialect a *Nafz* was a sleeping person, and may also have described a drowsy or easy-going person.125

The earliest identified mention of this surname is found in birth entries created at Geislingen. This village would now be described as Geislingen an der Steige, between Stuttgart and Ulm in Baden-Württemburg, Germany. It appears as Naftsger in 1433, but within 30 years was standardized there as Naffzger.

**Zacharias Naffzger** was born in Württemberg circa 1575, and migrated to Canton Bern. He may not have traveled directly, but if he did come from the area of Geislingen he would probably have taken a route west to Karlsruhe on the Rhine River, then south on dirt roads along the eastern side of the north-flowing river – a 270-mile journey.

Circa 1600 he married Margareth Engemann. She was born at in the town of Thun circa 1580. Thun sits at the northern point of Lake Thun where it narrows to become the Aare River. One of its main sites is Thun Castle, which was constructed between 1180 and 1190. The town and castle were purchased from the Holy Roman Empire by Canton Bern in 1384. The castle became the seat of the local court and a prison. The present population of the town is about 45,000.

According to *Burger Buch 1*, Zacharias and Margareth were living at Thun when he was accepted as a citizen of Canton Bern in 1621. He was 46, Margareth was 41. He was a metal smith. Hermann Guth wrote that his descendants worked with silver and pewter.

Zacharias appears as a witness to a baptism at Thierachern Aug. 8, 1624. This suggests to some that he had relocated from Thun to Thierachern or adjacent Uetendorf, on the west side of Thun. However, other examples where Zacharias appeared as a baptism witness indicate that decades later he was still known as the ‘smith from Thun.’126

All Thun records before 1728 were lost in a fire Feb. 8, 1772. Fortunately someone had taken the trouble to hand copy baptisms for years 1578-1727, 1728-1803, and 1883. These fragile copies are kept in the archives of the town of Thun, but have not been scanned for the *Staats Archiv* online site.

Records at Steffisburg (on the east side of Thun) show that on April 18, 1624 Zacharias was a witness to the baptism of Verena Imbach. He was listed as ‘*Hans Zacharias der Schmid zu Thŭn aus dem blutz.*’ On Feb. 7, 1636 Hans Joder, a son of Caspar Joder and Margaret Erb was baptized. One witness was ‘Zacharias der Schmid.’ His name was coupled with another witness as ‘zu Thŭn.’ On Jan. 23, 1640 Margret, a daughter of Caspar Joder and Margaret Erb was baptized. One witness was ‘Zacharias Naffzger der Schmidt.’

(An even later Steffisburg entry indicates that on May 31, 1657 Adam, a son of Adam Blanck and Anna Ruchti was baptized. One witness was ‘Zacharias Naffżer, smid zu Thŭn;’ another witness was a Joder. Zacharias would have been about 81 years of age. This may instead have been the first baptism appearance there by a grandson of the same name, who gained notoriety during the Swiss Peasants War of 1653).

Their son **Melchior Naffzger** was born circa 1600. On Nov. 6, 1626 at Leissigen (on the lower western shore of Lake Thun) he married Eva Schmocker. She was baptized at Beatenburg July 28, 1605, a daughter of Lienhart Schmocker and Anna Bhend. They took up residence at Uetendorf.

The village of Uetendorf was part of the parish of Amsoldingen (more than three miles to the south). In 1578 it became part of the parish of adjacent Thierachern (less than two miles to the south). Uetendorf did not have a Protestant Reformed church until 1955, so many early family events were recorded at Thierachern.

Children of Melchior Naffzger and Eva Schmocker born at Uetendorf but baptized at Thierachern include:

1. Verena/Freni Naffzger was baptized July 3, 1628. On Nov. 9, 1646 at Thierachern she married Burkhard/Burki Pfister. He was baptized at Thierachern Aug. 7, 1625, a son of Heinrich Pfister and Benedikta Muesserli.

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125 The most prevalent Y-DNA haplogroup in male descendants of Anabaptist Nafzigers is G, subgroup or subclade M201. This genetic identification gained notice with the discovery of the frozen body of Ötzi the Iceman. He was found in the Ötzal Alps on the border of Austria and Italy Sept. 19, 1991. It is thought that he lived between 3,400 BC and 3,100 BC. He is now in the South Tyrol Museum of Archaeology at Bolzano, Italy.

126 We found one baptism entry that still puzzles us. Madlena Naffzger was baptized at Blumenstein (four miles southwest of Uetendorf) Wintermonat [a winter month] 29, 1694. She was a daughter of Christen Naffzger das Statthalter’s Sohn von Utendorf – the district governor’s son from Uetendorf – and Anni Rothacker.
2. Anni/Anna Naffzger was baptized Aug. 29, 1630. On Aug. 18, 1652 at Thierachern she married Hans Krieg. Eight children were baptized at Thierachern 1653-67. The second was Barbli, baptized Feb. 17, 1656, who married Hans Güngeric at Stöffisburg Jan. 16, 1691. He was a son of Michel Güngeric and Anna Kolb.

3. Margret/Margareth Naffzger was baptized Oct. 7, 1632. On Nov. 27, 1657 at Thierachern she married Caspar Bäler.

4. Zacharias Naffzger was baptized Dec. 25, 1634. Like his grandfather, he was known as Zacharias der Schmid or Schmidt. Recall the Swiss Peasants War of 1653 from STAKER. By May 16, 1653 the ragtag army of Claus/Niklaus Leuenberger 16,000 volunteers and delivered ultimatums to the cities of Bern and Lucerne. The Council of Bern was alarmed because it had always been defended by militias brought up from the countryside. They had to recruit defenders from remote areas who knew little about the potential conflict. Leuenberger’s ragtag army arrived outside their locked city gates May 22. On the same day an entry was placed into the Thun Rathsmanuele. It said that Zacharias Nafzger (who would have been 18 years of age) had made a hole in the ring wall surrounding the town of Thun to contact the rebellious farmers. He was arrested and fined 1,000 pounds, to be paid in eight days. Because of ‘faithfully rendered services in these difficult times’ the city would be permitted to to keep the money. The substantial fine for an 18-year-old’s act would have been spread across the entire family and paid with loans, leaving the family in lasting debt. It is interesting to speculate how much this notoriety had to do with his frequent appearances as a witness at baptisms later. On Oct. 29, 1660 at Thierachern he married Margreth Rŭpp.

5. Mathys Naffzger was baptized April 30, 1637. On Jan. 25, 1658 at Thierachern he married Christina Schnýder. Their marriage entry lists them as ‘Matheys Nafzger Christina Schnid von Ūttendorf.’

6. Melchior Naffzger was baptized May 26, 1639. On Dec. 1, 1673 at Thierachern he married Maria Haüssener. He may also have been the Melchior Naftzger who married Barbara [illegible] of Seftigen at Gurzelen (three miles northwest of Thierachern) Oct. 8, 1690.

7. Hans Naffzger was baptized Nov. 14, 1641, and died as an infant.

8. Hans Naffzger was baptized Sept. 8, 1644. On Feb. 2, 1665 at Thierachern he married Anna Pulver.

9. Úlli/Ŭlrich Naffzger was baptized Nov. 15, 1646. On Nov. 28, 1672 at Thierachern he married Babli/Barbara Pfister. She was baptized at Thierachern March 12, 1648, a daughter of Maritz Pfister and Anna Zütter. The two sons Christen/Christian and Úlric/Ŭlrich may have been the ancestors of all Amish Mennonite Nafzigers.

10. Christen/Christian Naffzger was baptized March 22, 1649. On Nov. 23, 1672 at Thierachern he married Anna Schnýder.

11. Christina Naffzger was baptized Sept. 7, 1651.

12. Elsbeth Naffzger was baptized Oct. 30, 1653. On April 5, 1674 at Thierachern she married Peter Kislig.

Christen/Christian Naffzger was born at Uetendorf but baptized at Thierachern March 22, 1649. On Nov. 23, 1672 at Thierachern he married Anna Schnýder. She was baptized at Thierachern Oct. 25, 1657, a daughter of Fritz Schnider and Margreth Cathart.

Their children born at Uetendorf but baptized at Thierachern include:

1. Anna Naffzger was baptized June 29, 1673.

2. Christen Naffzger/Christian Nafziger was baptized July 23, 1675.

3. Johannes Naffzger was baptized in June of 1677.

4. Bendicht Naffzger was baptized in February of 1680.

5. Melchior Naffzger was baptized in October of 1682.

6. Úlric Naffzger/Ŭlrich Nafziger was baptized in February of 1686.

The two sons Christen/Christian and Úlric/Ŭlrich may have been the ancestors of all Amish Mennonite Nafzigers.

Christian of Birlenbach

Christen Naffzger/Christian Nafziger was born at Uetendorf but baptized at Thierachern Aug. 8, 1675, a son of Christen/Christian Naffzger and Anna Schnýder. 127

On March 17, 1707 at Thierachern he married Madlena Hiltbrand of Diemtigen. The spelling Hiltbrand and her birthplace Diemtigen are found on her marriage entry, but Hildbrand on her baptism entry. She was baptized at Diemtigen Jan. 22, 1674, a daughter of David Hildbrand and Elsbeth Zäug.

127 Some sources say Christen/Christian died at Woerth, Lower Alsace March 6, 1754. However, this date is taken from a church death register [Ger. Toten Rodel] at Thierachern. The entry describes a Christen Nafzger der altes Chorrichter zu Ūttendorf – the old judge of the church morals court from Uetendorf. It is doubtful that an Anabaptist living abroad would be described in this way.
According to Herman Guth’s *Amish Mennonites in Germany*, he was named as leaseholder at Birlenbach in Lower Alsace (now Drachenbrom-Birlenbach) in 1707 or 1708. He would have been 32 years of age. He had arrived there with his brother Ulrich, who would have been 21 years of age.

The next two generations of Nafzigers were often associated with six locations in a 10-mile radius. Five were at the top of Lower Alsace, on the French side of the present border of France and Germany: the ruined castle estate Fleckensteinerhof at Lembach; the city of Wissembourg, 10 miles east of Lembach; Steinselz and Riedselzt, below Wissembourg; and Birlenbach at the bottom of the circle, about seven miles within the border. The grounds of the ruined castle Berwartstein, called the Bärbelsteinerhof, was located above them at Erlenbach bei Dahn, four miles within Germany.

Christen/Christian and Madlena left Birlenbach in 1717, at the end of a nine-year lease. They later lived on the Willenbacherhof at Woerth, Lower Alsace (10 miles southwest of Birlenbach).

Children of Christen Naffzger/Christian Nafziger and Madlena Hiltbrand include:

1. Margretha Naffzger was born at Uetendorf (according to a note in her baptism entry) and baptized at Thierachern March 4, 1708. Her parents must have returned to Uetendorf for the delivery, or made the trip later. It does not say that her parents lived elsewhere, which would have been indicated with the words auswärtsgetaufte or the place name.

2. **Christen Naffzger/Christian Nafziger** was baptized at Thierachern Oct. 16, 1712.

3. Johannes/Hans Nafziger was born circa 1715, likely at Birlenbach. He married Anna Güngerich, a daughter of Hans ‘Hans der alte’ Güngerich of the Froensbourg estate at Lembach. They lived at Niedersaulzbach, Lower Alsace, then 14 miles west on the Steinbacherhof estate at Durstel, Lower Alsace. A daughter Barbe (1744-1812) is mentioned in SCHERTZ, SCHERTZ OF SARRALBE; she married Joseph Schertz and lived at Keskastel, Lower Alsace.

4. Valentin/Valten Nafziger was born between 1713 and 1717, likely at Birlenbach. After 1749 Valentin/Valten and his brother Peter leased the ruined castle estate Fleckensteinerhof at Lembach. The Fleckenstein family was related to Pfalz-Zweibrücken Wittelsbachs. Valentin/Valten later leased the Diefenbacherhof estate at Riedselzt, Lower Alsace, and his descendants could be found on Weidesheim farm at Kalhausen, Moselle.

5. **Peter Nafziger** was born between 1713 and 1721, likely at Birlenbach or the Willenbacherhof at Woerth, Lower Alsace. In 1749 legal documents described him as a miller at the Langenmühle at Wissembourg. After 1749 Peter and his brother Valentin/Valten leased the ruined castle estate Fleckensteinerhof. See APOSTLE PETER LINE.

**WASHINGTON BRANCH**

Christen Naffzger/Christian Nafziger was baptized at Thierachern Oct. 16, 1712, a son of Christen Naffzger/Christian Nafziger and Madlena Hiltbrand.

His mother may have returned to Uetendorf for the delivery, or made the trip later. His birth entry does not indicate that his parents lived elsewhere.

His wife has not been identified. In 1777 he was living on the Willenbacherhof estate at Woerth, Lower Alsace. He was a participant in the assembly of Amish Mennonite ministers [Ger. *Diener Versammlung*] at Essingen in 1779.

His son **Christian Nafziger** was born at Waltembourg circa 1734. He married Catherine Sommer. She was born at Waltembourg in 1734.

Christian became a minister and elder of the Struth congregation, where he is found in 1787. However, they later returned to Waltembourg. Catherine died there July 13, 1794, and Christian died there in the home of his son (also named Christian) Dec. 8, 1813. They were buried at Bourscheid.

Their son **Christian Nafziger** was born at Waltembourg Jan. 20, 1779, lived at Kurtzerode (adjoining Waltembourg and Bourscheid), and died there May 27, 1829.

On Jan. 20, 1800 at Friboug, Moselle he married Catherine Maurer. She was born on Risholtz farm at Hattigny, Moselle in 1787, and died at Washington in 1845, a daughter of Peter/Pierre Maurer and Marie Barbe Risser.

As a widow Catherine sailed from Le Havre on the *Marengo*, and arrived at New Orleans Nov. 25, 1837. The passenger list shows a group from France: Jean Nalziger, 35; Anna, 29; Pierre, 4; Catherine, 2; Catherine Murer, 57 [mother to Jean]; Madeleine Nalziger, 25 [sister to Jean]; Catherine, 19 [sister to Jean]; and Christian Esch, 18. They brought seven chests, three guns, and bedding. Christian Esch later married Anne Marie's niece Ann Gerber.

As Terry Bowen discerned, Catherine’s household is found as 'Catherine Mur' on the 1840 census of Tazewell County: one female 60-69, and one female 20-29. The name before hers on the census page is John Noffsinger; the two that follow are her other sons Peter Noffsinger and Christian Noffsinger.

Catherine Maurer is buried in Union Cemetery at Washington as 'grandmother.'
Children of Christian Nafziger and Catherine Maurer born at Bourscheid, Moselle include:

1. **Jean/John Nafziger** was born Feb. 13, 1802, and died at Metamora Oct. 7, 1856.

2. Pierre/Peter Nafziger was born May 25, 1805 (his headstone seems to say June 8, 1805), and died June 3, 1882. He is buried in Hickory Point Cemetery at Metamora next to 'Elisabetha.' According to her headstone she was born Feb. 11 or 14, 1817, and died March 23, 1876. He is likely the 'Peter Neftsiea' who purchased 80 acres in Section 33 of Township 27N Sept. 19, 1838. Township 27N later became Worth in Woodford County. The 1840 census of Tazewell County shows the household of Peter Noffsinger: one male 30-39 years of age; and one female 20-29. The 1860 census of Worth shows Peter Naffziger, 53, France; and Elizabeth, 41, France. *Herald of Truth*, May 1876: “March 25th, near Metamora, Ill., Elizabeth Nafziger, aged 57 years. The 27th her mortal remains were consigned to the grave in the presence of many relatives and friends. She was a consistent sister of the Amish Mennonite Church. She was especially good to the poor, and was beloved and held in esteem. Funeral services by Christian Schertz, and Bishop Christian Esch, and others.” Peter is found as 'Peter Nafsinger,' a 75-year-old farmer from France, in the household of 'Henry Gausghe' [Gautsche] on the 1880 census of Worth, Woodford County. They are buried in Hickory Point Cemetery at Metamora, where she is named Elizabeth Nafziger on her headstone.

3. Charles Nafziger was born May 16, 1808, and died in 1881. On June 18, 1839 in Tazewell County he married Barbara Schutz [as found in the county register]; the ceremony was performed by minister John Nafziger. Descendants believe she was a Schertz. The Christian Noffsinger household is found on the 1840 census of Tazewell County: one male in the 30-39 year age range; one male 10-14; one female 20-29; and one female under 5. Barbara died at Washington, Tazewell County Jan. 12, 1850. Her headstone in Union Cemetery identifies her only as 'Barbara ehefrau des Chr. Nafziger.' Christian appears next door to his brother John and sister Catherine (who is erroneously listed as Christian, 33, the wife of Christian Gerber, 36) on the 1850 census of Tazewell County: Christian Naffziger, 40, Germany; Catharine Baer, 54, Germany; Catharine Naffziger, 10, Illinois; Magdalene, 9, Illinois; John, 7, Illinois; and Anna, 6, Illinois. He remarried before 1870. The 1870 census of Washington shows his household as retired farmer Christ Nofsinger, 61, France; and Matlen, 62, France. They are found on the 1880 census of Washington as farmer Christian Naffziger, 71, and Magdalena, 72. They are buried in Union Cemetery at Washington, where he is 'Christian Nafziger, 1809-1881' and his second wife is 'Magdalena Nafziger, 1810-1885.'

Children of Christian Nafziger and his first wife Barbara Schutz or Schertz include:

a. Katharina/Catharine Nafziger was born May 28, 1840, and died at Chicago June 26, 1898. In 1861 she married Valentine Nafziger. He was born in Bavaria March 13, 1834, and died Jan. 28, 1919, a son of Valentine Nafziger and Anna Katharina Nafziger. *Herald of Truth*, August 1898: “At Chicago, June 26th, 1898, after undergoing a surgical operation, Katharine, wife of Valentine Nafziger, at the age of 58 years and one month. She was married Feb. 7, 1861, and this union was blessed with three sons and five daughters. She leaves her husband, one son, three daughters, one grandchild, one sister, and many relatives and friends to mourn her departure. She was a faithful companion, a loving mother and grandmother and a consistent member of the Mennonite Church. Funeral services were held by Pre's John Schmitt, Metamora, Ill.; Joseph H. Kinsinger, Meadows, Ill.; Valentine Strubhar, Washington, Ill., and by the writer, Michael Kinsinger.” They are buried in Hirstein Cemetery.

b. Magdalena Nafziger was born Sept. 22, 1841, and died Nov. 1, 1857. She is buried in Union Cemetery.

c. John C. Nafziger was born in 1843, and died in 1892. He married Catherine Bachman. She was born at Metamora Jan. 15, 1851, and died at Washington May 29, 1928, a daughter of Joseph Bachman/Baugman and Barbara Steider. They appear on the 1870 census of Washington as John Noffsinger, 26, Illinois; Catherine, 19, Illinois; and Peter, 1, Illinois. They are buried in Union Cemetery as 'Nofsinger.' See BACHMAN for her obituary.

d. Barbara Nafziger was born circa 1844, and died June 12, 1850. She is buried in Union Cemetery.

e. Ann Nafziger was born circa Jan. 17, 1845, and died Oct. 17, 1865. Her headstone in Union Cemetery calls her 'Ann Knoffsinger.'

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128 Mennonite minister Henry Baer and his wife Catharine were next door neighbors to Christian Schlegel and Catherine Ernst on the 1850 census of Tazewell County. The entry shows them as farmer Henry Bar, 30, Germany; Catharine, 30, Germany; Anne, 3, Illinois; and Susan, 1, Illinois. Henry was actually born circa 1815, and died at Chatsworth, Livingston County Feb. 20, 1870. Samuel Hirstein of Morton spoke at his funeral. The 1860 census had shown them living at Sullivan, Livingston County. *Herald of Truth*, March 1870: “On the 20th of February, near Chatsworth, Livingston county, Ill., Preacher Henry Baer, aged about 55 years and four months. His disease was Lung-fever with which he commenced to complain about the first of the month. He was for some years troubled with a sore foot caused by the accidental discharge of a gun, which injured his foot severely. He was minister of the church in this place and will be greatly missed but we hope God in his goodness and mercy will soon again raise up a faithful shepherd to stand in his place, and go in and out before the bereaved and sorrowing church. He bore his sickness with patience. He was buried on the 23rd, upon which occasion Bro. Hirstein from Tazewell Co. and Bro. H. L. Shelly from Grundy Co. preached appropriate funeral discourses from Rev. 14:18.” His widow Catharine Baer died at adjacent Cullom, Livingston County Jan. 16, 1886.
Jean/John Nafziger was born at Bourscheid Feb. 13, 1802, and died at Partridge, Woodford County Oct. 7, 1856.

On March 20, 1832 at St. Jean-Kourtzerode he married Anne Marie/Anna Gerber. She was born at Gensbourg July 30, 1807, and died at Washington Feb. 26, 1885, a daughter of Pierre/Peter Gerber and Magdalena Gingerich (also found as a daughter of Nicolas Gerber and Magdalena Bechler). (For her obituary see GERBER AND GARBER, THE GERBERS OF METAMORA AND WASHINGTON).

The family came to America on the Marena with John's mother Catherine and Christian Esch.

The household of John Noffsinger is found on the 1840 census of Tazewell County: one male 30-39 years of age; one male 20-29; one 5-9; one under 5; one female 20-29; and two under five.

John had been ordained as an elder in France, and gave sermons for the Wesley meeting, the Partridge Creek meeting, and the Bureau Creek meeting. He performed more than two dozen marriages in Woodford County in the 1840s - more than any other Amish Mennonite minister.

The family appears on the 1850 census of Tazewell County as John Naffsinger, 48, Germany; Anna, 45, Germany; Peter, 16, Germany; Catharine, 14, Germany; John, 12, Illinois; Anne, 10, Illinois; Magdalen, 8, Illinois; Barbara, 6, Illinois; Joseph, 4, Illinois; Elizabeth, 2, Illinois; and Bena, 4 months, Illinois.

Jean/John Nafziger and Anne Marie/Anna Gerber are buried in Union Cemetery at Washington. Their children include:

a. Peter E. Nafziger was born Feb. 23, 1834, and died Feb. 24, 1886. He married Barbara Gerber. She was born July 5, 1835, and died May 7, 1911. Their household appears on the 1870 census of Washington as Peter Naffsinger, 36, France; Barbaray, 35, France; and five children born in Illinois. They are buried in Union Cemetery at Washington.

b. Catherine 'Katie' Nafziger was born Dec. 1, 1836, and died May 27, 1914. She married minister Peter Gingerich. He was born Dec. 17, 1825, and died Dec. 31, 1908, a son of Peter Gingerich and Magdalena Gerber. They are buried in Union Cemetery at Washington.

c. John Nafziger was born Jan. 9, 1838, and died Dec. 26, 1921. On March 10, 1863 in Woodford County he married Catherine Gingery. She was born at Partridge Dec. 10, 1839, and died March 26, 1919, a daughter of Peter Gingerich/Gingery and Magdalena. They appear on the 1870 census of Washington as John Naffsinger, 32, Illinois; Catharine, 28, Illinois; and four children born in Illinois. They are buried in Union Cemetery at Washington.

d. Anna Nafziger was born at Washington Dec. 21, 1839, and died Nov. 19, 1886. She married Jean/John Schweitzer. He was born at Black Partridge (now in Woodford County) Oct. 26, 1834, and died at Washington Dec. 9, 1918, a son of Jean/John Schweitzer and Marie/Mary Engel. They appear on the 1880 census of Washington as farmer John Switzer, 44, born in Illinois to French parents; Anna, 40, born in Illinois to French parents; and four children born in Illinois. They are buried as 'John S. Switzer' and 'Anna Nafziger, wife of John Switzer' in Glendale Cemetery at Washington.

e. Magdalena 'Lena' Nafziger was born at Washington Sept. 22, 1841, and died Nov. 1, 1857. She is buried in Union Cemetery at Washington.

f. Barbara Nafziger was born at Washington April 30, 1843, and died Dec. 18, 1918. She married Joseph W. Risser. He was born April 16, 1838, and died at Washington Aug. 22, 1906, a son of Chrétien Risser and Anne Roggy. They appear on 1870, 1880, and 1900 censuses of Washington. They are buried in Glendale Cemetery at Morton.

g. Joseph M. Nafziger was born at Washington Septl 4, 1845, and died at Eureka Jan. 22, 1931. He may be the 1870 census of Washington entry for Joseph Nafziger, 25, Illinois; and Barbara, 23, France (this may have been his sister Elizabeth). He is buried in Union Cemetery at Washington.
h. Elizabeth Nafziger was born at Washington Feb. 19, 1847, and died June 1, 1915. On Feb. 6, 1873 in Tazewell County she married Christian Engel. He was born in Woodford County Aug. 27, 1840, and died Jan. 8, 1926, a son of John Engel and Barbara Dettweiler. Gospel Herald, June 1915: "Elizabeth Nafziger Engel was born in Tazewell Co., Ill., Feb. 19, 1847; died June 1, 1915; aged 68 y. 3 m. 13 d. She leaves husband, two sons, four daughters, two brothers, two sisters, thirteen grand children, and many friends and relatives to mourn their loss. Sister Engel was a faithful and consistent member of the Mennonite Church, until her death. Funeral services at the Union Mennonite Church, conducted by A. H. Leaman and A. L. Buzzard. Text II Tim. 4:7,8." Gospel Herald, January 1926: "Christian Engel was born in Woodford Co., Ill., Aug. 27, 1840; died at the home of his son-in-law, J.J. Sommer, Washington, Ill., Jan. 8, 1926; aged 85 y. 4 m. 11 d. He was united in marriage to Elizabeth Nafziger Feb. 6, 1873. She preceeded him in death June 1, 1915. To this union were born three sons and four daughters (John, George, Mrs. Ida Hartman [who died Dec. 29, 1916], Mrs. Tillie Sommer, Mrs. Alvina Brenneman [who died Mar. 19, 1919], and Mrs. Lucy Shoemaker. One son died in infancy. He leaves 22 grandchildren and one great-grandchild. He also leaves three sisters (Mrs. Peter Switzer, Mrs. Catherine Stuckey, and Mrs. Bena Unsicker). He was converted and united with the Mennonite Church and for many years was a faithful brother in the Master’s service. As long as health permitted he seldom failed to be present at public services, being interested in all the activities of the Church. In his later years he often expressed a desire to depart and be with Christ, looking forward with hope when the final summons should come to step across the portals of time and be at rest. Funeral services were conducted Jan. 11 at the Union Mennonite Church by H.R. Schertz and A.L. Buzzard. Text II Cor. 5:1. Interment in the adjoining cemetery." They are buried in Union Cemetery at Washington.

i. Jakobina/Bena/Phoebie Nafziger was born at Washington Feb. 9, 1850, and died Oct. 20, 1894. On Feb. 17, 1875 in Tazewell County she married Jacob Kinsinger. He was born at Bebelsheim, Germany Nov. 12, 1845, and died at Washington Aug. 29, 1900, a son of Jacob Kinsinger and Magdalena Esch. Note that the age calculation in this obituary is off by exactly a decade: Herald of Truth, November 1894: "On the 20th of October, 1894, of dropsy of the heart, of which she suffered for several months, sister Phoebie Kinsinger, maiden name Nafziger, aged 34 y., 8 m. She leaves her bereaved husband and two children to mourn her early death. She suffered patiently looking forward to the time of her departure. Her remains were laid to rest on the 22d, followed by many friends. Funeral services were conducted Jan. 11 at the Union Mennonite Church by H.R. Schertz and A.L. Buzzard. Text, Rev.14:14-16."

GRANDPA JOHN NAFFZIGER BRANCH

‘Grandpa John Naffziger’ was buried in the Old Apostolic Cemetery at Morton in 1902. Because he came to Tazewell County only in the last years of his life, he was almost an afterthought. His family line is included here to provide background on his sister Catherine Nafziger Jantzi, whose children settled in the county in the mid-1850s (see JANTZI for her story).

Johannes/Hans Nafziger, born circa 1815, was a son of Christen Naffzger/Christian Nafziger and Madlena Hiltbrand. He married Anna Güngerich. They lived at Niedersoultzbach, Lower Alsace, then 14 miles west on the Steinbacherhof estate at Durstel, Lower Alsace.

One of their children was Johannes Nafziger, born circa 1745. He married Madeleine Güngerich. Johannes became a co-leaseholder on the Steinbacherhof estate with his older brother Christian.

Their son Johannes/Jean Nafziger was born on the Steinbacherhof estate circa 1775.

On April 16, 1796 at Gros-Redërching, Moselle he married Catherine Guingerich/Gingerich. She was born on Brandelfing farm at Gros-Rédérching circa 1779, a daughter of Joseph Guingerich [Güngerich] and Anne Rubi/Ruby.

Catherine’s father Joseph died after fathering six children. On April 19, 1797 on Brandelfing farm Michel Engel married the widow Anne, becoming Catherine’s stepfather. Michel will be recalled from ENGEL as a brother of Central Illinois minister/elder Christian Engel. Catherine's sister Madeleine married Joseph Engel (1779-1818), a son of Christian, and her sister Susanna married Pierre Ringenberg (1783-between 1815 and 1818) and later her sister's widower Joseph Engel.

Katharina Nafziger, who was Christian Engel’s first wife, was a cousin to Johannes/Jean.

We suspect that their first three children were born at Weidesheim (six miles southwest of Gros-Rédérching) in 1802, 1808, and 1811. Weidesheim civil records are incomplete, perhaps because it merged into adjacent Kalhausen in 1811. The births of their next four children were registered at Kalhausen in 1813, 1815, 1817, and 1819.

Though a family story says the parents came to North America, we could not find any evidence of their presence. Andrew J. Sawyer’s Lincoln the Capital City and Lancaster County, Nebraska (1916) cites information from a granddaughter: “The maternal grandparents of Mrs. Erisman were John and Catherine (Gringerich) Naffziger, both from near Weisenburg, Lorraine [possibly meant to be Wiesviller, adjacent to Gros-Redërching]. In 1830 they emigrated to America and after living for a time in Canada located in Davis County, Iowa, where the family engaged in farming. Later he retired and they both spent their last days with their eldest son, Christian, a
resident of Davis County, Iowa.” The entire excerpt is suspect, because Jean and Catherine were witnesses to their son Joseph’s marriage in Moselle in 1834. But we concede that the lack of oldest son Christian’s passenger list leaves the possibility that his parents came with him at a later date.

Children of Johannes/Jean Nafziger and Catherine Guingerich/Gingerich include:

1. Christian Nafziger was born in the vicinity of Kalhausen circa June 3, 1802 (Lorentz) or June 24, 1802 (per obituary count), and died at Pulaski, Davis County, Iowa Nov. 24, 1887. We could not identify a civil birth entry. The 1860 census of Grove Township, Davis County, Iowa: retired farmer Christian Noffsinger, 70, Germany; and Nancy, 40, Germany. The 1880 census of Grove shows retired farmer Chris Naffziger, 78, Metz; Anna, 62, Metz. Herald of Truth, January 1888: “On the 24th of November, near Pulaski, Iowa, of inflammation of the kidneys of which he suffered severely for 25 days. Bro. Christian Naffziger, aged 85 years and five months. Services from I Peter 1: 23, 24.” He is buried in Pulaski Cemetery in Davis County as ‘Christian Naffziger 1802-1887.’

2. Joseph Nafziger was born at Weidesheim (now part of Kalhausen) April 2, 1808 (though no civil birth entry is found there). On March 19, 1834 at Hombourg-Haut he married Barbe/Barbara Jantzi. She was born at Picard, Saarlouis (in the Pfalz, 20 miles north of Hombourg-Haut) Oct. 7, 1804, a daughter of Michel Jantzi and Barbe Neuhauser. Their civil marriage entry described the father of the groom as a 55-year-old miller on Brandelfing farm at Gros-Rederching, and his mother was 54. It was witnessed by miller Michel Janzi, 39, brother of the bride; and miller Christian Stecker, 33, a friend of the groom residing at Hombourg-Haut. They had children on Brandelfing farm at Gros-Rederching in 1834, 1836, and 1838; a child at sea in 1840; and children in Ontario in 1844, 1846, and 1848. They sailed from Le Havre on the Concordia, and arrived at New York June 3, 1840. The passenger list includes J. Nafziger, 31; Barbara, 32; Cath., 6; Mag., 4; Michel, 2; and Mag., 21 [was this Joseph’s sister Jacobine?]...

3. Catherine Nafziger was born at Weidesheim circa 1810 (per her civil marriage entry, though we could not identify a birth entry there) and died at Washington, Tazewell County in 1866. On July 10, 1830 in the Pulvermühle at Macheren she married Michel Jantzi (the civil entry was created at adjacent Hombourg-Haut). He was born at Valmont, Moselle April 10, 1795, and died at Macheren (adjacent below Hombourg-Haut) Jan. 31, 1848, a son of Michel Jantzi and Barbara Neuhauser. Catherine brought her children to North America between 1847 and 1849. Their story is told in JANTZI.

4. Jean Nafziger (later known as John Naffziger) was born at Kalhausen, Moselle (six miles southwest of Gros-Rederching) April 1, 1813. We think of him as ‘Iowa John Naffziger.’

5. Pierre Nafziger was born at Kalhausen June 10, 1815, and died there Aug. 19, 1815.

6. Pierre Nafziger was born at Kalhausen Feb. 27, 1817, and died there March 26, 1817.

7. Jacobine Nafziger was born at Kalhausen Oct. 18, 1819. Circa 1841 in Ontario she married Joseph Nafziger, also known as Joseph S. Nafziger, a son of Christian Nafziger and Maria Stalter.

Jean Nafziger (later known as John Naffziger) was born at Kalhausen, Moselle April 1, 1813.

He may have been the first of the family to come to America. He sailed from Le Havre on the packet ship Rhone, and arrived at New York July 26, 1834. The passenger list shows gardener Jos. Schick, 28, Baden; Appolone, 26 [female]; laborer Chritz Gingerich, 23, France; an 18-year-old male companion of the same name; Jean Nafnger, 21, France; Velten Gerber, 15, France; and baker Jean Griesser, 24, France.

In 1846, now known as John, he married Catharina Miller. She was born at Hamburg (now New Hamburg, on the west side of Wilmot Centre in Wilmot Township) May 29, 1829, and died at Morton July 31, 1916, a daughter of Peter Miller and Anna.

The 1851 census of Wilmot, Ontario shows farmer John Nafziger, 33 (all ages 'next birthday'), France, Mennonist; wife Catherine, Canada, 23, Mennonist; Samuel, 4; Hannah, 2; Christian, 1; and Catherine Bender, 21, Germany, Lutheran.

The couple migrated to Iowa in 1852. The 1860 census of Grove Township, Davis County, Iowa: farmer John Noffsinger, 45, France; Catharin, 31, Canada; Samuel, 12, Canada; Nancy, 10, Canada; Christ, 8, Canada; Mary, 6, Iowa; Catharin, 4, Iowa; and John, 2, Iowa. (Note that Samuel and Christ are near-matches to the Wilmot census). Elsewhere on the same page we find the household of John's brother as retired farmer Christian Noffsinger, 70, Germany; and Nancy, 40, Germany.

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129 The Concordia passenger list also shows Frini Jantzy, 18. We could not account for her.
The 1870 census of Grove has farmer John Nafsinger, 56, France; Catherin, 41, Canada; Christian, 18, Canada, works on farm; Nancy, 20, Canada; Martha, 14, Iowa; Catherine, 14, Iowa; John, 12, Iowa; Mary, 10, Iowa; Daniel, 7, Iowa; Lydia, 4, Iowa; and farm laborer Joseph Bonds, 23, Switzerland.

The 1880 census of Grove shows farmer John Naffziger, 65, Metz; Catharina, 59, born in On. Canada to parents from Hesse; Samuel, 32, On. Canada; Christopher, 28, On. Canada; Daniel, 17, Iowa; Mattie, 24, Iowa; and Lydia, 14, Iowa (thus indicating they came from Ontario to Iowa between 1852 and 1856). Further down the same page: retired farmer Chris Naffziger, 78, Metz; Anna, 62, Metz; as well as John Gingrich, 43, France; Susanna [Susanna Jantzi, a niece of Christian and John, see JANTZI], 40, France; and Charles [adopted son], 11, Iowa.

On the 1880 census both John and Christian gave their birthplaces as Metz. This suggests that like many immigrants they provided the spelling of their surname to census takers by showing their immigration documents. Metz is the capital of the department of Moselle, and travelers stopped there to obtain exit documents before continuing west to Le Havre.

John and Catharina had two daughters who came to Tazewell County before them. Daughter Hannah/Nancy had married John Ackerman (see ACKERMAN) in Davis County Jan. 24, 1873; and Lydia had married Joseph Getz in Tazewell County Dec. 22, 1889.

The 1900 census of Morton shows John Naffsiger, 87, born in Germany in April 1813, immigrated in 1833; Katie, 71, born in Canada in May 1829, immigrated in 1852; and Mattie, 45, born in Iowa in August 1854. John died at Morton April 16, 1902. He is buried in the Old Apostolic Cemetery, where his headstone describes him as, 'Grandpa John Naffziger April 1, 1813-April 16, 1902.'

Catharina died at Morton July 13, 1916. She is buried in the Apostolic Christian Cemetery.

APOSTLE PETER BRANCH

Peter Nafziger, born between 1713 and 1721. had a son Peter Nafziger born between 1734 and 1742. He went to Hochheim near Worms, in the landgravate Hesse-Darmstadt (now in the German state of Rheinisch-Pfalz).

His son Valentin Nafziger was born at Hochheim in 1763, and died there Aug. 13, 1800. He married Magdalena Spring. She was born at Hochheim circa 1766, and died March 9, 1806, a daughter of Johannes Spring and Elisabetha, who leased the Rosenthalerhof at Kerzenheim.130

They became tenant farmers on the Obertraisa estate (also found as Obertrayasa) of the von Gemmingen family, 32 miles east of Hochheim in the Odenwald area.131 The estate takes its name from its physical location - from Darmstadt it was 'beyond the village of Traisa.' It was made up of several hamlets and outlying farms centered around Gemmingenschen Hofgut ('Gemmingen courtyard') at Fränkisch Crumbach, Hesse-Darmstadt. The Urg/Urich/Urish and Weirich/Weyhrich/Weyrich families of Tazewell County also emigrated from Fränkisch Crumbach.

Valentin and Magdalena probably held a traditional nine-year lease on the land. In 1798 they returned to their birthplace, Hochheim. Valentin died in their home on the Klostergasse ('monastery lane') two years later.

Children of Magdalena Spring and her first husband Valentin Nafziger include:

1. Katharina Naffziger was born on the Liebenauerhof circa 1785-86. She married Jakob Nafziger. He was born on the Schmitthof between Kroffelbach and Kraftsolms in Nassau-Weilburg in 1786, a son of Johannes Nafziger and Elisabeth Nafziger. (The Schmitthof is associated with the Schoenbeck family mentioned in the STAKER genealogy). They lived with Jakob's father Johannes as he leased the Hörderhof estate near Blissenbach (adjacent to Aumenau, eight miles west of the Schmitthof). Jakob inherited the lease from his father in 1833. According to Guth, they came to America with six children in 1840.

2. Peter Naffziger, later known as 'Apostle Peter,' was born on Obertraisa estate Feb. 23, 1787, and died at what is now Congerville Sept. 15, 1885. He is buried in Imhoff Cemetery at Danvers.

3. Magdalena Naffziger was born on Obertraisa estate May 29, 1791, and died at Morton Feb. 13, 1873. On Feb. 5, 1808 at Breunigweiler she married Johannes/Jean Kennel, a son of Peter Kennel and Elisabeth Müller.

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130 After Johannes Spring died, Elisabetha remarried to Jakob Stähly [Stähli]. This made him a step-grandfather to the Naffziger children. He later remarried to the much younger Elisabeth Brenneman (he was born in 1752, she in 1776). They may have assumed the lease at Obertraisa, where they had five children 1807-1815. Several of the children settled in Central Illinois (see EHRESMAN, ERISMANNS IN BUREAU COUNTY). He accompanied Peter's younger sister Magdalena Naffziger at her marriage to Johannes Kennel at Breunigweiler in 1808, signing the entry as a witness.

131 The noble von Gemmingen family purchased the Obertraisa estate from the Rodenstein family in the mid-18th century. The Naffzgers may never have met a von Gemmingen; the family resided at Kraichgau and held a number of scattered real estate holdings.
4. Elizabeth Naffziger was born on Obertraisa estate Jan. 19, 1793.
5. Barbara Naffziger was born on Obertraisa estate Dec. 14, 1794, and died in Woodford County Sept. 19, 1881. In 1815 on the Wolferhof estate at Neustadt im Odenwald, Hesse she married Peter Danner.
6. Johanna Naffziger was born on Obertraisa estate Dec. 11, 1796. According to Hermann Guth in Amish Mennonites in Germany, she also came to America.
7. Jakob/Jacob Naffziger was born at Hochheim Aug. 21, 1798, and died at Panola March 5, 1888. On Aug. 22, 1822 at Weitersweiler he married Barbara Krebhiel (found as 'Gräebieli' on her headstone). She was born there Oct. 24, 1795, and died at Metamora Feb. 10, 1876, a daughter of Johannes Krebhiel and Elisabeth Kennel. They sailed from Le Havre on the packet ship De Rham, remained onboard when the ship arrived at Boston, and disembarked at New York Dec. 21, 1830 (see KENNEL). They are found on the passenger list as Jacob Naffziger, 32; Barbara, 34; Magdalena, 38; and Peter, 1. 'Jacob Netseah' appears on land documents Sept. 19, 1838 as the purchaser of federal land for $1.25 per acre. He bought the entire 160-acre southeast corner of Section 6 at Worth.

89 years, 5 months and 2 days. Before his death he wanted to visit one of his neighbors nearby. In trying to cross a fence he fell on his face, and in this position he was found and carried home, and thus, without apparently suffering much pain he passed peacefully away. At his burial on the 8th a large number of relatives and friends assembled to pay the dear departed brother their last respects. He was a faithful worker in the Amish Mennonite church, and leaves 2 sons and 5 daughters and many grand-children. Funeral services by Christian Ropp, John P. Schmidt and Joseph Rediger, at the school house. El Paso Journal, March 10, 1888: "Jacob Nafsinger, better known as 'Grandpa Nafsinger,' died at the residence of his son-in-law Peter Roth, Monday, in the 90th year of his age. Mrs. Peter Roth and Mrs. John Baughman, Sr. of Panola; Mrs. Engel [Ropp] and Mrs. Gingerich of Metamora, and Peter Nafsinger of Delavan are the surviving children. Father Nafsinger was highly respected by all his acquaintances, and was among the early settlers of this county. Thus one by one, but in rapid succession, the pioneers of old Woodford are entering into rest. The funeral occurred Thursday and the remains were interred in Baughman Cemetery."

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Weitersweiler he married Barbara Krehbiel (found as 'Graebiel' on her headstone). She was born there Oct. 24, 1795, and died at Metamora Feb. 10, 1876, a daughter of Johannes Krebhiel and Elisabeth Kennel. They sailed from Le Havre on the packet ship De Rham, remained onboard when the ship arrived at Boston, and disembarked at New York Dec. 21, 1830 (see KENNEL). They are found on the passenger list as Jacob Naffziger, 32; Barbara, 34; Magdalena, 38; and Peter, 1. 'Jacob Netseah' appears on land documents Sept. 19, 1838 as the purchaser of federal land for $1.25 per acre. He bought the entire 160-acre southeast corner of Section 6 at Worth.

9. Peter J. Naffziger was born at Weitersweiler April 14, 1823, and died May 17, 1909. On Oct. 25, 1845 she married Peter R. Engel. He was born at Boulay, Moselle Oct. 21, 1822, and died in Woodford County March 11, 1888, a son of Peter Engel and Catherine Ringenberger. They are found on the 1880 census of Metamora, Woodford County as farmer Peter Naufsinger, 52, Germany; Barbaray, 52, Germany; Samuel, 21, Illinois; Leonia [Leah], 18, Illinois; Emilie [Amelia], 16, Illinois; and male farm worker Leslie Finch, 17, Illinois. Barbara and Peter are buried in Oakwood Cemetery at Metamora.

b. Elizabeth 'Lise' Naffziger was born at Weitersweiler Sept. 29, 1826, and died Aug. 30, 1908. Circa 1848 she married Christian Gingerich/Gingrich/Gingerich. See GINGERICH for more on this couple.

c. Magdalena Naffziger was born at Weitersweiler Aug. 24, 1827, died at Eureka April 2, 1908, and is buried in Roanoke Mennonite Cemetery. On March 14, 1847 in Woodford County she married Valentine 'Felty' Birkey; the ceremony was performed by elder Jean/John Nafziger. Valentine was born in 1817 or 1821, and died in 1856. In 1847 he was ordained as a minister at the Dillon Creek meeting. On Sept. 14, 1869 in Tazewell County Magdalena remarried, becoming the second wife of minister Christian Ropp. He was born at Falkwiller, Upper Alsace April 27, 1812, and died Aug. 3, 1896, a son of Andreas Ropp and Elisabeth Eymann. Gospel Herald, 1908: "Magdalena Ropp (nee Nafziger) was born Aug. 1827, in Germany. She came to America with her parents in 1833. In 1846 she was united in marriage with Valentine Birkey, who departed this life in 1856. In 1869 she became the wife of Bish. Christian Ropp and in about 28 years he was called to his reward. She united with the A. M. Church in her youth and lived a faithful and exemplary life until her death. Death came to her at her home in Eureka, Ill., after having been confined to her bed about 8 weeks, on Apr. 2, 1908."

d. Peter J. Naffziger was born at Weitersweiler Aug. 31, 1829, and died in Tazewell County June 23, 1909. On Jan. 22, 1854 in Tazewell County he married his cousin Madleine/Magdalena 'Lena' Nafziger. She was born on the Rohrhof estate at Brühl, Baden (her headstone says Oct. 20, 1832), was baptized Oct. 23, and died May 4, 1906, daughter of Peter Naufsinger and Katharina Hunsicker. They are found on the 1900 census of Boynton as Peter J. Naffziger, 70, born in Germany in August 1829, immigrated in 1830; Magdalena, 67, born in Germany in October 1832, immigrated in 1848; son Daniel P., 29, born in Illinois in August 1870; and servant Barbara Saltzman, 22, born in Illinois in September 1877 to a father from Louisiana and a mother from Illinois. They are buried in Mennonite Cemetery at Hopedale. Gospel Herald, July 1909: "Bro. Peter Nafzinger of Hopedale, Ill., died June 24, 1909, at the age of 79 y. 9 m.
His disease was cancer, from which he suffered for several years. He was bed-fast about seven months before death released him from his terrible pain. Five sons and two daughters are left to mourn, but they mourn not as those who have no hope. He was buried on June 26. Sermons were preached by J. C. Birky from 1 Pet. 4:17, 18, and M. Kinsinger from Heb. 4:1.

e. Johannes/John Naffziger was born in Butler County in 1833, and died after 1888. On June 5, 1860 in Tazewell County he married his second cousin Elisabetha/Elisabeth 'Lizetta' 'Eliza' Nafziger; the ceremony was performed by minister Andrew Ropp. She was born on the Rohrhof estate at Schwetzingen, Baden Sept. 15, 1836, and died April 8, 1918, a daughter of Peter Nafziger and Katharina Hunsicker. Elizabeth is found as a 43-year-old divorced sister-in-law in the household of Joseph Springer and her sister Barbara at Little Mackinaw. Elizabeth is buried in Pleasant Grove Mennonite Cemetery at Elm Grove.

f. Catherine Nafziger (twin) was born in Butler County Jan. 9, 1836, and died at Manson, Iowa Sept. 11, 1914. She is buried in Rose Hill Cemetery there. She married John Baughman. He was a son of Johannes/John Bachman and Anna Stecker/Staker. The best evidence suggests that he was born March 2, 1833 on the Rehlungerhof estate near Tawern in the Trier-Saarburg District of what is now the Rheinisch-Pfalz, on March 2, 1833. He died at Manson, Iowa Nov. 6, 1914, a son of Johannes/John Nachman and Anna Stecker/Staker. See BACHMAN for background on this couple.

g. Jacobena 'Bena' 'Phoebe' Naffziger (twin) was born in Butler County Jan. 9, 1836, and died at Panola Jan. 17, 1928. On Feb. 8, 1857 in Tazewell County she married Peter Roth; the ceremony was performed by minister Michael Mosiman. He was born Feb. 12, 1829, and died Aug. 9, 1901, a son of Niclaŭs Roth and Verena Zimmerman; the ceremony was performed by minister Michael Mosiman, and the bride was entered in county records as 'Phebe Noffsiger.' See ROTH for background on this couple.

Following Valentin's death, the widow Magdalena Spring remarried to one of her first husband's relatives, who was also named Valentin Nafziger. He was born at Lachen-Speyerdorf in 1769, and died at Göllheim (below Marnheim) in 1839. He was a son of Peter Nafziger (born circa 1710) and his second wife Elizabeth Ehrismann.

Magdalena Spring brought seven children to the marriage. Her new husband brought two children from an earlier marriage to Magdalena Fischer. They had one child together.

Later 'Apostle Peter' and his siblings may have chosen to employ the 'double f' spelling 'Naffziger' to differentiate themselves from these step brothers and sisters, who were also Nafzigers.

Magdalena Spring died March 9, 1806, leaving her second husband to care for all 10 children.

He then remarried to Elisabeth Beck on the Wolferhof estate at Neustadt im Odenwald of Hesse. They had one more child. After Elizabeth Beck's death, he married for a fourth time to Magdalena Müller. She was a daughter of Jacob Müller of the Münsterhof at Dreisen. She was the widow of Peter Nafziger of Gauersheim, the older brother of the first Valentin Nafziger, and she died at Gauersheim in 1837.

Valentin Nafziger [stepfather] died alone at Göllheim, after every one of his children and stepchildren from four marriages had died or emigrated.

We could identify four of Apostle Peter's step-siblings.

(1,2) Valentine Nafziger of Lachen-Speyerdorf had two sons, Peter and Christian, from his first marriage to Magdalena Fischer. He brought them to his marriage with Magdalena Spring.

According to Hermann Guth in *Amish Mennonites in Germany*, Christian was born at Dirmstein in 1802, and died at Gauersheim in 1826.

His brother Peter may have been in 1800 (headstone and passenger list) or 1803 (suggested by the age on his marriage entry).

He married Katharina Hunsicker on the Rohrhof estate at Brühl, Baden March 3, 1829. The marriage entry called her 'Katarina Hunsicker.' It stated that he was 27, and she was 24. It named his parents as Valent Nafziger and Magdalena Fischer, and hers as Peter Hunsicker and Magdalena Schwarzenrub [Schwartzentruber]. Both sets of parents farmed on the Rohrhof estate.

They sailed from Bremen on the Gaston, arriving at New York July 13, 1848. The passenger list shows them as farmer Peter Nafziger, 47; Cath., 44; Jacob, 17; Madeline, 15; Elisabeth, 11; Valent, 10; and Barb. Magd., 5.

Peter and Katharina brought their family to Butler County the same year. They continued on to Tazewell County before the 1850 census. There they appear as Peter Nafziger, 50; Catherine, 44; Jacob, 19; Madeleine, 17; Valentine, 16; Elizabeth, 13; and Barbara, 18. To the best of our knowledge this census names all their children.

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132 Thus 'Apostle Peter' had parents Valent Nafziger and Magdalena Spring, a stepfather Valent Nafziger, and two stepmothers Elisabeth Beck and Magdalena Müller.

133 The National Archives microfilm cover sheet mistranscribed the date on this passenger list as June 19, 1848.
On the 1860 census of Boynton 'Peter Nofsinger' is 57 years of age. The 1870 census of Boynton shows their household as Peter Noffsinger, 70, Baden; Katharine, 66, Baden; Peter, 41 [son-in-law Peter J. Nafziger]; Magdalena, 38; John W., 15; Jacob A., 14; Katharine E., 12; Henry F., 10; Saml., 8; and Joseph V., 6.

Peter's headstone says he was born Dec. 18, 1800, and died March 14, 1878. Katharina's headstone calls her 'Katharina Unzicker,' and says she died Oct. 16, 1876, aged 76 years, 9 months, and 21 days (yielding a birth date of Dec. 26, 1803). Their headstones do not match the ages from the marriage entry. There are two plausible explanations: 1) the headstones now in place replaced wooden markers long ago, and the newer inscribed dates may not have been accurate; or 2) the marriage entry was approximate and not precise. In some instances the birthdate was not known or never occurred to the next generation, and was approximated from the parent's census report.

1. Jakob/Jacob Nafziger was born on the Rohrhof estate at Brühl, Baden May 29, 1831, baptized May 31 (in accordance with the laws of Baden), and died in California in 1885. He established a wholesale meat business at Nevada Township, California. He married Caroline Bauer. She was born circa 1830, and died in 1917. They are found on the 1870 census of Nevada Township as butcher Jacob Naffziger, 40, Germany; Caroline, 32, Ohio; Hannah, 12, Iowa; Henri, 10, Iowa; August, 5, California; Amelia, 4, California; and Colene, 1, California.

2. Madeleine/Magdalena 'Lena' Nafziger was born on the Rohrhof estate Sept. 22, 1832 (her headstone says Oct. 20, 1832), baptized Oct. 23, and died May 4, 1906. On Feb. 5, 1889 in Tazewell County she married her cousin Peter J. Naffziger. He was born at Weitersweiler Aug. 31, 1829, and died June 23, 1909, a son of Jacob Naffziger and Barbara Krehbiel. See the earlier note with his obituary.

3. Valentine Nafziger was born on the Rohrhof estate Sept. 9, 1834; baptized Sept. 11; and died Sept. 22, 1869. On March 20, 1862 in Tazewell County he married Barbara Springer, the ceremony was performed by minister Christian Christian Nafziger. She was born at Solln near Munich April 28, 1842, and died at Boynton Jan. 16, 1917, a daughter of David Springer and Elizabeth Guth/Good (this family came on the Minnesota in 1849). She is found on the 1900 census of Boynton as mother-in-law Barbara Naffziger, born in Germany in April 1842, immigrated 1849, living in the household of Henry Schantz, born in Germany in April 1864; and Bertha, born in Illinois to German parents in December 1867. Gospel Herald, February 1917: "Barbara Springer Nafziger was born in Germany, April 28, 1842; died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Anna Birky, near Hopedale, Ill., Jan. 16, 1917; aged 74 y. 9 m. 19d. She was married to Valentine Nafziger, who preceded her in death in September, 1869. To this union were born three children who still survive her, namely, Mrs. Anna E. Birky, Mrs. Lena Litwiller, and Mrs. Bertha Schantz, all of near Hopedale, Ill. She also leaves to mourn her death 17 grandchildren, six great-grandchildren, two sisters and one brother, besides many other relatives and friends, but who mourn not as those who have no hope. She united with the A. M. Church in her girlhood days, and lived a consecrated Christian life, till death came and she was called home. Funeral services were held at the A. M. Church near Hopedale, Ill., by J. C. Birky and Daniel Nafziger in the German language, and Simon Litwiller in English. The latter's text was Rev. 14:14. Interment in the A. M. Cemetery. Rest in peace."

4. Elisabetha/Elizabeth 'Lizetta' 'Eliza' Nafziger was born on the Rohrhof estate Sept. 15, 1836, was baptized Sept. 25, and died April 8, 1918; she is buried in Pleasant Grove Mennonite Cemetery at Elm Grove. On June 5, 1860 in Tazewell County she married her second cousin Johannes/John Naffziger. He was born in Butler County, Ohio in 1833, a son of Jacob Naffziger and Barbara Krehbiel. Elizabeth is found as a 43-year-old divorced sister-in-law in the household of Joseph Springer and her sister Barbara on the 1880 census of Little Mackinaw.

5. Barbara Nafziger was born in Bavaria July 24, 1841, and died at Hopedale Nov. 4, 1921. On May 24, 1863 in Tazewell County she married Joseph Springer; the ceremony was performed by minister Christian Christian Nafziger. He was born at Solln near Munich June 29, 1837, and died at Hopedale March 29, 1902, a son of David Springer and Elizabeth Guth/Good. His first wife was Magdalena Zimmerman. They had married in Tazewell County March 27, 1860; the ceremony was performed by minister Andrew Ropp. The 1880 census of Little Mackinaw shows farmer Joseph Springer, 43, Germany; Barbara, 38, Germany; Valentin, 15, Illinois; Kathrin, 14, Illinois; John, 12, Illinois; Joseph, 9, Illinois; Christian, 7, Illinois; Emma, 4, Illinois; David, 6, Illinois; farm worker Joseph Krebill, 20, Russia; and divorced sister-in-law Elizabeth Nafziger, 43, Germany. Joseph and Barbara are buried in the Mennonite Cemetery at Hopedale, where their joint headstone says she was born in July 1841 and spells her surname 'Nafziger,' (3) Magdalena Spring had one child, Valentine, in her second marriage to Valentine Nafziger of Lachen-Speyerdorf. Valentine Nafziger was born at Hochheim April 1, 1805, and died at Deer Creek Feb. 16, 1880. In 1830 at Gauersheim he married Anna Katharina Nafziger. She was born at Uberau in 1806, and died before 1852, a daughter of Peter Nafziger and Jakobina 'Phoebe' Fischer.

134 Their headstones do not match the ages from the marriage entry. There are two plausible explanations: 1) the headstones now in place replaced wooden markers long ago, and the newer inscribed dates may not have been accurate; or 2) the marriage entry was approximate and not precise. In some instances the birthdate was not known or never occurred to the next generation, and was approximated from the parent's census report.
Valentine may have sailed from Le Havre on the *Duchess d'Orleans*, and arrived at New York July 8, 1850. The passenger list shows Valens Naffziger, 44, farmer from Bavaria; Valentin, 14; Peter, 11; and [on the next page] farmer Christian Naffziger, 44, Bavaria. If this is the correct entry, it is obviously muddled. Nevertheless Valentine is known to have sailed between 1850 and 1852. (One factor in favor of a match is that Anna Katharina's brother Johann Christian Naffziger and his wife Barbara Stahli sailed on the *Empire* in 1853).

Valentine's younger half-sister Elizabeth Naffziger (her mother was Elizabeth Beck) took responsibility for the care of his children in Illinois. They can be found on the 1870 census of Deer Creek next door to his son Valentine as Valentine Naffsinger, a 66-year-old farmer from Hesse; and Elizabeth, 55, from Hesse. On the 1880 census of Deer Creek they are described as Valentine Naffsinger, a 75-year-old farmer from Bavaria; and Elizabeth, 68, from Bavaria. Valentine and Elizabeth are buried in Hirstein Cemetery at Morton. Because we found many errors regarding the children of Anna Katharina Naffziger, they are given here:

a. Valentine Naffziger was born March 13, 1834, and died Jan. 28, 1919. He married Katharina Nafziger in 1861. She was born in Tazewell County May 28, 1840, and died June 26, 1898, a daughter of Christian Naffziger [Jr.] of Bourscheid and Barbara Magdalena Schertz. They are buried in Hirstein Cemetery.

b. Peter Naffziger was born July 2, 1835, and died Nov. 2, 1909. He married Barbara Gingerich. She was born Oct. 8, 1841, and died Feb. 28, 1920, a daughter of Peter Gingerich and Magdalena Naffziger. They are found on the 1870 census of Washington as Peter Naffsinger, 36, France; and Barbary, 35, Germany; with children and farm labourer Moses Camp, 19, Illinois. They are buried in Hirstein Cemetery.

c. Christian Naffziger was born June 15 or 17, 1837, and died Oct. 26, 1923. In about 1865 he married Magdalena Gingerich (1844-1927). They are buried in Glendale Cemetery at Washington.

(4) Valentine Naffziger of Lachen-Speyerdorf became the step father of 'Apostle Peter.' After Magdalena Spring died and Valentine remarried to his third wife Elisabeth Beck, they had a daughter Elizabeth.

Elizabeth Naffziger was the care provider in the previous story. She was born near Kirchheimbolanden in what is now the German state of Rheinisch-Pfalz March 20, 1811, and died at Deer Creek March 19, 1896. Despite the date in the obituary given below, it has been generally accepted that Anna Katharina died in 1853, and her family emigrated in the same year. So Elizabeth probably came to Illinois in 1853.

_Herald of Truth_, April 1896: "Sister Elizabeth Naffziger was born on the 20th of March 1811, at Korschum [Gauersheim] near Kirchheim Bolande [Kirchheimbolanden], in the Rhenish Bavarian Palatinate. She came to America in 1851 and settled in Butler Co., Ohio, but left the same year for Tazewell Co., Ill. Although sister Naffziger was never married, yet she ably filled the place of a mother in her brother's family, whose wife had been called to the world beyond. Sister Naffziger was consecrated to her Master. She died on the 19th of March 1896 of the infirmities of old age, at the advanced age of 85 years and 11 days. She retained consciousness until the end. Her remains were laid to rest on the 31st in the Hirshstein graveyard near Morton, Illinois. Funeral services by Michael Kinsinger and Valentine Strubhar. Sister Naffziger was a member of the Amish Mennonite church for about seventy years and died in the triumphs of a Christian faith."

**Peter Naffziger**, later known as 'Apostle Peter,' was born on the Obertraisa estate at Fränkisch Crumbach, Hesse-Darmstadt Feb. 23, 1787. In 1798 his family returned to their earlier home, Hochheim. There they farmed with the Amish Mennonite Fischer family on the Liebenauerhof, leased from the monastery [Ger. Kloster] Liebenau.

As a young man Peter worked in a flour mill at Hochheim. He would have been eligible for conscription in the occupying French army in 1807, the year he turned 20. Many Hessian conscripts were pressed into service for the disastrous Russian Campaign of 1812.

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135 Johann Christian Nafziger was born in Uberau, Hesse-Darmstadt Jan. 17, 1803, and died at Danvers, McLean County March 8, 1893. Barbara Stahli was born Jan. 22, 1805, and died at Danvers Feb. 19, 1898, a daughter of Jacob Stahli and Elizabeth Brenneman. The *Empire* sailed from Le Havre, and arrived at New York Nov. 19, 1853. Its passenger list shows Magdalene Naaffziger, 25, Hesse; farmer Christian, 50; Barbara, 48; Helene, 20; Christian, 19; Jacob, 14; Valentin, 4; Johann, 9; Babette, 7; and Wilhelm, 6. _Herald of Truth_, April 1893: "On the 8th of March, 1893, near Danvers, Ill., Christian Naffziger, aged 90 years, 1 month and 19 days. He was born in Hesse Darmstadt, where he grew up and was married to Barbara Stahly. They settled in America in 1853. He was a minister in the Mennonite church and labored as long as his bodily strength permitted. Of his 12 children seven - and a number of grandchildren and great grandchildren - survive him. Appropriate remarks were made at the funeral by John Kinsinger, Chr. Gingerich and John Gingerich from Psa. 90 and 1 Cor. 15:45-56." They are buried in Park Lawn Cemetery at Danvers, where their joint headstone calls them Christian Naffziger and Barbara Stahli.

136 A French army under Count Philippe-Adam de Custine had taken Hochheim and Worms by surprise in 1792. De Custine was the head of the liberal aristocratic family that owned properties associated with the Amish Mennonite Engels. It was his greatest and last victory; he was guillotined the following year.

137 This was the family of Christian Fischer (later of Tulpehocken Township, Berks County). He was a son of Benedict Fischer, who was a brother to Ulrich Fischer of the Mechtersheimerhof (see EHRESMAN).
On March 8, 1812, Peter married Barbara Beck on the Wolferhof estate at Neustadt im Odenwald, Hesse (13 miles northeast of Fränkisch Crumbach). Barbara was born on the Wolferhof estate June 1, 1790, and died at Delavan Sept. 4, 1865. She is buried in the Mennonite Cemetery at Hopedale. She was a daughter of Christian Beck and Barbara Danner (see BECK for more on this couple), and may have been a niece to Peter's stepmother, Elizabeth Beck.

The ceremony was registered in the civil office of nearby Sandbach. The entry reads, "Peter Naffziger of Hochheim near Worms, and Barbara Beck of Wolferhof, Mennonites... In the year of Christ 1812, the 8th of March, by agreement of the bride's parents were married and matrimonially consecrated on the Wolferhof estate in a branch of our parish during the meeting of the Mennonites. Peter Naffziger is a 25-year-old Mennonite, legitimate and single son of the late Valentin Naffziger, former tenant of Hochheim near Worms, and the late Magdalena Spring; and Barbara Beck is a 22-year-old legitimate daughter of Christian Beck, a Mennonite tenant on the Wolferhof estate, and Barbara Danner. Witnesses were Christian Beck, the bride's father, and Johann Adam Oberle; they undersigned this entry together with the pastor [Ludwig Machenhauer]."

French rule on the Rhine collapsed in late 1813. By June 1814 the last occupation administrators had withdrawn. Hochheim and Worms were formally returned when the landgravate of Hesse-Darmstadt became province of Rhinehesse in the Grand Duchy of Hesse at the Congress of Vienna in 1815. Hochheim is now a district of the city of Worms.

The story of Christian Nafziger and his journey through Amsterdam, New Orleans, Ontario, and England was told earlier in ROPP, WILMOT TOWNSHIP. Peter Naffziger was his second cousin (through the second marriage of his mother Magalena Spring to Valentin Nafziger), and chose to join him when he returned to 'Upper Canada.' They sailed from Amsterdam on the Nimrod, arriving at Philadelphia Aug. 18, 1826. The passenger list describes the family as Peter Naftzeiger, 38, farmer; Barbara, 34; Elizabeth, 12; Jacob, 10; Margdalena, 8; Barbara, 6; Jacobina, 4; and Peter, 2.

From Philadelphia they made their way to Ontario and settled on the promised tract, which became known as the German Block of Wilmot Township in Waterloo County. Peter had been ordained before coming to Canada, and served as a minister at Wilmot.

He made a five-week trip to Butler County, Ohio in 1828, and apparently preferred the better farmland and warmer weather. In February 1829, Johannes Hans/John Oesch was ordained as a minister at Wilmot; in September of the same year he took on all of Peter's responsibilities as elder.

The Naffziger family reached Butler County before a son was born March 30, 1830. The family immediately settled on 40 acres at Milford, and ministered to the Augspurger congregation. The 10-person household of 'Peter Noughsinger' appears on the 1830 census of Milford, next door to Samuel Kinsinger.

In the summer of 1831 Peter likely met with a family grouping passing through Butler County on their way from Pennsylvania to Spring Bay. Johannes Güngerich/John Gingery had been a minister at Grünberg, Hesse-Darmstadt; he was accompanied by his wife Magdalena Eckhardt and children, as well as his newly-married oldest child Catharine and her husband Peter Beck. Peter would correspond from Butler County with John (until his death in the summer of 1833) and later his widow Magdalena. Peter Beck was a younger brother of Barbara Beck.

After the 1835 division between 'hook-and-eye' and 'button' factions in Butler County, Peter Naffziger was elected to lead the relatively progressive Hessian congregation. In History of the Mennonites of Butler County, Ohio, William H. Grubb wrote that, "He is said to have been a strong and forceful man, and of a determined disposition."

We noted earlier that Peter had an older sister Katharina Naffziger. She has been overlooked in family histories, but was rediscovered by Hermann Guth during research for his book Amish Mennonites in Germany. This was a fortunate event, because her presence indirectly explains much about 'Apostle Peter' and his role as elder of the progressive Hessian Amish Mennonite congregation in Butler County.

Katharina Naffziger married Jakob Nafziger. He was born on the Schmitthof between Kroffelbach and Kraftsolms in Nassau-Weilburg, a farm identified with the Schönbeck family. The couple later lived on the Hörderhof estate at Blessenbach. These two locations are about eight miles apart, and 80 miles above Hochheim.

The area between Hochheim/Worms and the state of Nassau-Weilburg is the state of Waldeck. Surnames found on estates in Waldeck included Kinzinger, Otto, and Schöttler – coincidentally, names of spouses of three children of Peter Naffziger and Barbara Beck. It seems likely that these families came from Europe with congregational letters of introduction addressed to him, through contact with his older sister and brother-in-law Jakob Nafziger at Blessenbach.

The 1840 census of Liberty shows 'Peter Nauflziger' living next door to son-in-law Daniel Otto. In September 1840 Peter signed a Declaration of Intent for naturalization at Hamilton, Butler County. It described him as a 51-year-old native of Bavaria, and noted sons Peter and Valentine.
At about this time Peter made his reputation as 'Apostle Peter' by walking and riding a horse to visit an Amish Mennonite settlement in Pendleton and Campbell Counties, Kentucky (southeast of Cincinnati). Peter's sister-in-law Magdalena Beck and her husband Johann/John Steiger had moved there from Butler County.

He is also thought to have made the first of two flatboat trips to New Orleans. New Orleans had a German colony, but no Amish Mennonite congregation until the arrival of elder Christopher Maurer in 1846.

John Michael Kistler married Peter’s daughter Elizabeth in Butler County Nov. 8, 1831.138 In Butler County Peter ministered with Kistler’s assistance. The Kistlers may have resettled in Woodford County as early as 1838 (they appear on the 1840 census of Danvers), and the Naffzigers followed in 1843 or 1844. They may have lived with the Kistlers at Dry Grove, McLean County during their first years in Illinois (both later lived at Congerville, Woodford County).

Kistler was active in the Hessian South Danvers congregation, but ran up against the conservative beliefs of elder Jonathan 'Yony' Yoder of Danvers. Yoder felt that Kistler was straying too far from 'hook-and-eye' plain clothing, and banned him from communion at the Rock Creek meeting house. Following this incident many from the Hessian-oriented South Danvers congregation withdrew from services at the meeting house and resumed meeting in homes.

From Illinois, Peter made a second trip to New Orleans. In the late 1850s Peter and Barbara elected to separate, and Barbara moved to the home of her youngest son Valentine at Delavan until her death in 1865. On the 1860 census of Montgomery Township, 'Peter Naffsinger' is found as a 71-year-old farmer in the household of his son, 35-year-old Bavarian farmer 'Peter Naffsinger.' Others in the household include Barbara Engel, 64; Mary Engel, 32; and Valentie Risser, 26. They lived next door to Michael Kinsinger and daughter Magdalena Naffziger. They lived near Congerville.

'Peter Naffsinger,' 91, was living alone on the 1880 census of Montgomery Township. 'Apostle Peter' died in the home of his son Peter at what is now Congerville Sept. 15, 1885. He is buried in Imhoff Cemetery at Danvers near his son Peter and daughter Magdalena.

Children of Peter Naffziger and Barbara Beck include:

1. Elizabeth Naffziger was born at Hochheim July 8, 1813, and died at Washington, Page County, Iowa Dec. 16, 1882. On Nov. 8, 1831 in Butler County she married minister John Michael Kistler. A civil entry created Dec. 9, 1831 noted that Samuel Davis, Esquire had performed a ceremony for 'Michael Kistler' and 'Elizabeth Noffsinger.' This was the earliest marriage of familiar names that we noted in Butler County records. He was born in Hesse-Darmstadt March 8, 1810, and died at Grant, Missouri Nov. 12, 1876. See KISTLER for more on this couple.

2. Jacob Naffziger was born at Hochheim May 9, 1815, and died at Delavan Dec. 12, 1868. According to one family history, he married Magdalena Rhogie [Roggy]. He is buried in Mennonite Cemetery at Hopedale near his mother.

3. John Naffziger was born at Hochheim Oct. 10, 1816, and died the same day.

4. Magdalena Naffziger was born at Hochheim May 3 or Aug. 1, 1818, and died Aug. 9, 1895. On Nov. 12, 1837 in Butler County she became the second wife of minister Michael Kinsinger; the ceremony was performed by her father. Michael was born Oct. 10, 1814, and died at Danvers June 28, 1895, a son of Daniel Kinsinger and Catherine Schwartzendruber. See KINSINGER for more on this couple.

5. Barbara Naffziger was born at Hochheim May 27, 1820, and died Sept. 21, 1912. On Nov. 13, 1837 in Butler County she married Daniel Otto. The ceremony was performed by her father; a civil entry was created Dec. 2, 1837. Daniel was born at Lützel in the Grand Duchy of Hesse-Darmstadt April 16, 1816, and died at Danvers Jan. 3, 1894. They can be found on the 1870 census of Dry Grove, where Daniel gave his birthplace as Nassau; and on the 1880 census of Bloomington, McLean County, where the family is described as Daniel Otto, 64, a farmer from Prussia with Prussian parents; Barbary, 60, born in Baden to parents from Baden; daughter Anna, 29, born in Ohio to parents from Prussia and Baden; and grandson Arthur, 7, born in Illinois to parents from Germany and Ohio. 

6. Jakobina 'Phoebe' Naffziger was born at Hochheim March 12, 1822, and died March 12, 1872. On Aug. 4, 1847 in Butler County she married Christian Schöttler (also found as 'Shettler'). He was born at Sichelbach in the district of Kassel, Hesse Dec. 22, 1823 and died in Bureau County Dec. 2, 1901, a son of Christian Schöttler and Elizabeth Sommer. They can be found on the 1860 census of Center, Bureau County as Christian Schettler, 37, farmer born in Germany; Phoebe Schettler, 37, born in Germany; Mary [Marie Eliza], 7, born in Illinois; Effe [Effie Johanna], 3, born in Illinois; and Presabill [Helen], 1, born in Illinois.

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138 This was the earliest marriage of Mennonites that we noted in Butler County records. A civil entry dated Dec. 9, 1831 noted that on Nov. 8, 1831 Samuel Davis, Esquire had performed a ceremony for ‘Michael Kistler’ and ‘Elizabeth Noffsinger.’
7. Peter R. Naffziger was born at Hochheim Oct. 1, 1824, and died at Congerville April 5, 1898. On June 26, 1851 at Partridge he married Magdalena/'Lena'/Madelaine Engel. She was born at Zommange, Moselle March 13, 1826, and died in McLean County July 6, 1907, a daughter of Joseph Engel and Barbara/Barbe Roggy. Herald of Truth, May 1898: “On the 5th of April, 1898, near Congerville, Woodford Co., Ill., of kidney and liver troubles, Peter R. Naffziger, aged 73 years, 6 months and 5 days. He was born in Germany, and in his childhood came with his parents to Canada, from whence he moved to Butler Co., Ohio, and afterward to Woodford Co., Ill. On the 26th of January 1851 he was married to Magdalena Engel. This union was blessed with ten children; five of the six surviving children were present at the burial in the Imhof graveyard on the 7th. One son is in California. Funeral services were held in the Congerville M. H. by Joseph Stuckey in German. He was a member of the North Danvers Mennonite congregation, and leaves many warm friends.”

8. Katharina/Catherine Naffziger was born at sea on the Nimrod July 9, 1826, and died at Congerville March 9, 1919. On April 20, 1845 at Montgomery, Woodford County she married Michael Zimmerman. He was born at Auggen, Baden Sept. 27, 1820, and died at Congerville Feb. 7, 1913, a son of Andreas/Andrew F. Zimmerman and Anna 'Fanny' Müller. They moved to Tazewell County in 1848, and settled at what is now Congerville in Montgomery Township the following year. Michael became a minister of the German Apostolic Church and a prosperous farmer at Congerville. He is buried in Lantz Cemetery at Carlock, McLean County.

9. Valentine F. Naffziger was born at Wilmot, Ontario April 21, 1828, and died April 25, 1886. On Christmas Day of 1859 at Stepstone, Kentucky he married Elizabeth Steiger. They were cousins through the Beck family (sharing grandparents Christian Beck and Barbara Danner). She was born in Germany Aug. 4, 1837 (headstone and death entry), and died at Hopedale Nov. 29, 1921, a daughter of Johannes/John Steiger and Magdalena Beck. Elizabeth's household is found on the 1900 census of Boynton as widow Elizabeth Naffziger, 63, born in Germany in August 1837; Emma, 38, born in Illinois in June 1862; Minnie, 36, born in Illinois in September 1864; Albert, 27, born in Illinois in August 1873; all children showing a father born in Canada and a mother born in Germany; servant George Tucker, 33, born in Kentucky in October 1867; and boarder Bena Stiger, 59, born in Ohio in December 1841 [Elizabeth's sister]. Valentine and Elizabeth are buried in the Mennonite Cemetery at Hopedale near Valentine's mother, Barbara Beck (who was an aunt to Elizabeth).

10. Christian Naffziger was born at Milford, Butler County March 30, 1830, and died before September 1840.

11. John Naffziger was born at Milford, Butler County Nov. 7, 1832, and died before September 1840.

DANIEL NAFZIGER was born in Hesse circa 1802. He is thought to have been a step brother to 'Apostle Peter' and Jakob/Jacob Naffziger.

According to Nafziger family notes he was 25 years old when he sailed from Bremen, and arrived at New York on the brig Caesar Sept. 8, 1828. The passenger list shows farmers from Hesse headed to Canada: Ch. Schwarzentraub, 55; John, 25; Danl. Nafniger, 25; Geo. Iutze, 25; John Schwartrabe, 24; and Jacob Gartner, 27.

He was on his way to the German Block of Wilmot, Ontario, where two branches of Nafzigers were already living.

A plat map of Wilmot Township, Ontario occupants (not necessarily land claimants) was created from surveyor Samuel Street Wilmot's report of Feb. 11, 1830. It shows 'Daniel Noffziker' on a lot on the south side of the west end of Snyder’s Road. The back corner of the lot touches that of 'Apostle Peter' Naffziger. One of the duties of claimants who hoped to eventually own their lot was the cutting of trees to open up Snyder’s Road. On Feb. 11 the trees in front of Daniel's lot had not been cleared.

A son's obituary described Daniel as, "Daniel N. Naffziger, a pioneer who came over from Germany before the days of steamers, being 90 days on the ocean in a sailboat, arriving in Peoria when the town consisted of three log huts." The last part - 'three log huts' - is a gross exaggeration. English settlers had come to Peoria in 1815 to complement a settlement that already held French residents.

When did Daniel come to what became Woodford County? Lists of early Amish Mennonite settlers overlook him, but this may be because he was not a head of family until he was about 34 years of age.

Perhaps Daniel came to the area immediately after the first Amish Mennonite settlers, 'Red Joe' Belsley and John Engel. He would have worked land before purchasing it from the government. However, we note that he found a wife who was born in Ohio, and their first child was born in Cincinnati, Ohio in 1836. Their second child was born in Illinois in 1837.

Daniel Nafziger married Elizabeth Summer. Some sources say she was born in Ohio April 12, 1810, but censuses suggest she was born in Ohio circa 1812.
In a letter from Peoria to a relative in Lancaster County dated March 11, 1838, Daniel Schwartzentruber wrote: "Daniel Nafziger, Peter Beck, Johannes Werey, Ringenberg and their families are, so far as I know, still all healthy and well and send you many greetings."  

On Sept. 8, 1838 'Daniel Nofinger' purchased 157.05 acres of land for $1.25 per acre, the northwest quarter (minus 2.95 acres) of Section 6, Township 27N. On Sept. 19 Jacob Naffziger (husband of Barbara Krehbiel, brother to 'Apostle Peter' Naffziger, possible step brother to Daniel) purchased the southeast quarter of the same section.

Township 27N would later became Worth in Woodford County. Worth is bordered on the west by Spring Bay, on the north by Partridge, and on the east by Metamora.  

We could not identify Daniel on federal censuses administered in 1840 (still part of Tazewell County) and 1850 (called District 56, but Woodford County). The 1860 census of Worth, Woodford County shows farmer Daniel Naaffsinger, 58, Hesse; Elizabeth, 46, Ohio; Jacob, 17, Illinois; Joseph, 15, Illinois; Elizabeth, 14, Illinois; Catherine, 12, Illinois; Phebe, 9, Illinois; and Christian, 8, Illinois. The 1865 state census of Worth shows the household of Daniel Naffziger as two males 10-19 years of age (Jacob and Joseph were actually slightly older than this bracket); one male 60-69 (Daniel); two females 10-19 (Catherine and Phebe); and one female 50-59 (Elizabeth). The 1870 census of Washington: farmer Daniel Noffsinger, 68, Germany; Elizabeth, 58, Ohio; and farm laborer Christ, 18, Illinois (their youngest son). Although they had relocated to Washington, the 1873 plat map of Roanoke Township shows 'D. Noffsinger' as the owner of 120 acres there.


Children of Daniel Nafziger and Elizabeth Summer include:

1. Magdalena Nafziger was born at Cincinnati, Ohio May 10, 1836. The 1880 census says Illinois; the 1910 and 1920 censuses says Ohio; and her Gospel Herald obituary says Cincinnati, Ohio. She died at Milford, Nebraska Oct. 22, 1920, and is buried in East Fairview Cemetery there. On Nov. 13, 1855 at Spring Bay she married Christian Schertz (the county entry calls them 'Christa Schertz' and 'Magdalene Naffzinger'). He was born at Reherrrey, Mout- et-Moselle April 5, 1822, and died at Hopedale Oct. 28, 1890, a son of Jean Schertz and Catherine Abresol. See SCHERTZ, SCHERTZ OF DALEM for more on this couple.

2. Susan Nafziger was born in Illinois Oct. 19, 1837, and died July at Morton 27, 1877. On March 27, 1856 in Tazewell County married Joseph Eigsti. He was born at Pellheim, Bavaria April 19, 1830, and died at Washburn, Woodford County Dec. 16, 1899, a son of Nicholas Augustin and Barbara Gascho. She is buried in Landes Mennonite Cemetery at Elm Grove, while he is buried in Roanoke Mennonite Cemetery. See EIGSTI for more on this couple.

3. Jacob Nafziger was born in Illinois circa 1843, and died in Reno County, Kansas in 1925. He is buried in Plevna Cemetery at Plevna, Kansas. He married Anna, who was born in 1847, and died in 1929. Jacob is found on the 1880 census of Minier, 37, born in Illinois to parents from Hesse-Darmstadt. The 1910 census of Huntsville, Kansas shows his household as Jacob W. Naffziger, 66, born in Illinois to parents from Germany and Pennsylvania; Anna C., 61, born in Ohio to parents from Switzerland and Germany; Mary N., 22, born in Kansas to parents from Illinois and Ohio; and Dora, 19, born in Kansas to parents from Illinois and Ohio.

4. Joseph Nafziger was born at Spring Bay, Woodford County July 8, 1845, and died at Minier March 16, 1910. On April 6, 1869 in Tazewell County he married Barbara Martin. She was born at Gosselming, Moselle Nov. 2, 1846, and died Dec. 22, 1885, a daughter of Christian/Christophe Martin and Marie/Mary Zehr. They are found on the 1870 census of Washington on the same page as his parents: farmer Joseph Naffziger, 25, Illinois; Barbaray, 23, France; and August Shurtz [Schertz], 18, Illinois. The 1880 census of Little Mackinaw shows farmer Joseph Nafyiger, 34, born in Illinois to German parents; Barbara, 33, born in France to French parents; and five children born in Illinois. On March 17, 1887 in Bureau County Joseph remarried to Emma Stauffer. Daily Pantagraph: "Joseph Naffziger, an old and respected citizen of Minier, was found sitting in his chair at his home in the west part of town Wednesday morning. He has not been in the best health, being subject to heart trouble, and was in the habit of sleeping in his chair a great deal. He was in good spirits Tuesday evening, and slept in his chair as usual. On going to call him the terrible truth was discovered by his son, Homer F. and it was evident his life had ended several hours before. Deputy Coroner Mason came at noon and the jury impaneled by him found that the deceased came to his death from acute heart failure due to organic heart disease. ...The funeral will he held today (Friday) at one p.m. conducted by Rev. King of Carlock, and the internment will be at the Amish cemetery west of Hopedale. Jos. Naffziger was born July 8, 1845 in Woodford County near Spring Bay. He was a son of Daniel N. Naffziger... Of the family there remains one brother, Jacob, who lives in Kansas and three sisters, Phoebe Martin, of Garden City, Mo.; Mrs. Lena Schertz, of Cazenovia; Mrs. Lizzie Rohman, of Spring Bay. He was married to Barbara martin April
Christen Naph, Uetendorf, but was baptized at adjacent Thierachern in February of 1686 (the entry for ‘Ulric’ names parents Amish Mennonites in Tazewell County, Illinois 1708. (Barbara was also deceased, but did not have children who would be heirs). His American children were named as share of his estate. It named his European children as Hans, Peter, Christian, Anna, Velten, and the deceased Steffen Dahn in the Pfalz, about four miles north of the border with Alsace. These grounds were known as the Güngerich of the Froensbourg estate at Lembach.

In 1715 they negotiated an early termination of their lease arrangement. However, even after leaving the Bärbelsteinerhof, both families continued to be associated with the location. On March 5, 1715, Ulrich and der alte Johannes/Hans Jakob Ehrismann leased the Rodenhof at Annweiler, a property of the Cistercian Eusserthal Abbey 11 miles to the east. Ulrich left this property in 1728 to lease the Obergut at Essingen, another property of the Eusserthal Abbey 11 miles to the east.

After a dozen years at Essingen, Ulrich left his wife and six children to depart for America. He sailed from Rotterdam through Cowes on the Marlborough, arriving at Philadelphia Sept. 23, 1741. The passenger list shows him as 'Ulrich Naflzer.'

Ulrich married again at New Holland, Lancaster County Aug. 12, 1746. His first wife Maria Magdalena had remained behind in their old congregation. This has been taken as proof that Ulrich must have been expelled and shunned, nullifying their Anabaptist marriage vows.

The second ceremony was performed by a Lutheran minister. Marie Catherine Bischof was a widow with two children, and they had two children together.

Ulrich died at Green Garden, Leacock Township, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania prior to June 11, 1754. In the absence of a will, his estate was awarded to his American children.

Maria Magdalena's death entry was created at Essingen Nov. 11, 1759. It said she had died two days earlier at age 65. She was described as "...experienced in remedies and has strongly practiced medicine." According to genealogist Alfred Kuby, a 1734 court record stated that she had evaluated a urine specimen sent to her by a woman who did not know she was pregnant. Maria Magdalena not only identified the pregnancy, but estimated that the donor was five weeks from mid-term.

In a probate document created at Essingen March 22, 1760, Ulrich’s European children declined to claim a share of his estate. It named his European children as Hans, Peter, Christian, Anna, Velten, and the deceased Steffen (Barbara was also deceased, but did not have children who would be heirs). His American children were named as

6. Christian Nafziger was born in Illinois in 1952. We could not follow him after the 1870 census.

Ulrich of Essingen and Lancaster County

Christen/Christian Naffzger and Anna Schnýder had a son Úlric Naflfzger/Úlrich Nafziger. He was born at Uetendorf, but was baptized at adjacent Thierachern in February of 1686 (the entry for ‘Ulric’ names parents Christen Naphzger and Anna Schnýder).

It is thought that he went to Birlenbach, Lower Alsace with his older brother Christen/Christian in 1707 or 1708.

Circa 1713 he married Maria Magdalena Güngerich. She was born circa 1694, a daughter of Hans 'Hans der alte' Güngerich of the Froensbourg estate at Lembach.

Ulrich and 'Hans' Jakob Ehrismann farmed the grounds below the ruins of Berwartstein Castle at Erlenbach bei Dahn in the Pfälz, about four miles north of the border with Alsace. These grounds were known as the Bärbelsteinerhof.

In 1715 they negotiated an early termination of their lease arrangement. However, even after leaving the Bärbelsteinerhof, both families continued to be associated with the location. On March 5, 1715, Ulrich and der alte Johannes/Hans Jakob Ehrismann leased the Rodenhof at Annweiler, a property of the Cistercian Eusserthal Abbey 12 miles north of Erlenbach bei Dahn. Ulrich left this property in 1728 to lease the Obergut at Essingen, another property of the Eusserthal Abbey 11 miles to the east.

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Johannes [later John] and Magdalena [later Mary Magdalena]. Another document mentioned that Ulrich had left Maria Magdalena their house at Essingen.

A deed dated April 6, 1771 put the Leacock house under the name of son John. It named all of the deceased Ulrich's children, and mentioned that widow Marie Catherine Bischof had remarried to Hieronimus Broeck.

The European children of Ulric Naffzger/Ulrich Nafziger and his first wife Maria Magdalena Güngerich include:

1. Johannes/Hans Nafziger was likely born on the Bärbelsteinerhof circa 1713 (in a letter he wrote in 1788 he said he was 75 years of age), and died at Essingen in 1790 or 1791. He married Barbara Holly at Erlenbach bei Dahn in 1729 (the Protestant Reformed record was kept at nearby Niederschlettenbach). She was baptized at Schwarzenegg Sept. 7, 1708, a daughter of leaseholder and minister Christian Holli/Holly (who performed their ceremony) and Magdalena Stagman. Johannes/Hans was ordained as a minister in 1731. A civil record of Anabaptists mentions 'Joann Noffzieger' on the Mechtersheimerhof in 1738, 1739, and 1740. They next lived at Rüppurr below Karlsruhe. In 1754 they lived briefly on the Katharinentaler Hof before leasing part of the Dalberg estate at Essingen from Baron Gottlob Amandus von Dalberg-Dalberg.

2. Stefan/Steffen Nafziger was born circa 1715, likely on the Rodenhof at Annweiler, and died at Steinseltz in 1755. He married Magdalena/Madeleine Güngerich. She was born circa 1715, a daughter of Christian Güngerich (born 1692) and an unidentified first wife. They farmed at Steinseltz with Magdalena/Madeleine's brother Christian Güngerich and his wife Jakobea/Jacobine Widmer. As a widow in 1756 Magdalena/Madeleine remarried to Johannes Nafziger, a son of Valentin/Velten Nafziger (a son of 'Christian of Birlenbach').

3. Barbara Nafziger was born circa 1716, likely on the Rodenhof at Annweiler, and died in 1746. She is not listed in her father's will created in 1760. She married Jacob Schenk [Sr.]. They became co-leasors of the Dalberg estate at Essingen with Barbara's older brother Johannes/Hans Nafziger. Jacob Schenk [Jr.] married a daughter of Johannes/Hans Nafziger, Katharina Nafziger, who was also his cousin. He was later ordained as an Amish Mennonite minister. He lived on the Dalberg estate with his father-in-law as late as 1788.

4. Christian Nafziger was born circa 1717, likely on the Rodenhof at Annweiler, and died on the Kammerhof estate at Leeheim, 10 miles west of Darmstadt, Hesse in 1782. He married Elisabeth Linder of Windstein, Lower Alsace. With his brother Peter he represented the Darmstadt congregation at the assembly of Amish Mennonite ministers at Essingen in 1779.

5. Anna Nafziger was likely born on the Rodenhof at Annweiler. One source says she was born circa 1719. She married Valentin Güngerich. He was born circa 1721, a son of Christian Güngerich (born 1682) and an unidentified first wife.

6. Peter Nafziger was born circa 1720 (one source says circa 1725), likely on the Rodenhof at Annweiler, and died at Lachen-Speyerdorf in the Pfälz (28 miles east of Kaiserslautern, 60 miles south of Gross-Gerau) in 1803. According to Hermann Guth, he married three times. His first wife was Barbara, who was born circa 1730 and died at Essingen in 1758 at the age of 18 (a child in 1758). In 1749 Peter was working in the Langenmühle or Langmühle at Wissembourg, Lower Alsace. This location would now be described as the northern extremity of Lower Alsace, just within the French border with Germany. With his brother Valentin/Velten Nafziger he later leased the ruined castle estate Fleckensteinerhof at Lembach. Peter’s second and third wives were Elisabeth Ehrismann (children in 1766 and 1769) and Barbara Ehrismann (a child in 1779), daughters of der jünge [the younger] Johannes/Hans Jakob Ehrismann (see EHRESMAN). By 1774 Peter was farming on the Rheinfelderhof estate at Gross-Gerau, nine miles northwest of Darmstadt, Hesse and six miles north of his brother Christian at Leeheim. The two brothers represented the Darmstadt congregation at the assembly of Amish Mennonite ministers at Essingen in 1779. See HOPEDALE LINE.

JOHANNES/HANS NAFZIGER

Johannes/Hans Nafziger was likely born on the Bärbelsteinerhof at Erlenbach be Dahn circa 1713 (in a letter he wrote in 1788 he said he was 75 years of age), and died at Essingen in 1790 or 1791. He married Barbara Holly at Erlenbach bei Dahn in 1729 (the Protestant Reformed record was kept at nearby Niederschlettenbach). She was baptized at Schwarzenegg Sept. 7, 1708, a daughter of leaseholder and minister Christian Holli/Holly (who performed their ceremony) and Magdalena Stagman. Johannes/Hans was ordained as a minister in 1731.

A civil record of Anabaptists mentions 'Joann Noffzieger' on the Mechtersheimerhof in 1738, 1739, and 1740. They next lived at Rüppurr below Karlsruhe. In 1754 they lived briefly on the Katharinentaler Hof before leasing part of the Dalberg estate at Essingen from Baron Gottlob Amandus von Dalberg-Dalberg.

Johannes/Hans became the leading elder of the Essingen congregation, and the leading elder of his day. He helped to establish the Amish Mennonite rules of faith by organizing the ministers assemblies at Essingen in 1759 and 1779. In 1779 he and Christian Ehrismann were two of the four ministers representing the Essingen congregation.

He traveled to Holland for nine weeks in 1765, and seven weeks in 1770, to mend disputes and ordain new ministers, and sponsored a reprinting of the Pennsylvania version of the Dutch text The Martyrs' Mirror in 1780. The tolerant bishop-prince of Speyer once sided with the Amish Mennonites on the Mechtersheimerhof over the interests of a wealthy landowner.
DALBERG VERSUS NAFZIGER

A Mennoniten father was expelled from his congregation for excessive drinking. On his deathbed he converted to Catholicism. In about 1772 authorities took his young son and two daughters from their mother and placed them in an orphanage at Mannheim, where they were supposed to be raised as Catholics.

The son died, and the two daughters were released. They soon returned to their mother. The three lived on the Mechtersheimerhof with the mother's brother, leaseholder and minister Jakob Ullmann.

Eventually the clergy at Mannheim realized that the two daughters had been rebaptized. In 1780 they requested that Baron von Dalberg of Essingen arrest his tenant, elder Johannes/Hans Nafziger. It was alleged that he had rebaptized the two girls, which he did not deny. The clergy recommended that the girls be put to death, and that Nafziger be prosecuted.

Johannes/Hans was held in the baron's castle until the case could be resolved. Adjudicators appointed by the baron decided that he should be fined 500 florins and exiled from the Pfalz. Their decision was taken to the bishop-prince of Speyer. He refused to act against the Ullmanns, who were his own tenants on the Mechtersheimerhof, or against Nafziger, a former tenant there. The bishop-prince may have feared that banishing Nafziger would result in the loss of all his Mennoniten tenants. The government fell in line behind the bishop-prince and reprimanded the baron from Essingen.

Because of the poor reputation of Baron Gottlob Amandus von Dalberg-Dalberg (1739-1794), the bishop-prince would have risked his own good name by supporting the charges. In 1774 the 'libertine of Essingen' outspent or overgambled the tax revenue that was accorded to him under feudal law. He arranged a marriage for a dowry that might have reduced his debts. At the last minute someone informed the prospective bride that the prospective groom was in fact already married; moreover, he had promised marriage to a third woman as well. It was widely suspected that he coerced the priest who would have performed the ceremony.

When the true picture became known to civil authorities, the baron was imprisoned in the fortress of Königstein near Dresden. He managed to obtain a pardon by promising to mend his ways, but eventually spent all of his allowance from civil funds. In 1789 he was reincarcerated at Königstein. He spent the last five years of his life shuttling between prisons to escape the reach of anti-royalist French troops.

On March 16, 1781 Johannes/Hans wrote a letter to ministers in the Netherlands describing his understanding and practices of marriage, baptism, and ordination of ministers and deacons. The letter was widely copied and served as a ministers' manual.

Barbara Holly died at Essingen Dec. 15, 1789. Johannes/Hans died there in 1790 or 1791. For more on Johannes/Hans Nafziger including the complete translated texts of two of his letters to Christian Schowalter, see Guth's Amish Mennonites in Germany.

The couple left three daughters, and no sons. The only American descendants of Johannes/Hans and Barbara who came to Central Illinois were settlers of Putnam County. They stem from the marriage of an unidentified daughter and Christian Bürki (see BIRKY/BIRKEY).

WILMOT BRANCH

Stefan/Steffen Nafziger was born circa 1715, and died at Steinseltz, Lower Alsace in 1755.

He married Magdalena/Madeleine Güngerich. She was born circa 1715, a daughter of Christian Güngerich (born 1682) and an unidentified first wife. As a widow in 1756 Magdalena/Madeleine remarried to Johannes Nafziger, a son of Valentin/Velten Nafziger, a son of Christian of Birlenbach.

Their children include:
1. Anna Nafziger was born in 1742.
2. Magdalena Nafziger was born circa 1749.
3. Christian Nafziger was born at Steinseltz circa 1749.

Christian Nafziger was born at Steinseltz, Lower Alsace circa 1749. He married Magdalena Güngerich, a daughter of Christian Güngerich and Jakobea/Jacobine Widmer. In 1771 they were living on the Geilweilerhof estate near Siebeldingen in the Pfalz.

Their children include:
1. Jakobina Nafziger was born in 1771. In 1804 at Sankt Johann, Saarbrücken she married Christian Eymann.
2. Johannes Nafziger was born in 1775.
3. Christian Nafziger was born in 1776, and died at Berlin, Ontario April 13, 1836.
4. Peter Nafziger was born in 1781.
5. Magdalena Nafziger was born in 1783.

In ROPP we told the story of Ontario, Canada settlers Christian Nafziger and Maria Stalter. For the sake of clarity, an abbreviated version:
Christian Nafziger was born in the Pfalz and managed the estate of Count von Gohren in the district of Ebersberg (20 miles east of Munich) for many years. He became a pioneer through a string of fortunate circumstances.

After becoming convinced that he could not profit in Europe, Nafziger left his wife Maria Stalter behind and traveled to Amsterdam. He arrived with only pocket change. According to his obituary, a Dutch Mennonite named Christiana Pieter van Eeghen arranged for a banking agent to lend him 30 Thalers for the Transatlantic fare. He departed on Christmas Day 1821, and arrived in New Orleans March 2, 1822.

After making his way up the Mississippi River to Cincinnati, Nafziger headed east to find Mennonites in Lancaster County and Philadelphia. There he was told about good farmland in Ontario. In August 1822, he borrowed a horse and continued north to Ontario, where he found a Mennonite group that had resettled from Pennsylvania.

On Aug. 30 the group created a petition urging that the governor set apart "...for the sects called Menonist, Tunkers and Quakers, about one hundred thousand acres adjoining the Townships of Waterloo and Woolwich." Soon Nafziger was negotiating with Lieutenant Governor Sir Peregrine Maitland for land rights. An agreement was reached for approximately 70 families to purchase blocks of crown and clergy properties at low prices. The lots were located adjacent to Berlin (now Kitchener) and Waterloo Township.

On Sept. 4, 1822 the Executive Council of Upper Canada, meeting at Niagara, agreed to the request pending approval from London. Nafziger then sailed to England, where he delivered letters from Maitland to the Colonial office. He was granted an audience with the Duke of York, younger brother of George IV. After Nafziger recounted the story of his journey to North America, the Duke confirmed the land arrangement and slipped gold coins into his hand.

Nafziger returned to Bavaria and assembled a group of potential settlers.

In 1826 Christian Nafziger and his company sailed from Amsterdam on the Nimrod, arriving at New York Aug. 18. Among his extended family was a second-cousin-by-marriage, minister Peter Naffziger (later known as the minister and elder 'Apostle Peter') and his wife Barbara Beck; and Peter's sister Barbara with her husband Peter Danner or Donner [Tanner]. From New York they traveled to Ontario and settled on the promised tract, which became known as the German Block of Wilmot Township, Waterloo County.

From the Nimrod passenger list: farmer Christian Naftzeiger, 50; Maria [Stalter], 45; Johann, 19; Catharine, 14; Jacobina, 12; Christian, 12; Johannes, 9; and Joseph, 7 (a longer excerpt is given in the Appendix, THE VOYAGE OF THE NIMROD 1826)

The late Ontario Mennonite historian Lorraine Roth did not believe that 'Johann, 19' was actually a son of this couple, and the line was a clerical error. This agrees with Christian's obituary in Canada Museum, reprinted in Hermann Guth's Amish Mennonites in Germany, which says that father Christian arrived in Ontario with "...his wife, three sons and two daughters."

The children were all born in Bavaria, possibly on the estate of Count von Gohren in the district of Ebersberg (20 miles east of Munich), where Christian was an estate manager. They include:

1. Katharina Nafziger was born circa 1812, and died at Wilmot in 1855. She married Christian Miller. He was born circa 1806, and died at Wilmot in 1850. He may have been an 18-year-old son of Simon Miller and Magdalena who preceded them to America, though this cannot be proven from available evidence. Christian served as a minister/elder for the Amish Mennonite congregation at Wilmot 1829-1847. In this time frame he was still meeting in homes (a meeting house was not erected until 1884 and became the Steinmann Mennonite Church); other ministers/elders included Joseph Goldschmidt/Goldsmith, John Brenneman, 'Apostle Peter' Naffziger, Christian Steinmann, John Oesch, Christian Farny, Rudolph Roth, Jacob Gardner, and Peter Litwiller. The household of widow Katharina is shown on the 1851 census of Wilmot as widow Katherine Miller, 42, Germany, Mennonist; farmer John, 22; Magdalena, 19; Catherine, 17; Lizzy, 15; Jacob, 12; Michael, 9; Christian, 7; Anna, 5; and Barbara, 3; all children born in Ontario and Mennonist.

2. Jakobina Nafziger was born circa Jan. 31, 1813 (per her obituary), and died at Pulaski, Davis County, Iowa July 31, 1879. She married Michael Miller, also known as Michael G. Miller. He was born circa 1807 (headstone), and died at Prairie, Davis County, Iowa Oct. 1, 1883, a son of Simon Miller and Magdalena. Michael obtained a crown patent on his Wilmot lot, sold it, and then relocated to Iowa. In 1854 Michael and Jakobina went to Davis County, Iowa, becoming the first Amish Mennonite family there. Herald of Truth, September 1879: "July 31st in Pulaski, Davis County, Iowa of dropsy, Jacobina, born Nafzinger, wife of Michel Miller, aged 66 years and six months." Widower and father-in-law Michael G. Miller, 72, born in Hesse to a father from Prussia and a mother from Hesse, is found in the household of his daughter Catharine and his husband Peter Kinsinger on the 1880 census of Prairie, Davis County, Iowa. Herald of Truth, November 1883: "On the 1st of October, near Pulaski, Davis County, Iowa, of cancer of the stomach, of which he suffered long and severely, Michael G. Miller, aged about 76 years. He bore his suffering with Christian patience and resignation. Buried on the third at Pulaski. Funeral services were held by Ph. Roulet and Chr. Zehr of Hickory County, Missouri." He is buried in North Pulaski Cemetery in Davis County where his headstone describes him as "M.G. Miller, died Oct. 1, 1883, age 76 y."
3. Christian Nafziger was born circa 1814. Circa 1840 he married Catherine. Only this son remained in Canada, while the other children resettled in America. Since they had no sons, there are no Nafzigers in Ontario today who are descendants of Christian Nafziger and Maria Stalter. They are found on the 1851 and 1861 censuses of Wilmot. In 1851: saw miller Christian Nafziger, 37, Germany, Mennonist; Katherine, 36, Germany, Mennonist; and Martha, 11, Ontario, Mennonist.

3. Johannes Nafziger, also known as John Naffziger, was born May 9, 1816, and died at Dakota City, Dakota County, Nebraska Jan. 1, 1903. We think of him as ’Nebraska John Naffziger.’

4. Joseph Nafziger, also known as Joseph S. Nafziger, was born July 7, 1820, and died at Elkton, Hickory County, Missouri Aug. 18, 1891. Circa 1839 he left Waterloo County to live in Lowell County, New York, but returned after two years. On Dec. 2, 1841 in Waterloo County he married Jacobine (also known as Josephine) Nafziger. She was born at Kalhausen, Moselle Oct. 18, 1819, and died at Elkton April 12, 1891, a daughter of Jean Nafziger and Catherine Gingrich, and a sister of ’Iowa John Nafziger.’ In 1851 they resettled in Lee County, Iowa. In August of 1859 they resettled again at Tyler, Hickory County, Missouri. They are found on the 1860 census of Tyler as farmer Joseph S. Naffziger, 40, Germany; Bini, 40, France; Catherine, 18, Upper Canada; John, 18, Upper Canada; Christian, 16, Upper Canada; David, 14, Upper Canada; Daniel, 12, Upper Canada; Benjamin, 5, Iowa; Samuel, 9, Upper Canada; and Mary, 2, Iowa. In 1869 Joseph established the Star Union Grist and Saw Mills at Wheatland, Hickory County. The 1880 census of Wheatland has retired miller Joseph Nafziger, 59, Baden; Josephine, 60, France; farmer David, 32, Canada; Mary, 22, Iowa; and ward Mute Dora, 14, born in Illinois to German parents. Their obelisk joint headstone in Gerber Cemetery at Elkton, Hickory County describes them as ”Joseph S. Naffziger, born June 1820, died Aug. 18, 1891” and ”Josephine, wife of J.S. Naffziger, born Oct. 20, 1819, died April 12, 1891.”

Johannes Nafziger, also known as John Naffziger, appears on the Nimrod passenger list as ’Johannes, 9.’ He was actually 10 years of age at the time, born somewhere in Bavaria May 9, 1816, possibly on the estate of Count von Gohren in the district of Ebersberg (20 miles east of Munich) where his father had been estate manager.

No later than 1844 in Ontario he married Rachel Bear [the Swiss surnames Bär and Bähr describe the animal]. She was born at what is now Preston (17 miles east of Wilmot, and now part of the community of Cambridge in Waterloo County) in March 1823, a daughter of Martin Bear of Montgomery County, Pennsylvania and Catherine Gingrich [Güngerich] of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. The Bear family had come to Preston from Pennsylvania in 1801, when Waterloo County held only 12 families.

The 1900 census says she was born in March 1823, and her headstone says she was born in 1823. Her age varies on censuses (1851 = 1823, 1861 = 1825, 1880 = 1824, and 1900 = 1823). She is mentioned in Ezra Eby’s A Biographical History of Waterloo Township (1895) as someone born March 10, 1825, which fits with what he knew about her siblings.

Eby erroneously wrote that she married ’Samuel Nafzieger.’ No such couple appears on any Ontario census. He added that this couple lived at Hespeler Village (20 miles east of Wilmot, four miles northeast of Preston), which was likely true of John and Rachel.

John and Rachel had a daughter Leah born at Wilmot in 1844, and a son Moses born at adjacent New Hamburg in 1847.

Sometime between 1847 and 1851 this family fell apart. Rachel is found on the 1851 census of Waterloo (adjacent to Wilmot). She was staying in the household of her older sister Salome Bear: shoemaker Elias Bergey, 41, Pennsylvania, Mennonist; Salome, 39, Ontario, Mennonist; William, 14, Mennonist; Lovenia, 23, Ontario, Mennonist; Isaac, 7, Ontario, Mennonist; and Rachel Nafziger, 28, Ontario, Evangelical, married (the 1861 census shows the Bergeys living at Hespeler Village). Moses, and presumably Leah, were living in different households.

According to one history, John went to Lee County, Iowa in 1851 (as did his brother Joseph, though John’s obituary says Davis County).

Sometime between 1851 and the spring of 1856 John permanently left his family. He would remarry and raise a second family on the American frontier.

The 1861 census of Waterloo South, Ontario shows the wife and daughter he left behind: factory worker Leah Nafziger, 18, Ontario, Methodist; and Rachel, 36, Ontario, Methodist, married.

Leah and likely Rachel were residents of Preston in 1868; that residence appears on Leah’s marriage entry. Both appear on American censuses after 1870.

Rachel’s headstone in Mt. Zion Cemetery at Quincy, Montgomery Township, Hickory County, Missouri describes her as ’Rachael Naffzinger, ’1823-1908.’

Children of John Nafziger/Naffziger and his first wife Rachel Bear was:

1. Leah Naffziger was born at Wilmot, Ontario Jan. 19, 1844, and died at Osceola, Missouri April 8, 1925. On Sept. 28, 1861 in Oxford County, Ontario she married John Dalgliesh. He was born at Selkirk, Selkirkshire County,
Amish Mennonites in Tazewell County, Illinois

2.

North side of Bleam's Road; and Peter Miller, Lot 19, north side of Bleam's Road. Michael Miller, Lot 26, north side of Bleam's Road; and brother-in-law Richard Miller, Lot 18, south side of Bleam's Road.

Moses Naffnger

was born at Hamburg (now New Hamburg, on the west side of Wilmot Centre in Wilmot Township) June 3, 1847. He was raised by a Miller family.

The Millers

Simon Miller and Magdalena came from Hesse-Darmstadt. They sailed from Bremen with two sons and three daughters, arriving at Baltimore in the last quarter of 1824. The scrambled passenger list from a quarterly abstract in the National Archives shows Miller Simon, 45, Bremen [not their home, but their point of departure, written in a column headed 'Country to which they belong']; farmer Christian Bender, 28; farmer Michael Miller, 16; farmer Peter Miller, 14; farmer Magdaline Miller, 50; Anna Gingering, 40; Anna Miller, 14; and Catherine Miller, 12.

One item on the passenger list suggests that the Miller's departed Europe so their oldest son could avoid military conscription, or because of his debts. It gives the impression that Peter was 14 years of age, thus born circa 1810. But the 1851 census of Wilmot, as well as his headstone, indicates that Peter was born circa April 3, 1798, and would have been 28 years of age. It is tempting to speculate that 'Christian Bender, 28' was actually Peter Miller traveling with the papers of someone of the same age. And 'Peter Miller, 16' was actually Christian, who would have been 20.

The name Simon Miller appears in the alms book of deacon Abraham Kurtz, recorded in Berks County, Pennsylvania in 1825.

Recall the ROPP excerpt from Ezra Eby's History of Waterloo: "It might be stated here that the cause of so many arrivals here [Ontario] during 1826-27-28-29 was owing to the very hard times in old Pennsylvania in 1825. Many failed financially, and in order to procure homes for themselves and children, they came to Canada where land could be had very cheap. During haying and harvesting in 1825, people worked from sunrise until sunset for 37 ½ cents per day. For threshing grain during winter months, days then being only 12 hours long, wages were 12 ½ cents per day, and many worked receiving only their board as wages."

Amish Mennonite clergy in Pennsylvania encouraged immigrants with limited means to go to the German Block at Wilmot, Waterloo County, Ontario. Those with savings were expected to purchase elsewhere.

The Millers soon resettled there. The 1830 surveyor's plat map of Wilmot Township shows the 50-acre lots of Simon Miller, Lot 9, north side of Bleam's Road, Christian Miller, Lot 25; north side of Bleam's Road; Michael Miller, Lot 26, north side of Bleam's Road; and Peter Miller, Lot 19, north side of Bleam's Road.

The number of lots occupied by this family does not indicate wealth. Recall from ROPP that when Andreas Ropp came there in 1826, he was able to make a down payment with only $9 (the 1826 equivalent of $175). He agreed to build a house, clear 10 acres, and clear half of the roadway facing the lot in exchange for clear title after six years residence.

The 1851 census of Wilmot shows a 24-member household. All were described as Mennonists: farmer Michael Miller, 45; Germany; Jacobine [Nafziger], 38; Germany; Anna, 20; Magdalena, 17; Marie, 15; Elizabeth, 14; Catharine, 12; Barbara, 10; David, 7; Letty, 6; and Moses, 5 [all children born in Ontario]; farmer Peter, 53; Germany; Anna, 43; Germany; Christopher, 21; Michael, 20; John, 16; Magdalena, 13; Daniel, 8; Maria, 5; Joseph, 1; [all children born in Canada].

They are found twice on the 1880 census of Missouri. Their household at Lebanon, Laclede County, Missouri had John Dalgliesh, 48, works in woolen mill, Scotland; Leah, 37, works in woolen mill, English Canada; and Minnie, 10, born in New York to parents from Scotland and Canada. Their household at Montgomery Township, Hickory County, Missouri shows farmer John Dalglish, 49; Scotland; Leah, 38, born in Canada to parents from Germany and Canada; George, 14, born in New York to parents from Germany and Canada; John, 12, born in New York to parents from Germany and Canada; Minnie, 10, born in New York to parents from Germany and Canada; and mother-in-law Rachel Naffnger, 56, born in Canada to parents from Pennsylvania and Canada. (At Quincy, Montgomery Township they were living next door to Christian Zehr, 1831-1915, and his first wife Anna Miller, circa 1831-1874. Zehr was born at Woolridge, Waterloo County, Ontario, and Miller at Wilmot, Waterloo County. Zehr later became the minister of the first Defenseless Mennonite Church in Missouri.) Dalgliesh died in Missouri May 4, 1888 (headstone age count 56 years, 19 days), and Leah remarried to a Bethard. He died before 1900. The 1900 census of Wheatland (adjacent to Montgomery Township), Hickory County has farmer and widow Leah Beathard, 57, born in Canada in 1834 to parents from Germany and Canada, immigrated in 1874; and mother and widow Rachel Naffnger, 77, born in English Canada in March 1823 to parents from Pennsylvania, immigrated in 1874. The 1910 and 1920 censuses of Osceola, St. Clair County, Missouri show her as seamstress-dressmaker Leah Beathard. Her death certificate names her as Leah Beathard, widow of Jno. [?] Bethard, age 81 years, two months, and 19 days, born 'near Hepler, Ontario.' Her parents were identified as John Naffnger, birthplace unknown, and Rachel Baer, birthplace Ontario. She is buried near John Dalgliesh and her mother in Mt. Zion Cemetery as 'Leah D. Bethard, 1844-1925.'
Ontario; and farmer Simon Miller, 73, Germany. Peter's oldest two children Samuel and Catherine (married to Iowa John Naffziger) had already moved out.

Though the families were listed together, the Peter Miller family was living in a two-story brick house, while the Michael Miller family lived in a one-story log house next door. Mother Magdalena had died before the information was taken, and father Simon Miller died before it was published, though his name appears.

Children of Simon Miller and Magdalena include:

1. Peter Miller was born circa April 3, 1798 (per his headstone count), and died in Davis County Dec. 3, 1855. Circa 1832 he married Anna. According to the 1851 census of Wilmot, she was born circa 1808; all later censuses suggest she was born circa 1810. In 1835 Peter obtained a crown patent for his Wilmot lot. He purchased an additional 150 acres in July 1853. He sold all 200 acres in August 1853 and relocated to Iowa. They purchased land at Bloomfield, Davis County in 1854. Peter's odd headstone in North Pulaski Cemetery reads: "Peter, consort of Anna Miller, died Dec. 3, 1855, aged 57 y. & 8 mos." A 'consort' can be a spouse, but more often describes someone who is closely associated with another, where the relationship is nil or unknown. But in this instance the odd use of words strongly suggests the Millers were still practicing a bit of deception linked to their emigration from Europe. Later Miller graves were identified accurately. Widow Anna or Annie Miller is found on the 1860, 1870, and 1880 censuses of Bloomfield as ages 50, 60, and 70; her place of birth is given as Germany, Hesse-Darmstadt, and Hessia. The 1860 census shows Anna Miller, 50, Germany; Daniel, 16, Canada; Mary, 14, Canada; John, 24, Canada; John Helmuth, 27, Canada [born at Wilmot, a son of George Helmuth and Magdalena Brenneman]; and farmer Jacob Kinsinger, 69, France (see KINSINGER for his background). Next door was farmer Michael Miller, 27, Canada, with his wife and two children. The only child of Peter and Anna who did not join the Apostolic Church of Christ [Neu Taufer or New Amish] was Mary Miller. She was born at Hamburg, Ontario (now New Hamburg, on the west side of Wilmot Centre in Wilmot Township) Feb. 14, 1847, and died at Milford, Nebraska April 25, 1923. She married minister/elder Joseph Schlegel (1837-1913). See SCHLEGEL for background on this couple including her obituary.

Minister/elder Christian Miller was born circa 1806, and died at Wilmot in 1850. He may have been a son of Simon Miller and Magdalena who preceded them to America, though this cannot be proven from available evidence. But note that his Wilmot lot was next to that of Michael Miller, who would have been his younger brother. In 1829 he married Katharina Nafziger. For background on this couple see the earlier list of the children of Christian Nafziger and Maria Stalter.

2. Michael Miller, also known as Michael G. Miller, was born circa 1807 (per headstone), and died at Prairie, Davis County, Iowa Oct. 1, 1883. He married Jakobina 'Phoebe' Nafziger, who was born circa Jan. 31, 1813 (per her obituary), and died at Pulaski, Davis County July 31, 1879, a daughter of Christian Nafziger and Maria Stalter.

3. Anna Miller was born circa 1810. We could not follow her after her 1824 arrival.

4. Catharine Miller was born Feb. 13, 1813, and died at East Zorra, Oxford County, Ontario March 21, 1896. On June 18, 1830 (the groom's birthday) at Wilmot she married George Jutzi/Iutzi. He was born near Siegen, Hesse June 18, 1801, and died in Ontario Dec. 21, 1882, a son of Christian Jutzi and Maria. It is thought that he came to America with his oldest brother Peter in 1825, and came to Wilmot from Somerset, Pennsylvania before 1830. The 1830 surveyor's map of Wilmot Township shows George Uitize on Lot 8, Beam's Road, between Simon Miller and Christian Miller. They are found on the 1851 census of Wilmot as saw miller George Jutzi, 52, Germany, Mennonite; Katherine, 40, Germany, Mennonite; and seven children born in Ontario, the oldest 20. George worked a farm, sawmill, and gristmill. They belonged to the East Zorra Amish Mennonite Church. George is buried in East Zorra Municipal Cemetery (at the time of his burial it was called the Fifteenth Line Cemetery), and Catharine is buried in East Zorra Mennonite Cemetery. Herald of Truth, April 1896: "Catherine Yutzi, maiden name Miller, was born Feb. 13, 1813 and died on the 21st of March 1896, aged 83 years, one month, and eight days. She lived in matrimony with Geo. Yutzi for 52 years, and was a widow for 13 years. Their union was blessed with eight children of whom six survive. She also leaves 36 grandchildren and 21 great-grandchildren."

Recall that Moses is found on the 1851 census of Wilmot as a 5-year-old in the home of his uncle and aunt Michael Miller and Jakobina 'Phoebe' Nafziger.

According to Melvin Gingerich's article Mennonites in Lee and Davis Counties, Iowa, published in the April 1960 issue of Mennonite Life, the Peter Miller family became the first Amish Mennonites to settle in Davis County when they arrived in 1854. By 1860 nearly 50 families had purchased government land for $2.50 an acre. The 1860 census of Prairie, Davis County shows farmer Michael Miller, 53, Hesse-Darmstadt; Phebe, 46, Hesse-Darmstadt; Barbaray, 18, Canada; Lydia, 14, Canada; Moses Nofsinger, 12, Canada; John Gingrich, 67, Germany. He is found again on the 1870 census of Prairie: farmer Michael Miller, 62, Hesse-Darmstadt; Phebe, 55, Beiern [meant to be Bayern/Bavaria] overwritten as 'Switz.'; Lydia, 22, Canada; and farm laborer Moses Nausinger, 23, Canada.
On Dec. 25, 1873 at Pulaski, Davis County Moses married Harriet 'Hattie' Stover. She was born in Ashland County, Ohio April 7, 1853 (per her funeral service, though her death certificate says Indiana, where she lived to age four), and died at Bloomfield, Davis County Feb. 27, 1926, a daughter of Jacob Stover and Barbara Greiner. Presumably Moses visited his father John in Nebraska about this time. A studio portrait photograph shows Moses with his two half-brothers William and Frank (from his father's second marriage).

The 1880 census of Bloomfield has farmer Moses Naffziger, 30, born in Canada to parents from Germany and Canada; Hattie, 28, born in Ohio to parents from Pennsylvania; William E., 5, born in Iowa to parents from Canada and Ohio; Minnie, 4, born in Iowa to parents from Canada and Ohio; and laborer William Zehr, 16, born in Iowa to parents from France and Germany. The 1905 census of Bloomfield shows widow Hattie Naffziger, 55, born in Ohio to parents from Pennsylvania, with 51 years in Iowa.

Moses died of tuberculosis at Bloomfield April 11, 1896, and was buried the same day. An entry for 'Moses Neaffziger' in the county register gave his age as 48 years, 10 months, and eight days. It did not name his parents.

Moses and Harriet are buried in the Independent Order of Odd Fellows Cemetery at Bloomfield, Davis County, Iowa.

Nebraska became a territory under the Kansas-Nebraska Act of March 30, 1854. On April 15, 1858 at Dakota City in the Territory of Nebraska Moses' father John remarried to school teacher Lurinda Packard. She was born at Plainfield, Massachusetts Aug. 30, 1830, and died in Dakota County, Dakota County, Nebraska July 5, 1891, a daughter of Milton Packard and Charlotte Parker. The ceremony was registered on the opposite side of the Missouri River in Woodbury County, Iowa.

A.T. Andreas' History of the State of Nebraska (1882), describes Dakota City:

"...A preliminary survey of this city was made in 1855, and in September, 1856, it was surveyed under the direction of the Dakota City Company, of which Augustus Kountze, since then a wealthy banker of Omaha, was president. The first building erected in Dakota was a log cabin with a flat dirt roof, with the ground for a floor, by B. F. Chambers, in May, 1856. This building was afterwards improved and occupied as a hotel under the name of the Chihuahua House, by Dr. J. D. M. Crockwell. Among the early settlers of Dakota city may be mentioned Joseph Hollman, who came in 1856, also W. G. Crawford, F. A. Robinson, John Naffziger, William H. James, who in 1871, became Secretary of State, and John Taffe, afterwards a member of Congress. In 1857 John Naffziger opened the first store, and Messrs. Hollman & Crawford opened a law office. ...The first marriage was that of John Naffziger to Miss Surinda Packard, who had previously taught the first school."

"...John Naffziger, farmer, is a native of Bavaria. In 1826 he came to Canada. In 1851 he came to Lee County, Iowa. In 1856 he removed to Dakota County, Neb., where he has since resided. He entered a one-quarter section of land, which he improved; also engaged in merchandising, his being the first goods sold in Dakota City. After selling goods a few years, he removed to his farm, where he remained till 1874, when he sold his farm and returned to Dakota City, where he has since resided. He has been Probate Judge one term, County Commissioner two terms, represented this county in the Legislature one regular and one special term, and has held various other minor offices. His son William has taught school several terms, is now engaged in farming."

John's dry goods business must have benefited when the discovery of gold in Wyoming in 1859 drew speculators west.

The 1860 census of St. John's, Dakota County has farmer John Naffzigger, 40, Bavaria; Lainda, 30, Massachusetts; and William, 1, Nebraska.

The Homestead Act of 1862 greatly expanded the population of the territory, and Nebraska became the 37th state Feb. 8, 1867.

The 1870 census of Dakota City shows farmer John Noffziger, 50, Germany, $7,000 real estate, $11,000 personal property [a substantial amount for the time]; Lorenda, 39, Massachusetts; Willie, 11; Mary, 8; Lora, 6; Frank, 3; Harriet, 10 months; all children born in Nebraska.

The 1880 census of Dakota City: common laborer John Naffziger, 62, Bavaria; Lurinda, 51, Massachusetts; farm laborer Wm. H., 21; Mary J., 18; Leana A., 18; Frank J., 10; Hattie E., 10; and Flora B., 7; all children born in Nebraska.

In later years John served as president of the Pioneers and Old Settlers Association.

Lurinda died at Dakota City July 5, 1891. John died there Jan. 1, 1903.

140 We found a variety of spellings of her first name. We chose to follow the spelling on the 1855 census of Plainfield, Mass.
Censuses varied on John’s age: 1860 = birth year 1820, 1870 = 1820, and 1880 = 1818. In Tazewell County the stories told in the Old Settlers Association were characterized by, “Do you remember the Deep Snow of 1830? You could walk across the bones of dead deer and never touch the ground.” It is befitting that the age of the ex-president of such an association should be exaggerated by a full decade. Dakota County Herald obituary, Jan. 8, 1903:

"Another Pioneer Passes Away. John Naffziger, after a Fight for Life, Breathed His Last New Year’s Day.

Uncle Johnny Naffziger, one of the early pioneers of Dakota County and one of the best-known men in northeast Nebraska, died at his home in Dakota City New Year’s morning. For several years his health has been gradually and slowly failing, and like the works of a watch the machinery had given away and his time had come, for he was in his 97th year.

About a week before his death he was stricken with paralysis, and during the intervening time he fought hard against death. His children were nearly all at his bedside night and day during his last hours.

He was born in Bavaria, Germany, going with his parents to Canada when but six years of age. After having once made a previous trip to Davis County, Iowa, he returned to Canada and piloted a colony of Germans to that place, many of who became independently wealthy, and whose children and grandchildren are still residents of the same settlement.

He came to Dakota county in the spring of 1856 and has been a continuous resident of the county ever since. In the early days he conducted a store in Dakota City on the lots east of the McBeath home, and a few pioneers who are left well remember it. Mr. Naffziger was always an ardent democrat and a great party advisor and leader, and filled many offices of trust for the people who had much confidence in his ability and judgment.

At a special election in January, 1862, he was elected county judge; he served as justice of the peace for Dakota precinct from 1889 to 1893; he was elected state representative October 13, 1868, serving fifth, sixth and seventh sessions of that body; October 13, 1863 he was chosen county commissioner and was re-elected October 9, 1866.

He was married before coming to Nebraska, and leaves one child, Mrs. Leah Daglish, of Mo., by his first marriage. He was married here to Larinda Packard in 1868, who died July 6, 1891. The following are the children by his second marriage who mourn the loss of a good, kind and considerate father: Rev. William Naffziger, Smithville, 0., Mrs. Louis Warmholtz and J.F. Naffziger, of Sioux City; Mrs. Henry Niebuhr, of Winnebago Agency, and Mrs. George Niebuhr and Mrs. John Dewitt, of this place.

For more than thirty years has the writer known ‘Uncle’ Johnny Naffziger, and he did not look a day older than he did when we first became acquainted with him. He was a man of his own mind and convictions, always frank in his assertions, but never saying anything harmful against any man.

The funeral services were held at Lutheran Church Friday afternoon, conducted by Rev. S.M. Lesher, the remains interred in the Dakota City cemetery."

Children of John Nafziger/Naffziger and his second wife Lurinda Packard born at Dakota City, Nebraska:

3. William Henry Naffziger was born at Dakota City Dec. 6, 1858, and died at Springfield, Ohio Aug. 21, 1939. On Dec. 31, 1890 he married Emma Jane Castle. She was born at Springfield, Ohio Sept. 27, 1869, and died at Dayton, Ohio March 4, 1960. William was an Evangelical Lutheran minister in Nebraska and Ohio. They are buried in Fenncliff Cemetery at Springfield.

4. Mary Jane Naffziger was born at Dakota City circa 1864, and died there Aug. 8 1925. She married George L. Niebuhr. He was born in Iowa May 1, 1859, and died at Dakota City Sept. 2, 1949. They are buried in Dakota City Public Cemetery. Niebuhr led an adventurous life, and one of the stories about him in the Dakota County newspaper told about being held over on an ice-locked steamboat in the Missouri River. The boat was held up near Fort Bismarck in sub-zero temperatures in October. The owner and the remainder of the crew chopped the fuel wood down to 20-30 cords at a size that would fit into a stove. Then they traveled home by stage coach while George remained behind. He had a plentiful supply of sugar, flour, bacon, beans, and coffee, and managed to kill a few young buffalo. The crew returned in April, and the boat continued downstream May 1. It was the winter of 1877, and George was only 13 years old.

5. Laura Ann Naffziger was born at Dakota City in September 1863, and died there in 1904. She married Henry G. Niebuhr. He was born in Illinois in 1855, and died at Dakota City in 1931, a son of Henry Niebuhr and Louisa Mohrwinke. They are buried in Dakota City Public Cemetery.

6. Franklin John Naffziger was born at Dakota City Nov. 4, 1866, and died at Denver, Colorado April 11, 1911. He is buried in Riverside Cemetery at Denver.

7. Harriet Elena ‘Hattie’ Naffziger was born at Bushy Bend, Nebraska Aug. 29, 1869, and died at Sioux City, Iowa April 9, 1951. She married Louis Warmholtz. He was born in 1866, and died at Sioux City in January of 1948. They are buried in Floyd Cemetery at Sioux City, where their joint headstone describes her as ‘Hattie E.’

Thus, the only Nafzigers in North America with a paternal line of descent from Wilmot settlers Christian Nafziger and Maria Stalter would be descended from sons of John Nafziger/Naffziger (1816-1903) or his younger brother Joseph Nafziger (1820-1891).

**HOPEDALE BRANCH**

**Peter Nafziger**, born circa 1720, and his first wife Barbara had a son **Johannes Nafziger**. He was born at Essingen in 1758, and died on the Illbacherhof estate at Reinheim in the Darmstadt-Dieburg district of the state of Hesse, Germany.  He married Katharina Spring of the Rosenthalerhof estate at Kerzenheim in the Lower Pfalz.

**Christian Nafziger** was born on the Illbacherhof estate April 3, 1794 (though his headstone says 1792), and died at Little Mackinaw March 29, 1873. He was a cousin to minister/elder 'Apostle Peter' Naffziger, whose mother was Katharina Spring's sister Magdalena.

Christian married Fröny Bürcky/Veronica Burkey. She was born at Bitche, Moselle Oct. 3, 1796, and died in Tazewell County in 1855, a daughter of Christian Bürcky/Bircki and Barbara/Barbe Koch. See BIRKY/BIRKEY, THE BIG BIRKEYS for her background.

They worked on the grounds of the castle estate of the von Spreti family at Unterweilbach, near Dachau above Munich. 142

Sons Christian and Johannes/John departed from Le Havre on the Leodes, and arrived at New Orleans Oct. 13, 1846. They are found on the passenger list as Christian Nafzig, 26; and Joh. Nafzig, 28. They were accompanied by Christian Schrag/Shrock (see SCHROCK, THE SCHRAGS OF KÖSCHING), who was listed with them as Christian Schwag, 20. The three continued from there on foot, traveling directly to Tazewell County. There they worked for six dollars a month.

Father Christian and Veronica remained at Unterweilbach longer because they had signed a customary nine-year lease on a part of the grounds in 1839 or 1840. They sailed from Le Havre on the Argo, arriving at New York June 29, 1848. The passenger list shows farmer Christian Naffziger, 54, destination Michigan [as almost all the passengers were described]; Veronika, 52; Madalene, 28; Barbara, 20; Elisabeth, 12; Magdalena, 19; and Joseph, 19.

Veronica became the first person to be buried in what is now the Mennonite Cemetery at Hopedale. Christian is found as a 67-year-old widower on the 1860 census of Little Mackinaw, in the household of his son John 'Nofsinger', 34, and Mary [Burkey]. On April 15, 1873 in Tazewell County, Christian remarried to Barbara Steinman Augsburger. However, Christian is buried beside Madgalena in the Mennonite Cemetery at Hopedale.

Children of Christian Nafziger and Fröny Bürcky/Veronica Burkey born at Unterweilbach include:

1. **Christian Nafziger** (twin) was born circa May 6, 1819 (headstone calculation), and died in Tazewell County March 6, 1899.
2. Magdalena Nafziger (twin) was born circa May 6, 1819, and died in Tazewell County May 25, 1871. On March 17, 1850 in Tazewell County she married Christian Sutter. He was born on the Forsthof estate at Bergen, Bavaria April 21, 1823, and died at Hopedale May 11, 1899, a son of Johannes/John Sutter and Barbara Oesch. On April 15, 1873 in Tazewell County, Christian remarried to Barbara Steinman Augsburger. However, Christian is buried beside Magdalena in the Mennonite Cemetery at Hopedale.
3. Johannes/John Nafziger was born in May of 1826, and died at Minier May 23, 1885. On Sept. 17, 1857 in Tazewell County he married Mary Burkey; the ceremony was performed by minister Andrew Ropp. She was born Feb. 16, 1839, and died at Hopedale May 18, 1928, a daughter of Christian 'Harry' Burkey ('Little Red Birkys') and Marie Stalter. They are found on the 1880 census of Little Mackinaw as farmer John Nafziger, 53, born in Bavaria to a father from France and a mother from Bavaria; Mary, 41, born in Bavaria; and six children born in Illinois. Gospel Herald, May 1928: "Mary (Birky) Nafziger was born in Germany, Feb. 16, 1839; passed away at her home in Hopedale, Ill., May 18, 1928; aged 89 y 3 m. 2 d. She was united in marriage to John Nafziger, Sept. 17, 1857. To this union were born four sons and three daughters. Daniel, Valentine, of Hopedale, Christian of Minier, Barbara Kauffman and Mary Nafziger of Hopedale. Her companion preceded her in death May 23, 1885, also an infant daughter and one son, John preceded her Aug. 12, 1917. She leaves to mourn her departure, three sons, two daughters, 28 grandchildren, 62 great-grandchildren, four brothers, and three sisters (John and Christian of Milford,...

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141 The horse farm Hofgut Illbach is located at Reinheim, Hess (between Traisa and Fränkisch Crumbach). It is still an active business. Their internet site suggests that some homes from that period are still occupied.
142 The original castle at Unterweilbach may have been as old as the adjoining mid-Gothic era chapel. It was destroyed in the Thirty Years War (1618-1638), but the chapel survived. A new castle without a moat was constructed in 1691. It is still owned by von Spreti descendants. For more on von Spreti, see HEISER.
Amish Mennonites in Tazewell County, Illinois

Neb., Henry of Uykon, Okla., Valentine and Barbara Niemeyer of Washington, Ill., Elizabeth Klophenstein of Gibson City, Ill., and Fannie Blume of Chana, Ill.) and many other relatives and friends. She united with the Mennonite Church in early life and remained faithful to the end. They are buried in the Mennonite Cemetery at Hopedale.

4. Elizabeth 'Lizzie' Nafziger was born May 1, 1836, and died Feb. 2, 1908. On March 16, 1857 in Tazewell County she married John Springer; the ceremony was performed by minister Andrew Ropp. He was born Aug. 28, 1834, and died May 13, 1896. They are buried in the 1880 census of Little Mackinaw as John Springer, 35; born in Bavaria to a father from France; and a mother from Bavaria; Elizabeth, 42; born in Bavaria to Prussian parents; and seven children born in Illinois. They are buried in the Mennonite Cemetery at Hopedale.

Christian Nafziger was born at Unterweilbach circa May 6, 1819 (headstone calculation), and died at Hopedale March 6, 1899. Christian worked at Unterweilbach for nine years, and applied for his release from the commitment May 4, 1840. His application letter expressed his desire to emigrate.

On Aug. 12, 1852 in Tazewell County Christian married Elizabeth Zehr. She was born at Lembach, Lower Alsace Nov. 1, 1824, and died at Hopedale April 28, 1900, a daughter of Johannes/Jean Zehr and Magdalena/Madeleine Stepp.

In 1854 a 'Delavan Prairie meeting' was formed in private homes. Some of the first heads of families were Christian Nafziger, Peter Nafziger, Joseph Litwiller, Christian Schlegel, David Springer, and Christian Birkey. In 1856 Christian became the first minister (note that these local history dates differ from his obituary).

Christian rose to elder in 1860. In 1876 he oversaw the construction of the first building, which became the Hopedale Amish Mennonite Church (also called the German Church) and later the Hopedale Mennonite Church.

Their household is found on the 1880 census of Hopedale as farmer Christian Nafziger, 60; born in Bavaria to a father from Bavaria and a mother from France; Elisabeth, 52; born in France; and three children born in Bavaria.

Herald of Truth, April 1899: "Bish. Christian Nafziger departed this life on the 6th of March, 1899, aged 79 years and 10 months. He bore the sufferings of his last illness, which lasted about eight days, with Christian fortitude. He organized the congregation near Hopedale, III., to which he was called as minister in 1855. In 1861 he was ordained to the office of elder, in which capacity he served faithfully until his end. May his faithful admonitions be long remembered. He leaves his bereaved widow, two sons, nine grandchildren and a large congregation that was warmly attached to him to mourn their loss. Yet we mourn not as those who have no hope, for we feel that though our loss is deep, it is his eternal gain. The remains were laid to rest on the 8th of March. Funeral services were held by Samuel Gerber from Heb. 13:12-14, by Daniel Grieser from Philippians 2:12-23, and by Daniel Orendorf from 2 Cor. 5:1-7. Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth; yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors; and their works do follow them. C."

Herald of Truth, June 1900: "Elizabeth Zehr, widow of the late Bish. Christian Nafziger, departed this life April 28, 1900, aged 71 years, 5 months, 27 days. She lived in matrimony nearly 48 years and leaves two sons and nine grandchildren. Buried on the 29th in the A. M. burying ground. Funeral services by Daniel Grieser of Dewey, III., and Samuel Gerber of Groveland, Ill. She was a faithful member of the church and enjoyed the love and esteem of all who knew her. We mourn not as those who have no hope."

They are buried in the Mennonite Cemetery at Hopedale.
Beck of Neustadt im Odenwald

In the Bernese dialect a *Beck* is a person who bakes bread. The *Heimatorte* or places of legal origin for Swiss citizenship rights for this surname are Rohrbach and Langnau im Emmental in Canton Bern, and Hirzel in Canton Zurich.

However, it is not clear that Christian Beck had a Swiss background. He was born circa 1760, and worked on the Gehaborn estate near Griesheim, Hesse from 1782 to 1786. Circa 1784 he married Katharina. She could not be further identified.

In 1788 Christian leased the Wolferhof estate at Neustadt im Odenwald. Neustadt im Odenwald was originally constructed as a settlement for workers supporting Breuberg castle. It is located on the slopes above it. The estate was established prior to 1426, but many of its old buildings are still standing.

Neustadt im Odenwald was incorporated into Breuberg in 1971. The two locations are 11 miles northeast of Fränkisch Crumbach, the site associated with Naffzigers.

Circa 1790 Christian remarried to Barbara Danner, a daughter of Peter Danner and Jacobea Nafziger (see DONNER for more on this couple). Barbara was an aunt to Peter Danner/Donner, who settled at Dry Grove, McLean County. Thus her children who later came to Tazewell County were cousins to Peter.

Christian died on the Wolferhof estate in January of 1821. From 1822 to 1834 widow Barbara leased the Rimhornerhof estate at Rimhorn (below Neustadt im Odenwald) with her son Johannes.

Children of Christian Beck and his second wife Barbara Danner born on the Wolferhof estate at Neustadt im Odenwald include:

1. Barbara Beck was born June 1, 1790, and died at Delavan Sept. 4, 1865. On March 8, 1812 on the Wolferhof estate she married 'Apostle Peter' Naffziger. For more on this couple see NAFZIGER.
2. **Peter Beck** was born Jan. 13, 1792.
3. Johannes Beck was born Feb. 26, 1795, and died at Hessenthal (20 miles northeast of Neustadt im Odenwald) in 1865. He married Magdalena Rocke.
4. Magdalena Beck was born Jan. 2, 1806, and died before 1850. In Hesse before 1829 in she married Johannes/John Steiger. He was born at Rimhorn, Hesse-Darmstadt March 11, 1803, a son of Johann Philipp Steiger and Maria Hoffman. They sailed from Le Havre with his uncle and cousin on the packet ship *Ville de Lyons*, and arrived at New York July 9, 1841. The passenger list shows Johannes [altered to John] Steiger, 37; Magd., 35; Elisab., 12; John, 6; and Lisette, 3; all passengers from Hesse. Additional details of their immigration in 1841 are given in the Appendix in STEIGER. John and Magdalena settled in Butler County, Ohio. John was naturalized as a former 'subject of the emperor of Germany' in the September 1845 court term at Hamilton, Butler County. Before 1850 they relocated to Pendleton County, Kentucky. Magdalena is missing from the household on the 1850 census of that county: farmer John Steiger, 47, Germany; Lucetta, 21, Germany; John, 14, Germany; Elizabeth, 12, Germany; Phebe, 9, Ohio; Christian, 7, Kentucky; and Mary, 4, Kentucky. The 1860 census of Pendleton County shows farmer John Stiger, 56, Damp State Ger. [Darmstadt, Germany]; Christina, 38, Brosin [Prussia?]; Lucy, 29, Brosin; Phebe, 19, Ohio; Christian, 6, Kentucky; and May [Mary], 13, Kentucky. On Christmas Day of 1859 at Stepstone, Kentucky their daughter Elizabeth married her cousin, Valentine F. Naffziger, a son of 'Apostle Peter' Naffziger and Barbara Beck; for more on this couple who farmed at Delavan see NAFZIGER. For background on a Steiger family that lived in both Pendleton County, Kentucky and Tazewell County, see the Appendix, STEIGER.
5. Elisabeth Beck was born Feb. 26, 1811. She married Johann Peter Schantz. According to Hermann Guth, he was born at Lützel-Wiebelsbach (adjacent to Neustadt im Odenwald).

**Peter Beck** was born on the Wolferhof estate at Neustadt im Odenwald, Hesse Jan. 13, 1792.

He sailed from Amsterdam on the *Nimrod*, and arrived at Philadelphia Aug. 18, 1826. The passenger list shows him as farmer 'Peter Buck, 29.'

Many of the *Nimrod* passengers went from Philadelphia to Wilmot Township, Ontario to take advantage of a free land offer. A plat map of Wilmot Township, Ontario occupants (not necessarily land claimants) was created from surveyor Samuel Street Wilmot's report of Feb. 11, 1830. The lot of 'Peter Beeck' is found on the south side at the east end of Snyder’s Road ('Apostle Peter' Naffziger and Barbara Beck occupied a lot one road south, at the west end).
Peter was still single. At about the same time that some others at Wilmot decided to resettle in Ohio, Peter apparently chose to return to Pennsylvania to find a wife. He married Catherine Gingery there March 27, 1831. She was born as Katharina Güngerich at Laubach, Hesse May 27, 1809 (headstone date). She was a daughter of minister Johannes Güngerich, who was known in America as John Gingery, and Magdalena 'Martha' Eckhardt (see GINGERICH for more on this couple). At the time of their marriage Peter would have been 36 years of age, though Catharine was only celebrating her 22nd birthday (if her headstone birth date is correct).

'Catharine' is a combination form of the German spelling 'Katharina' and the French spelling 'Catherine.' 'Gingery' is an Anglicization of Güngerich that appeared in Pennsylvania as early as 1720.

As noted in GINGERICH, within a few months of their marriage they made the journey west from Pennsylvania to Illinois. It is likely that they stopped over in Butler County, Ohio.

The Becks and Gingerys reached Illinois later that summer. Portrait and Autobiographical Album of Woodford County (1889) described the Becks as, "locating at first near Spring Bay, but afterward removing to Montgomery Township."

In 1836 Peter and Catharine obtained their first parcels of land in what became Montgomery Township, Woodford County, and resettled there. Their land was purchased for $1.25 per acre from the federal land office on three dates: two parcels of 80 acres apiece Feb. 4, 1836; 80 acres Oct. 1, 1838; and 80 acres Sept. 19, 1938.

In a letter from Peoria to a Nafziger relative in Lancaster County dated March 11, 1838, Daniel Schwartzentruber wrote: "Daniel Nafziger, Peter Beck, Johannes Werey, Ringenberg and their families are, so far as I know, still all healthy and well and send you many greetings."

Peter Beck died on the family farm Sept. 17, 1850. According to his marble obelisk headstone in what is now called Peter Maurer Cemetery (near County Road 75 N, southeast of Congerville on the Woodford-McLean county line), he was born in Hesse-Darmstadt Jan. 13, 1794. However, he was actually born on the Wolferhof estate exactly two years earlier.

Widow Catharine and her children appear on the 1850 census of Woodford County as Catharine Beck, 42, Germany; Daniel, 16; Elizabeth, 14; John, 12; Martha [Helen], 9; Peter, 6; and Christian, 2; all children born in Illinois; and Martha Gingrey, 63, Germany [Catharine's mother].

Joseph Gerber brought Peter's will to the courthouse at Metamora April 7, 1851, and served as executor of his estate.

The family farm became part of Montgomery Township when the county adopted the township system in 1851. Portrait and Autobiographical Album of Woodford County (1889): "Mrs. Beck is yet in the land of the living, and makes her home with her younger son, Christian Beck, in McLean County. She is now eighty years old, but although well stricken in years, and her head grown white with the frosts of winter, she yet retains considerable vigor, and has a good recollection of numerous incidents during her early days. She is an earnest and devoted member of the Mennonite Brotherhood, in which faith Mr. Beck died."

Catharine survived her husband by almost 40 years, and died Jan. 2, 1890. She was buried next to him in what is now Peter Maurer Cemetery, southeast of Congerville on the Woodford-McLean county line.

Children of Peter Beck and Katharina Güngerich/Catharine Gingery include:

1. Barbara Beck was born at Spring Bay July 11, 1833, and died there Sept. 16, 1833.
2. Daniel Beck was born at Spring Bay Oct. 8, 1834, and died of typhoid fever Dec. 28, 1868. He is buried in Peter Maurer Cemetery.
3. Elizabeth Beck was born in Woodford County Oct. 9, 1836, and died in Allen County, Kansas Jan. 10, 1917. On Nov. 11, 1856 in Woodford County she married André/Andrew Kiefer (found in county records as Andrew Kerfier). He was born in France April 25, 1825, and died in Allen County Jan. 1, 1910, a son of Joseph Kiefer and Barbe Guingerich (in her second marriage). See the Appendix, KIEFER/KIEFFER for background on this couple.
4. Johann/John Beck was born in Woodford County Nov. 21 or 24, 1838, and died of typhoid fever Jan. 26, 1863. He is buried in Peter Maurer Cemetery.
5. Helena/Helen Beck was born in Woodford County Feb. 19, 1841, and died Oct. 2, 1925. In 1871 she married widower Adam Stephens. He was born in Woodford County Nov. 25, 1839, and died Jan. 3, 1902, a son of Lewis Staples and Malinda Hougham. His first wife Martha Daniels had died Sept. 11, 1866. Helen and Adam must have been immediate neighbors as children; they can be found on the same page of the 1850 census. They can also be found on the 1880 census of Montgomery Township as farmer Adam Stephens, 40, born in Illinois to parents from Ohio; Helen, 39, born in Illinois to a father from 'Darmstadt' [Darmstadt] and a mother from Germany; and three children born in Illinois. They later farmed 290 acres in McLean County. They are buried in Democrat Cemetery at Carlock, McLean County.
6. Peter Beck was born at Montgomery Township Nov. 21, 1843, and died at Lincoln, Nebraska Nov. 29, 1914. On Sept. 5, 1872 in Livingston County he married Lydia Miller. She was born Sept. 5, 1853, and died Dec. 7, 1927, a daughter of George Miller and Sarah Rihn. The 1878 Directory describes Peter as a farmer from Montgomery Township, P.O. Danvers. They appear on the 1900 census of Middle Creek Precinct 4, Lancaster County, Nebraska as farmer Peter Beck, 54, born in Illinois in July 1842 to German parents; Lydia, 47, born in Indiana in February 1852 to parents from Pennsylvania and Ohio; and five children born in Illinois and Nebraska. They are buried in Yankee Hill Cemetery at Lincoln.

7. Catharine Beck was born May 9 or 19, 1846, and died May 29, 1847.

8. Christian Beck was born June 8, 1848, and died at Carlock, McLean County April 17, 1916. On Jan. 5, 1875 in Tazewell County he married Barbara Schick. She was born in Butler County, Ohio April 19, 1847, and died Dec. 8, 1908, a daughter of Joseph Schick and Magdalena Augspurger. Christian became a farmer and stock raiser at Dry Grove, McLean County, holding 86 acres in Section 4. The 1880 census of Dry Grove shows them as farmer Christian Beck, 30, born in Illinois to a father from Canada and a mother from Hessia; Barbara, 31, born in Ohio to a father from Hessia and a mother from France; Milley, seven months, born in Illinois to a father from Illinois and a mother from Ohio; and farm hand Samuel Viers, 22. A photo of the couple can be found in the Winter 2000 issue of Illinois Mennonite Heritage. They are buried in Lantz Cemetery at Carlock, McLean County.
Donner: Danner of Mühlhofen

In Canton Bern a Tanner or Danner is a person who processes animal hides (like the English 'tanner'). Bernese Heimatorte or legal places of origin for citizenship rights associated with this surname in Canton Bern include Langnau im Emmental (formerly Langnau), Schangnau, Trub, and Worb.

Langnau im Emmental is located in the rolling hills of the Emmental region east and southeast of the city of Bern. When we began working on this portion of text, we expected to find that a notorious Anabaptist Danner couple from this village would lead us to the Illinois settler Peter Donner. While this may or not be the case, it is worth telling the story as background illustrating the persecution they endured.

**DANNER AT LANGNAU IM EMMENTAL**

Christian Danner was baptized at Langnau im Emmental Feb. 7, 1647. On Jan. 24, 1673 he married Elsbeth Fischer, a daughter of Ulrich Fischer and Elisabeth Aschliman. Their children were baptized in the Protestant Reformed Church at Langnau im Emmental in accordance with civil law. They include:

1. Christian Danner was baptized Jan. 16, 1673.
2. Elsbeth Danner was baptized Jan. 30, 1676.
3. Hans Danner was baptized May 25, 1679.
4. Anna Danner was baptized Dec. 9, 1681.
5. Catrin Danner was baptized Aug. 15, 1684.
6. Barbara Danner was baptized March 25, 1687.

In 1692 the Protestant Reformed Church minister Frantz Ludwig Moschard identified Elsbeth as an Anabaptist. In 1693 all known Anabaptists were physically forced to leave the village. "They were first chastized by Bartlome Meyi, district governor of Trachselwald, and then driven out by force, especially by scourging. After that the following Anabaptists moved away..." Moschard's list of departed Anabaptists can be found in David L. Habegeger's excellent article Anabaptists of Langnau in the Emmental, Switzerland, in the 1600s Part III in the July 2001 issue of Mennonite Family History. According to Ernst Müller's Geschichte der Bernischen Täufer (1895) they included "...Ully Blaser's wife [Elsbeth's sister Magdalena Fischer] and Christian Tanner's wife [Elsbeth Fischer], both from Walistolen [Wullistollen]. These last two were persuaded to the Mennonite faith by their brother Ully Fischer, a very dangerous Anabaptist of Signau — in fact one of the worst of them."144

Christian Danner appears on a list of Anabaptists created at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines, Upper Alsace in 1697 (as 'Christe Tanne'), 1703 (as 'Christen Doner'), perhaps in 1704 (as 'Jacob Dönner'), and 1708 (as 'Christe Danner'). He was living at Fertrupt on the outskirts of the village in 1712; his name or a son's appears as 'Christe Tanner' on a document there, though he was illiterate and could not sign.

We can only speculate that a son of Christian Danner and Elsbeth Fischer was the father of Christian Tanner. He and his wife Catharina rented the Neuhof estate near Kirchheimbolanden in the Pfalz from its hereditary leaseholder in 1755. They may have rented use of the land for three of the customary nine-year terms. In 1777 the leaseholder died, and they leased just half the land. Their co-signer was Christian Imhof, who was married to Elisabeth Danner and may have been Christian's brother-in-law or son-in-law. The lease was renewed by Imhof alone in 1789. We assume that Christian Tanner was born circa 1720 (thus at least 25 years old at the time he first rented the property where he lived for the next 34 years).

We can also speculate that a son of Christian Danner and Elsbeth Fischer was the progenitor of our Illinois settler. However, there is an alternative who seems more likely.

Caspar Joder was baptized at Steffisburg May 22, 1664, a son of Jost Joder and Anna Trachsel. He is thought to have married Verena Hoffin. From 1703 to 1710 they lived at Weiler adjacent to the Alsace-Pfalz border station St. Germanshof [Ger. Sankt Germanshof] near Wissembourg.

Their son Caspar Joder married Magdalena Güngerich. They remained at Langenberg, within sight of St. Germanshof, while the remainder of the family moved farther north.

In 1735 a census of St. Germanshof showed only two Anabaptist families living in the vicinity. The first head of household was Caspar Joder of Langenberg; the other was Abraham Danner.

Abraham may have been a descendant of the family from Langnau im Emmental. We have been unable to find a connection yet - but we hope to get a better look at Landnau records on FHL microfilm in the near future. Based sheerly on geography, it seems probable that Abraham was the Anabaptist forebearer leading down to the Illinois settler.

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144 Ernst Müller served as minister of the Protestant Reformed Church at Langnau im Emmental 1884-1927.
Mühlhofen is only 10 miles northeast of St. Germanshof. When Mühlhofen co-leaseholder Johannes Müller died in 1763, his widow Barbara Rogy asked a civil administrator to approve the assignment of guardians for their three children. They were: Johannes — Velten Güngerich; Magdalena — Jacob Holly; and Catharina — Jacob Müller. A note on the document stated that widow Barbara Rogy later married Casper Danner. We assume that Casper was a son of Abraham.

**MÜHLHOFEN**

Mühlhofen is a farming village in the Pfalz. It is located only two miles below the city of Landau, six miles southeast of Bewarstein castle, and eight miles above the Pfalz border with Lower Alsace.

The village was established in 693 A.D., when a chapel and monastery were constructed there. Circa 1200 the clergy initiated construction of a white castle. Over the years ownership was contested between the monastery abbot, the bishop of Speyer, and the counts of Pfalz-Zweibrücken.

Until 1797 Mühlhofen was part of Pfalz-Zweibrücken (also called Palatinate-Zweibrücken), a state of the Holy Roman Empire under the Wittelsbach family. Technically the area around Mühlhofen was an enclave of land administered by the counts of Pfalz-Zweibrücken, though the bishop-prince [Ger. Fürstbischof] of Speyer owned estates there. In 1713 the Speyer properties became ecclesiastical estates [Ger. Geistliche Guter], that is, they had no clergy presence but were registered with the government to be leased out. The Mennoniten who leased these fields were first brought in to improve the rundown properties.

In 1713 Adam Kurtz became the first Amish Mennonite leaseholder. He was the progenitor of the Kurtz families of Pennsylvania. In 1714 and 1723 the lease was renewed by his son Jakob Kurtz and Nicholas Müller, and in 1732 by Jakob Kurtz alone. Jakob Kurtz was a deacon in Baden-Durlach by 1729. In *Both Sides of the Ocean*, J. Virgil Miller writes that, “There were a few other Anabaptist families who lived north of the German border near Wissembourg in the early eighteenth century. Nicholas Müller was an Anabaptist who lived at Langenberg near Weiler and St. Germanshof in 1712. He may have been the same Nicholas Müller who lived at Mühlhofen a bit further north in the Palatinate [Pfalz] several decades later.” Their success encouraged the bishop-prince to build four houses specifically for them, and to invite their relatives to settle on his other properties including the Mechtshheimerhof near Speyer.

Some of the names found on lease documents include: in 1732, Jakob Kurtz; in 1750, Jakob Holly and Jakob Müller; in 1756, Jakob Holly and Johannes Müller; in 1757, Jakob Holly and Nicholas Müller.

One of the locations often mentioned with Mühlhofen is the Steinweiler estate. On a modern map, this looks like a distinct village two miles southeast of Mühlhofen. However, there are only open fields between them. In the 1700s the Steinweiler lands would have been thought of as part of the general grounds belonging to the Bishop of Speyer and included under the Mühlhofen leases.

In 1771 the nearby estate Geilweilerhof was leased by Christian Nafziger, who was born at Steinweiler in 1749. He was a son of Stefan Nafziger, and a grandson of Ulrich Nafziger and Magdalena Güngerich. His son Christian Nafziger was born on the Geilweilerhof in 1778. This son became the pioneer settler who made arrangements with the English government for Amish Mennonites to settle at Wilmot, Ontario. Geilweilerhof is still cultivated for horticultural research by the wine industry. It is located at Albersweiler, six miles northwest of Mühlhofen.

In 1969 Mühlhofen, Appenhofen, Billigheim, and Ingenheim were consolidated under one administration as Billigheim-Ingenheim. Mühlhofen would now be described as a populated area leading to open fields on the south side of Billigheim-Ingeheim.

In 1775 Casper Danner was mentioned on a list of Anabaptists in Pfalz-Zweibrücken. The list stated that his home was Bergzabern (the village now called Bad Bergzabern is located five miles southwest of Mühlhofen).

However, the creator may only have meant that he lived in the *Oberamt* Bergzabern, the county or administrative district that encompassed Mühlhofen.

Children of Casper Danner and Barbara Rogy include:

1. **Peter Danner** was born between 1763 and 1767 (assumed from his marriage in 1787).
2. Anna Elizabeth Danner may have been born circa 1768. She married Peter Nafziger, a son of Peter Nafziger and his second wife Elisabeth Ehresman, and a grandson of Ulrich Nafziger. Her husband had been born at Illbach circa 1766, and he farmed there all his life. After his death in 1797, her life took a tragic turn. She remarried to her first husband's cousin Johann Peter Nafziger, born at Uberau circa 1855 (his first wife had been Anna Barbara Unsicker). They farmed at Illbach until May 19, 1805. On that day Johann Peter hanged himself on a tree at Eberstadt, leaving a suicide note that blamed depression caused by a family dispute. Anna Elizabeth Danner's children from the second marriage both died young: Johannes (1798-1822) and Johann Jakob (1799-1800). One of her children from the first marriage was Peter Nafziger, who was born at Illbach June 7, 1790, and died at sea on the *Henry Clay* Sept. 26, 1827. He had intended to bring his wife and four children to settle in the German Block at Wilmot, Ontario. Instead they landed at Philadelphia, where they were taken in by elder Christian Zook and families from his congregation. They remained in Pennsylvania.
3. Barbara Danner married Christian Beck. For more on this couple see BECK.
Casper's son Peter Danner was born between 1763 and 1766 (assumed from his marriage in 1787). Peter married near Fränkisch Crumbach in the Odenwald of Hesse-Darmstadt March 7, 1787. The record of the marriage described the groom as Peter Danner, son of Kaspar Danner, and the bride as Jacobea Nafziger, a daughter of Peter Nafziger. The record was created at the Evangelische church at Reichelsheim, about two miles below Fränkisch Crumbach. In 1787 the newly-married Peter Danner took up the lease at Mühlhofen with Daniel Holly as co-signer. Daniel was a son of former leaseholder Jakob Müller, and the husband of Jakobine Eyer and Veronica Eyer. Together they created an exemplary estate.

Sometime between 1787 and 1790 Peter and Jacobea became the parents of Peter Danner, the future Illinois settler born at Mühlhofen. In Illinois he would be known as Peter Donner. (Another child was Barbara Danner, who married Christian Beck; see BECK for more on this couple).

In December of 1792 French troops burned the homes and destroyed the crops at Mühlhofen. Daniel Holly then accepted a position at Langsdorf, Hesse-Darmstadt as an estate manager for Count Degenfeld-Schönburg. The whereabouts of the son Peter Danner from 1792 until his emigration have not been determined.

Peter married Barbara Naffziger in 1815. She was born on Obertraisa estate near Fränkisch Crumbach, Hesse-Darmstadt Dec. 14, 1794, a daughter of Valentine Nafziger and Magdalena Spring, and a sister to 'Apostle Peter' Naffziger. Their first child was born at Mainz in 1818.

The Danner family sailed from Amsterdam on the Nimrod with land scout Christian Nafziger (born on the Geilweilerhof near Mühlhofen, he was a second cousin to the Naffzigers), 'Apostle' Peter Naffziger and his wife Barbara Beck (Peter Danner's cousin, a daughter of Barbara Danner and Christian Beck), and Barbara Beck's younger brother Peter Beck. They arrived at Philadelphia Aug. 18, 1826. The Danners appear on the passenger list as Peter Danner, 43 [adding a decade to his age], a farmer from Germany; Barbara, 30; Peter, 7; Jacob, 5; Christian, 2; and Jhannas, 1.

From New York they traveled to Ontario and settled in what became known as the German Block of Wilmot Township in Waterloo County. They appear on the 1830 surveyor's map of Wilmot, living on Lot 2 on the north side of Snyder's Road. They had completed settling dues and were eligible to receive 50 free acres of land. Peter Beck had settled across the street on Lot 1.

Reiterating a portion of ROPP, WILMOT TOWNSHIP: "The Canadian government gave all of the 150-acre parcels in the German Block to King's College (now the University of Toronto). The school offered to sell the parcels of land, but only at a price that was roughly double what the settlers had expected. Many settlers felt betrayed. They bided their time, hoping to meet the settling requirements, receive title to their 50-acre portions, and then profit from the sale of their lots."

One of the children gave her birthplace as Canada and her birth date as June 1831, indicating the family left a short while later. Christian Ropp: "...Several of our number decided to move to Ohio, for it was too cold in Canada. These were the following: Joseph Goldschmidt, Peter Danner, Daniel Unzicker, Peter Naffziger ['Apostle Peter'], and several others."

In Butler County the Danners did not purchase land but may have lived with or near the Holly brothers Johannes and Daniel. They were sons of former Mühlhofen co-leaseholder Daniel Holly and his second wife Veronica Eyer, and had arrived at Baltimore on the Hessian Mennonite voyage of 1832.
Johannes Holly purchased 145 acres in Madison Township Dec. 11, 1832. Daniel Holly purchased 140 acres in Lemon Township Dec. 17, 1832.

Christian Iutzi purchased the farm adjacent to Johannes Holly. Iutzi's journal recorded that 'cousin Danner' sent 14 foals to pasture in his clover fields May 24, 1834. Iutzi purchased a dozen of them. A bill for $4.50, the cost of pasturing the other two, was paid through Holly Nov. 11, 1834.

The Danniers made a significant choice in the liberal-conservative division of congregations that took place in 1835. They opted for liberal dress and education. Grubb's History of the Mennonites of Butler County, Ohio: “The families which united with the new organization [knöpflers] were Holly, Naffzinger, Iutzi, Brenneman, Kennel, Gingrich, Sommer, Danner, Stecker, Burcky, Schert, Jordy, Conrad, and Lehman.” (See STAKER for more on this event.)

They remained in Butler County until 1837, when they relocated at Dry Grove, McLean County. History of the Central Conference Mennonite Church says that, "In 1837 Peter Donner, Sr., and family came from Butler County, Ohio, in a wagon and settled in Dry Grove, a few miles east of Danvers. This was the first Amish family in Dry Grove Township."

Peter appears on the 1840 census of McLean County, and both Peter and Barbara appear on the 1850 and 1860 censuses of Dry Grove. In 1850 they are listed as farmer Peter Donner, 60, Germany; Barbaray, 54, Germany; Peter Jr., 29, Germany; Kectta [Catherine], 19, Ohio; Delana [Magdalena], 17, Ohio; Barvary, 15, Ohio; and Fritz [Frederick], 13, Ohio. Both Peter (living with Barbara, no children residing at home) and his son Peter Jr. appear at Dry Grove on an 1865 state census.

Peter Donner was an active member of the South Danvers Amish Mennonite congregation. He died in McLean County Feb. 18, 1866. As a widow Barbara resided in the home of her son Peter Jr. at Dry Grove.

Barbara died in the home of one of her children in Woodford County Sept. 19, 1881. Herald of Truth, November 1881: "Danner - Sept. 19th, in Waterford [Woodford] Co., Ill., of the infirmities of old age, Sister Danner, aged 86 years, 10 months and 6 days. Buried the 20th in the old family grave yard, in McLean county, in the presence of many relatives and friends. The Danner family came from Canada to Butler County, Ohio in 1829, and in 1837 to McLean Co., Ill. Sister Danner leaves seven children, fifty-five grand children, and twenty-five great-grandchildren to mourn their loss. Services were conducted by Joseph Stuckey. Text, 1 Cor. 15:55." Peter and Barbara are buried in Wilson Cemetery at Danvers. Their children include:

1. Peter Donner was born at Mainz December 1818. On Nov. 20, 1853 in McLean County he married Katharina/Catherine Noffsinger (the spelling found on the Illinois Statewide Marriage Register). She was born at Koblenz Aug. 24, 1819, and died April 21, 1909. Their household appears on the 1870 census of Dry Grove as farmer Peter Donner, 52, Darmstadt; Catherine, 43, Württemberg; Mary, 15, Illinois; Susan, 13, Illinois; Elizabeth, 9, Illinois; and Barbaray [Peter's widowed mother], 74, retired, Darmstadt. Peter is listed in the 1878 Directory of Woodford County as a farmer at El Paso. The 1880 census of Dry Grove lists them as farmer Peter Donner, 62, Germany; Katharina, 60, Germany; Susan, 22, Illinois; and Lizzie, 16, Illinois. On the 1900 census of Danvers Village they appear as farmer Peter Donner, 81, born in Germany in December 1818, married 48 years, a citizen since 1846; Katherine, 80, born in Germany in August 1819, married 48 years, a citizen since 1854; and daughter and dressmaker Elisabeth, 34, born in Illinois in September 1864. The death entry of daughter Susan may shed some light on this family. She was born at Danvers Sept. 10, 1858, married Richard C. Otto, and died at Bloomingon,
Amish Mennonites in Tazewell County, Illinois

McLean County Aug. 23, 1932. The birthplace of her father 'Peter Donnor' was described as 'Meins, Germany'. The birthplace of her mother 'Nafziger' was described as 'Coblen, Germany.'

2. Jacob Donner was born April 17, 1820, and died at Aurora, Nebraska Nov. 9, 1897. He is buried in Aurora Cemetery. On Nov. 7, 1843 he married 15-year-old Marie Mourer/Mary Maurer. The ceremony was performed by elder Jean/John Nafziger. She was born at Hattigny, Moselle Sept. 22, 1828, and died in McLean County June 18, 1849, a daughter of Peter Maurer and Marie Somner. Her headstone in Peter Maurer Cemetery gives her age as 20 years and nine months. They had two children together. The 1850 census of District 56 (Woodford County) shows their household as carpenter Jacob Donner, 29; Germany; Mary, 21; Germany; and Barbara, 5; Illinois; they lived next door to 'Red Joe' Belsley. On March 19, 1853 in Woodford County Jacob remarried to Véronique/Frances Schweitzer. The application gave their names as Jacob Donor and Frances Switzer. She was born at Rhodes, Moselle Oct. 23, 1831, and died at Aurora May 5, 1904, a daughter of Christian/Christophe Suisse and Marie Guerber. They had nine children together. Jacob became a farmer and stock raiser on 110 acres at Danvers, and served three terms as McLean County school director. Their household appears on the 1870 census of Dry Grove as farmer Jacob Donner, 50; Hesse; Francis, 38; France; and six children born in Illinois. According to an article in the Aurora New Register published July 17, 1996, called Mennonite Church began early in Hamilton County, Mennonite services were held in the Hamilton Center school house by Christian Rediger beginning in 1886. On Dec. 31, 1892 a board of trustees was formed to build a German Mennonite Church. The lead carpenter would be Chris Donner; "...The 80 [acres] on which the church now stands had been granted as a timber claim to Jacob Donner on Aug. 4, 1891. On March 3, 1893, Mr. Donner sold one square acre to the German Mennonite Church of Hamilton Precinct." Jacob later served there as a minister.151

3. Christian Donner was born Sept. 19, 1823, and died Feb. 6, 1911.

4. Johannes Donner was born circa 1825. He appears on the Nimrod passenger list as 1-year-old Jannahs.

5. Joseph Donner was born at Wilmot, Ontario in October 1826, only two months after his parents' arrival, and died March 11, 1862. On May 20, 1849 in Woodford County he married Maria/Marie Gingerich. Their names appear on the application as Joseph Donor and Mary Gingery. She was born at La Broque, Lower Alsace April 16, 1828, and died in Woodford County Sept. 7, 1865, a daughter of Johannes/Jean Güngerich (later known as John Gingrich or Gingerich) and Barbara Gerber. The 1850 census of District 56 (Woodford County) lists them as Joseph Donner, 25; Canada (the letters 'on' above it may signify Ontario); Mary, 23; Germany; and Barbary Gingrey, 10; Germany. Maria/Marie is buried as 'Mary, wife of Joseph Donner' in Hickory Point Cemetery at Metamora.

6. Catherine Donner was born at Wilmot, Ontario Oct. 23, 1829, and died Sept. 20, 1864. On July 18, 1852 in McLean County she married Amos Yoder. He was born at Lewistown, Mifflin County, Pennsylvania Dec. 17, 1828, and died May 25, 1912, a son of elder Johathan 'Yony' Yoder and Magdalena Wagler. Following her death he remarried Dec. 11, 1864 to widow Catherine Kistler Lantz (the oldest daughter of John Michael Kistler and Elizabeth Naffziger). Both Catharines and Amos are buried under one headstone in Lantz Cemetery at Carlock, McLean County.

7. Magdalena 'Lin' Donner was born at Wilmot, Ontario Jan. 1, 1831, and died at Gridley Nov. 23, 1920. On Dec. 6, 1852 in Woodford County she married Christian Engel, also known as Christian E. Engel (their application lists them as Christian Engle and Lin Donner). He was born at Singling, a hamlet within Gros-Réderching Aug. 11, 1830, and died at Panola Dec. 6, 1865, a son of Joseph Engle and Barbara/Barbe Roggy. The 1900 census of Panola shows them as Christian Engle, 69; born in Germany in August 1830, a citizen since 1845; Magollina, 69; born in Canada in January 1831 to German parents, a citizen since 1838; and three children born in Illinois. They are buried under a joint headstone in Baughman Cemetery at Panola.

8. Barbara Donner was born in Butler County March 13, 1833, and died June 3, 1912. On Oct. 21, 1855 at Danvers she married Christian Erisman. He was born at Edertal (the valley that now surrounds eastern end of the Edersee reservoir), Waldeck Nov. 14, 1819, and died at Allin, McLean County March 14, 1870. On Aug. 30, 1872 at Stanford Barbara remarried to Jacob Erisman. He was born at Wetzlar, Hesse (10 miles west of Giessen, 50 miles below Edertal) May 26, 1828, and died Sept. 14, 1898. Barbara is found as a 67-year-old landlord living with her son Henry on the 1900 census of Allin. Barbara Donner, her first husband Christian Erisman, and her second husband Jacob Erisman are all buried in Brooks Grove Cemetery at Stanford. (See EHRESMAN for more on her two husbands).

9. Frederick/Fritz/Fred Donner was born in Butler County March 25, 1835, and died at Gridley Feb. 13, 1927. On Dec. 31, 1860 in McLean County he married Barbara Gingerich. She was born at sea May 16, 1840 (her headstone says July 25), and died at Gridley March 9, 1924, a daughter of Johannes/Jean Güngerich (later known as John Gingrich or Gingerich) and Barbara Gerber. The 1878 Directory of Woodford County lists Fred as a farmer at Panola. He established a tile factory at Gridley in 1884. They appear on the 1900 census of Gridley as farmer Frederick Donner, 65; born in Ohio in 1835 to parents from Germany; Barbara, 55; born in New York in July 1844; and two children born in Illinois. Despite this inaccurate birth information, Barbara's identity is confirmed by her headstone. They are buried in Gridley Cemetery, where her headstone names her 'Barbara Gingrich Donner.'

151 The German Mennonite Church later became the Pleasant View Mennonite Church.
Christian Donner was born Sept. 19, 1823, and died Feb. 6, 1911.

On May 28, 1849 in Woodford County he married Katharina/Catherine Roggy. Their names appeared on the application as Christian Doner and Catherine Rugey. She was born at Spring Bay Dec. 16, 1832, and died at Peoria June 9, 1929, a daughter of Christian Roggy and Catherine Engel.

*Portrait and Biographical Album of Woodford County* (1889) described Christian as "...one of the earliest settlers of Woodford County," though this is true only in a general sense because of his relatively late arrival. He settled at Metamora in 1849. The 1850 census of District 56 (Woodford County) shows a combined household: John Berkey, 46; Madalene [Roggy], 27; Catharine, 8; Elizabeth, 6; John, 4; Barbary, six months; Christian Donner, 25; and Catharine [Roggy], 18.

Christian and Catherine purchased land in the southwest corner of Section 3 at Panola Nov. 22, 1854, and moved onto it in 1856. The *1878 Directory of Woodford County* lists Christian as a farmer at Panola. He owned 200 acres there, and more property at Kearney, Nebraska. On the 1880 census of Panola Christian is described as a 56-year-old farmer from Prussia; Catherine is described as Catherine Donner, age 46, with parents born in Prussia (Alsace-Lorraine was occupied by Germany 1871-1914). Christian served the county as school director, school trustee, and road commissioner. Christian and Catherine are buried in Evergreen Cemetery at El Paso.

Their son Peter Donner served as mayor of El Paso 1905-10. His son Clay Donner became a brigadier general in the Illinois National Guard and served in both world wars.
Kistler: John Michael Kistler

A Kistler or Kistler is a chest maker. Heimatort or legal places of origin for citizenship rights associated with this surname include Hasle and Affoltern in Canton Bern, and Aarberg in Canton Aargau.152

This is a partial genealogy of someone who was an extreme example of the Amish Mennonite who became a liberal Mennonite and struggled to co-exist with the older generations.

It would have been difficult to tell the first part of the history without mentioning John Michael Kistler. His name comes up often, from his first arrival in Butler County, Ohio in 1830, to the summer of 1864 when he finally shrugged his shoulders and walked away from his ministry. At the time he was considered the elder of the Hessian congregation at South Danvers, though he was only 54 years old. In Illinois he was representative of the drift that coincided with assimilation into the mainstream.

Perhaps he just wanted to leave his home in McLean County to farm in a newly-developing area of LaSalle County. Perhaps he was confused by his oldest daughter's plans to marry the son of a more conservative minister. But the general impression in McLean County was that he had permitted the enlistment of two sons who served in the Civil War, and now felt remorse and regret at the imminent death of the younger one.

Though he was widely known, and affected the lives of many families, his unusual departure is reflected in what we do and do not know about him. We know he was born in Baden, but not where and to whom. His parentage, home in Baden, and immigration are complete mysteries. There are no church histories to help later biographers.

Johann (or John) Michael Kistler was born in Baden March 8, 1810.153 See ROTH for a timeline of events in Baden.

Grubb's History of the Mennonites of Butler County, Ohio says he came to America and settled in Butler County, Ohio circa 1830. According to a civil Record of Marriages, "Married on the eighth day of November 1831 by Samuel Davis Esquire one of the justices of the peace in and for the county aforesaid Michael Kistler and Elizabeth Noffsinger." This was the earliest marriage of familiar names that we noted in county records.

Elizabeth was born at Hochheim, Hesse-Darmstadt July 8, 1813, a daughter of Peter Naffziger and Barbara Beck. Her father was also later known as minister 'Apostle Peter' Naffziger.

After the division into 'hook and eye' and 'button' congregations in Butler County May 8, 1835, the moderate Hessians were led by John's father-in-law. Grubb's History of the Mennonites of Butler County Ohio states that Kistler was elected to the ministry by the congregation 'shortly after,' and ordained by his father-in-law.

According to Portrait and Biographical Album of McLean County (1887), the Kistlers "...came to this county from Butler County, Ohio, in 1838, and settled in Dry Grove Township, soon thereafter removing to Woodford County..." Their departure from Ohio came after the birth of a son in Butler County Aug. 12, 1838.

The family of 'Michael Kisteler' is shown on the 1840 census of McLean County, two doors away from Peter Morey [Maurer] and John Stroup [Stroubhar]. Except for the oldest son, the tallies are an approximate match: one male 10-14 years of age [John Michael born in 1810]; one male 10-14 [oldest son Joseph was born in 1835, and should have been in the adjacent 5-9 bracket]; two males under 5 [Jacob born in 1837, and Daniel born in 1838]; one female 10-29 [Elizabeth was born in 1813]; and one female 5-9 [Catherine was born in 1833].

Centennial History of the Mennonites of Illinois 1829-1929 may have been influenced by Grubb, who erroneously stated that Kistler served the congregation in Butler County until 1842. It says, "One of the first

152 The most noteworthy Kistler in Swiss history was a master butcher. In the 1460s Peter Kistler rose to become district governor of Trachselwald, and took a place on the Council of Bern. At the time merchants and leaders of professional guilds could only sit on the grand council, but were excluded from the smaller guiding council. Peter rallied the professionals against the noble families, and unseated Niklaus von Scharnachthall to become mayor of the city April 23, 1470.

As mayor Kistler enforced a dress code that prohibited the types of hats and shoes favored by the noble families. They in turn silently protested by attending cathedral services in the forbidden clothing. This resulted in a trial and exiles to the countryside. The noble families made an ostentatious show of withdrawing their wealth from the city, and his support dissolved. Peter was nudged out after less than a year in office, and died in 1480. History books call the brief political upheaval the Berner Tvingherrenstreit.

153 History of the Mennonites of Butler County, Ohio contributed three errors that persist. It said that 1) Kistler was born March 8, 1808, which is contradicted by his census reports and headstone (March 8, 1810); 2) that he served the Butler County congregation until 1842 (he was on a census of McLean County in 1840, and their local history says he arrived in 1838); and 3) that he died in Garden City, Missouri. This is generally corrected to Golden City in Barton County. But he actually died at Grant, Dade County, the township next to Golden City.
Hessian families to come was Peter Donner, Sr., who settled in Dry Grove Township in 1837. Following that date a number of Hessian families arrived, such as the Naflzigers, Donners, Kennels, Brennemans, Ottos, Kinsingers, Springers, and Gingerichs. In 1842 Michael Kistler of Butler County, Ohio, came to the community. He had been ordained as a minister by his father-in-law, 'Apostle' Peter Naflziger in Butler County. The Hessian Mennonites, with Kistler as their minister, now began to hold services in their homes, which continued until 1852, the close of this period.  

The Illinois Public Domain Land Tract Sales Database says that on April 19, 1847 John M. Kistler purchased 40 acres of land at SNNW Section 13, Township 25N, Woodford County. At $1.25 per acre, the entire purchase amounted to $50. The description places the family about five miles northeast of Congerville, within Montgomery Township, only a walk from the border of McLean County.

On the 1850 census of District 56 (Woodford County): famer John M. Kistler, 40, Germany; Elizabeth, 36, Germany; Catharine, 16, Ohio; Joseph, 15, Ohio; Daniel, 12, Ohio; Barbary, 9, Illinois; Peter, 7, Illinois; Mary, 6, Illinois; Pheba, 5, Illinois; Elizabeth, 3, Illinois; and Susan, 1, Illinois.

Kistler was active as a minister in the Hessian congregation, but ran up against the conservative beliefs of elder Jonathan 'Yony' Yoder of Danvers. Yoder felt that Kistler was straying too far from 'hook-and-eye' plain clothing, and banned him from communion at the Rock Creek meeting house. Centennial History of the Mennonites of Illinois 1829-1929: "Hessian Mennonites near Danvers, who had been worshiping in their homes under their preacher Michael Kistler, now began to meet with Jonathan Yoder and his congregation in the new church house. Kistler and his people, having brought with them from Europe many religious practices and customs at variance with those of their brethren from Alsace and with America, soon found themselves out of harmony, especially with that part of the congregation which had come from conservative Mifflin County. 'Yony' Yoder and Kistler represented the two extremes of Amish and Mennonite practice of that day. The former coolly excommunicated the latter. Accordingly about 1854 the Hessians formed a separate congregation, as their countrymen had done in Butler County some time earlier, and in 1863 built what is known as the South Danvers Mennonite church."

The family relocated to White Oak, McLean County before 1856. Centennial History of the Mennonites of Illinois 1829-1929 describes Kistler from the viewpoint of the Bureau County congregation:

Michael Kistler, a minister from Congerville, was asked to come up and preach for them (1857). He came several times a year, although services were conducted by the deacon between Kistler's visits. Kistler also held services at Granville [adjacent Putnam County] occasionally.

He was a very liberal-minded man, and for that reason the elders in Illinois refused to ordain him as an elder.

During the time Kistler had partial control of this congregation, dress rules were not enforced. He was lenient in church government, permitting each member to do as he pleased.

Prior to his coming, whenever a member married a person outside the church they could no longer hold membership unless the other person joined the church also. Kistler permitted the members to remain, even though the one married did not belong to the church. Before his arrival, Elizabeth Zierlein, who had been a member, was no longer permitted to commune because she had married a Lutheran.154 He [Kistler] reinstated her and received her children into the church by baptism, though her husband remained a Lutheran until his death.

Kistler told the people they did not have to wear the hooks-and-eyes, and immediately after marrying a couple he told them he would have no objections to their taking part in dances.

Since he was so liberal, some of the members refused fellowships with his church, and occasionally went down to Ropp's congregation at Tremont. Kistler, however, had some loyal supporters. He preached good sermons, but after some years, the majority became so dissatisfied with him that he was forced to leave. Afterwards he left the Mennonite church.

The 1860 census of White Oak shows farmer John M. Kisler, 50, Baden; Elizabeth, 47, Hessie; Joseph, 25, Ohio; Daniel, 22, Ohio; Barbara, 18, Illinois (all younger children Illinois); Mary, 16; Peter, 17; Pheba, 14; Elizabeth, 13; Susan, 11; Lina; John, 4; and laborer Jacob Stretmaker, 58, Baden.

A description of the first church building built by the Hessian congregation at South Danvers in 1862 is given in A History of McLean County (1879): "The church southwest of Danvers was begun about sixteen years ago. Prominent among the first members were Christian and Jacob Naflziger. Their first minister was Michael Kistler. He remained only two years. After him came Christian Gingerich [Gingerich]. He has been here fourteen years. Their church edifice is 30x36 feet. It cost about $2,000. The number of communicants is 125."

154 This was Elizabeth Albrecht (1807-1874), who married Casper Zierlein. Their daughter Elizabeth Zierlein married Andrew Schertz, who was described in his obituary as a lifelong Mennonite. See the Appendix, ALBRECHT OF BUREAU COUNTY for background on this family.
As elder of the Hessian South Danvers congregation in 1862, John ordained ministers Christian Gingerich and Michael Kinsinger.

THE KISTLERS AND THE CIVIL WAR

On July 1, 1862 President Abraham Lincoln issued a call for 300,000 new recruits to supplement the federal army for a term of three years. The state government provided funds so that county supervisors could offer $50 bonuses. On July 22 thousands of men flooded to sign up at the state capitol of Springfield.

There were so many volunteers that state officials telegraphed Washington, D.C. to ask if additional regiments could be provided. The War Department agreed, and another call went out in the first week of August. In McLean County 954 men responded, enough for an entire regiment, the 94th Illinois U.S. Infantry. They were later supplemented by 149 more recruits.

Two Kistler sons volunteered. 27-year-old Joseph and 24-year-old Daniel enlisted at Bloomington Aug. 7, 1862. The reported to muster in Aug. 20, and were both assigned as privates. The company departed Aug. 25.

They joined up with other units to form the 'Army of the Frontier.' On Sept. 10 they arrived at Springfield, Missouri, where they drilled and received supplies.

In early December a Confederate force of 30,000 troops had almost entirely surrounded a large Union force in the northwestern corner of Arkansas. The 94th made a forced march of 120 miles in 90 hours to join a Union group that now totaled 4,000 men. They attacked the Confederates and created enough diversion to save the day.

In July 1863 they were transported down the Mississippi River to within 6 miles of New Orleans. In October they were stationed at Brownsville, Texas on the Rio Grande River, where they remained for nine months. In July 1864 Lieutenant General Ulysses S. Grant assumed duties as general-in-chief of all federal armies. The overall Union strategy changed from containment to rapid attack.

The 94th took part in the bombardment and siege of Fort Morgan, Alabama, which was part of the Battle of Mobile Bay. It was a particularly desired prize because it guarded the entrance to the bay and was commanded by General Robert E. Lee's cousin, Brigadier General Richard L. Page.

The siege began with mortar fire on Aug. 9. On Aug. 16 the Confederate troops abandoned their defense of the outer walls and moved to the interior fortifications. The Union mortars were moved closer, until on Aug. 23 Page surrendered unconditionally. The victory completely isolated the city of Mobile, which was taken at a later date.

Whether for wounds, shell shock, or typical waterborne diseases such as dysentery or cholera, son Daniel was placed on medical leave after the siege and returned to his family's new home at Lostant, LaSalle County on furlough. He died there Oct. 21, 1864.

Joseph remained with the 94th and took part in the siege of the Spanish Fort on Mobile Bay. Soon afterward the 94th held the extreme left end of the line at Vicksburg for 13 days. The victory gave Grant control of the entire length of the Mississippi River. Combined with the victory at Gettysburg the day before, it was the turning point of the Civil War.

Joseph mustered out at Galveston, Texas July 17, 1865. He reached Bloomington Aug. 9.

According to its regimental history, "The Ninety-fourth served just three years, marched 1,200 miles, traveled by railroad 610 miles and by steamer 6,000 miles, took part in nine battles, sieges and skirmishes, and not one retreat." 11 soldiers were killed in battle, 45 wounded, and 157 died from other causes.

In the summer of 1864, about the time of the siege of Fort Morgan, the Kistlers relocated 45 miles north near the village of L'Ostant (now simply Lostant) in LaSalle County. Oldest daughter Catherine, a widow, remained in McLean County and remarried to widower Amos Yoder in December. Amos was a son of Jonathan 'Yony' Yoder and Magdalena Wagner.

The village of L'Ostant had been established less than three years earlier as a stop on the Illinois Central Railroad. The first schoolhouse was constructed in 1863. The move of the Kistlers exactly coincided with the construction of its first grain elevator. A history of the village states that they have shipped more grain than any other community on the Illinois Central Railroad between Bloomington and Freeport.

The family resettled at Grant, Dade County, in southwestern Missouri in 1868. The site of their homestead was adjacent to what is now Kistler Cemetery.

In 1868 Dade County was still characterized as 'wild prairie.' The entire population two years later was less than 8,700. Those who came to the county in this time frame were likely drawn by the inexpensive dale of excess railroad land. The 1870 census of Grant shows farmer John M. Kistler, 60; Baden; Elizabeth, 57; Hesse-Darmstadt; Lina A., 18, Illinois; and John A., 14, Illinois; Annie Bradberry, 8, Ohio; and carpenter Jacob Vondoble, 30, Switzerland. Their daughter Pheba and her husband William C. Fell lived next door. On the next page are son Joseph Kistler and his wife Mariah.

A number of Tazewell and McLean County residents accompanied the Kistlers to Missouri. In 1870 they can be found on the same census page as the Kistlers, or on the next page. These included Jacob S. Ropp, a son of Peter Ropp and Maria/Mary Rüh, and his wife Mary Ann King, a daughter of Samuel King and his second wife Mary Garber (they later lived at Carlock, McLean County); Mary Ann King's sister Lydia King and her husband Frederick.
Metz (they returned to Woodford and Livingston Counties); and David Garber, a son of John Garber and Eva Carolina Paithe, and his wife Magdalena Kinsinger (they later lived in Wyoming and Montana).

Johann (or John) Michael Kistler died at Grant Nov. 12, 1876, and is buried in Kistler Cemetery there. Herald of Truth, April 1877: “Nov. 12th, 1876, in Dade Co., Mo., John M. Kistler, aged 66 yrs., 8 mos., and 4 days. He lived the life of a Christian, and died in a living hope of meeting his Savior in peace. Before he died, he called his family to his bedside, and told them to take the Scriptures for their guide. He leaves a wife and nine children to mourn their loss…”

Burials at what became Kistler Cemetery began in 1873, with the death of their son-in-law William John. After her husband's death Elizabeth Naffziger lived with her daughter Elizabeth in Page County, Iowa.155 She died there Dec. 16, 1881, and is buried in Union Grove Cemetery at Northboro, Page County.

Children of Johann (or John) Michael Kistler and Elizabeth Naffziger include:

1. Andrew Kistler was born in Butler County Aug. 17, 1832, and died there June 17, 1833.
2. Catherine Kistler was born in Butler County Dec. 10, 1833, and died in McLean County Dec. 6, 1904. Circa 1853 she married Joseph P. Lantz. He was born in Mifflin County, Pennsylvania Dec. 26, 1827, and died at Dry Grove, McLean County June 30, 1861, a son of John Lantz and Magdalena Yoder. He is buried in Lantz Cemetery at Carlock, McLean County. On Dec. 11, 1864 in McLean County Catherine remarried to widower Amos Yoder. He was born at Lewistown, Mifflin County, Pennsylvania Dec. 17, 1828, and died May 25, 1912, a son of elder Jonathan 'Yony' Yoder and Magdalena Wagner. His first wife had been Catherine Donner. They were married in McLean County July 18, 1852; and she died Sept. 20, 1864. They are buried under a joint headstone at Lantz Cemetery.
3. Joseph H. Kistler was born in Butler County March 1, 1835, and died at Noel, Missouri Dec. 14, 1923. On Aug. 7, 1862 at Bloomington, McLean County Joseph enlisted with his brother Daniel for three years. He mustered in at Bloomington Aug. 20, and was assigned with his brother as a private in Company E of the 94th Illinois U.S. Infantry. The documentation describes him as a single 27-year-old farmer born in Butler County, Ohio; 5 foot-10 tall, light hair, fair complexion, black eyes. He mustered out at Galveston, Texas July 17, 1865. On Sept. 19, 1867 in LaSalle County he married Harriet Bradbury. She died only months later. After relocating to Grant to be with his family, he married neighbor Anna Mariah Merrill. She was born at Graysville, Pennsylvania Jan. 17, 1848, and died at Pierce City, Missouri March 21, 1898, a daughter of Nicholas Merrill and Elizabeth Frost. They are found on the 1880 census of Grant, on the page following his family as farmer Peter Kistler, 35; Ohio; Mariah, 22, Pennsylvania; and farm laborer Peter, 29, Illinois [Joseph's brother]. They are buried in Pierce City Cemetery at Pierce City.
4. Jacob Kistler was born in Butler County Feb. 16, 1837, and died March 6, 1842.
5. Daniel C. Kistler was born in Butler County Aug. 13, 1838, and died Oct. 21, 1864 in the new home at Lostant while on furlough. On Aug. 7, 1862 at Bloomington, McLean County Daniel enlisted with his brother Joseph for three years. He mustered in at Bloomington Aug. 20, and was assigned with his brother as a private in Company E of the 94th Illinois U.S. Infantry. The documentation describes him as a single 24-year-old farmer born in Butler County, Ohio; 5 foot-9½ tall, light hair, dark complexion, blue eyes. The story of his death on furlough was told earlier. He is buried in Hope Town Cemetery adjacent to Lostant, LaSalle County.
6. Barbara Ellen Kistler was born at Dry Grove, McLean County Nov. 6, 1841, and died in Barton County, Missouri Jan. 25, 1924. She married William John and William Larkin Hildebrand. William John was born in Ohio Oct. 22, 1832, and died at Golden City, Barton County Sept. 9, 1873. He was the first person buried in Kistler Cemetery at Grant. William Larkin Hildebrand was born in Ohio in 1848, and died in Missouri in 1890. They are found on the 1880 census of Grant. They are buried in Dudenville Cemetery in Dade County, Missouri.
7. Peter Kistler was born at Dry Grove April 19, 1843, and died Oct. 1, 1904. On Sept. 5, 1865 at Streator, LaSalle County he married Caroline Defenbaugh. She was born June 23, 1845, and died June 11, 1870. On the 1870 census of Grant, Dade County Peter is found as a 29-year-old farm laborer in the household of his older brother Joseph. On Jan. 10, 1872 in Barton County, Missouri he remarried to Catherine 'Katie' Vercler. She was born in Woodford County Oct. 26, 1849, and died at Santa Clara, California Nov. 16, 1932, a daughter of Jean Vercler/John Verkler and Catherine Dettweiler. Peter and Kate appear on the 1880 census of Grant Township, Missouri as farmer Peter Kistler, 37; born in Illinois to parents from Hesse-Darmstadt; and Kate, 30, born in Illinois to parents from Lorraine. In 1900 Kate was already separated or divorced from Peter; she is found on the 1900 census of Kearney, Nebraska in the household of her brother-in-law Jacob Sommer and sister Elizabeth as dressmaker Katharine Kistler, born in Illinois in October 1849 to French parents. On Feb. 17, 1904 he remarried to Magdalena 'Lena' Plank. She was born May 6, 1860, and died June 28, 1953. Lena is

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155 Elizabeth's home became part of Washington when that township was established in August 1882.
found as a widow living at Washington with her sister Marie/Marie and brother-in-law Daniel O. Kinsinger in 1910. Lena and Peter are buried in Glendale Cemetery at Washington.

8. Mary A. Kistler was born at Dry Grove July 14, 1844, and died June 5, 1888. On March 6, 1866 in LaSalle County she married Lafayette Quincy Bower. He was born in Pennsylvania in March, 1842, and died at Saint Cloud, Florida Oct. 28, 1919. He served as a private in Company E, 4th Illinois U.S. Cavalry during the Civil War, mustering in Sept. 26, 1861, and out Nov. 3, 1864. She is buried in Silverton Cemetery at Silverton, Oregon. An enumeration of veterans in Clackamas County, Oregon in 1890 described his address as Needy, Oregon (10 miles below Oregon City). He was still living at Silverton in 1900. His headstone in Mount Peace Cemetery at Saint Cloud says only 'L.Q. Bower, Co. E, Ill. Cav.'

9. Pheba J. Kistler was born at Dry Grove March 8, 1846. On Sept. 13, 1864 in LaSalle County she married William C. Fell. He was born in Illinois circa 1842. They are found on the 1870 census of Grant next door to her family: farmer William C. Fell, 28; Pheba, 24; Illinois; Minnie, 4; Illinois; Willie S., 2; Illinois; and Lena A., four months, Missouri.

10. Elizabeth Emma Kistler was born at Congerville, Woodford County in 1847, and died at Shenandoah, Iowa Feb. 3, 1900. On March 3, 1864 in Ottawa, LaSalle County she married John Stephen Holmes. He was born at Lincolnshire, England Feb. 23, 1841, and died at Shenandoah, Iowa Sept. 15, 1914. He served in Company A of the 64th Illinois Infantry during the Civil War, mustering in March 20, 1864, and out July 11, 1865. They are found on the 1880 census of Washington, Page County. They are buried in Union Grove Cemetery at Northboro, Iowa.

11. Susan 'Susie' Kistler was born at Congerville July 6, 1849, and died at Waddams Grove, Stephenson County Sept. 18, 1913. On Sept. 13, 1868 in LaSalle County she married Stephen Dean. He was born in Pennsylvania in 1839, and died at Lostant April 5, 1876. He is found as a 21-year-old born in Pennsylvania on the 1860 census of Lostant. They are buried in Hope Town Cemetery adjacent to Lostant.

12. Lina Anna Kistler was born at Congerville Nov. 12, 1851, and died in Dade County, Missouri July 9, 1875. She is buried in Kistler Cemetery at Grant.

13. John August Kistler was born at White Oak, McLean County Jan. 24, 1856, and died at Unontown, Kansas Feb. 3, 1936. On Dec. 24, 1878 in Golden City he married Margaret 'Maggie' Coiner. She was born in Virginia Sept. 28, 1853, and died at Fort Scott, Kansas July 16, 1918, a daughter of Andre Coiner and Esteline Smith. On Dec. 31, 1919at Fort Scott he remarried to Alta Chloel Ralston Mangold. She was born at Unontown, Kansas May 1, 1878, and died at Fort Scott Jan. 12, 1968, a daughter of Joseph Ralston and Louvinicy Jane Ward. Her first husband was John Mangold. They are buried in Marion Cemetery at Redfield, Kansas.
Kennel of Kirchheimbolanden

Kennel of Kirchheimbolanden

KENNEL tells about Nicolaüs/Nikolaus/Cläus Brönniman. He may have spent some time in the Pfalz before settling in Baden-Durlach, where he married a widow. Her first husband had likely been a Von Känel. She brought a daughter Maria Kennel and a son Hans Kennel to her second marriage.156

Later, when the son Hans signed his name, his signature looked like 'Hans Kenlel.' It is probable that he was almost illiterate, and this was not a true spelling. The Brönnimans were a Steffisbug family, and the spelling Von Känel can be found in church entries there. For this reason it is generally assumed that Maria and Hans were splinters from the family chronicled in Julius Billeter's Genealogy of the Von Känel Family of Aeschi, Canton Bern, Switzerland 1528-1936. Aeschi bei Spiez is located inland from Spiez, on the western shore of Lake Thun.

The daughter Maria married Ulrich Fischer.

MARIA KENNEL AND ULRICH FISCHER

On Feb. 8, 1750 Ulrich Fischer and Jacob Kurtz signed a contract for a nine-year lease on the Katharinentaler Hof above Pforzheim in Baden-Durlach. It was used as a place for religious meetings. The signatures of guarantors included Maria's stepfather Nikolaus Brenneman, her brother Hans, minister Peter Rotager [Rothacker], and minister Johannes Nafziger (he signed on behalf of Benedict 'Benz' Eyer and his son Rudolph Eyer).

In 1752 Ulrich Fischer had a change of heart, and asked to be freed from his lease obligation. Ulrich and Maria sailed from Rotterdam on the St. Andrew, stopped over at Cowes, and arrived at Philadelphia Sept. 23, 1752.

In 1768 they owned 100 acres at Tulpehocken, Berks County. Their next door neighbor on 145 acres was Ulrich's brother Jacob. Another brother Christian lived at Salisbury, Lancaster County.

Ulrich and Maria farmed and continued to accumulate property. They had no children.

Ulrich's will was drafted in German Sept. 10, 1783, and probated at Cumru, Berks County Nov. 17, 1785. A transcription: "Fisher, Ulrich, Cumru. September 10, 1783 - November 17, 1785. All estate to wife Maria during life. At her death 1/2 to my brother's child and to wife's brother's child who lives in Germany. The other 1/2 to my brother's child and wife's sister's child who lives by us in this country. My brother's children named Christian and Peter Fisher shall have £50 each and Magdalena Fisher married to one John Zug shall have £10 before division. Executors: Brother's son above named, Christian Fisher, and friend Jacob Kurtz. Witnesses: Abraham Kurtz and Isaac Jotter." When Maria died in 1804, the executors sent letters to Dreisen to determine the heirs. A transcription of a list of her nephews and nieces is maintained in the county courthouse at Reading.

Later that year stepfather Brenneman became leaseholder of the Karlshäuserhof estate at Dürrn, Baden-Durlach, an adjunct to the Katharinentaler Hof. It is likely that his stepson Hans farmed there with him.

Hans Kennel married Anna Steiner. In 1764 they relocated from Baden-Durlach to a royal estate in the district of Kirchheimbolanden.

THE MÜNSTERHOF ESTATE

This estate is located near the village of Dreisen, about midway between the cities of Kaiserslautern and Worms in the district of Kirchheimbolanden. In 1764 a group of hereditary shareholders sold the property to Prince Carl Christian of Nassau-Weilburg. The prince owned a castle in the town of Kirchheim, but often visited. He died on the Münsterhof in 1788.

The first 12-year lease was signed in 1764. Hans was one of the three original Anabaptist leasors with David Holly and Christian Güngerich (he was replaced by Jakob Müller in 1769). Holly was married to Susanne Fischer, a niece of Ulrich Fisher. Müller married three times: to Elizabeth Schenk, Anna Brönniman (presumably Hans's stepsister), and Elisabeth Jordy.

Jacob Hochstetler, a son of Isaac Hochstetler and his first wife Maria Siegel, came to the estate in 1790 after marrying Holly's daughter Barbara. He was ordained as a minister in 1798, and served as elder from 1815 to 1857.

In 1862 the lease was held by 'Jacob Hochstättler' [Jr.] (1822-1868) and Valentine Rupp. Later the leases were taken up by Rupp and Spring families. The site is still actively farmed.

156 Peter Kennel was a passenger on an unidentified ship that arrived at Philadelphia Oct. 20, 1747. Other familiar surnames on the passenger list include Allemann, Frey, Lantz, Spring, and Wenger. Jacob Kennele was a passenger on the Nancy as it arrived at Philadelphia Sept. 16, 1751, with others including Bär, Guth, and Kaufmann; on the same day the ship Brothers arrived with Joseph Kennel and others including Bender, Farni, Leinberger [Leyenberger], Ritter, Roth, Wolff, and Zoller [Zäller].
In 1802 Hans remarried to Magdalena Altemus or Altenaus, a daughter of Martin Altemus or Altenaus and Veronika Kurtz of the Mechtersheimerhof (see EHRESMAN for more on this location). He remained on the Münsterhof estate until his death in 1806.

Children of Hans Kennel and his first wife Anna Steiner include:

1. Maria Kennel married widower Johannes Schwarzentrub of Breunigweiler. He was born at Herxheim in 1740, and died on the Herfingerhof estate in 1810, a son of Johannes Schwarzentrub. His first wife was Elizabeth Imhof.
2. Peter Kennel was born in 1745, and died on the Herfingerhof estate at Börrstadt in 1819.
3. Anna Kennel was born in 1748. In 1770 she married Johannes Schenk, a son of Christian Schenk and Barbara Imhof. They lived at Mehlingen.
4. Elisabeth Kennel was born circa 1757, and died at Börrstadt Oct. 19, 1847. She married Jakob Jotter [Joder]. He was born at Oggersheim in 1744, and died at Börrstadt Oct. 4, 1834, a son of Phillip Jotter. They farmed on the Hanweilerhof at Börrstadt.
5. Julius Kennel was born in 1759, and died young.
6. Peter Kennel was born in 1760. In 1780 he married Johannes Krehbiel. He was a son of Johannes Krehbiel and Verena Altemus of Eisenberg. They lived at Weitersweiler.
7. Rudolf Kennel was born circa 1760, and died at Dreisen in 1827. In 1808 at Dreisen he married widow Katharina Güngerich. She was a daughter of Georg Güngerich and Verena Joder. Her first husband had been Jakob Müller [Jr.].
8. Magdalena Jakobina Kennel was born circa 1766. She married Daniel Müller. He was born at Dreisen circa 1767, and died on the Rosenthalerhof estate at Kerzenheim Jan. 25, 1811, a son of Jakob Müller and Elizabeth Schenck.
9. Vreni Kennel (found as Veronika only on legal documents) was single in 1804.

Breunigweiler and Börrstadt (the Herfingerhof and Hahnweilerhof estates) are adjacent villages, both about two miles southwest of Dreisen (the Münsterhof estate). The Herfingerhof estate was actually situated on the route between Börrstadt and Breunigweiler to Dreisen. Weitersweiler is a mile northwest of Dreisen. Another nearby estate leased by Amish Mennonites was the Froshauerhof [Frog Meadow Farm] at Weierhof, on the eastern side of Dreisen. All are located in Kirchheimbolanden, a district of the German state of Rheinisch-Pfalz.

Peter Kennel was born March 17, 1745, and died on the Herfingerhof estate at Börrstadt in 1819.
He married Elisabeth Müller, a daughter of Jakob Müller and Elisabeth Schenck. She died in 1803. He remarried to Elisabeth Eyer, a daughter of Rudolf Eyer and Veronika Kurtz of Remchingen. In 1793 they leased the Herfingerhof.

Peter Kennel and his first wife Elisabeth Müller had two sons:

1. Johannes Kennel was born at Weitersweiler March 11, 1781, and died at Trenton, Butler County, Ohio Aug. 27, 1831.
2. Peter Kennel was born at Weitersweiler May 28, 1784, and died on the Herfingerhof estate May 3, 1860. On May 17, 1812 he married Magdalena Holly. She was born at Mühlhofen Feb. 19, 1791, and died on the Herfingerhof estate Dec. 7, 1853, a daughter of minister Daniel Holly and Jakobine Eyer. Peter became a minister and an especially severe disciplinarian. His severe attitude alienated many of his children, leading to their emigration. Their children born on the Herfingerhof estate include:
   a. Jakobine Kennel was born April 3, 1813, and died on the Herfingerhof estate March 2, 1895. She married Peter Naßiger. He was born at Überau June 16, 1804, and died at Darmstadt in 1873, a son of Peter Naßiger and Jakobine Fischer.
   b. Johannes 'Big John' Kennel was born Feb. 4, 1816, and died at St. Clair, Butler County, Ohio Jan. 3, 1883. He departed from Le Havre on the packet ship *Poland*, arriving at New York July 26, 1837. 157 The passenger list names Johannes Kennel, 21. He signed a naturalization *Declaration of Intent* at Hamilton in September 1847. On Aug. 29, 1843 in Butler County he married Anna Augspurger. She was born in Butler County March 23, 1823, and died there June 7, 1858, a daughter of Christian Augspurger and Katharina Hauer. On April 7, 1859 he remarried to Jacobine Hauer. She was born June 1, 1835, and died in Butler County in 1922, a daughter of André/Andrew Hauer and Anna.
   c. Marie Kennel was born in 1818, and died on the Herfingerhof estate in 1875. She married Jacob Unzicker. He was born at Graveneck in 1808, and died at Wiesbaden in 1875, a son of Jacob Unzicker and Elizabeth Jordy.

157 His name was one of few that were still legible on the faded passenger list when it was microfilmed by the National Archives. It is suspected that Bältzl/Belsleys and Dettweiler/Detweilers also sailed on this voyage, and perhaps Jean George Engel. See DETTWEILER for a discussion of this possibility.
May 16, 1933.

On Feb. 8, 1883 Killian remarried to Eva Wagner. She was born June 19, 1849, and died at Hamburg until 1871. In that year they resettled at Hamburg, Iowa. Killian and Helen were divorced Oct. 19, 1882.

ENGEL suggests a connection between the Engel family and the Naffzigers. In 1864 they were in McLean County, where Killian served as a minister to the Hessian congregation Schantz. They were in Tazewell County in 1854. By 1859 they had resettled at Olio, Woodford County.

In 1849. In 1852 at Hamilton, Butler County, Ohio he married Helen Iutzi. She was born at Liberty, Butler County Sept. 25, 1832, and died in Butler County in 1852, and Dry Grove by 1854. On Feb. 10, 1856 in McLean County he married Helen Iutzi. She was born May 10, 1833, and died Nov. 1, 1908, a son of Daniel Schönbeck and Katharina Krehbiel.

Catherine 'Kate' Nafziger. She was born Aug. 17, 1828, and died May 18, 1911, a daughter of Jacob Nafziger and Catherine Nafziger. They appear on the same page of the 1870 census of Dry Grove as John Otto, 30, Ohio; Helena, 29, Württemberg; and two children born in Illinois. They are buried in Stout's Grove Cemetery at Danvers.

Johannes Kennel was born at Weitersweiler March 11, 1781, and died in Butler County, Ohio Aug. 27, 1831. On Feb. 5, 1808 at Breunigweiler he married Magdalena Naffziger. She was born on Obertraira estate May 29, 1791, and died at Morton Feb. 13, 1873, a daughter of Valentin Naffziger and Magdalena Spring. The marriage announcements at Breunigweiler said that Magdalena had worked for relatives at Uebersheim (also known as Ibersheim estate, on the Rhine River eight miles north of Worms) after her parents died.

Johannes and Magdalena lived at Dreisen, and Johannes farmed a portion of the Herfingerhof estate. In History of the Mennonites of Butler County, Ohio William H. Grubb described their trip to America in 1830. Leaving the Pfalz, "They moved in a covered wagon through France to the harbor, expecting to take a ship to New Orleans and from there up the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers to Cincinnati."

Johannes and Magdalena had expected to board the bark Superior. OYER tells the story of the ship, and how it sailed from Le Havre in the first week of October 1830: "But when they reached the harbor the ship had gone, and they would have been obliged to wait five or six weeks before another sailed." Rather than wait for another ship bound for New Orleans, they chose to pay about 120 francs apiece to travel by a much more expensive mode of transportation: the square-rigged packet sailing ship De Rham, bound for Boston and New York.

At first glance, the passenger lists of the two ships suggest that they were distinct groups – the Superior passengers came from Moselle, the majority of the De Rham passengers from the Pfalz. Both groups had common acquaintances in Butler County. ENGEL suggests a connection between the Engel family and the Naffzigers.
THE PACKET SHIPS

The first packet service had been introduced in 1818 by Quaker merchants from New York as the Liverpool-New York Black Ball Line. The 'square-riggers on schedule' were the only ships to guarantee departures on specific dates. They ordinarily carried first-class passengers, mail, and light freight to east coast ports. Because typical packet ships were built for high seas and had deep vee hulls (good for speed, and keeping spray off the decks), they had difficulty sailing into the shallows of New Orleans. There the passengers had to be cross-decked onto flat-hulled steamships for the last few miles.

The Old Line sailing between New York and Le Havre was created by merchant Francis Depau. He was born at Bayonne, France and came to New York via Haiti. He established regular packet service to Le Havre in 1822, commissioning ships such as the 641-ton Sylvie de Grasse, christened after his wife in 1833, and the 595-ton Francis Depau, christened in his own honor the same year.

In 1830, the packets were the most dependable form of transportation. *Harper's New Monthly Magazine*, Volume 68, 1884: "The first line of Havre packets [called the Old Line] was founded by Fancis Depau about 1822, with the *Stephania*, Captain John B. Pell; the *Montano*, Captain Smith; the Henry IV, Captain William K. Skiddy; and the Helen Mar, Captain Harrison. Other early Havre packets were the *Cadmus*, Captain Allyn; Edward Quesnel, Captain E. Hawkins; Bayard, Captain Henry Robinson; Howard, Captain Holdredge; Edward Bonaffe, Captain James Funk; Queen Mab, Captain Butman; and Don Quixote, Captain James Clark [the Isaac Bell and Havre might be added to this list]. For most of these vessels, Crassous and Boyd were the agents - a firm which, under the name of Boyd and Hincken, had charge of the second line of Havre packets, which included the Charles Carroll, Erie, France, Utica, Oneida, William Tell, Baltimore, Mercury, and Rhone... The business of Frances Depau was continued by his sons-in-law, Fox and Livingston, who added to the old line the Sylvie de Grasse, Louis Philippe, and other ships. About the year 1832 William Whitlock. Jun. founded a third line, with the Albany, Duchess d'Orlans, Formosa, Gallia, Carolus Magnus, and other vessels."

Secretary of the Treasury Levi Woodbury endorsed the reliability of the packet ships when he chose them to transport the interest on a debt from the government of France to the United States in 1837 and 1838. Gold bars and gold 20-franc pieces from the firm Messrs. de Rothshchild, Freres were delivered to the Bank of America at New York by the Poland, Albany, Utica, Havre, Sally, and Burgundy. Their six shipments totaled $800,599. The modern equivalent in buying power would be approximately 21 million dollars; however, it has been calculated that the impact of a total loss at sea on the national economy in 1838 would have been equivalent to the loss of three billion dollars today.

The 492-ton packet ship *De Rham* was named after prominent merchant Henri Casimir De Rham of New York City. He was a Swiss consul to the United States 1832-1846. In 1832 he founded the Swiss Benevolent Society of New York to care for the poor and organize social events for Swiss immigrants in New York City.

Master Frederick A. De Peyster oversaw its construction in the shipyard Christian Bergh & Company in New York City in 1829, and its launching in 1830. He was a son of Augustus De Peyster, who John Jacob Astor had called his 'king of captains.' As a rule the packet captains also owned a share of the ship and received a percentage of freight and passage income. On the return trip following its maiden voyage *De Rham* departed the East English Channel March 25, 1830 with French and Swiss passengers, and arrived at New York April 11. Most packet crossings in summer took about 25 days.

On this voyage under master De Peyster *De Rham* departed Le Havre about Oct. 12, 1830. The distance between Le Havre and New York over the sea lanes is approximately 3,160 miles.

At least two passengers were already familiar with Ohio. Charles A. M. Damarin was born in Paris April 10, 1797. He arrived at New York with his father and brother May 2, 1817, and established a business at Gallipolis, Ohio. In 1830 he returned to France with a friend from Gallipolis named Augustin De Clercq. Damarin appears on the *De Rham* passenger list as "Mr. Charles Damarin, 33, Merchant, Galli Polis, Ohio" with his mother, sister, and De Clercq. According to a footnote to the article *Amish Emigration Through Le Havre: Two October 1830 Departures* by Verle C. Oyer and V. Gordon Oyer, published in the March 1992 issue of *Illinois Mennonite Heritage*, the Mabel Bertram Collection at the Mennonite Heritage Center in Germantown Hills mentions that Jacob Unzicker's ship reached land at Boston. Some passengers may have disembarked there, but unfortunately no passenger list survives from that event.

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158 Capt. De Peyster turned *De Rham* over to Capt. Louis Wiederholt the following year, and cross-decked to the *Havre* (see PETERSMITH). De Peyster later took part in a famous match race in rough weather. His packet ship *Columbus* was put up against the packet ship *Sheridan*, sailing from New York to Liverpool in February 1837. De Peyster won the $10,000 stake by reaching Liverpool in 16 days.

159 More information on Damarin can be found in *History of Scioto County*.

160 The European passengers aboard *De Rham* were probably unaware of many of the social issues that would affect their lives in America. At about the time of the ship's arrival, non-resistant social activist William Lloyd Garrison had just been
The National Archives holds a passenger list for a second disembarkation at New York on Sunday, Dec. 21. A number of the families later figured in the lives of Ropps and Stakers. The company also included the family of Magdalena's brother minister Jacob Naffziger (1798-1888) and Barbara Krehbiel (1796-1873); servant Peter Guth/Good (1806-1886) of the Ransbrunnerhof at Epffenbrunn in the Pfalz, who later married Susanna/Susan Oyer and lived at Washington, Tazewell County; blacksmith Jacob Unzicker (1808-1893) of Heckolzhausen, Nassau, later a deacon of the Dillon Creek meeting at Elm Grove; and Jacob Kinsinger (1792-after 1870, a brother of Johannes/John Kinsinger who came to Elm Grove in 1860) and his wife Marie Madeleine Augspurger (1788-1856), a sister of Christian Augspurger. Also onboard were wine merchant Jean Christian Dettweiler (1791-1842) and his second wife Anna Halther.

Grubb described their midwinter journey: "They bought horses, took their wagon from the ship and started over land to Ohio. When they reached Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, a great snow fell, and by the time they reached Lancaster City they could go no farther, as three feet of snow had fallen. 161 Here the city officials opened the Courthouse to give them shelter. There were thirty in the party, all from the old country, the Kennel family of eight, Smith, Unzicker family and others." The significant snowfall pegs the date of their arrival at Lancaster City as Wednesday, Dec. 29. A three-day blizzard blanketed the area until Friday, Dec. 31.

The De Rham party had ended up in what was later called the Deep Snow of 1830 (recall its effects in Illinois from ROPP).

Grubb: "A settlement of Mennonites near the city [Lancaster] heard of the party of Mennonites who were snowbound in the city and came out with three sleds and took them to their settlement, where they stayed until spring." Presumably that settlement was near the village of Columbia, about 14 miles west of Lancaster City on the Susquehanna River. The De Rham travelers must have carried a packet written by a New York news service, because a curiously relevant article appeared in The Columbia Spy and Literary Register Dec. 30: "Foreign News, From the New-York Spectator, Important from Europe: At last we have an arrival from France. At a late hour this morning intelligence was received that the packet ship De Rham, Depeyster, was below from Havre. At 12 o'clock we received a few loose Havre papers - our regular files have not yet reached us from the ship...We add such translations from the Havre papers as possess any interest."

In The Riddle of Amish Culture, Donald B. Kraybill estimates that the Lancaster Amish Mennonite community of 1830 would have consisted of no more than 150 adults. The number did not begin to increase substantially until a third congregation was formed in 1843, and a fourth in 1852. The group that took in the De Rham travelers were probably 'plain clothes Mennonites.' In Lancaster County today they outnumber Old Order Amish about 5-1 (15 percent of the population versus 3 percent).

The view of Europe from America only reinforced the fears of its recent immigrants. The newspapers carried by the De Rham party described Dutch troops putting down rebellion in the city of Antwerp ("the city was represented as being all in flames"), flags of rebellion flying in Spain, "great fermentation" in Poland, and the ouster of a cabinet minister in France. Other European crises that appeared in the Spy over the next few months included:

Jan. 6, 1831: "Foreign News from the New York Spectator, Reported War in Europe: The storm is fast gathering, and the muttering thunder begins to be heard in the distance. It may pass over without breaking forth; but the chances are more than two to one, that there will be a general war in Europe. We insert a letter, below, from Paris, Nov. 28th, which breathes nothing but war. A letter from the Emperor of Russia to the King of the French, of an insulting character, is referred to...If it is true that the autocrat has written such a letter, it is a dark omen...At all events, the indications are such that France is arming for a contest."

Feb. 17, 1831: "Alarming State of Paris: Business is at a stand; credit is annihilated, the functionaries are without money; the government without moral strength. The people whom you meet speak with distrust and suspicion, and now, for the first time, I hear, with horror and dismay, that the mass of the working classes – the men whom you hear were, in the justly glorious days of July, so nobly inspired with the principles of honor, glory, and law – must now be permitted to assassinate prisoners while on their trial, or at least, when a mitigated verdict shall have been pronounced...The shops were speedily shut, the National Guards everywhere were reinforced..."

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161 If the De Rham group disembarking at New York traveled on the arrival day Sunday, Dec. 21, and arrived at Lancaster City on the evening of Monday, the 29th, they would have averaged 17.2 miles per day over nine days and 155 miles of travel. This is consistent with accounts of fast overland travel during cold months, when mud ruts were no longer a problem for heavily-laden wagons. This may also explain descriptions of relatively quick winter trips from Moselle to Le Havre.
April 21, 1831: "Louis Philippe cannot sit long upon the tottering throne of France. He has all along so readily acceded to every demand of the mobs, and has shown himself so eager withal to giving in his adhesion to their terms, that they are fully conscious of his weakness."

In the spring the De Rham party traveled 150 miles west of Columbia to reach the federally-funded National Road above Cumberland, Maryland. After another 155 miles they arrived at Wheeling, West Virginia on the Ohio River. Grubb: "They then sailed down the Ohio to Cincinnati, reaching there in April 1831, then by wagon to Butler County, where Rev. Peter Naffziger, a brother of Mrs. Kennel, lived."

Johannes died at Trenton, Butler County, Ohio Aug. 27, 1831. He is buried in Collinsville Cemetery.

Butler County records show that as a widow Magdalena (Naffziger) Kennel purchased one-fourth of a 187-acre tract north of the Greater Miami River for $657 cash July 4, 1832. She remarried, becoming the third wife of Johannes/John Holly Feb. 23 or 28, 1834. He died of typhoid fever in Butler County June 9, 1835. She eventually joined the family of her daughter Katharina at Morton.

The 1850 census of Tazewell County shows farmer Peter Hunsucker [Unzicker], 36, Germany; Catherine [Katharina Kennel], 28, Germany; Augustus, 10 months, Illinois; Lana Kendel [Magdalena Kennel], 50, Germany; and John, 19, Germany.

_Herald of Truth_, March 1873: "February 14th in Tazewell County, Ill., Magdalena Kennel, aged 81 years, 8 months, and 23 days. This aged sister in the Amish Mennonite Church has been a faithful follower of Jesus for 67 years and remained firm unto the end. She leaves 6 children, 34 grand-children and 28 great-grand-children. The burial was to have taken place on the 16th, but owing to the heavy rain it was deferred until the following day, however, as a considerable number of persons were assembled there were services at the house. Interred the 17th. Funeral services by Peter Gingerich, Peter E. Stucky, and Joseph Unzicker." She is buried in Hirstein Cemetery at Morton.

Children of Johannes Kennel and Magdalena Nafziger born on the Münsterhof at Dreisen include:

1. Magdalena Kennel was born March 9, 1811, and died in Butler County Oct. 12, 1902. On Aug. 9, 1831 in Butler County she married Joseph Augspurger. He was born at Ixheim by Zweibrücken March 17, 1806, and died in Butler County Jan. 29, 1864, the oldest child of Christian Augspurger and Katharina Hauter. They appear on the 1850 census of Wayne as Joseph Augspurger, 32, France; Magdalena, 39; and eight children.

2. Peter Kennel was born April 9, 1813, and died Feb. 27, 1896. On May 14, 1839 in Butler County he married Susanna Iutzi. The ceremony was performed by minister Peter Naffziger; a civil entry was created Aug. 21, 1839, calling her ‘Suzanne Jutzi.’ (her surname is found on German records with a ’J’, in America with an ’I’). She was born on the Mittelhof at Felsberg, Kurhessen Jan. 9, 1819, and died in Butler County Oct. 3, 1904, a daughter of Christian Iutzi and Marie Sommer. Peter became an elder of the Butler County Hessian congregation in 1847. When his father-in-law Christian Iutzi died in 1857, he purchased his substantial home, the Mittelhof at Madison. A _Historical and Biographical Cyclopaedia of Butler County, Ohio._ "Mr. Kennel first settled in Milford Township, remaining there but a short time. He then moved to St. Clair Township, and then on what is known as the Hagerman farm, where he stayed about fifteen years. He finally moved on the farm called the Snider farm, in Madison Township, where he has since resided. He has increased his worldly store until he now owns six hundred acres of as fine land as there is in the county, all lying in Madison Township." _Christlicher Bundeshote_, March 12, 1896 (translation): "On Feb. 29 numerous observers attended the funeral of the elder Peter Kennel at Trenton, Ohio. Brother Imhoff spoke in German from _Psalms 90:10_ and Brother Krehbiel in English from _Philippians 1:21_ and German from _Hebrews 42:17_. Kennel was born at Dreisen, Rhine Bavaria April 9, 1813. In 1829 [1830] he came with his parents to America, where they found a new homeland in Butler County. He married 18 June 1839; his wife survives. Their marriage was blessed with eight children, of whom only one survives. The most recent died only last month. In the year 1846 he was selected to be a minister by his congregation. He attended to his responsibilities despite difficulty, because he always had a deep interest in the well-being of his community. On Feb. 19 he sickened from lung fever, and passed away gently on the 27th. Thus his age was 82 years, 10 months and 14 days. He leaves the widow, one son, two brothers, two sisters, 20 grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren, together with many friends and acquaintances."

3. Barbara Kennel was born June 1, 1815, and died at Morton Dec. 3, 1892.

4. Johannes/John ‘Little John’ Kennel was born Sept. 15, 1817, and died at Trenton, Butler County May 1, 1914. On March 10, 1843 (per the civil entry; the diary of Christian Iutzi says March 7) he married Emelie/Amelia Iutzi. The ceremony was performed by minister ‘Apostle Peter’ Naffziger, and a civil entry calling her ‘Emilie Jutzi’ was created March 27, 1843. She was born on the Mittelhof at Felsberg, Kurhessen Jan. 9, 1822, and died June 16, 1902, a daughter of Christian Iutzi and Marie Sommer. They appear on the 1850 census of St. Clair as John Kennel, 34, Germany; Amelia, 28; and three children.

5. Jakob Kennel was born in 1820, and died as an infant. They are buried in the Mennonite Cemetery at Trenton.

6. Jakob/Jacob Kennel was born Nov. 16, 1821, and died at Washington March 22, 1909. In 1849 Jakob/Jacob returned to Europe. He brought back his cousin Katharina 'Kate' Kennel and her husband Johannes/John Unzicker, his cousin
Killian Kennel, and Jacob Hauter. They sailed from Le Havre on the Radius, and arrived at New Orleans Dec. 27, 1849. On Feb. 26, 1854 in Tazewell County he married Katharina 'Katie' Garber; the ceremony was performed by minister Andrew Ropp. She was born in Ohio April 8, 1833, and died at Washington June 24, 1911, a daughter of John Garber and Eva Caroline Paithé. They are buried in Hirstein Cemetery at Morton.

Katharina Kennel was born Oct. 1, 1822 (the date on her headstone), and died Jan. 11, 1898. In December of 1848 she married Peter Unzicker. He was born on the Offental estate at Sankt Goarshausen, Nassau-Weilburg June 1, 1816, and died Feb. 19, 1881, a son of Jakob Unzicker and Elizabeth Jordy. They are buried in Hirstein Cemetery at Morton.

Barbara Kennel was born on the Münsterhof at Dreisen June 1, 1815, and died at Morton Dec. 3, 1892. On Aug. 7, 1843 in Butler County she married Johann/John Oswald. The ceremony was performed by minister 'Apostle Peter' Naffziger, and a civil entry was created Oct. 4, 1843. Johann/John Oswald was born at Lich, Hesse June 8, 1812, a son of Johannes Oswald and Anna. It is eight miles southeast of the university town of Giessen, and adjacent to Albach and the Albacherhof, where Bremenen and Güngerich families lived. We found no familiar surnames in records at Lich or Albach, suggesting the Anabaptist entries were kept in a separate register. The landgraviate of Hesse-Darmstadt had become the Grand Duchy of Hesse and Rhine in 1806, though its residents continued to call it by the old name.

His 1890 obituary said he was born in Oberhessen in 1812. Oberhessen or Upper Hesse referred to the southernmost lands in the Landgraviate of Hesse. It became one of three provinces in the Grand Duchy of Hesse, the only one north of the River Main, and had its capital at Giessen. Oberhessen would not describe the town of Darmstadt, which was the capital of the more southerly province of Starkenburg.

Johann/John sailed from Bremen and arrived at Baltimore on the Hessian Mennonite voyage of 1832. The passenger list described him as 'Johann Oswald, 24,' though he was actually only 19 years of age.

Facts About Johann/John Oswald

1. Johannes Ramseyer and Verena/Fanny Liechti (who had earlier married minister Johannes/Hans Schlunegger). On Feb. 5, 1848 in Butler County she remarried to Jacob P. Schmidt (see RAMSEYER for background on her family, and PETERSMITH for her obituary).

Second, the brig Ulysses sailed from Bremen and arrived at New York July 6, 1835. The passenger list holds farmer Christ Oswald, 33; Maria, 30; Anna, 63; Hanna, 10; and Jacob, 38. The list states that the party came from Lich. We found no further definite record of Christ, Maria, or Hanna. However, they may have been the 'Christian Oswalt' household found on the 1840 census of Lemon, Butler County: one male in the 50-59 age range; one male 40-49; one male 30-39; one male 10-14; and one female 60-69.

Anna Oswald of the Ulysses died Oct. 19, 1853. She was buried in Herstein Cemetery near the farm Johann/John Oswald shared with his wife Barbara Kennel. Anna's headstone says she was born May 24, 1772, and that she was the wife of Johannes Oswald. We presume they were the parents of Johann/John.

Johann Oswald of the Ulysses was born June 16, 1797, and died July 20, 1872 (headstone date). He is buried near Anna and Johann/John and Barbara Kennel in Hirstein Cemetery. Gospel Herald, August 1872: "On the 21st of July, in

162 The early Oswald family is described in Julius Billeter's Genealogical Record of the Oswald Family of Oberhofen-Hilterfingen, Canton Bern, Switzerland circa 1470-1911.

163 There is a misconception that Johann/John Oswald was born at Detmold in the Principality of Lippe. The error originates from the household of his son John Kennel Oswald on the 1880 census of Morton. The completed census makes it look like the son gave the same incorrect birth place – Detmold – for both of his parents. It is probable that 'Lippe' or Detmold in Lippe simply reflect’s the son’s confusion over the exact location of Lich. Detmold was the capitol of the principality of Lippe, adjacent to the Grand Duchy of Hesse. It was dissolved in 1918 and absorbed into the German state of North Rhine-Westphalia. There is another possibility: the fault lay not with the son or his wife but in a sloppy transcription by the census taker (from his notes to the completed list). The errors are contradicted on the very next entry, where Johann/John Oswald and Barbara Kennel gave their own information.
McLean Co., Jacob Oswald, aged 75 years. He was unmarried, and a member of the Mennonite church over 50 years. Interred in the presence of many friends and acquaintances. He lay sick seven years from the fracture of a bone in the leg. Sermon by Daniel Roth, and Jacob Unzicker at the house, and by Peter B. Stuckey at the grave." We assume that this was a brother to Johann/John.

The burials in Hirstein Cemetery, and the presence of Jacob in the household of Johann/John Oswald and Barbara Kennel in 1850, suggest that this was Johann/John's family (mother and older brother, with Christ as another brother or cousin).

In 1849 the couple brought two sons to a new home at Morton. They lived next door to abolitionist Uriah Crosby, and must have been aware of his activities as a conductor on the Underground Railroad.

Their household appears on the 1850 census of Tazewell County as farmer John Oswald, 37, Germany; Barbara, 30, Germany; John, 6, Ohio; Wm., 3, Ohio; laborer Edward Foight, 36, Germany; and Jacob Oswald (likely Johann/John's older brother), 52, Germany, occupation 'none.'

The family appears on the 1855 Illinois State Census; the 1860 census of Morton shows John Oswald, 48, Germany; Barbara, 45, Germany; John, 15, Ohio; Rudolph, 5, Illinois; Helena, 3, Illinois; and Henry Auxberger, 11, France. Jacob appears as a 63-year-old in the household of next door neighbor Samuel Herstein.

The 1864 plat map of Morton shows the farm of 'J. Oswald.' Tax lists from this time frame show that John raised hogs and other livestock.

The 1880 census of Morton shows retired farmer John Oswald, 67, born in Hesse-Darmstadt to parents from Darmstadt; Barbara, 63, born in Bavaria to Bavarian parents; farmer Rudolph, 25, Illinois; Lena, 22, Illinois; and servant John Seiderkorn, 13, born in Illinois to French parents.

Johann/John Oswald died at Morton Sept. 15, 1890 (headstone date). His obituary appeared in Christlicher Bundesbote, the German-language publication of the Central Conference Mennonite Church, Oct. 2, 1890: "On Sept. 17 at Washington, Illinois, Johannes Oswald. The deceased was born in 1812 in Oberhessen, Germany, and emigrated to America in 1832. He leaves a grieving wife, two sons, and a daughter, who are bereaved."

Barbara Kennel died Dec. 3, 1892. Herald of Truth, January 1893: "On the 3rd of December 1892, Barbara Oswald, maiden name Kennel, aged 77 years, six months and two days. She was born in Bavaria, Germany, came with her parents to America in 1829, then settling in Butler Co., Ohio. On the 20th of August, 1849, she was united in matrimony with John Oswald. They afterward moved to Morton, Tazewell Co., Ill. She leaves two sons, one daughter, two brothers and two sisters and many friends to mourn their loss. Her remains were laid to rest on the 6th in the Herstein graveyard. Funeral services by Emanuel Hartman in English from 1 Phil. 1:21 and by David Augsburger and Michael Kinsinger in German from Rev. 14:13."

Children of Johann/John Oswald and Barbara Kennel include:

1. John Kennel Oswald was born in Butler County, Ohio Dec. 6, 1844, and died in the home of his daughter Lena at Aurora, Nebraska May 14, 1938. On March 17, 1870 in Peoria County he married Verena 'Fanny' Roth. She was born in Switzerland April 1, 1852, and died at Aurora Oct. 11, 1934, a daughter of Benedict Roth and Catherine Lauber. They appear on the 1880 census of Morton with five children born in Illinois. They relocated to Hamilton, Hamilton County, Nebraska in 1888 (Hamilton is adjacent to Aurora). The 1900 census of Hamilton has John K. Oswald, 55, born in Ohio in Dec. 1845 to German parents; Verena, born in Switzerland in April 1852 to a French father and German mother, and eight children born in Illinois, with others living nearby. The 1903 Hamilton County Atlas shows John K. Oswald as the owner of 279 acres in Section 3. The 1920 census states that Verena immigrated in 1869 and was naturalized in November 1870. John K., 85, and Verene, 78, appear in the household of their daughter Lena, 45, on the 1930 census of Aurora.

2. Wilhelm Oswald was born in Butler County Aug. 27, 1847, and died at Morton Oct. 31, 1850. He is buried in Hirstein Cemetery.

3. Rudolph Oswald was born at Morton Dec. 13, 1854, and died there June 9, 1936. On Jan. 1, 1885 in Tazewell County he married Julia Ann Brenneman. She was born in Butler County June 6, 1856, and died at Deer Creek Aug. 7, 1940, a daughter of Jakob/Jacob Brenneman and Jakobine/Jacoline Jutzi. They are buried in Hirstein Cemetery.

4. Magdalena 'Lena' Oswald was born at Morton in 1857, and died in 1942. On Feb. 21, 1884 in Tazewell County she married John Garber. He was born at Elm Grove in 1856, and died Aug. 29, 1937, a son of Emanuel 'Man' Garber and Frances 'Fanny' Switzer. They are buried in Glendale Cemetery.

Kennel of St. Avold

Christian Schmitt/Smith was born Jan. 21, 1802 at Zimming, a tiny village seven miles west of St. Avold, Moselle. He was a son of Christian Schmitt and Barbe Guingerich. His story is told in SMITH, THE SMITHS OF ZIMMING AND WORTH.
He may have had a sister, though a birth entry could not be found in records created at Zimming or Bisping. Marie Schmitt (later Mary Smith) was born circa 1800, and died at Worth in May of 1871, according to *Past and Present of Woodford County*. She married a son of Pierre Kennel and Catherine Schertz.

**Jean/John Kennel** was born at St. Avold, Moselle Aug. 5, 1803 (despite a headstone saying he was born in September 1803, one biography describing him as an Alsatian, and another placing his birth at Strasbourg). He died in November (headstone) or Dec. 18 (biography), 1888, and is buried in Roanoke Mennonite Cemetery in Woodford County.

John first came to Ohio, and then to Illinois in 1833. C. Henry Smith in *The Mennonites of America*: "In 1833 several additions were made to the Partridge settlement. Christian Engle (sic), father of John, Peter Engle and several Engle sisters, John and Joe Birklar settled near Metamora [then called Hanover]. 'Black' Joe Belsley, Christian Smith, and John Kennel located near Spring Bay. To the Wesley City colony were added this year Peter Guth, John Sweitzer, and Joseph Summer."

A dubious biography in *Portrait and Biographical Album of Woodford County* (1889) says: "John Kennel, an Alsatian by birth, was a prominent and well-known pioneer of this section of Illinois in the early days of its settlement, and while engaged in the accumulation of a handsome property he was an important factor in the development of the wonderful agricultural resources of this region, and thus helped promote the material prosperity of the county."

We also found: "The father of our subject [John] was born near Strasburg, in the German province of Alsace, which France ceded to Germany after the close of the Franco-Prussian war. He received a very good education in the public schools, and continued to reside in his native land till he had attained manhood. He then came to the United States, ambitious to see something of life and to improve his fortunes. He first located in Ohio, and though a stranger in a strange land, his only capital good health, a fine physique, and indomitable energy, he soon found work, commencing his life on American soil by working out as a farm hand, receiving eight dollars a month and his board. After working about for a time he concluded to come further west, where he could secure cheap lands and have a better chance to build up a home, and in 1830 he made his appearance in Illinois, and located in what is now Worth Township, Woodford County. He made a claim to a tract of timbered land, the land roundabout here then being owned by the Government, and the most of it in its native condition... by years of hard labor he not only improved a valuable farm, but bought more land, and accumulated a handsome fortune. He lived on his farm for many years till 1871, when he came to live with our subject [his son Peter] and made his home with him till his death Dec. 18, 1888. His wife had died on the old homestead in Worth Township many years before."

The *Illinois Public Land Tract Sales Database* indicates that John Kennel purchased parcels of 80 and 67.5 acres at $1.25 per acre in Section 23, Township 27N Jan. 26, 1836. 164 He purchased another 80 acres in Section 14 Oct. 15, 1840.

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164 Only a week later Pierre/Peter Kennel, a younger brother to Jean/John, purchased two parcels of 80 acres apiece for $1.25 per acre in Section 3, Township 27N and Section 29, Township 28N.

Some sources such as *Past and Present of Woodford County* (1878) erroneously assumed that Jean/John's son Peter was a son of this older Pierre/Peter, calling them Peter Sr. and Peter Jr. This was an understandable error, since the uncle and nephew settled in Sections 3 and 5 of Worth Township.

Pierre/Peter Kennel was born at Assenoncourt, Moselle April 17, 1816 (the 10-year index of civil entries calls him 'Pierre Quenelle'), and died at Metamora Nov. 13, 1885. On Jan. 16, 1844 in Woodford County he married Catherine Bachmann. She was born July 16, 1821, and died Jan. 3, 1871, a daughter of André Bachmann/Andrew Baughman and Lisbeth/Elizabeth Behr. Catherine had an illegitimate child David Bachmann born at Haberacker, Reinhardsmunster May 10, 1838; the birth entry described her as a domestic at Haberacker, and was witnessed by her grandfather Heinrich/Henry. The 1860 census of Worth, Woodford County shows farmer Peter Kennel, 42, France; Catherine, 37, France; and Peter Gingery, 11, Illinois. (This was likely the one-year-old Peter Gingery found in the household of Joseph Gingrey and Mary on the 1850 census of District 56/Woodford County). The 1865 state census shows Peter Kennel as the head of a household in Worth Township, consisting of a male and female in the 40-49 age brackets. After Catherine's death Peter apparently made a 'caregiver' marriage arrangement with a much younger woman. Barbara W. was born in France Oct. 8, 1842, and died Sept. 25, 1888. The 1880 census of Metamora shows Peter and Barbara in two places. The first set of entries shows dwelling #63/family #65 Margaret Springer, 65, mother, Prussia; Lissy Springer, 20, daughter, Prussia; dwelling 64/family 66 farmer Peter Kennel, 62; brain fever, France; and Barbara W., 38, France. The second set of entries shows the four individuals living in the same dwelling: dwelling #280, family #293 retired farmer Peter Kennel, 62, France; wife Barbara W., 37, France; and family #294 widow Margretha Springer, 65, France; and Elisabeth, 19, France. Peter, Catherine, and Barbara are buried in Hickory Point Cemetery at Metamora. Catherine and Barbara's headstones both identify them as wives of Peter Kennel.
Their household appears next door to that of Christian Smith on the 1850 census of Woodford County: John Kendle, 48, France; Mary, 50, France; and Peter, 16, Illinois. The households listed immediately after theirs belonged to John Gascho [found as Cartshaw], Jacob Donner, and Joseph Belsley.

John and Mary are also found next door to the Smiths in 1860 and 1870. John appears on the 1880 census of Roanoke as a 77-year-old widower, born in Lorraine, in the household of his son Peter Kennel, 46, born in Illinois to parents from Lorraine, and Anna [Schertz], 43, born in Lorraine.

John is buried in Roanoke Mennonite Cemetery as 'John Kennell.' Part of the original wooden marker is embedded in his headstone.

Their son Peter Kennel/Kennell was born in Tazewell County (in a part that would become Woodford County) July 3, 1833, and died July 28, 1915. He is buried in Roanoke Mennonite Cemetery as 'Peter Kennell.'

On April 8, 1857 he married Anne Madeleine Schertz. She was born March 24, 1838, and died at Roanoke April 8, 1909, a daughter of Peter Schertz and his first wife Magdalena Zehr. Portrait and Autobiographical Album of Woodford County (1889): "Mrs. Kennel was born in France, about 1837, but when she was an infant her parents, Peter and Magdalena Schertz, brought her to the United States. They settled in Worth Township [Section 3], where her father bought a tract of timber land, and improved a good farm, on which he and his wife spent their remaining years."

Peter Kennel is also described in Portrait and Autobiographical Album of Woodford County: "... He is the proprietor of 1,490 acres of land in Roanoke and Linn townships, besides tracts of land in Kansas and Nebraska, inheriting considerable real estate from his father. Our subject has not gained his wealth by being penurious, as he is very liberal, devoting much money to charitable objects, and giving material aid to every enterprise for the benefit of his township or county, while his children have had every advantage afforded by a good education in the public schools... Mr. Kennel was married April 8, 1856 to Miss Annie Schertz, and to them six children were born, five of whom are now living."

For Anne Madeleine's obituary see SCHERTZ, THE SCHERTZ FAMILY OF OBERSTINZEL.

Christian Kennel was born circa 1808, served in the French army, and immigrated in 1842. On June 9, 1844 in Woodford County he married Magdalena/Magdeleine Engel, the widow of Joseph Kempf/Camp. The ceremony was performed by justice of the peace John Gentry. They lived at Worth. For information on this couple see ENGEL and CAMP.
Unzicker of Wörth

In the Bernese dialect a Hunzinger is a dog handler. However, the surname 'Unzicker' is thought to stem from the village of Hunzicken in the Aargau region of Switzerland. In the 1600s the region followed all mandates of the city-state of Bern, and persecuted its Anabaptists with equal fervor. In 1720 Bachmanns and Haury became the last extended families to depart. By 1726 authorities confidently agreed that not one Anabaptist remained in the land.

Emigrants settling in the Alsace region after 1670 either adapted to their new surroundings by muting the 'h' pronunciation, or saw the letter dropped in the records of French-speaking officials. Hermann Guth cites Swiss sources when he writes that, "...Two brothers named Hunzicker, as very young men, came to the Palatinate [Pfalz] in the 1670s with their father and grandfather as Anabaptist refugees. One brother then probably became the progenitor of the Mennonite (and later protestant) Hunzickers/Hunzingers in the Kraichgau and in Mannheim and Krefeld in Germany. At least two Alsatian (and therefore Amish) Unzicker branches are descended from the other brother; the beginning letter was dropped in France, where it was not pronounced."

Hermann Guth's *Amish Mennonites in Germany* is the best source for information on the history of this family in Europe. Guth draws a line down from Joseph Unzicker and Maria Stauffer. They were associated with Wörth, in what is now Lower Alsace.

Their son Peter Unzicker was born in Alsace May 15, 1740, and died at Gräveneck, Nassau-Weilburg Dec. 17, 1800. He married Katharina Holly, a daughter of Jacob/Jakob Holly and his second wife Maria Kurtz of Mühlhofen. She died on the Offental estate at Sankt Goarshausen, Nassau-Weilburg.

Nassau-Weilburg was a princely domain far north of Alsace. One reached it by traveling north (downstream) on the Rhine River, beyond the Upper and Lower Pfalz on the west bank and Hesse-Darmstadt on the east.

In 1775 the chancellor for Prince Carl Christian of Nassau-Weilburg visited a royal property, the Münsterhof estate at Dreisen in the Pfalz. It was leased by Amish Mennonites. The chancellor was so impressed by their progressive methods that he commissioned farm manager David Holly to find families willing to come to Nassau-Weilburg. His proposal offered generous 12-year leases on princely estates, on the condition that the lesors cultivate underdeveloped acreage and share their knowledge with neighboring landowners.

Four family heads accepted the arrangement: Peter Unzicker of Wörth, Johannes Nafziger of Alsace, Peter Schantz of Alsace, and Peter Schwarzentruber/Schwarzentraub/Schwartztaub. Peter Unzicker brought several brothers who also claimed properties. According to Guth, Holly received a 200 Gulden reward from the chancellor.

The Unzicker family settled on a princely estate at Gräveneck, and remained there until at least 1806. The village is 13 miles northeast of the larger community Limburg an der Lahn, downstream on the Lahn River.

Peter Unzicker
Morton

One of the sons of Peter Unzicker and Katharina Holly was Jakob Unzicker. Jakob was born at Gräveneck in 1781. In 1807 at Trippstadt he married Elizabeth Jordy of the Wilensteinerhof; she was a daughter of Jakob Jordy and his first wife Magdalena Imhof. The French-language civil marriage entry described the groom as Jacques Unsicker, 26, living at Grebeneckerhof, son of Catherine Unsicker born Hollin and Pierre Unsicker, who had died at Greveneckerhof Nov. 15, 1800. The bride was described as Elisabeth Jorde, 22, born and living on the Wilensteinerhof, daughter of farmer Jacob Jorde and Magdalena Imhof, who had died Feb. 13, 1794. Witnesses included farmer uncle-of-the-groom Georg Unsicker, 47, living on the Hortherhof estate at Heiligenmoschel; uncle-of-the-bride farmer Christian Imhof, 50, of Wilenstein; farmer Jean Imhof, 46, of Wilenstein; and Gaspard [Caspar] Schantz, living on the Wachenhof at Idstein.

Jakob and Elizabeth leased the Offental estate at Sankt Goarshausen after 1813.

Their son Peter Unzicker was born on the Offental estate June 1, 1816 (Wiesbaden appears as his birthplace on the 1880 census, but this may have simply been the nearest well-known city; Wiesbaden is about 24 miles southeast of Sankt Goarshausen). He may have been the 24-year-old Peter Unsieger of Nassau found on the

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165 In the Bernese dialect a Hunzinger is a dog handler.
166 Nassau-Weilburg was represented at the Essingen assembly of ministers in 1779 by Peter Schantz and Johannes Nafziger.
passenger list of the Argo as it arrived at New York from Le Havre May 24, 1841. (This voyage also brought a group made up of Joders, Liechtys, Zimmermans, and an Aeschliman; see ZIMMERMAN for the way they appeared on the passenger list). He arrived in Butler County, Ohio in October of 1847.


In December of 1848 he married Katharina/Catherine Kennel. She was born at Dreisen Oct. 1, 1822, a daughter of Johannes Kennel and Magdalena Naffziger (Magdalena was a sister to ‘Apostle Peter’ Naffziger). She had immigrated with her family on the De Rham in 1830, appearing on the passenger list as ‘Catherine, 5’ (see KENNEL for details of the journey; see NAFFZIGER for more on the family). The following summer the couple settled at Morton.

The 1850 census of unincorporated Tazewell County shows farmer Peter Hunsucker, 36, Germany; Catherine, 28, Germany; Augustin, 10 months, Illinois; Lana Kendel [Magdalena Kennel], 50, Germany; and John [Kennel], 19, Germany.

Peter was naturalized at Pekin Aug 25, 1856.

The family appears on the 1860 census of Morton as farmer Peter Unsenker, 44, Germany; Catharine, 28, Germany; August, 10, Illinois; Magdelin, 9, Illinois; Anna Eliza, 5; and laborer Louis Greene, 25, Germany. The 1864 plat map shows ‘P. Unzicker’ living on a Morton farm on the boundary line with Groveland, and holding additional woodland in the northwest corner of Morton above the Staker, Roth, and Roberts farms. The 1870 census of Morton shows farmer Peter Unsicker, 56; Catharine, 45; Augusta [August], 26; Magdalena, 19; Amelia [Emilie], 16; Magdalena Kennel, 79; farm laborer Benedict Hauger, 38; and Julia [Julius] Unsicker, 26 [6]. The 1880 census of Morton shows farmer Peter Unsicker, 64; Catherine, 54; and son Julius, 16 [daughter Julia, 16], born in Illinois to a father from Wiesbaden and a mother from Bavaria.

The family would travel as much as 12 miles by carriage to attend services with various congregations.

Peter Unzicker died Feb. 19, 1881. Katharina/Catherine Kennel died Jan. 11, 1898. They are buried in Hirstein Cemetery at Morton. Their children born at Morton include:

1. August K. Unzicker was born Sept. 25, 1849, and died at Roanoke, Woodford County Sept. 27, 1939. On Dec. 10, 1870 in Tazewell County he married Elizabeth Birky.168 She was born Dec. 25, 1847, and died April 13, 1898, a daughter of John Birkey (‘Big Birkeys’) and Elizabeth Birky (‘Little Red Birkys’). They were buried in Roanoke Mennonite Cemetery. Gospel Herald, November 1939: "Unzicker. - August, son of Peter and Katherine Unzicker, was born near Morton, Ill., Sept. 25, 1849; died at the home of his son (S. E. Unzicker), Roanoke, Ill., Sept. 27, 1939, after an illness of seven weeks; aged 90 y. 2 d. On Dec. 20, 1870, he was united in marriage with Elizabeth Birkey. To this union were born seven sons and six daughters. He was preceded in death by his wife, three sons (Daniel, John, and August), also two daughters (Emma and Elizabeth). There remain four sons (Oscar and Peter of Low Point, Samuel E. of Roanoke, and Julius of Morocco, Ind.), also four daughters (Mrs. Val Springer of Foosland, Mrs. Frank Welts of Caenovia, Mrs. Prosper Heppard of Roanoke, and Mrs. Andrew Ulrich of Shelbyville), 64 grandchildren, 116 great-grandchildren, one brother (Julius of Foosland), and a host of other relatives and friends. He received Christ in his youth and for the past eleven years held his membership in the East Bend Mennonite Church of Fisher, Ill. Funeral services were conducted at the Roanoke Mennonite Church with J. A. Heiser of Fisher, Ill., in charge. Text, Psalms 23. Burial in the Roanoke Cemetery."

2. Magdalene Unzicker was born Dec. 25, 1850, and died at Aurora, Nebraska Feb. 8, 1914. On Feb. 21, 1871 in Tazewell County she married Andrew Oesch; the ceremony was performed by minister Joseph Stuckey. Andrew was born at Elm Grove Dec. 16, 1848, and died Jan. 23, 1940. They can be found on the 1880 census of Indiantown, Bureau County as farmer Andrew Oesch, 33, born in Illinois to German parents; Magdalena, 29, born in Illinois to German parents; Ella L., 7; Lena E., 6; and Alma E., 3; all children born in Illinois; and the first minister of Willow Springs Mennonite Church (his deacon was Christian Zehr). They moved to Aurora, Nebraska in 1888, and can be found on the 1910 census of Aurora as Andrew Oesch, 61, born in Illinois to German parents; and Maggie, 59, born in Illinois to German parents. After Magdalene's death Andrew lived with daughter Anna and a Hochstetttler son-in-law at Upland, Calif. (1920), then at Long Beach, Calif. (age 81 in 1930). They are buried in Hirstein Cemetery at Morton.

167 The same issue shows a photo of Peter and his family.

168 This date is confirmed by the Illinois Statewide Marriage Index.
3. Amalie/Amelia Unzicker was born May 10, 1854, and died July 22, 1935.\(^{169}\) She married John S. Sommer. He was born Oct. 12, 1849, and died March 24, 1935, a son of John Sommer and Barbara Schertz. They lived at Elm Grove.

4. Julius K. Unzicker was born July 18, 1864, and died March 21, 1961. On May 3, 1887 in Tazewell County he married Maria/Mary Oesch. She was born at Tremont July 16, 1869, and died at Foosland, Champaign County Dec. 21, 1928, a daughter of Christian Oesch and his second wife Mary Abersole.\(^{4}\) "Unzicker, Julius, son of Peter and Katharina (Kenell) Unzicker, was born July 18, 1864, at Morton, Ill.; died March 21, 1961, at Fisher, Ill.; aged 96 y. 8 m. 3 d. On May 3, 1887, he was married to Mary Oesch, who died Dec. 21, 1928. Surviving are five sons (Otto, Arthur, Walter, Ezra, and Roy, all of Fisher). He was a member of the East Bend Church, where funeral services were held March 23, in charge of J. A. Heiser and J. Alton Horst."\(^{169}\) "Maria (Oesch) Unzicker, wife of Julius Unzicker and daughter of Christian and Mary Oesch, was born July 16, 1869, near Tremont, Ill.; died Dec. 21, 1928, at her home near Foosland, Ill.; aged 59 y. 5 m. 5 d. On May 21 [3], 1887, she was united in marriage to Julius Unzicker of near Pekin, Ill. This union was blessed with five sons, all living at and near her home. At the age of 17 years she accepted Christ as her personal Savior and united with the East Washington Mennonite Church, and during her last sickness again renewed her covenant with her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and united with the East Bend Mennonite Church near Fisher, Ill. She gave every evidence, and her own testimony that she was at peace with God and her fellowman, ready to depart to be with her Christ. She leaves a sorrowing husband, five sons, nine grandchildren, two sisters besides many relatives and friends. Six brothers and four sisters have preceded her in death. Funeral services were held at the East Bend Church Dec. 24, with Bros. Joseph Heiser of Fisher, Ill., and Allen H. Miller of Pekin, Ill. in charge."

**Jacob Unzicker**

*Elm Grove, Cousin to Peter Unzicker of Morton*

Another son of Peter Unzicker and Katharina Holly was Peter Unzicker. He was born at Gräveneck and became a leaseholder at Heckholzhausen, located eight miles to the east. His wife could not be identified. Children of Peter Unzicker include:

1. Elizabeth 'Barbara' Unzicker was born in 1800, and died on the Eichelscheiderhof near Waldmohr in the Pfalz April 6, 1873. She married Peter Schantz. He was born on the Rotherhof estate at Idstein, Nassau-Weilburg Feb. 24, 1797; he died on Hofgut Langweisen at Montabaur Feb. 11, 1835, a son of Peter Schantz and Elise Unzicker. On May 16, 1840 she remarried to Christian Heinemann. He was born at Gommerscheid, a neighborhood of Neuwied in 1805, and died on the Krayerhof at Andernach (next to Neuwied) in 1863, a son of Georg Heinemann and Christine Schlabach (this couple leased an estate in Gommerscheid at Neuwied on the north side of the Rhine River, then the Krayerhof at Andernach on the opposite side). The Heinemann family from the estate Langenau near Siegen became Mennonite after a marriage in 1771.

2. Johann Unzicker was born in 1805, and died at Steedebach, Hesse (16 miles above Giessen) in 1863.

3. **Jacob Unzicker** was born at Heckholzhausen April 17, 1808.

4. Peter Unzicker was born in 1811, and died on the Krayerhof at Andernach Dec. 25, 1875. He married Hélène Heinemann. She was born at Ründeroth (now in the state of Rhein-Westphalia), and died on the Alkerhof at Brohl (five miles upriver from Andernach) Feb. 14, 1902, a daughter of Jakob Heinemann and Jakobina Detweiler. After Peter's death, Hélène remarried to Christian Siemeister.

**Jacob Unzicker** was born at Heckholzhausen April 17, 1808. The story of his October 1830-April 1831 journey from Le Havre to Butler County, Ohio is told in the account of the packet ship *De Rham* in KENNEL. The *De Rham* passenger list shows him as a 25-year-old blacksmith bound for the United States.

In 1837 Jacob married Marie Krehbiel in Butler County. She was born at Darmstadt, Hesse Aug. 5, 1814. Within a year or two they resettled in Peoria County, then Tazewell County.

Jacob appears on the 1840 census of Tazewell County, living next door to 'Andrew Rowp' (minister Andrew Ropp, later elder of the Dillon Creek meeting and Pleasant Grove Amish Mennonite Church). The census page shows a household with one male checked off in the 30-40 age column; one female checked off in the 20-30 age column; and one female checked off in the under 5 age column.

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\(^{169}\) Many Amish Mennonites were sympathetic to Maria Amalia/Marie Amalie, the wife of Duke Karl II August von Pfalz-Birkenfeld-Zweibrücken Zweibrücken. The duke was a Wittelsbach, the family that hosted them as tenant farmers and lesseors. The ducal family lost considerable property value during the cross-border turmoil of the French Revolution. As a widow she managed to retain some estates, and passed them on to a chancellor director who continued to lease to Anabaptists. See Guth's *Amish Mennonites in Germany* and STALTER for more on this relationship.
Jacob was ordained as a minister of the Dillon Creek congregation in 1844. He represented them at assemblies of ministers in 1862, 1864, and 1866.

The household appears on the 1850 census of Tazewell County as blacksmith Jacob Hunsacker, 40, Germany; Mary, 30, Germany; Elizabeth, 12; Jacob, 8; Mary, 6; and Catherine, 3 (all children born in Illinois); and two blacksmiths 18 and 20. The 1860 census of Elm Grove shows farmer Jacob Unsiker, 57, Nassau; Mary, 40, Darmstadt; Elisabeth, 19; farmer Jacob, 17; Mary, 14; Catharine, 11; Madalene, 8 (all children born in Illinois); and laborer Stephen Dansner, 26, Bavaria; and Catharine Kraber, 20, of Darmstadt.

Jacob became a minister of the Washington Prairie congregation (later Calvary Mennonite Church) from 1869 until his death. He represented them at assemblies of ministers in 1871 and 1872.

The 1870 census of Elm Grove shows them as farmer Jacob Unsicker, 62, Prussia; Maria, 56, Hesse-Darmstadt; Catharine, 20, Illinois; and Magdalen, 19, Illinois. Their next door neighbors were son-in-law Christian Hochstettler, 27, Bavaria; their daughter Mary, 25, Illinois; and Louise, 1, Illinois. The 1880 census shows farmer Jacob Unsicker, 72; Mearie, 62; and Catharine, 25, born in Illinois to parents from Germany.

Jacob died at Elm Grove June 16, 1893. Herald of Truth, July 1893: "On the 16th of June, 1893, of the infirmities of old age, Pre. Jacob Unzicker, aged 85 years and two months. He came to America in 1832 and for the last 51 years has been a resident of Tazewell Co., Ill. In 1837 he married Mary Kreubill [Krehbiel], with whom he had six children, one of whom preceded him. He was a minister for many years and was faithful in his calling. Buried on the 18th in Elm Grove. Funeral services by Joseph Stuckey, M. Kinsinger, Peter Ropp and Joseph Buerckey."

Marie Krehbiel died at Elm Grove March 28, 1904. She was buried beside Jacob in Pleasant Grove Mennonite Cemetery, where her headstone calls her 'Mary K.' Herald of Truth, April 1904: "Sister Mary Unziker, one of the oldest settlers of Tazewell Co., Ill., died March 21, 1904. She was 90 years old and left to mourn her departure 5 children, 20 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. She was born in Germany in 1814, coming to this country when she was quite young. Her husband preceded her ten years ago to the spirit world. Funeral at the Pleasant Grove Amish Mennonite M. H. Services were conducted by Sam. Gerber and Val. Strubar. Text, 2 Tim. 4:7."

Children of Jacob Unzicker and Marie Krehbiel born at Elm Grove include:

1. Elizabeth Unzicker was born Sept. 28, 1839, and died Aug. 10, 1920. On July 6, 1862 in Tazewell County she married Joseph Hochstettler; the ceremony was performed by minister Andrew Ropp. He was born at Siebenbrunnenfeld, Bavaria Feb. 3, 1836, and died July 4, 1896, a son of Joseph Hochstettler and Jacobine 'Phoebe' Gingerich. They are buried in Hirstein Cemetery at Morton.
2. Jacob Unzicker was born Dec. 27, 1841, and died at Hopedale Jan. 22, 1933. On Nov. 7, 1867 in Woodford County he married Jacobine 'Bena' Engel; the Eureka record calls her 'Jacobena Engle.' She was born at Hanover/Metamora Aug. 22, 1843, and died at Hopedale Nov. 20, 1929, a daughter of John Engel and Barbara Detweiler. They are buried in Orndorff Cemetery at Hopedale. Their household can be found on the 1880 census of Boynton as farmer Jacob J. Unzicker, 38, born in Illinois to parents from Germany; Bena, 33, born in Illinois to parents from France; Edwin, 11; Rudolph, 8; and William, 5 (all children born in Illinois).
3. Mary Unzicker was born Nov. 26, 1844, and died Feb. 24, 1940. She is buried in Pleasant Grove Mennonite Cemetery as Mary Hochstettler. On Feb. 9, 1868 at Pekin she married Christian Hochstettler. He was born at Meringerau March 8, 1840, and died at Aurora, Nebraska Jan. 2, 1896, a son of Joseph Hochstettler and Jacobine 'Phoebe' Gingerich. He can be found on the 1860 census of Elm Grove as 19-year-old 'Christian Hostetler,' a Bavarian laborer in the household of 50-year-old farmer 'Andrew Birgry.'
4. Catharine Unzicker was born in 1848 and died in 1927. She is buried beside her parents at Pleasant Grove Mennonite Cemetery as 'Katie.'
5. Magdalena 'Lena' Unzicker was born June 19, 1851. On March 13, 1873 in Tazewell County she married Daniel Albrecth. He was born Feb. 8, 1848, and died at Arispie in 1924, a son of Joseph Albrecth and Barbara Gingery. An extended household is found on the 1880 census of Arispie, Bureau County: farmer Joseph Albrecth, 63, Bavaria; Barbara [Gingery], 62, Hesse-Darmstadt; Daniel, 33, Illinois; Magdalena, 29, born in Illinois to a father from Nassau and a mother from Hesse-Darmstadt; and Otto, 5, Illinois.
6. An unidentified sixth child died at less than 10 years of age (not appearing on any 10-year census) before 1893, according to Jacob's obituary.

Johannes Unzicker/John Unsicker
Morton, Second Cousin to Peter and Jakob

Peter Unzicker (1740-1800) was the grandfather of the two figures just described, and the older brother of Josef Unzicker.
Josef was born at Wörth circa 1746, and moved north with his brother. In 1778 he became leaseholder on the Windhof estate near Ahausen (above Weilburg, Hesse). He married Katharina Güngerich, a daughter of Christian Güngerich and Verena Schwartzentruber of the Hünighausen dairy farm at Helsen in Waldeck.

Their son, minister Johannes Unzicker, was born at Gräveneck Dec. 14, 1778, and died on the Henriettental estate at Wörndorf, Idstein May 28, 1847. He married Barbara Nafziger, a daughter of Valentin Nafziger and Elisabeth Nafziger of the Ludwigsburgerhof estate at Selbach, Nassau-Weilburg. Guth describes Johannes as "a model farmer and preacher on the estate Henriettental."

According to minister-archivist-historian Steve Estes, it seems likely that Johannes and Barbara were the parents of Johannes Unzicker, known in Tazewell County as John Unsicker. He was born May 2, 1815, and died at Morton Oct. 23, 1888.

On Oct. 14, 1849 Johannes married Katharina 'Katie' Kennel. She was born on the Herfingerhof estate at Börrstadt April 6, 1824, and died at Washington July 12, 1909, a daughter of Peter Kennel and Magdalena Holly. The couple joined Katharina's cousin Jacob Kennel, visiting from Morton, and sailed from Le Havre on the Radius, arriving at New Orleans Dec. 27, 1849. The passenger list described them as 'Johann Unsicker, 33; Catharina, 24; no accompanying children; of German nationality.'

They wintered in Butler County and presumably traveled to Central Illinois with the arrival of warm weather. They purchased a farm at Morton July 30, 1851.

A Past and Present of Mahaska County, Iowa entry for one of his sons describes John: "John Unsicker was a native of Germany, and became one of the pioneers of Tazewell County, where he located in 1849. He opened up a large farm there and became a prosperous agriculturist and stock-breeder, dealing in pure-blooded shorthorn cattle, Poland China hogs, and Norman horses. He raised his family upon the old farm and there he spent the greater portion of a useful and well-directed life, passing away in October 1887." Their surname is spelled 'Unzicker' on the 1860 census of Morton, and 'Umsicka' on the 1870 census of Morton.

Johannes/John and Katharina are buried in Hirstein Cemetery at Morton. Details of this family including a portrait photo can be found in A Kennel Family Outline Part II, Steven Estes' excellent article in the Spring 2003 issue of Illinois Mennonite Heritage. Children of Johannes Unzicker/John Unsicker and Katharina Kennel born at Morton include:

1. Amalie/Amelia Unsicker was born Oct. 1, 1851, and died at Deer Creek Jan. 17, 1922. On Jan. 28, 1873 at Morton she married John W. Garber. He was born Aug. 5, 1849, and died Nov. 21, 1920, a son of Christian Garber and Catherine Nafziger. They are buried in Buckeye Cemetery.
2. Magdalena 'Leni' 'Helen' Unsicker was born Sept. 19, 1853, and died March 9, 1883 (her headstone in Glendale Cemetery calls her Helen Sweitzer). On April 21, 1881 at Morton she married Peter Schweitzer. He was born Sept. 7, 1849, and died May 22, 1923, a son of Jean/John Schweitzer and Marie/Mary Engel. On July 12, 1888 in Scott County, Iowa Peter remarried to Rachel Engel, with Peter Strubhar as a witness. Rachel was born Jan. 3, 1853, and died at Morton Dec. 6, 1938, a daughter of John Engel and Barbara Dettweiler. Peter, Helen, and Rachel are buried in Glendale Cemetery.
3. Julius Kennel Unsicker was born July 23, 1855, and died in 1859.
4. Daniel Kennel Unsicker was born March 8, 1857, and died at Wright, Iowa July 4, 1943. On Feb. 14, 1886 he married Elizabeth Kinsinger Zimmerman. She was born in Butler County June 21, 1862, and died at Wright Dec. 14, 1920, a daughter of Christian Zimmerman and Barbara Kinsinger. Daniel graduated from Evergreen City Business College at Bloomington. He later farmed in Livingston County and bought 490 acres at Wright. This farm grew to 1,000 acres. His biography can be found in Past and Present of Mahaska County, Iowa.
5. Katharina 'Katie' Unsicker was born Feb. 1, 1859, and died Jan. 13, 1941. She is buried in Hirstein Cemetery.
6. John Kennel Unsicker was born Jan. 31, 1866, and died Jan. 6, 1897. He is buried in Hirstein Cemetery.

According to Estes, Cardina 'Carrie' Niederson was adopted into this family. She was born in December 1868 and died in 1956, a daughter of Mitchell Niedercorn and Mary Shoff. On Jan. 17, 1897 she married Arthur F. Hoffman.

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170 On the Radius passenger list: Jacob Kennel, 27. He was born at Dreisen Nov. 16, 1821, and died at Morton March 22, 1909, a son of Johannes/Jean Kennel and Magdalena Naffziger. His family had been passengers on the 1830 voyage of the De Rham from Le Havre to New York; he was also a nephew to 'Apostle Peter' Naffziger. See KENNEL. Another passenger on the voyage of the Radius was listed as Jacob Hutter, 24. Jacob Hauer was born Nov. 9, 1823, and died in Tazewell County April 26, 1905, a son of Christian Hauer and Katharina Gungerich. See HAUTER.
Butler County Unzickers
Daniel Unzicker of Milford

Daniel Unzicker [Sr.] was born at Wörth, Lower Alsace Nov. 11, 1773, a son of Johannes Unzicker and Veronika Hechler.

On Aug. 9, 1794 he married Jacobine/Jacoba Holly.171 Their civil marriage entry described the groom as Daniel Unzicker, 21 years and six months, born Nov. 11, 1773, a son of Johannes Unsicker and Faronica Hechlerin [a feminine form of Hechler]; and the bride as Jacobea Holly, 16, born March 10, 1788, a daughter of farmer Johannes Holly and Barbara Eyerin [a feminine form of Eyer]. It was witnessed by Joseph Unsicker, 38; brother-of-the-groom Johann Georg Unsicker of Wörth, 33; and uncle-of-the-bride Georg Holly, 28. Signatures included 'Daniel Unziger' and 'Jacobina Hollin.'

Jacobine/Jacoba died at Nehwiller-près-Woerth Feb. 23, 1795. Her civil death entry was witnessed by Daniel Unsicker, 25; and Johan Georg Holi, 20.

Daniel remarried to Elisabeth Hauter. She was born circa 1775, and died Dec. 17, 1861, a daughter of Nikolaus Hauter and Susanne Oesch of the estate Monbijou near Zweibrücken. She is buried as 'Elisabeth Hauter Unzicker,' aged 86 years, in Daartown Cemetery, Butler County, Ohio.

According to Hermann Guth in Amish Mennonites in Germany, Daniel became a leaseholder on the Königreicherhof estate at Sankt Wendel (now in Saarland) in 1802. He shared the lease with brother-in-law Christian Hauter. In 1802 or 1803 Unzicker moved farther east into Bavaria. In Bavaria Daniel and Elisabeth leased an estate belonging to the cloister Polling (40 miles southwest of Munich). Later they purchased the dairy farm Abtsried of the Wessobrunn cloister (five miles southwest of Lake Starnberg).

Daniel Unzicker [Jr.] was born March 4, 1798. He married Magdalena Kahn in Bavaria Jan. 28, 1821. She was born in Prussia or Galacia (now part of Poland, then considered part of Russia) near the Prussian border Dec. 4, 1801.172 They lived on the Freudendorf farm at Altenbeuern, Bavaria (now part of Neubeuern), 42 miles southeast of Munich, seven miles above the Austrian border.

According to William H. Grubb in History of the Mennonites in Butler County, Ohio, they emigrated to Canada in 1828. They would have traveled via Hamilton, Ontario on the western end of Lake Ontario, and then by carriage 40 miles west to the German Block at Wilmot, Ontario.

They lived on Bleam’s Road until 1831-32. Christian Naefziger's agreement with the British government had provided 50 acres of land for each settler at Wilmot, with no down payment. The stakeholder could apply for free ownership rights after seven years, provided a substantial dwelling was constructed and adjacent roads were cleared. Each 50 acres had another 150 acres behind it; many settlers assumed they would later purchase the 150 acres at discounted prices.

The story of a migration from Waterloo south to Ohio in 1831-32 is told in ROPP. Christian Ropp: "...Several of our number decided to move to Ohio, for it was too cold in Canada. These were the following: Joseph Goldschmidt [later Goldsmith], Peter Danner [later Donner], Daniel Unzicker, Peter Naefziger, and several others."

Grubb says that Daniel and Magdalena arrived in Butler County in 1834. Memoirs of the Miami Valley says they arrived in 1828. Other sources say they lived briefly in Pennsylvania before resettling in Ohio. However, the birth years and birthplaces of the children (as shown on federal censuses) give a different story. They substantiate the idea that they migrated south in 1831-32. It is likely that if they lived in Pennsylvania at all, it was briefly, before they lived in Ontario; this would be consistent with the experiences of other settlers in the German Block of Wilmot.

Their first home in Butler County was St. Clair, about four miles north of Hamilton. The location was later called Overpeck when a combination train station and general store was constructed there, with the Overpeck family as storekeepers.173

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171 The date of the ceremony is given in the French Republican form, and appears to say 22 Thermidor 2. However, the day date is written over, and should probably be taken as 'twenty something' in Thermidor of the year 2.

172 The parents of Magdalena Kahn could not be identified. However, someone looking for clues might start at Riedseltz, a village associated with Unzickers, where there was a large Kahn family. On Feb. 21, 1814 Gabriell Kahn married Elisabeth Schwartz there. Their civil marriage entry said he was born at Riedseltz March 7, 1784, a son of residents Valentin Kahn and Minckle Schantz. When Aron Kahn married Rosine Katz Jan. 20, 1826, his marriage entry said he was born at Buseenberg, Bavaria Oct. 20, 1798, a son of resident Abraham Kahn and Hintel Mortel. It was witnessed by uncle-of-the-groom and resident Paul Kahn, 48.
After 1834 they lived on 80 acres in Darrtown, which they bought for $300. 'Danial Hansaker' and his family appear on the 1840 census of Darrtown. Their home site became part of Milford, then Oxford. Their homestead is now described as 2975 Oxford-Middletown Road in Oxford. It is on the National Register of Historic Places, called the Unzicker-Cook House. A photo can be found in the booklet Damals auf dem Lande, Once Upon a Farm: A Self-Guided Driving Tour of the Historic Amish Mennonite Community of Butler County, Ohio published by the Friends of Christohm.

The web site of the Ohio Historic Preservation Office of the Ohio Historical Society: "When the Unzickers moved to the land, which was a tract of school land in Section 9 of the township, there was a clearing with an old log cabin and stable. Unzicker continued to improve the land with the construction of several stone buildings. He farmed the land and increased his holdings to 160 acres. Daniel Unzicker and his wife were Mennonites. At the time they moved there was an influx of Mennonites into Butler County from Canada and Pennsylvania. Many settled in St. Clair and Madison townships. He was also a preacher and both were active and faithful members of their church. They had 13 children."

Memoirs of the Miami Valley: "For his first eighty acres he paid $300, this being school land upon which there was a small clearing and an old log cabin and stable. He erected a stone house, which is still standing as one of the community's old landmarks, as well as a good barn, and continued to be engaged in farming all his life. He voted the Democratic ticket but was not an office seeker. A member of the Mennonite church, he became a preacher of that faith. . ."

The family appears on the 1850 census of Milford as 52-year-old farmer Daniel Unseeker born in German; Magdalena, 47, born in Germany; Folendine [Valentine], 27, born in Germany; Daniel, 21, born in 'G.B. Canada' [Great Britain Canada]; Joseph, 20, also born in Canada; Barbaray, 18, born in Ohio; John, 16, born in Ohio; Elizabeth, 12, born in Ohio; Jacob, 10 or 16, born in Ohio; Chris., 8, born in Ohio; and David, 4, born in Ohio. The birthplaces and ages are consistent with a move from Canada to Ohio in 1831-32.

They appear on the 1860 census of Milford as 62-year-old farmer Daniel Unseeker born in Germany; Magdalene Unsaker, 58, born in Germany; E. [Elizabeth] Unsaker, 20, born in Ohio; Jacob Unsaker, 19, born in Ohio; Christian Unsaker, 18, born in Ohio; and David Unsaker, 14, born in Ohio. They lived next door to Joseph Augspurger, 74, a younger brother of Christian Augspurger.

According to Grubb, "Having been called to the ministry before he came to America, he [Unzicker] identified himself with the Collinsville congregation [Collinsville and Darrtown are located within Milford] and served as one of its ministers until his death, which occurred Sept. 18, 1863, and he is buried in the Darrtown cemetery." Daniel was killed by lightning as he stood at the open window of his home calling for his sons to come in from a storm.

Magdalena Kahn appears as a widow on the 1870 census of Milford. Her family is identified as Magalene Unzicker, 68, keeping house, born in Prussia; David, 24, born in Ohio; and Ellen [Ella Kessler, David's wife], 20, born in Maryland. The household of her son Jacob appears elsewhere on the page. Magdalena Kahn died July 28, 1880 and is buried in Darrtown Cemetery.

Their children include:

1. Peter Unzicker was born on Freudendorf Farm at Altenbeuern, Bavaria Jan. 13, 1822, and died at Collinsville March 21, 1866. On Jan. 13, 1850 at Collinsville he married Catherine 'Katie' Schertz; the ceremony was performed by minister Nicholas Augspurger. She was born Dec. 22, 1832, and died in Livingston County Dec. 28, 1895, a daughter of Christian Schertz and Elisabeth Hauer. They are found on the 1850 census of Milford as farmer Peter Unseeker, 28; and Keate, 27. Peter was also a stone mason. Catherine remarried to Christian Fuchs and Johannes/John Stalter (see STALTER for her obituary).

2. Valentine Unzicker was born on Freudendorf Farm at Altenbeuern, Bavaria Aug. 15, 1823, and died at Milford, Nebraska Oct. 17, 1881. On March 9, 1851 at Collinsville he married Magdalena Schertz; the ceremony was performed by minister Nicholas Augspurger. She was born Sept. 15, 1826, and died at Milford, Nebraska Dec. 9, 1886. From A History and Biographical Cyclopaedia of Butler County, Ohio published in 1882: "About twenty years ago [1862] the Mennonite Church at Overpeck's was organized. An acre of ground, upon part of which the church stands, was given to this denomination by Christian Slonacker, an early member. The membership is composed mainly of Germans. Among those who were instrumental in the organization were Dr. John Borker, the Augspurgers, and Peter Imhof. The Rev. Nicholas Augspurger was an early preacher. The first meetings of this society were held in private houses. In the neighborhood where this society is best known it goes by the name of the 'Hook-and-Eye' Church. . . The Apostles' Church, in this same neighborhood, sprang from the other Mennonite Church, and was composed principally of the younger members. The division was caused on account of some disagreement in discipline. The outside people call the Apostle the 'Button' Church, in order to note the improvement of hooks-and-eyes."
1895, a son of Jacob Augspurger and Maria Schlabach. They had two children. Following her death he remarried to Amish Mennonites in Tazewell County, Illinois Elizabeth Schertz in Butler County Sept. 11, 1851. She was born in 1826, and died Nov. 3, 1895, a daughter of Christian Schertz and Margaret Mueller. She is buried at Milford. They can be found on the 1860 census of St. Catherine Gundy. They had seven children. Their son David D. Augspurger was ordained at East Washington are also found on the 1870 census of Gridley, McLean County, next door to the household of George Zehr and Catherine Gundy. They had seven children. Their son David D. Augspurger was ordained at East Washington Mennonite Church, Tazewell County in 1889.

3. Magdalena Unzicker was born on Freundendorf Farm at Altenbeuern, Bavaria Nov. 29, 1824, and died at Collinsville March 24, 1851. In 1845 she married David Augspurger. He was born in 1823, and died in McLean County Jan. 4, 1895, a son of Jacob Augspurger and Maria Schlabach. They had two children. Following her death he remarried to Elizabeth Schertz in Butler County Sept. 11, 1851. She was born in 1826, and died Nov. 3, 1895, a daughter of Christian Schertz and Margaret Mueller. She is buried at Milford. They can be found on the 1860 census of St. Clair, Butler County, her father Christian Schertz was a guest in their household, described as a 65-year-old. They are also found on the 1870 census of Gridley, McLean County, next door to the household of George Zehr and Catherine Gundy. They had seven children. Their son David D. Augspurger was ordained at East Washington Mennonite Church, Tazewell County in 1889.

4. Catherine 'Katie' Unzicker was born at Wilmot, Ontario March 21, 1827, and died at Danvers Nov. 23, 1869, where she is buried in Stout's Grove Cemetery. She appears on the 1850 census of Milford as 22-year-old 'Catharine Unsiker' in the household of Joseph Augspurger, where he birthplace is given as 'Canada G.B.' On May 23, 1852 at Collinsville, Butler County she married Jacob Zimmerman; the ceremony was performed by minister Nicholas Augspurger. Jacob was born at Bourgfelden May 12, 1829, died in Elm Grove July 18, 1899 (also found as Crandall, Ill. July 18, 1898), and is buried in the Old Apostolic Cemetery in Morton. He was a son of Christian Zimmerman and Catherine Sommer. Widower Jacob Zimmerman can be found on the 1870 census of Dry Grove, McLean County as a 41-year-old farmer born in France, with children Magdalina, 17; Barbary, 16; Catherine, 14; Fanny, 9; Henry, 7; Emma, 4; and Daniel, 2; the oldest pair born in Ohio, the others in Illinois. Jacob remarried to Susan Rector Feb. 12, 1872 in Tazewell County.

5. Daniel Unzicker [Jr.] was born at Wilmot, Ontario Feb. 11, 1829, and died at Milford, Nebraska July 18, 1914.

6. Joseph Unzicker was born at Wilmot, Ontario Sept. 1, 1830, and died at Covington, Kentucky Oct. 28, 1909. On Aug. 11, 1859 in Butler County he married Magdalena 'Malinda' Schmucker. She was born at Bertambois, Meurthe-et-Moselle Jan. 13, 1822, and died in McLean County July 23, 1906, a daughter of Joseph Schemouker and Magdelaine Sommer. They are found on the 1870 census of Gridley, McLean County as farmer Joseph Unzicker, 40, Canada; Magdalena, 40, France; Mary, 8, Illinois; and Marthe, 7, Illinois. On June 20, 1907 Joseph remarried to Celine Geubourg. She was born at Baccarat, Meurthe-et-Moselle Feb. 21, 1859, and died at Meadows, McLean County April 10, 1938, a daughter of Joseph Geubourg and Madalena Lehe.

7. Barbara Unzicker was born at Wilmot, Ontario March 28, 1832, and died in McLean County Dec. 29, 1891. On arch 19, 1854 in Butler County she married Daniel Schoenbeck. He was born Nov. 28, 1826, and died Sept. 2, 1906. They are buried in Stout's Grove Cemetery at Danvers. Herald of Truth, January 1892: "On Dec. 29, 1891, in Danvers, McLean Co., Ill., of cancer, Barbara, maiden name Unsicker, wife of Daniel Schoenbeck, aged 59 years, 9 months and one day. She was one of a family of 13, and was born in Canada. She accepted Christ in her early youth, uniting with the Mennonite church in Butler Co., Ohio. She was united in matrimony to Daniel Schoenbeck, March 19, 1854. They moved to McLean Co., Ill., where they lived since. Of their seven children two have preceded her in death. Buried on the 31st, followed to the grave by many friends. Funeral services by Christian Guengrich, Joseph Stuckey and Peter E. Stuckey in English and German."

8. John Unzicker was born at Collinsville April 30, 1834, and died there Oct. 27, 1886. On Dec. 15, 1858 at Collinsville he married Mary Slonneger; the ceremony was performed by minister Nicholas Augspurger. She was born circa 1835, a daughter of John Slonneger [Schlunegger] and Barbara Schlatter. Grubb: "John Unzicker, son of Rev. Daniel and Magdalena Unzicker, was born near Collinsville, Ohio, April 30, 1834. He was married to Mary Slonneger on December 15, 1859. In 1867 he was elected a minister in the Hessian congregation. The family appears on the 1870 census of Milford as 36-year-old farmer John Unzicker, born in Ohio; Meary, 35, born in Ohio; Emma, 9, born in Ohio; William, 8, born in Ohio; Edward, 6, born in Ohio; Anna, 2, born in Ohio; and Lizzie [John's sister Elizabeth], 32, born in Ohio. His death occurred October 27, 1886, and he is buried in the Union Cemetery, Collinsville." Herald of Truth, November 1886: "On the 27th of October, in Butler Co., Ohio, of consumption, Pre. John Unzicker, aged 52 years, 5 months and 27 days. He was sick only three weeks and confined to his bed about 10 days. He remained rational up to his last moments. He was aware that death was near. His last words that could be understood were: "Lord, into thy hands I commend my spirit." "Dear Savior, thou hadst to suffer, I will bear my cross with patience." He was buried on the 31st in the Collinsville graveyard. Services by Joseph Augspurger and Pre. Walker. He leaves a wife and five children to mourn their loss."

9. Maria/Marie Unzicker was born at Milford, Butler County June 24, 1836, and died March 19, 1842.

10. Elisabeth 'Lizzie' Unzicker was born at Collinsville Aug. 21, 1838, and died there Nov. 8, 1925. She appears on the 1870 census of Milford as Lizzie Unzicker, 32, living in the household of her older bother John. She was a school teacher.
11. Jakob/Jacob Unzicker was born at Collinsville Sept. 7, 1840, and died there Feb. 20, 1929. On Jan. 9, 1865 he
married Veronica 'Fanny' Slonneger. She was born in Butler County June 4, 1835, and died Jan. 15, 1922, a
dughter of John Slonneger and Barbara Schlatter. Memoirs of the Miami Valley: "Jacob Unzicker was educated in
the home schools and remained on the homestead place up to the time of his marriage, January 9, 1865, to Veronica
Slonacker, who was born in Milford township, January 4, 1836, a daughter of John and Barbara (Schlatter) Slonacker,
natives of Switzerland, the father born May 22, 1809, in the western part, on French soil... After his marriage, Jacob
Unzicker was engaged in farming in Stony Hollow, Milford township, for two years and then went to the old home
place, where he spent fifteen years. He built the home in 1867 and lived therein until 1884, in December of which year
he took up his residence on the old Slonacker place, where he remained until 1904. He then moved to
Collinsville, where in 1905 he built his present home, and since then has been retired from active pursuits... a school
director of Milford township for nine years and as assessor for one year... He and his wife are faithful members of
the Mennonite church at Trenton, while his daughter, Magdalena, belongs to the Presbyterian church at Collinsville."
The family appears on the 1870 census of Milford as 29-year-old farmer Jacob Unzicker, born in Ohio; Fanny, 34,
born in Ohio; John C., 2, born in Ohio; and Mary L., 9 months, born in Ohio.

13, 1868 in Butler County he married Mahala M. Williams. She was born near Terre Haute, Ind., and died Dec. 16,
1910. Memoirs of the Miami Valley: "Christian Unzicker secured his educational training in the schools of his
home county, and was reared to agricultural pursuits on the home farm, where he remained until his marriage, at the
age of twenty-six years, to Mahala Williams, who was born near Terre Haute, Ind., and died December 16, 1910...
After his marriage, Christian Unzicker lived at Collinsville for one year, and then engaged in farming north of this
place for six years, near Seven Mile for three years, at Collinsville for another year and near Darrtown for seventeen
years. He then purchased a farm from Christian Goldsmith, which he operated successfully for five years, and in
1902 built his present home at 510 Maple avenue, where he has since lived in comfortable semi-retirement. He also
carries on truck farming on five acres of land surrounding his comfortable and attractive residence... one term in the
position of school director of Milford township. He is a Democrat in his political affiliation, and he and the members
of his family belong to the Methodist Episcopal church."

13. David Unzicker was born May 3, 1846, and died in Edwards County, Kansas Dec. 29, 1920. He became a farmer in
Edwards County, where he could be found as late as the 1920 census. He married Ella Kessler and Christina
Donner.

Daniel Unzicker [Jr.] was born at Wilmot, Ontario Feb. 11, 1829, and died at Milford, Nebraska July 18,
1914.
On Nov. 17, 1857 in Tazewell County he married Jacobine 'Phoebe' Birky; the ceremony was performed by minister Andrew
Ropp. She was born at Gern (now a neighborhood of Munich) Jan. 15, 1838, and died at Milford, Nebraska Sept. 5,
1914, a daughter of Valentine Birky and Elizabeth Unzicker (the 'Little Red Birkeys'). She may have been his half-
cousin.
He may have been the Daniel Unzicker who paid federal taxes at Groveland in 1863 and 1864 as a retail liquor
dealer. However, he is remembered as a shoe maker and farmer.
They are found on the 1870 census of Morton as farmer Daniel Unsecker, 40, Canada; Josephine, 32, Bern; with four children born in Illinois.
The 1910 census of Precinct O [Milford], Seward County, shows Daniel Unzicker, 81, Can Germany, immigrated [presumably from Canada to the United States] in 1833; and Jacobina, 72, Germany, immigrated in 1848. The same census page shows the family of Jacobine's nephew Christian Birky and his first wife Elizabeth Guth/Good. Christian was born in Tazewell County March 12, 1851, a son of Johannes/John Birkey of the 'Big Birkeys' and Elizabeth Birky of the 'Little Red Birkeys.'
They are buried in Blue Mound Cemetery at Milford.

Hunsicker/Unsicker of the Rohrhof

Tazewell County also became a home to Hunsickers from the area of Mannheim, Baden. These families
generally spelled their surname 'Unsicker' in Central Illinois.
Peter Hunsicker and Magdalena Schwartzentruber farmed on the Rohrhof estate at Brühl in the Schwetzingen district southeast of Mannheim. Hermann Guth identified Magdalena Schwartzentruber as a daughter of Christian Schwartzentruber and his second wife Katharina Ruby of Freinsheim.

We could identify three of their children born on the Rohrhof estate:

1. **Jacob Hunsicker/Unsicker** was born circa 1800.
2. Katharina Hunsicker/Unzicker was born in 1803. She married Peter Nafziger on the Rohrhof estate March 3, 1829. Katharina and Peter emigrated in 1848, and purchased land at Boynton in 1850. Katharina's headstone calls her 'Katharina Unzicker,' and says she died Oct. 16, 1876, aged 72 years, 9 months, and 21 days (yielding a birth date of Dec. 26, 1803). See NAFZIGER for a list of their children.
3. Magdalena Hunsicker married Johannes Müller at Enkenbach. He was born on the Münsterhof estate at Dreisen in 1795, and died on the Froschauerhof estate at Weierhof in 1881, a son of Daniel Müller and Magdalena Jakobina Kennel.

**Jacob Hunsicker/Unsicker** was born on the Rohrhof estate circa 1800.

On March 13, 1821, Jacob married Barbara Eyer. She was born circa 1800, and died at Mannheim, Baden Dec. 8, 1844.

As a widower Jacob immigrated in 1847 or 1848 with all of their children but oldest son Daniel. Jacob may have gone directly to the home of his sister Katharina at Boynton. He succumbed to cholera the same year.

His children are found on the 1850 census of Tazewell County: Marceline [Magdalena] Hansucker, 24; Catharine [Katharina], 20; Barbara, 18; Peter, 15; Jacob, 13; John, 12; and Christian, 10, all born in Germany. On the same census we find probable employment duplications: Catharine Hunsucker, 24, Germany, in the household of Isaac Leonard; and Peter Hunsaker, 17, Germany, in the household of Martin Myers. Jakobina 'Bena' was living with her new husband, Nicholas Kropp/Grubb [Kropf], who is found on the same census as wagon maker Nicolas Gruff.

The children of Jacob Hunsicker/Unsicker and Barbara Eyer born on the Rohrhof estate at Brühl in the Schwetzingen district near Mannheim had the spelling 'Hunsicker' on their birth entries, but used the spelling 'Unsicker' in Illinois. They include:

1. Daniel Hunsicker was born Feb. 19, 1822. He remained in Baden after the emigration of his father and siblings, and died at Schwetzingen Nov. 20, 1848. The death entry named his parents as Jakob Hunsicker and Barbara Eier.
2. Magdalena Unsicker was born July 26, 1823. She appears on Morton censuses in 1870 and 1880 as sister 'Malinda' in the household of younger brother John.
3. Barbara Unsicker was born Nov. 7, 1824, and died the following day.
4. Katharina Unsicker was born July 28, 1826, baptized Aug. 14, died April 4, 1902, and is buried in the Old Apostolic Cemetery at Tremont as 'Katharina Unsicker.' She is found as 'Catarina Hunsicker' in her birth entry. She appears on the 1860 census of Elm Grove as Catharine Unsiker, 30, Baden, living in the household of Nicholas 'Kroup' and her sister Jakobina.
5. Jakobina 'Bena' Unsicker was born Dec. 2, 1829, and died at Elm Grove Feb. 4, 1905. On Feb. 17, 1850 in Tazewell County she married Nicholas Kropp/Grubb; the ceremony was performed by minister Andrew Ropp. He was born at Hartzviller, Moselle May 26, 1813, and died at Elm Grove April 8, 1881, a son of Pierre Kropp and Suzanne Ringenberg. See GRUBB for more on this couple.
6. **Peter Unsicker** was born Aug. 18, 1832 (the 1900 census gives the date May 18, 1831).
7. Barbara Unsicker was born Sept. 9, 1833, and died at Tremont Dec. 2, 1916. She is buried in the Old Apostolic Cemetery at Tremont. In 1860 she married Ludwig/Louis Getz. He was born in Württemberg in January 1829 (his headstone says 1830), and died at Elm Grove Oct. 22, 1898, a son of Ludwig Getz. History of Illinois and her People: "Mrs. Getz, whose maiden name was Barbara Unsicker, was born in Bavaria, Germany, where occurred the death of her mother, she having later accompanied her father and other members of the family to the United States and the home having been established in Tazewell County, Illinois, where the death of the father occurred prior to the Civil War." They are found on the 1880 census of Elm Grove as farmer Louis Getz, 50, Württemberg; Barbara, 46, Baden; and nine children born in Illinois.
8. Jacob Unsicker was born June 21, 1835, baptized June 28, and died Aug. 18, 1919. He may be the 25-year-old laborer Jacob Unsicker found on the 1860 census of Dillon. On Nov. 15, 1863 in Peoria County he married Magdalena Nafziger. She was born near Augsburg, Bavaria Jan. 9, 1835, and died in Tazewell County Feb. 12.

174 The administration of the Rohrhof estate merged with adjacent Brühl in 1878. In 1944 part of Rohrhof was also absorbed by Mannheim. It would now be described as Rohrdorf, one of two neighborhoods (the other Brühl) within the municipality of Brühl, in the German state of Baden-Württemberg.
1900. They are found on the 1870 census of Morton as farmer Jacob Unsicker, 35, Switzerland; Lena, 36, Switzerland; Elizabeth, 5; John, 3; Lena, 2; and Joseph, 1; all children born in Illinois. The 1880 census of Morton shows the household as farmer Jacob Unsicker, 45. born in Baden with parents from Baden; Malinda, 43, born in Switzerland to Swiss parents; and nine children younger than 16, all born in Illinois. *Herald of Truth*, June 1900: "Widow Magdalena Unzicker, nee Nafziger, was born on the 9th of January, 1835, near Augsburg, Bavaria, died on the 12th of February, 1900, and was buried at Groveland, Ill., on the 14th. Funeral services by Samuel Gerber and Joseph Springer. She was a member of the Amish Mennonite Church.” She is buried in the Evangelical Mennonite Cemetery at Groveland. On the 1910 census of Metamora Jacob’s year of immigration is given as 1848. He is buried in the Apostolic Christian Cemetery at Roanoke, Woodford County.

9. Johannes/John Unsicker was born Aug. 1, 1837, baptized the same day, and died at Fairbury, Livingston County Oct. 11, 1826. He is found on the 1870 census of Morton, on the page following his brother Jacob: John Unsicker, 33, Baden; sister Malinda, 40, Baden; and farm laborer Edward Hearn, 13, Switzerland. In 1880 he appears on the same page as Jacob: farmer John Unsicker, 41, Baden; and sister Malinda, 50, Baden. On Feb. 21, 1892 in Livingston County he married Regula Fehr. She was born circa 1852, and died at Fairbury Jan. 4, 1823, a daughter of Solomon Fehr and Regula Henner. They are found on the 1920 census of Indian Grove, Livingston County as John A. Unsicker, 81; Regula, 69; and Mary Arnsicker, 25.

10. Christian Unsicker was born July 1, 1839, baptized July 20, and died at Hopedale May 6, 1928. On May 20, 1867 in Tazewell County he married Wilhelmina Kahler. She was born at Schloss Hessen, Brunswick, Germany June 6, 1849, and died at Hopedale Jan. 8, 1926, a daughter of Frederick Kahler and Dorothea Beitz. They are found on the 1910 census of Hopedale, where it states that he immigrated in 1848, and she immigrated in 1855. They are buried in the Apostolic Christian Cemetery at Tremont.

**Peter Unsicker** was born on the Rohrhof estate Aug. 18, 1832, and died at Tremont Aug. 29, 1925. His death entry gave this birth date, named his birthplace as ‘Rohrhoff, Germany,’ and named his parents as Jacob Unsicker and Barbara Aurer [Eyer]. On April 22, 1860 in Tazewell County he married Anna Barbara Blunier; the ceremony was performed by minister Benedicht Weyeneth. She was born at Trub, Canton Bern, Switzerland Nov. 7, 1834, and died at Tremont Feb. 9, 1919, a daughter of Casper Blunier and Elizabeth Schöntal. They are buried in the Apostolic Christian Cemetery at Tremont.

The 1860 census of Elm Grove shows Peter Unseicker, 27, Baden; Barbara, 24, Switzerland; Christian [Peter's brother], 21, Bavaria; and Madeleine, 30, Baden in the same household. They lived next door to John Schrock. The 1870 census of Elm Grove shows farmer Peter Unsicker, 38, Baden; Anna, 36, Switzerland; Lydia, 9; Persita, 7; Samuel, 6; [illegible], 4; Elizabeth, 2; Priscilla, three months; all children born in Illinois; and farm laborer Samuel Maurer, 21, Switzerland.

In 1880 they appear as P. Unzacker, 47 Germany; Barbara, 45, Switzerland; and seven children born in Illinois with a Swiss servant Hy Hartman.

On the 1900 census of Tremont, Peter Unsicker's birth date is given as May 18, 1831 in Germany; Anna is born Dec. 7, 1833 in Switzerland [both dates disagree with their headstones]; they had one boarder. On the 1910 census of Tremont Peter gives his year of immigration as 1847, Anna Barbara gives hers as 1855.

Their children born at Elm Grove include:

1. Lydia Unsicker was born June 30, 1861, and died Dec. 4, 1901. She is buried in the Old Apostolic Christian Cemetery at Tremont. On Jan. 1, 1884 in Tazewell County she married Philip Gauger. He was born at Bonefeld in the Pfalz Jan. 24, 1859, and died Nov. 4, 1923, a son of John Gauger and Julia Wacker. The family appears on the 1910 census of Tremont as farm operator Philip Gauger, 51, born in Germany; and 10 children ages 11-25, all born in Illinois.

2. Persida Unsicker was born March 23, 1863, and died April 21, 1935. She is buried in the Apostolic Christian Cemetery at Tremont.

3. Samuel P. Unsicker was born July 7, 1864, and died Feb. 23, 1942. On June 1, 1890 in Tazewell County he married Lena Zimmerman. She was born in Illinois Dec. 4, 1866, and died Jan. 2, 1957, a daughter of Andrew Zimmerman and Elizabeth Pfister. They appear on the 1900 census of Metamora, Woodford County as farmer Samuel P. Unsicker, born in Illinois in July 1864 to German parents; Lena, born in Illinois in December 1865 to parents from Ohio and Germany; and five children born in Illinois. They are buried in the Apostolic Christian Cemetery at Roanoke, Woodford County.

4. Peter S. Unsicker was born in February 1866, and died in 1916. On Jan. 1, 1899 in Tazewell County he married Marie/Mary Stuber. She was born at Solothurn, Canton Solothurn, Switzerland in July 1871, and died in 1932, a daughter of Jacob Stuber and his first wife Mary Nussbaum. Her family sailed from Le Havre on the *Labrador*, arriving at New York Nov. 8, 1883. They arrived at Tremont the same year. They are buried in Mt. Hope Cemetery at Elm Grove.
5. Elizabeth Unsicker was born March 31, 1868, and died April 16, 1928. She is buried in the Apostolic Christian Cemetery at Tremont.

6. Priscilla Unsicker was born June 30, 1870, and died Sept. 25, 1958. On Feb. 21, 1897 in Tazewell County she married John Knapp. He was born in Germany Dec. 12, 1872, and died April 10, 1937. He immigrated in 1888. They appear on the 1910 census of Tremont as farmer John Knapp, 37, Germany; and Priscilla, 40, Illinois. They are buried in the Apostolic Christian Cemetery at Tremont.

7. Anna Barbara Unsicker was born Nov. 7, 1871, and died Dec. 11, 1951. On Nov. 16, 1893 in Tazewell County she married Joseph Dreyer. He was born in Illinois March 19, 1869, and died Oct. 12, 1930. Their household appears on the 1900 census of Elm Grove as farmer Joseph Dreyer, born in Illinois in March 1869; Anna, born in Illinois in November 1877; Matilda E., 7, born in Illinois; and Elizabeth M., [age illegible] born in Illinois.
Zimmerman of Baden-Durlach

We thought this text was all but complete by March of 2018. It was done ‘the old-fashioned way,’ generally by researching microfilm images of paper records. With the end in sight, we dipped into genetic testing to complete the STAKER portion. At first it seemed simple enough.

Then second cousin Larry Zimmerman sent an extraordinary article: Darvin L. Martin’s Before the Paper Trail: Using DNA to Construct the Martin/Yoder/Zimmerman Family Cluster. It appeared in the January 2013 issue of Pennsylvania Mennonite Heritage. Martin had blended Anabaptist family history with science to arrive at startling insights.

He observed that the descendants of Anabaptist Joder/Yoder, Zimmerman, Martin, Ernst, and Jordi/Jordy/Yordy families shared nearly identical Y-DNA (passed from father to son but not from father to daughter, thus only along paternal lines): haplogroup I2a2a3; further identified by subclades or subgroups I2a2a3 (also called Z161+ it first appeared about 2,025 BC, 4,000 years or about 160 generations ago); I2a2a3a (also called L801+); I2a2a3a1 (Z76+); Z78+; L1198+; Z185+; and finally the most definitive subclade or subgroup Z190+.

A shared subgroup this deep implies that the first five families share a common ancestor, born circa 1,000 AD. Martin also arrived at the conclusion that the common origin was within the Suebi tribes. ‘Suebi’ was a general catchall name for many tribes of hunter-gatherers from what is now central Germany, including the largest and most organized Alemanni. Between 100 AD and 500 AD many Suebi migrated to what the Romans called Swabia, north and west of Lake Constance in what is now southern Germany.

Recall from STAKER:

The Alemanni were also called Alamanni, a sub-tribe among the Suebi/Swabians. They came from both sides of the Upper Rhine River, having migrated from the Elbe and Main river regions vacated centuries earlier by the Helvetii. Their gravesites have turned up DNA evidence of a multi-ethnic population, though the advertisements of some DNA testing companies continue to exploit a ‘Germanic’ angle citing sources that are out of date. It may be much more realistic to think of them as a composite of many groups that filled the river regions on either side of the Upper Rhine River, after the Helvetii moved south circa 114 BC.

The Alemanni and Burgundian tribes had raided settlements throughout the province of Helvetia (the Swiss Plateau) from 260 AD to 443 AD, and eventually occupied them. The Alemanni settled primarily in the northeast corner and center, while the Burgundians settled on the western side. The Franks nominally subjugated the pagan Alemanni in 496 AD, and subjugated the Burgundians in 532 AD. They were permitted to remain there after the Franks had asserted their dominance. But the Frankish kings had complete possession of what is now Switzerland.

The Franks permitted the Alammani to continue to resettle westward along the Swiss Plateau. The Alemanni brought their dialect of the early German language; this became the Old High German language, replacing Vulgar Latin in what is now Canton Bern. But they had to be suppressed twice, by Pepin of Herstal in 709 AD and Charles Martel in 730 AD.

Understanding the pre-history of the families (before there were surnames) allowed Martin to make reasonable assumptions about the more recent past. In 746 AD the Franks eradicated the Alemannic leadership with mass executions at the Blood Trial of Canstatt (see STAKER for background). Martin proposed that shortly after this the families settled in the valley of the Töss River (18 miles southwest of the Untersee off Lake Constance, and 14 miles northeast of Zurich).

The Alemanni tribe settled on lands north and west of Lake Constance. In the 10th century this region became the Duchy of Swabia. The counts of Kyburg were vassals of the duke of Swabia. In 1180 they founded a village at Winterthur in the valley of the Töss River, where our family or families of interest were living.

The next stage of their migration likely coincided with land accumulation by the counts of Kyburg. The noble Zähringen family had established the cities of Fribourg and Bern, then constructed the castle at Thun in 1199. The last Zähringen duke died in 1218. His sister married a Kyburg count. The Kyburg family then acquired a number of Zähringen properties to the southwest by inheritance or purchase.

A journey from Winterthur southwest to Thun would have been a little more than 100 miles. At the time the family or families had not yet gained surnames.

The Jordis and Joders may have indirectly taken their names from Theodor of Grammont, the first bishop of Octodorum (now Martigny in Canton Valais) (see SWISS LEGENDS in the Appendix). Jordi is a diminutive form of Theodor, equivalent to Teddy. Zimmerman is an occupation surname (a carpenter). The surnames Marti and Martin may have been derived from Saint Martin, who had also been a bishop of Octodorum. Churches in
The mystery of the Amish Mennonite Zimmerman family in Baden-Durlach – and later Central Illinois – comes with a set of initial clues.

- The male forebearer was named Christian Zimmerman.
- He was born in Baden-Durlach between 1690 and 1705.
- He married a daughter of Christen/Christian Rüpp of Steffisburg, who had crossed from Kunheim, Alsace into Baden-Durlach in 1712. In 1713 Rüpp leased the Hochburg estate which became one of two principal meeting places for Amish Mennonites in the area. (See ROPP, RÜPP OF HOCHBURG).
- He became a leaseholder on Dölters family properties at Sexau in Baden-Durlach Nov. 11, 1728.
- He shared the five-family Y-chromosome DNA subgroup.

Unless they were Catholics, foreign nationals in Baden-Durlach were expected to register family events at Lutheran churches. This would be necessary for future generations to claim citizenship rights. This incentive was considered sufficient - failure to register Anabaptist family events was not actually punishable in the courts until it became a formal legal requirement April 15, 1809.

Thus we can expect to eventually determine a birth entry for Christian Zimmerman in Lutheran records – though this sounds like finding a needle in a haystack, when one factors in possibly missing records, possible misspellings, and the vagaries of goose-quill pen handwriting.

One of the following two plausible proposals might explain how Christian Zimmerman has escaped identification by genealogists. The second stems from a Lutheran entry already in hand – but this does not preclude the possibility that an entry for the first proposal will eventually be identified as well.

A Family from Steffisburg
A tentative origin for Christian Zimmerman of Denzlingen (one of two)

Recall from STAKER that Zimmermans lived in the area of Steffisburg, Canton Bern. They had a history of association with other families whose members later accepted adult baptism: "The Joder Newsletter cites Document K-893 of March 9, 1580, which has recently been moved to the State Archives of Canton Bern. The deed describes land on the border of Steffisburg and neighboring Fahrni [now Fahrni bei Thun]. 'The brothers Caspar and Nicolaus Joder, sons of the deceased Caspar Joder, bought, together with the families Stücker, Steinmann, Blank, Roth, and Zimmerman related to them by marriage, a large part of the March of Farni and jointly exploited it.'"

A number of Anabaptist Zimmermans from Steffisburg resettled at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines, Upper Alsace. Sorting them out would be beyond the scope of this project. We simply looked for an Anabaptist Zimmerman who left Canton Bern in the appropriate time frame, under a cloud of suspicion, and could have had a son in Baden-Durlach between 1690 and 1705.

The three-story Landhaus was constructed at Steffisburg in 1543. After being used as a simple country home, it became the most important tavern and the courthouse of the Free Court [Ger. Freigericht] of Steffisburg. Christen Zimmerman was an innkeeper and court bailiff [Ger. Weibel] there. On Oct. 24, 1631 at Wichtrach (seven miles north of Steffisburg) Christen married Anna Gross. Her surname is barely readable on the entry, but does begin with a legible ‘Gr.’ It would be confused with Wüss when two of her six children were baptized at Steffisburg.

175 A reconstruction in 1843 encased the older structure of the Landhaus in an outer shell, and a hall was added in 1876 (as a dance hall and theater). It was also used as a meeting place for the Grand Municipal Council. Investigations by the Archaeological Service of Canton Bern in 2017 found that the original floor plan, the timber supporting structure, and the roof truss from the original house are still in place. The house is now being restored.
Recall from SWISS ANABAPTIST EMIGRANTS the account of the aftermath of the Swiss Peasants War of 1653 [Ger. Bauernkrieg]: “…A Thun Rathsmanuеle account from July 14, 1653 said that district governor Hans Berger of Steffisburg had served as a captain in the peasant army and sat on their war council [Ger. Hauptmann der Bauern Armee und Mitglied des Kriegsrathes]. He fled the country to avoid prosecution. Innkeeper and bailiff Christen Zimmerman of Steffisburg was also a member of the council. The goods of Berger and Zimmerman were confiscated. Others from Steffisburg were also fined, but later became leading citizens of the village. They include Hans Leeman, 30 crowns [Ger. Kronen]; Peter Carli, 30 crowns; Christen Imhof, 15 crowns; Hans Trösch, 100 crowns; and Hans Reüsser of Eriz, 150 crowns.”

On Aug. 15, 1679 at Steffisburg widow Anna Gross remarried to Christen Blanck. On the same day we suspect that her youngest son was the groom in a marriage of Christen Zimmerman and Anna Berger.

Children of Christen Zimmerman and Anna Gross baptized at Steffisburg include:

1. **Hans Zimmerman** was baptized Dec. 7, 1634. Witnesses included Hans Dummermuth, Peter Leeman, and Margareth, the wife of Hans Joder. His parents were identified as Christen Zimmerman and Anna Guss (?).

2. Anna Zimmerman was baptized June 19, 1636. Only her father was identified, as der Weibel Zimmerman. Witnesses included Kilchmeyer Bärger, Margareth Joder, and Anna Rübi. She died young.

3. Anna Zimmerman was baptized Nov. 21, 1641. Her parents were identified as Christen Zimmerman der Weyibel and Anna Wys. Witnesses included Michel Im Hoff, Christina Walthart, and Anna Jüchli, wife of Niclaüs Fiess of Wichtrach. On Oct. 2, 1665 at Steffisburg she married Michel Farni. They had a daughter Anna Farni baptized at Steffisburg Jan. 14, 1666. An entry in the Chorgerichtsmanual from Dec. 1, 1682 says that Anna was now a widow, and was visiting Steffisburg from Heidelberg. She wanted to receive money from her mother’s estate to educate a daughter Anna, baptized at Steffisburg Jan. 14, 1666. A 1699 entry says that the mother and daughter had not been heard from since 1693.

4. Niclaüs Zimmerman was baptized Aug. 27, 1643. The entry identifies his parents as Christen Zimmerman der Weybel and Anna Wys. Witnesses included school master Bachman, Staathalter [district administrator or governor] Hans Stüffler, and Barbli Flühman, the wife of Hans Linder.

5. Madle Zimmerman was baptized Aug. 3, 1645. The entry clearly identifies his parents as Christen Zimmerman and Anna Gross. Witnesses included Steffan Farni, Madlen Rüfenacht, and Barbli Farni.

6. Christen Zimmerman was baptized March 31, 1650. The entry clearly identifies his parents as Christen Zimmerman and Anna Gross. Witnesses included Hans Gerber, Christen Müller, and Verena Fyg. He may have been the Christen Zimmerman who married Anna Berger at Steffisburg Aug. 15, 1679, on the same day that his mother remarried to Christen Blank.

**Hans Zimmerman** was baptized at Steffisburg Dec. 7, 1634, and died after May of 1695. He would later be known as Hans Zimmerman in der Weid [in the pasture].

On Sept. 26, 1656 at Steffisburg Hans married Lucia Wertmüller (found on the entry as Lucia Werdtmüller). She was baptized at Steffisburg Jan. 8, 1632, a daughter of Christen Wertmüller and Madleni Rübi. Witnesses included school master Bachman, Staathalter [district administrator or governor] Hans Stufler, and Barbli Flumman, the wife of Hans Linder.

According to descendant Larry Zimmerman, “On Nov. 15, 1691, the Steffisburg Chorgericht [church morals court] declared several of the children of Hans Zimmerman in der Weid to be Anabaptists. In September of that year an unnamed daughter was cited as Täufer Sekt zugethan, a fully devoted Anabaptist. Then in November, the court again cited this daughter as eine bekannte Wiedertäuferin. But they also cited, by name, four of Hans in der Weid’s sons whose birth order was specified, at least in part. That birth order began with Christen, who was, we are told, ‘the oldest brother…the miller who is presently married and living at Attenbühl.’ Also named were Peter, the youngest son [as he was identified in that text]; Hans, his brother; and Clais, the table maker.”

On Jan. 7, 1694, a Chorgericht note said that, “…In the sacred time [near the annual communion] I went from house to house, and was in his [Hans Zimmerman’s] father’s house [that of Hans Zimmerman and Lucia Wertmüller], and I asked him in the presence of Christen Ruchti, Kilchmeyer Moser, and his mother for some reason for his actions, and wanted to instruct. He countered with complete venom, which I now held up to him.”

The latest documentation of Hans Zimmerman in der Weid that we found was the baptism entry of Anna Eyër, created at Steffisburg May 26, 1695. She was a daughter of Melchior Eyër and Barbara Zimmerman (Barbara was not his daughter Babi, baptized in 1670; Barbara and Melchior were married in 1685).

Children of Hans Zimmerman in der Weid and Lucia Wertmüller baptized at Steffisburg include:

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176 The online village history of Wichtrach says that ‘Niklaüs Fiess’ became Amman – an administrator representing the interests of the Council of Bern – but was fined 900 crowns for his participation in the Swiss Peasants War of 1653.
Amish Mennonites in Tazewell County, Illinois

1. **Christen Zimmerman** was baptized Feb. 1, 1657. Witnesses included Andres Maurer, Hans Frey, and Anna Joder.
2. Hans Zimmerman was baptized Dec. 19, 1658. Witnesses included Úli Stilí von Thun, Christen Reüsger, and Madleni Hillfinger. On Jan. 7, 1694 an entry in the *Chorgerichtsmanual* said that Hans, Hans Rogi, and Babi and Verena Roth had not attended communion. Because he was very defiant and obstinate [Ger. *gans widerspenstig*], he was sent to the mayor and placed in the custody of the bailiff.
3. Anni Zimmerman was baptized March 24, 1661. Witnesses included Hans Braun, Anni Joder, and Madlena Frey.
4. Magdalena Zimmerman was baptized Sept. 6, 1663. Witnesses included Peter Root, Freni Meyer, and Anna Küni. She may have been the Magdalena Zimmerman who married Ulrich Stauffer of Eggwiil at Steffisburg Oct. 14, 1687.
5. Niclaüs/Claüs Zimmerman was baptized March 17, 1667. Witnesses included Christen Farni, Hans Frey, and Catri Gerber. He was described as a table maker in 1691.
6. Babi Zimmerman was baptized May 29, 1670. Witnesses included Hans Ábersol, Catri Reüsger, and Babi Büchler.
7. Peter Zimmerman was baptized March 9, 1673. Witnesses included Steffan Reüsser, David Moser, and Anna Trachsel. The 1691 *Chorgerichtsmanual* note said that “…Youngest son Peter has been infected with it [Anabaptism], known not from his presence [testimony], but from the resistance of his brother Hans, which does not give us hope that he will present himself.”

**Christen Zimmerman** was baptized at Steffisburg Feb. 1, 1657.

On Nov. 11, 1681 at Steffisburg he married Barbara Bachman. Their entry has a note that the ceremony was approved by authorities; this may have meant a number of things, perhaps a near-cousin relationship.

On the same day at Steffisburg Adam Bürcki married Barbara’s older sister Anna Bachman.

The baptism entries of both brides could be found at Oberdiessbach. Barbara Bachman was baptized Aug. 16, 1657, a daughter of Jacob Bachmann and Catharina Rübi, residents of Brenzikofen. Witnesses included Jacob Hüber, Anna Rübi, and Barbara Anthoni. Anna Bachman was baptized May 22, 1653, a daughter of Jacob Bachmann and Catri Rübi; witnesses included Benedikt Tschantz, Anna Frey, and Catri Stucki.

Adam Bürcki and Anna Bachman had a son Hans baptized at Steffisburg Aug. 9, 1691. A note on the entry next to Adam’s name says he was a suspected Anabaptist, and they were living at Wallis [the German equivalent for Canton Valais] where Adam was mowing. He may have been scything tall grass for hay. The child was brought in for christening by Christ Haltiman acting for Anna Bachman.177

In 1691 Christen and Barbara were living in a mill on the Rotache River, in a hamlet called Ättenbühl, in the Zulg River valley, on the western slope of Honegg Mountain in the northern part of Oberlangenegg, seven miles northeast of the church at Steffisburg. This part of the valley is still sparsely populated and heavily wooded. Present day maps call it Aettenbühl.

On April 4, 1695 Christen and Barbara paid an emigration property tax to emigrate. They had a son Johannes baptized in the new Protestant Reformed Church at Schwarzenegg April 7. Soon after this the family departed from Steffisburg. A notation *Täufer* in the margin of the baptism entry was likely added after they were gone – Schwarzenegg had an especially tolerant minister, and the rural church was established to draw in congregants who might otherwise be attracted to Anabaptism.

A *Chorgericht* report created at Steffisburg May 26, 1695 noted the payment of the tax, listing “…Deductions paid on April 4, 1695 by Anabaptists as a tax on property being taken out of the land, a twentieth penny [five percent]: Hans Rüpp, Ulrich Catrey and Barbara Schwarz, Christen Farni’s wife and children, Hans Rüpp and Catryn Joder, Mathí’s Úlli, Christen Zimmerman and Babi Bachmann, Michel Schwaar, Andreas Kropf and Anna Haldiman, Christen Joder, Hans Küng with his wife and children, and Peter Farni from Langenegg.”

Steffisburg did not keep records of deaths until 1700; thus it is difficult to know how many children from this marriage survived infancy. We suspect few. But the May 26 report that suggests none is not a reliable source; one contradiction - Hans Rüpp *der Jüng* and Cathrin Joder emigrated with two children.

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177 Adam Bürcki was one of a pair of twins (the other Eva) baptized at Steffisburg May 23, 1658. Their parents were Christen Bürcki and Barbara Bachman. He died at Baldenheim, Lower Alsace April 25, 1696. Children of Adam Bürcki and Anna Bachmann baptized at Steffisburg include:

1. Barbara Bürcki was baptized Nov. 19, 1682. Witnesses included Christen Zimmerman, Barbara Schindler, and Cathrina Bähler.
2. Anna Bürcki was baptized Sept. 28, 1684. Witnesses included Hans Gerber, Anna Stagman, and Adelheit Stücki.
3. Christen Bürcki was baptized May 8, 1687. Witnesses included Christen Haltiman, Issac Hirsig, and Barbara Osch.
4. Magdalena Bürcki was baptized Jan. 27, 1689. Witnesses included Jacob Bürcki, Magdalena Weber, and Barbara Reüsser.
5. Hans Zimmerman was baptized Aug. 9, 1691. Witnesses included Niclaüs Haltiman, Peter Meier, and Cathrina Pieri.
Their son Johannes may or may not have been an exception. Since he was baptized three days after the tax payment, it is understandable that he was not mentioned on the May 26 summary.

Children of Christen Zimmerman and Barbara Bachman born in Canton Bern include:

1. Anna Zimmerman was baptized at Steffisburg July 29, 1683. Witnesses included Hans Stagman, Anna Tschimmer, and Cathrina Bährler.
2. Hans Zimmerman was baptized at Steffisburg April 19, 1685. Witnesses included Hans Ochsenbein, Adam Bürcki, and Madlena Zimmerman. As noted by descendant Larry Zimmerman, it is likely that Hans died as an infant, permitting his mother to stop nursing and become fertile again within three months – her next child was born only one year later.
3. Christen Zimmerman was baptized at Steffisburg April 25, 1686. Witnesses included Abraham Reüsser, Peter Farni, and Verena Shenck. Once again, as noted by descendant Larry Zimmerman, it is likely that Christen died as an infant, permitting his mother to stop nursing and become fertile again – she gave birth to twins only one year later. According to the website www.womenshealth.gov/pregnancy/, a new pregnancy within a year of childbirth increases the odds that the next child will be born prematurely.
4. Barbara Zimmerman (twin) was baptized at Steffisburg April 29, 1687. Witnesses included Daniel Gerber, Barbara am Stütz, and Barbara Waber. Her baptism entry notes that it took place at night, became the child was weak.
5. Verena Zimmerman (twin) was baptized at Steffisburg May 1, 1687. Witnesses included Hans Zimmerman, Verena Shenck, and Verena Waber.
6. Johannes Zimmerman was baptized at Schwarzenegg April 7, 1695. Witnesses included Melchior Werthmüller and Dorothea Werthmüller.

From this point this scenario requires a leap of faith. It is tentatively proposed that Christen Zimmerman had a seventh child born in Baden-Durlach, perhaps to a second wife.

7. **Christian Zimmerman** was born in Baden-Durlach between 1696 and 1703.

His birth year must have fallen after 1695, the year of the the baptism of brother Johannes. The second date is very loosely approximated, on the idea that he must have been at least 21 years of age when he signed a lease in 1728; but it is more likely that he would have been at least 25 years of age.

**A Family from Belp**

A tentative origin for Christian Zimmerman of Denzlingen (two of two)

A second proposal points downriver from Steffisburg.

Belpberg is a hill overlooking the village of Belp, Canton Bern. Belp is on the west side of the Aare River, 13 miles northwest of Steffisburg, and six miles southeast of the city of Bern. The two communities were merged administratively in 2012.178

Many of the same surnames found at Steffisburg are also found in Belp church records. Its Protestant Reformed Church was established in 1549. A Zimmerman baptism was recorded there in the first year.

**Hans Zimmerman**’s marriage to Elsbeth Schlecter was recorded at Belp Nov. 28, 1664. The exact spelling of her surname is uncertain from this entry and others, but appears to be derived from Schlücter, now standardized as Schlater. In the Bernese dialect a *Schlücter* was someone who lived near a gorge.

The entries of their children baptized at Belp said the family lived in Belpberg. For that reason alone we could probably characterize them as dairy farmers.

Their children baptized at Belp include:

1. Catrina Zimmerman was baptized Oct. 16, 1666. Witnesses included Christen Wyrich, Barbara Gürtner, and Catrin [illegible].
2. **Christen Zimmerman** was baptized Dec. 26, 1669. Witnesses included Christian Schlücter, Hans Bachman, and Elsbeth Schmid.

**Christen Zimmerman** was baptized at Belp Dec. 26, 1669, a son of Hans Zimmerman and Elsbeth Schlater.

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178 Belp has changed considerably since the 1600s. In 1829-30 the Aare River was dredged and its course was corrected to take out bends; this prevented flooding and created new farmland. A bridge was constructed in 1836.
On July 30, 1693 the marriage of ‘Christe’ Zimmerman was recorded in the Lutheran church register at Auggen, Baden-Durlach. Recall that unless they were Catholics, foreign nationals in Baden-Durlach were obligated by law to register family events at Lutheran churches.

The groom was described as “ein lediger Dienstknecht, aus dem Berner geburth gebürtig” – an unmarried farm laborer/servant, born in Canton Bern. A margin note said, “Hans Zimmerman seligen welcher Sohn im Belpp Calvinischen Religion” – this son of Hans Zimmerman was blessed [baptized] at Belp in the Protestant Reformed religion. The bride was Ursula Breitenstein, a daughter of Jerg or Jörg Breitenstein of Zeglingen im Basler.

Auggen is located inland on the eastern (Baden) side of the Rhine River, less than a mile from a crossing at Neuenberg am Rhein. It is 19 miles north of Basel, and approximately 30 miles southwest of Freiburg im Breisgau and Denzlingen.

The couple had the births of children Hans, Maria, and Christian Zimmerman registered at Auggen. Christian was born Feb. 5, 1697, and his place as the third child was noted on the entry created Feb. 9.

If or when Christian chose adult baptism is uncertain. However, it would have been a necessary step before marrying an Amish Mennonite.

Baden and Beyond

Taking all the pieces into account, and viewing them from a purely historical perspective, the proposal for the Belp and Zeglingen couple and a child born at Auggen seems the more likely.

There are precedents for Anabaptist emigrants settling in Baden-Durlach before 1710. However, those instances are usually associated with stories of merciless persecution.

Amish Mennonites expelled from Ste. Marie-aux-Mines in 1712 saw a more tolerant welcome from the margravate, because they arrived with established reputations as politically-neutral and productive citizens. Many would have arrived with certificates of good character from Christian III von Pfalz-Zweibrücken (1674-1735) of the house of Birkenfeld-Bischweiler-Pfalz-Zweibrücken. He was a count of Rappolstein, and a member of the same Wittelsbach family that later ruled Bavaria.

The year 1715 is generally accepted as the beginning of the Age of Enlightenment in Europe. On Sept. 15, 1715, Margrave Karl Wilhelm reversed earlier policy by decreeing religious freedom for anyone who wanted to live within the protection of his forest castle Karlsruhe. On April 9, 1722, he followed this up by ordering Lutheran clergy to resist the persecution of other creeds.

Would the Anabaptist Steffisburg couple have been likely to settle in Baden-Durlach as early as 1705, when acceptance there was uncertain, and there were already related Zimmermans living in and around Ste. Marie-aux-Mines?

On the other hand, we know the Belp and Zeglingen couple were married in Baden-Durlach July 30, 1697. We can imagine their native-born son choosing to accept adult baptism after associating with the post-1712 arrivals.

On to firmer ground.

HOCHBURG

The Hochburg [high castle] is an extensive castle ruin between the city of Emmendingen and the village of Sexau. Between 1551 and 1771 these communities were part of Baden-Durlach; from 1771 to 1806 part of Baden; and from 1806 to 1830 part of the Grand Duchy of Baden.

The castle was documented as early as 1127 AD, though it may have been older. Its first known tenant was Dietrich von Emmendingen, who later called himself von Hachberg. When his sons divided properties among themselves in 1212 AD, it became the seat of the margraves (military commanders) of Baden-Hachberg.

The castle withstood the war of the Oberrheinischer Städtebund in 1424, a siege during the German Peasants War of 1525, and sieges over two years during the Thirty Years War of 1618-48 before being surrendered. In 1660 its outer walls were reconstructed to repair damage from artillery.

Some Swiss Anabaptists had arrived in the area soon after the persecutions of 1670. As early as 1687 the administrative records of Windenreute mentioned a Hodel family of Anabaptists that had come from Steffisburg; this surname became ‘Hodler’ in Alsace.

179 Zeglingen is 23 miles southeast of the city of Basel, and 12 miles southeast of Leistal. In 1693 it was in Basel-Landschaft, also called Baselland, within the Canton of Basel. Basel-Landschaft was made up of properties that had been acquired by the city of Basel. In 1833 Canton Basel divided into Canton Basel-Landschaft and Canton Basel-Stadt.
In 1681 French troops occupied the area under the Treaty of the Peace of Nijmegen. They decided to end the castle’s potential use as a fortress by mining it from the inside. In 1684 accidental fires caused by peasant occupants destroyed the remaining living quarters. Then in 1688 the French returned and reduced it to a ruin.

Discussions of Hochburg or a Hochburg estate related to Amish Mennonites generally refer to the tenant farmers who occupied the stepped terraces surrounding the castle ruins, and fields below. These were the property of the margrave.

Early Anabaptist leaseholders include:

1713  Christen/Christian Rüp, with son-in-law Michel Müller as guarantor
1746  Michel Müller and Michel Isen/Eissen, following the death of Christen/Christian Rüp
1754  Nine-year lease signed Sept. 7. Michel Müller, his son Christian Müller, and Michel Isen
1772  Jacob Zimmerman, Christian Müller and his brother Jacob Müller
1785  Jacob Zimmerman and Jacob Müller

Christen/Christian Rüp was baptized at Steffisburg Oct. 27, 1672, a son of Hans Rüp and Babi/Barbara Joder. He was living at Kunheim, Upper Alsace, but crossed the Rhine River into Baden in 1713. In the same year he leased grounds surrounding the ruined Hochburg Castle from the margrave for 650 guilders. See ROPP, RÜPP OF HOCHBURG for background.

In 1714 Christen/Christian Rüp’s cousin (once removed) Christen Joder of Steffisburg came from Fertrupt (adjacent to Ste. Marie-aux-Mines) to live at Emmendingen, and remained there for 10 years. His sister Barbara may have arrived with him. In 1724 Christen applied to Christian III's administrators from Baden, asking for permission to return to Alsace and live at Jebsheim, stating that he had previously lived at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines for 18 years. See YODER for background.

The late genealogist John Alma Hüppi tentatively proposed that our main figure Christian Zimmerman married one of the daughters of Christen/Christian Rüp. Recall from ROPP, RÜPP OF HOCHBURG that Hüppi indirectly confirmed this when he discovered an accounting of the Hochburg estate created in 1785. It said that Christian Rüp, the first Anabaptist leaseholder there, was a maternal grandfather to the current Anabaptist leaseholders [Jacob Zimmerman and Jacob Müller]. This unidentified Rüp was born no later than 1711.

On Nov. 11, 1728 Christian Zimmerman signed a 10-year lease on Dölters family properties at Sexau. An accounting sheet in the Generallandesarchiv Karlsruhe says, “The estate of the surviving children [all minors] of the late Martin Dölters of Sexau was conferred by lease to the Anabaptist Christian Zimmermann until St. Martin’s Day [Nov. 11], 1738, who also was assessed the protection fee of 25 florins, which he would have had to solely observe, but because of princely grace it was reduced by half with no consequences. However, the complete amount of 25 florins has been entered here.”

Sexau, Emmendingen, and Denzlingen are clustered together where the Black Forest [Ger. Schwarzwald] meets the Upper Rhine Plain (actually a range of low hills). They sit above the city limits of Freiburg im Breisgau, a university town since medieval times. The area between them is now filled in by the suburban communities Gundelfingen and Vörstetten.

**FREIBURG IM BREISGAU**

‘im Breisgau’ distinguishes this location from Freiburg an der Elbe in Lower Saxony, and the city and canton of Fribourg in Switzerland (bordering the west side of Canton Bern).

From 1648 to 1805 Freiburg im Breisgau was a free market city at the juncture of important trade routes. It also served as the administrative center of the scattered Hapsburg territories called Further or Outer Austria [Ger. Vorder Österreich], less a few periods when it was occupied by the French.

The unincorporated entity was technically never a part of Baden-Durlach, but became part of the Grand Duchy of Baden in 1805.

Another village that was home to Anabaptists was Opfingen, on the west side of Freiburg im Breisgau. It was administratively absorbed into the city in 1971.

The area is one of the warmest in Germany, known for its grape harvests and dairy products. The economy is also supplemented by mining for lead and silver. Thus its 18th-century economy resembled Ste. Marie-aux-Mines, where Swiss emigrants had prospered providing food and drink for miners.

On April 23 (the feast day of St. George), 1739 Christian took a lease on the Zehnthof estate at Denzlingen. In *Eighteenth Century Anabaptists in the Margravate of Baden and Neighboring Territories*, Mark Häberlein and Michaela Schmolz-Häberlein wrote that, “In March 1739, Christian Zimmermann leased for nine years the so-called Widdumsgut in Denzlingen [also called the Zehnthof estate], a hereditary fief of the collegiate chapter of St.
Margarethen in Waldkirch administered by the community. Zimmermann had to deliver 60 Malter (9000 liters) of rye – 30 to the collegiate chapter, 20 to the margrave’s Burgvogtei, and 10 to the community – and pay 135 gulden (silver coins) annually.” 180

Denzlingen was also known as Langendenzlingen, or ‘long Denzlingen,’ because it was formed over time by filling in the stretch between two medieval settlements.

On Aug. 1, 1739 the town fathers of Denzlingen petitioned the margrave. They asked for exemption from the religious protection fee for Christian Zimmerman, saying he was born ‘in the land’ [Baden-Durlach]: “…Welcher im Land gebohren und bisher einen Hof zu Sexau in Bestand gehabt.” Though he would ordinarily have been obligated to pay because he worshipped as an Anabaptist, he was granted an exemption.

The War of the Austrian Succession (1740-48) had a direct impact on Denzlingen. In August of 1740 alone, it residents had to billet 400 Austrian recruits. By 1742 communal funds were running low, but the village helped to pay the cost of boarding its residents elsewhere until they could send income home. In 1744 and 1745 at least 15,000 soldiers camped in the surrounding fields while their horses grazed.

During the worst hardships of 1745, soldiers looted homes, stables, and barns. Several times when residents tried to hide their foodstuffs, officers threatened to burn down the community.

In 1756 a census of Denzlingen showed only 710 inhabitants.

When Christian renewed the contract for the Widdumsgut in June 1757, he was provided surety by his brother-in-law Jacob Rüß, Anabaptist tenant of the Steckenhof estate at Denzlingen.

After Christian’s death in 1771, his widow and son Andreas took over the lease contract. (Had his widow not been sick in bed that day, we might have a sample of her signature telling us her first name).

Protestant Baden-Durlach had been divided from Catholic Baden-Baden since 1551, though they were ruled by different lines of the same family. They were reunited under Margrave Karl Friedrich in 1771.181 His diverse domain consisted of an upper Catholic region (Baden-Baden), a lower Lutheran region (Baden-Durlach), and a patchwork of properties owned by the Austrian Hapsburgs, the prince-bishop of Basel, and knights of the Holy Roman Empire. In that year Baden-Durlach was further divided into (north-to-south) an upper margravate, the district of Hochburg, and a lower margravate. The district of Hochburg was composed of villages on the west and north sides of the city of Freiburg im Breisgau.

This national restructuring necessitated several years of higher taxes to offset debts incurred earlier by Baden-Baden.

UNREST
The French Revolution began with the storming of the Bastille July 14, 1789. The Bastille was a medieval fortress, armory, and prison in Paris.

Over the next few weeks peasants and citizens also rebelled against authorities along the Alsatian left side of the Rhine River. In August prisons at Strasbourg were abandoned by rebellious garrisons, and prisoners were released.

Then scattered food riots and attacks on monasteries began on the Baden side of the river. At first only one small political riot took place in Denzlingen.

Then on August 29 a court decision was announced that was the culmination of a legal dispute begun in 1760. Forest privileges in the nearby Nonnenhölzle were taken from Denzlingen, depriving its inhabitants of their main source of firewood. And in 1790 wealthy farmers tried to deny use of grazing areas to poorer livestock handlers and day laborers. These local events led to an open revolt in the village and may account for the westward migrations of some Zimmerman descendants.

For a timeline of events in Baden from 1800 to 1830, see ROTH).

Children of Christian Zimmerman and a Rüß include:

1. Catharina Zimmerman was born at Sexau circa 1730, and died at Staffelfelden, Upper Alsace Dec. 2, 1803. She married Heinrich Boshart. He was born circa 1727 and died at Staffelfelden Aug. 27, 1794. His civil death entry described him as a 67-year-old miller and named his wife as Catherine Zimmerman. It was witnessed by Christian

180 An invaluable article published in the October 2001 issue of Goshen College’s Mennonite Quarterly Review, found online at goshen.edu/mqr/pastissues/oct01schmnolz.html
181 Margrave Karl Friedrich (1728-1811) abolished the legal use of torture in 1767, and serfdom in 1783. His second wife Louise Geyer of Geyersberg was made Baroness of Hochberg with their marriage in 1787, then Countess of Hochberg in 1796. Karl Friedrich became a Grand Duke of the Holy Roman Empire in 1806. Although his children from this second marriage were initially ineligible to succeed him, laws were changed in 1817. The House of Hochberg became princes and princesses. They ruled the Grand Duchy of Baden until 1918.
Zimmerman, 60, a resident of Ungersheim [her younger brother]; and Johannes Ringenberger, 28, a miller at Staffelfelden. Catharina’s civil death entry said she was 73 years of age. It described her as Heinrich Boshart’s widow, a miller from the Department Oberrhein [Baden]. It was witnessed by plowman [Ger. Ackermann] Christian Zimmerman, 69 [her younger brother], and plowman Joseph Jotter, 41. For background on their North American descendants see BOSHART in the Appendix.

2. Johannes Zimmerman was born at Sexau circa 1732, and died in the area of Strasbourg, Lower Alsace before 1797.
3. Christian/Chrétien Zimmerman was born at Sexau circa 1734, and died at Froeningen, Upper Alsace April 24, 1804.

4. Jacob Zimmerman was born at Sexau Dec. 16, 1735. He died after April 5, 1805, but before Nov. 12, 1807.
5. Anna Maria Zimmerman was born at Sexau or Denzlingen circa 1738, and died there Oct. 21, 1755.
6. Michael Zimmerman died as a small child at Denzlingen Feb. 20, 1741. The death entry described his father as Christian Zimmerman, a Wiedertäufer.
7. Barbara/Barbe Zimmerman was born at Denzlingen circa 1752, and died at Kingersheim, Upper Alsace Nov. 26, 1819. Her civil death entry described her as Barbe Zimmerman, 67, [her younger brother]
8. Jungholtz is less than two square miles. It did not keep its own civil records until 1880.

8. Andreas Zimmerman was born at Denzlingen before 1756, and died in 1793.

182 Jungholtz is less than two square miles. It did not keep its own civil records until 1880.
Descendants of Johannes Zimmerman

Johannes Zimmerman was born at Sexau circa 1732, and died in the area of Strasbourg, Lower Alsace before 1797. He married Anna Müller. They were at Kollmarsreute (three miles north of Denzlingen) in 1764, and near Sankt Martin church at Freibourg im Breisgau (seven miles south of Denzlingen) in 1766. By 1770 they had leased the estate of Johann Michael Knoderer at Niedermendingen (now absorbed by Emmendingen, which is on the northwest side of Kollmarsreute).

A list of Anabaptists who paid the religious protection tax in 1796/97 included the widow of Johannes Zimmerman of Niedermendingen, who tilled the farm of Joh. Michael Knoderer.

Their son Christian took over their lease, and other children moved to the area of Strasbourg. Those looking for deeper information on this family are encouraged to read Neil Ann Stuckey Levine’s very thorough article The Zimmerman Family at Strasbourg, France in the January 2005 issue of Mennonite Family History.

Children of Johannes Zimmerman and Anna Müller include:

1. Johannes/Jean Zimmerman was born at Niedermendingen circa 1759, and died at Strasbourg Dec. 18, 1828. He married Barbara Stücki/Stucky. She was born at Osheim, Lower Alsace circa 1765, and died at Strasbourg April 16, 1828, a daughter of Benedict 'Benz' Stucky/Stucky and Anna Maria Neuhauser. Her father was the minister who represented the Colmar congregation with Hans Rüpp/Jean Ropp at the assembly of ministers at Essingen in 1759. According to Levine in 1784 they were living at Dambach-la-Ville, Lower Alsace; in 1790 at Durrenentzen, Upper Alsace; at Illkirch, Lower Alsace (now Illkirch-Graffenstaden) in 1792, and at Strasbourg in 1793. At Strasbourg they lived on Schulmeister’s Canardière estate and at La Robertsau. His civil death entry described him as cultivator Jean Zimmerman, 69, born at Niedermendingen, Grand Duché de Bade. He was a son of deceased cultivator Jean Zimmerman and his deceased unknown wife, and the widower of Barbe Stucki. It was witnessed by his son cultivator Jean Zimmerman, 39. Her civil death entry described her as Barbe Stucki, 63, born at Osheim, a daughter of deceased cultivator Benoit Stucki and his deceased unknown wife. She was married to cultivator Jean Zimmerman. She had died in Maison No. 66 at la Ménagerie near la porte Dauphin, Strasbourg. It was witnessed by her son cultivator Jean Zimmerman, 38.

2. Jacob Zimmerman was born circa 1761, and died before Feb. 18, 1822.

3. Anna Maria/Anne Zimmerman was born at Emmendingen in December of 1764, and died at La Robertsau, Strasbourg April 12, 1814. Her civil death entry said she was age 50 years and four months, a daughter of the deceased cultivator Jean Zimmerman and the deceased Anne Müller. She was the wife of cultivator Michel Muller, 51 [he was a son of Jacob Müller and Anna Litwiller], and died in their home Maison No. 318 at La Robertsau.

4. Michael Zimmerman was born near Sankt Martin church at Freiburg im Breisgau May 12, 1766, and died at Kandern, Baden Nov. 21, 1842. On July 18, 1801 at St. Stail, Vosges he married Elisabeth Hung. She was born at St. Croix-aux-Mines, Upper Alsace Sept. 14, 1783, and died at Kandern Feb. 5, 1838, a daughter of Sebastian Hung and Susanna Schürch. Their civil marriage entry describe the groom as cultivator Michel Charpentier, 27, born at St. Martin, terre d'ampire [meant to be terre d'empire, land in the empire, thus outside the boundaries of France] May 12, 1766. He was a son of the deceased Jean Charpentier and Anne Miller. The bride was described as Elisabeth Hone, 19, born at St. Croix, a daughter of cultivator Sebastian Hone and Susanne Cherick [Schürch] of St. Stail. Witnesses included cultivator Christianne Charpentier, 32, fromQuiersad, terre d'ampire ['Quiersad' must somehow be associated with Niedermendingen, where Christian was still leaseholder at the time of the wedding]; cultivator of Jacob Charpentier, 39, of Quiersad [?], terre d'ampire, brother of the groom; and maternal uncle of the bride Christanne Vagner, 29, from 'ybrin terre d'ampire' [Levine suggests Ebringen below Freiburg im Breisgau, Baden]. The list of marriages immediately below this entry gave the name of the bride as Elisabet Hongue. Signatures looked like Michel Zimmerman, Jacob Zimmerman, Christian Zimmerman, and Christian Wagler. The bride signed with an 'x,' indicating she was illiterate. In 1803 Michel and Elisabeth leased the Platzhof farm at Kandern, Baden, 14 miles north of Basel.

5. Christian Zimmerman was born circa 1768, and died at Basel, Switzerland May 27, 1829. He followed his father as leaseholder at Niedermendingen. He married Barbara Stucky (not the widow of his brother; this Barbara died at Riehen, Switzerland Sept. 20, 1813).

6. Magdalena Zimmerman was born at Niedermendingen circa 1770, and died in Maison No. 19 on Rue de l'Abreuvoir, Strasbourg Jan. 10, 1836. She married Christian Wagler. He was born at Salm circa 1770, and died at La Robertsau Feb. 4, 1814, a son of Sebastian Wagler and Elisabeth Ropp.

7. Maria Zimmerman was born at Niedermendingen circa 1771, and died before 1840. She married Christian König. He was born circa 1765, and died at Bamlach, Baden between 1825 and 1834, a son of Christian König and Elisabetha Stücki. See KING for background on this couple.

Jacob Zimmerman was born circa 1761, and died before Feb. 18, 1822. Jacob married his cousin (once removed) Anna Maria König. She was born circa 1772, and died before Feb. 18, 1822, a daughter of Christian Zimmerman and Elisabetha König.
They became co-leaseholders on the Baldenwegerhof above Zarten (15 miles south of Sexau) with her brother Christian König. Jacob was a minister, and performed the marriage ceremony of his own son in 1822.

Children of Jacob Zimmerman and Anna Maria König include:

1. Magdalena Zimmerman was born on the Baldenwegerhof Feb. 27, 1790. She had four illegitimate children. She applied for a German Heimatrecht (home rights) certificate for herself Oct. 2, 1828. Documents in the Landesarchiv Karlsruhe derived from the lengthy process provide a wealth of information. In the end she was denied, because at the time she was born her parents were only considered temporary tenants, one of her two sons had died, and her two daughters were born at Müllheim. The surviving son was awarded a certificate in 1836.

2. Johannes/Jean/John Zimmerman was born on the Baldenwegerhof Feb. 21, 1797, and died at Ross Township, Clinton County, Indiana before the 1870 census.

The information in this portion of text has been developed with Ardelle and Larry Koperski, who have done considerable research on this family. They worked from a fragment of the Joseph Zimmerman Family Bible held by the late Pearl Dietz Beatty, a granddaughter of Joseph. The whereabouts of the Bible is no longer known.

Johannes/Jean/John Zimmerman was born on the Baldenwegerhof estate above Zarten, Baden Feb. 21, 1797, and died at Ross Township, Clinton County, Indiana after the 1870 census.

Johannes/Jean and Anna 'Emma' Schneider traveled to Hegenheim, Upper Alsace for the birth of their first child Feb. 5, 1822. The civil birth entry described the mother as Anne Schneider, 21, a daughter of Jacques Schneider and Elisabeth Stauffer of Durmenach; and the father as Jean Zimmerman, 25, son of the deceased Jacques Zimmerman and the deceased Anne König. Jean was living at Riethzen, canton de Bale [Riehen between Basel and Lörrach]. The child was named Jean Schneider. The father signed with an ‘x,’ indicating he was illiterate.

They were married at Munzingen, Baden later that year; the ceremony was performed by the groom’s father. Anna Schneider was born circa 1802, and died in the decade before the 1870 census, a daughter of Jacob/Jacques Schneider and Elisabeth Stauffer.

Johannes/Jean’s cousin Christian Zimmerman and Catherine Sommer of Bourgfelden also traveled to Hegenheim for the delivery of their first child before marriage Oct. 19, 1823. Like Johannes/Jean and Anna Maria a year earlier, they had a Kaufmann listed as a witness on the birth entries. Pierre Kaufmann, a farmer-cultivator born circa 1793, was married to Anna Zimmermann, born circa 1798. It is possible that both couples were employed by the Baron Barbier, seigneur or landowner of Bourgfelden-Hebenheim and politician, who owned estates at Bourgfelden and Hegenheim (recall that Michel Lauber was employed by him).

On Sept. 28, 1842 Johannes/Jean applied for German citizenship rights. His citizenship file in the Generallandesarchiv of Baden says he was 46; was born on the Baldenwegerhof estate but resided at Lörrach [seven miles northeast of Basel]; that he had married Anna Maria Schneider, born at Durmenach [no civil entry is found there], a daughter of Jakob Schneider; and that their ceremony was performed at Munzingen by Jacob Zimmerman.

Family records say Johannes/Jean and Anna sailed to America in 1849. Their children stated their year of immigration as 1851 on the 1900 census.

Papers from Mrs. John A. Zimmerman said that they settled “near what is now Berne, Indiana” (in Adams County, north of Delaware County). This is true in a general sense. It is likely that the precise location was Delaware County, where Christian Reeser could have visited Barbara Zimmermann's home. This agrees with Cosco's account. Reeser's home at the time of their meeting, Liberty, is now Liberty Corners, a suburb of Muncie in Delaware County.

A Portrait and Biographical Album of Woodford County (1889) says they “...located on a farm in Delaware County, Indiana, where they resided until released from earth's trials at a good old age. They were good, industrious, intelligent, and religious people, being worthy members of the old school Mennonite Church.” Despite this, 75-year-old John Zimmerman of Baden is found on the 1870 census of Ross Township, Clinton County, Indiana. There he was living next door to his son Christian and daughter-in-law Christina Schlatter. Johannes/John may be buried in Peters Cemetery in Ross Township.

Children of Johannes/Jean/John Zimmerman and Anna Schneider include:

1. Jean/Johannes/John A. Zimmerman was born at Hegenheim, Upper Alsace Feb. 5, 1822, and died Feb. 18, 1886. On May 25, 1851 he married Magdalena Roth at what is now Berne, Indiana. She was born in Maison No. 23 at Aspach, Upper Alsace Oct. 5, 1829, and died at Nebraska Township, Livingston County May 30, 1909, a daughter of Jacob/Jacques Roth and Madeleine Schmuckly. They are found on the 1860 census of French, Adams County, Indiana next door to John's younger brother Christian as: farmer John Zimmerman, 38, Bavaria; Margaret, 31, France; and five children born in Indiana, the oldest 8 years of age. The family can also be found on the 1870 and 1880 censuses of Pike, Livingston County. They are buried in Pike Township Cemetery.
2. Christian Zimmerman was born at Lörrach, Baden March 29, 1825, and died at Ross, Indiana Dec. 12, 1899. On Aug. 12, 1851 in Wells County, Indiana he married Christina Schlatter. She was born at Richwiller, Upper Alsace March 24, 1828, and died April 3 or 8, 1897, a daughter of Nicolas Schlatter and Barbe Stucki/Stocky. She immigrated in 1846. They are found on the 1860 census of French, Adams County as farmer C. Zimmerman, 35, Baden; Christina, 32, France; and Barbara Slaughter, 60, France. Within five years they bought a farm at Ross, Clinton County, where Christian became a minister. The 1880 census of Ross Township: farmer Christian Zimmerman, 55, born in Baden to German parents; and Christina, 52, born in France to French parents. On Dec. 16, 1897 in Clinton County he remarried to Christian's niece Katharina Schindler. She was born at Voujeaucourt, Doubs, Franche Comté June 11, 1849, a daughter of Daniel Schindler and Catherine Schaller. Following Christian's death she lived with a brother in Reno County, Kansas, then at Anderson, Madison County, Indiana where she died Nov. 23, 1911. Christian, Christina, and Katharina are buried in Mennonite Cemetery at Edna Mills, Ross Township.

3. Jacob Zimmerman was born at Lörrach March 18, 1827, and died at Milford, Nebraska July 1, 1885. He was a minister in Indiana and Nebraska. On Sept. 22, 1853 in Butler County, Ohio he married third cousin Barbara Zimmerman; the ceremony was performed by minister Nicholas Augspurger. She was born at Bourgfelden, Upper Alsace March 17, 1833, and died at Milford, Nebraska Sept. 2, 1896, a daughter of Christian Zimmerman and Catherine Sommer. They can be found on the 1880 census of Pike, Livingston County as farmer Jacob Zimmerman, 53, born in Baden to parents from Baden; Barbara, 47, born in France to French parents; and four children born in Illinois. Herald of Truth, August 1885: "On the 1st of July, at Milford, Seward county, Neb., of consumption, Jacob Zimmerman, aged 58 years, 3 months and 14 days. On the 2d he was buried at the Amish graveyard. He was a member of the Amish Mennonite Church. Services by Joseph Gaslo and Joseph Retiger. Text, John 5: 20–30." He is buried in the Amish Cemetery at Milford. Herald of Truth, February 1897: "Barbara Zimmerman was born on the 18th of March, 1833 in Alsace, Germany, was married to Jacob Zimmerman on the 22d of September, 1853 in Butler Co., Ohio. She lived in matrimony 32 years and died on the 2d of September, 1896, aged 63 years, 5 months and 15 days. She leaves one brother, one sister, five children, and twenty-six grandchildren to mourn her death. A son and daughter preceded her. Her remains were laid to rest on the 4th of Sept. in the Fairview Cemetery, Seward Co., Neb. Funeral text, 1 Cor. 15:53." She is buried in Fairview Mennonite Cemetery at Milford.

4. Barbara Zimmerman was born at Lörrach April 4, 1830, and died at Eureka, Woodford County March 26, 1903. On April 15, 1852 at Muncie, Indiana she married Christian Risser/Reeser. He was born at Guebenhouse, Moselle Sept. 19, 1819, and died at Eureka Jan. 14, 1923, a son of Jean Risser and Françoise Bergmann. See RISSER/REESER for more on this couple.

5. Joseph Zimmerman was born at Lörrach Feb. 2, 1833, and died at Sterling, Reno County, Kansas Feb. 25, 1917. On Jan. 15, 1863 in Adams County, Indiana he married Christine Stuckey. She was born April 4, 1840, and died at Sterling Nov. 21, 1910. They were living in Nebraska Township, Livingston County in 1870, but moved to Hayes, Reno County, Kansas in 1877. They appear on the 1880 census of Hayes as farmer Jos. Zimmerman, 47, born in Baden to parents from Baden; Christina, 40, born in France to French parents; Annie, 16, Illinois; Sarah, 5, Illinois; and Mary, 1, Kansas. They are buried in Sterling Evangelical Mennonite Cemetery.

6. Isaac Zimmerman was born at Grenzach, Lörrach, Baden Jan. 17, 1838; the registration of his birth in an Evangelisch church named Izaak Zimmerman and parents Johannes Zimmermann and Anna Schneider. He died at Sterling, Kansas Dec. 30, 1903. On Dec. 24, 1861 at Eureka, Woodford County he married Mary Sommer. She was born at Montgomery Township circa 1839, and died in 1867, a daughter of Christian Sommer and Marie Sommer. On Feb. 6, 1868 he remarried to Mary Stuckey. She was born in Baden Aug. 30, 1847, and died April 19, 1901. The family can be found on the 1870 and 1880 censuses of Pike, Livingston County. The 1900 census of Walnut, Reno County, Kansas has farmer Isaac Zimmerman, 63, born in Germany in January of 1837, immigrated in 1851; Mary, 47, born in France to German parents in September of 1852, immigrated in 1862; and four children born in Illinois. Isaac and Mary are buried in Sterling Evangelical Mennonite Cemetery at Sterling, Kansas, which was established on land they donated.

7. An unnamed child was born at Grenzach, Lörrach, Baden March 5, 1840, and died there two days later.

**Descendants of Christian/Chrétien Zimmerman**

This portion of text leads to Catherine Zimmerman of Morton, who married Jacob/Jacques Rich; and to Stuckys who came to Tazewell County in the 1880s.

**Christian/Chrétien Zimmerman** was born at Sexau circa 1734, and died at Froeningen, Upper Alsace April 24, 1804, a son of Christian Zimmerman and a Rûpp.

Christian/Chrétien married (or remarried to) Susanna Goldschmitt. She was born at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines, Upper Alsace in 1745, and died at Froeningen Dec. 23, 1812, age 67, a daughter of Hans Heinrich Goldschmid and Anne Neuhauser (see GOLDSMITH for background on her family).

His civil death entry described him as “Chrétien Zimmerman un Ancienne Baptiste Cultivateur et Vassal” – meant to be une ancienne Anabaptiste, an elderly Anabaptist - and gave his age as 70.
A seigneurial feudal system existed in France in the 1700s. Most large properties were gained through feudal tenure, then occupied and worked by tenants who paid dues to the seigneur or lord in the form of a share of produce. The seigneurs were not necessary nobles, but could be clergy or upper bourgeoisie. This system was largely reduced but not completely eliminated after the French Revolution of 1789. Perhaps the description ‘vassal’ meant that Christian/Chrétien was a tenant farmer on the grounds of an abandoned castle at Froeningen. It had been destroyed by fire in 1739.¹³

Note below the decade lapse in births. This suggests more than one marriage, or unidentified births, but evidence is lacking. Children of Christian/Chrétien Zimmerman and Susanna Goldschmitt include:

1. Christian/Chrétien Zimmerman was born at Ungersheim or Soulitz, Upper Alsace circa 1765, and died age 44 at Weckenthal, Berrwiler, Upper Alsace March 4, 1809.
2. Elisabeth Zimmerman was born circa 1767, and died at Bollwiller June 25, 1823. Her civil death entry said she was 56; it was witnessed by her brother cultivator Jacques Zimmerman of Froeningen, 38; and her son cultivator Chrétien Tschantz, 31. She married Benoît Tschantz. He was born circa 1760, and died at Bollwiller Aug. 6, 1820. His civil death entry described him as a 60-year-old cultivator; it was witnessed by his son cultivator Chrétien Tschantz, 30, and cultivator Daniel Schlatter, 30. Benoît was a cultivator on a farm owned by departmental deputy Marc-RENÉ de Voyer de Paulmy d’Argenson, the Marquis d’Argenson. The entry said that Benoît died in his own home, an apartment in d’Argenson’s home.¹⁴
3. Magdalena Zimmerman was born circa 1777. When she died at age 28 in her home at Froeningen May 6, 1805, her civil death entry was witnessed by her husband weaver Ignace Burger, 28. A second witness was farm hand and cultivator Jacques Zimmerman, 21 (presumably her brother).
4. Jacobs/Jacques Zimmerman was born in 1784, and died in 1852.
5. Andreas/André Zimmerman was born on the farm of his parents at Ungersheim June 1, 1788, and died Dec. 1, 1823. On April 7, 1819 at Blotzheim, Upper Alsace he married Catherine Schneider. She was born at Durmenach Sept. 22, 1791, a daughter of Jacob/Jacques Schneider and Elisabeth Stauffer, who became residents of Brinckheim [adjacent to Blotzheim]. Catherine Schneider was the sister of Anna Schneider, born circa 1802, who married his cousin (once removed) Johannes/John Zimmerman. Their civil marriage entry described the groom as André Zimmerman, born at Ungersheim June 1, 1788. He was a son of Chrétien Zimmerman and Susanne Goldschmitt. The bride was described as Cathrine Schneider, born at Durmenach in the autumn of 1791. She was a daughter of Jacques Schneider and Elisabeth Stauffer, cultivators at Brinckheim. Witnesses included farmer Jean Freyenberger (no age given). Signatures looked like Andreas Zimmerman; an ‘x’ for Catherine, indicating she was illiterate; and Johannes Freyenberg. On Oct. 17, 1824 a wedding announcement was placed in the Blotzheim register. Catherine would remarried to Jean Freyenberger. He was described as farmer Jean Freyenberger, 44 [and thus born circa 1780], residing at present at Schopfen, Grand Duché de Bade, though he had been a resident of Blotzheim for 10 years. The location was likely meant to be Schopfheim, 10 miles east of Lorrach and Basel, in the Grand Duchy of Baden. He was a son of Chrétien Freyenberger and Magdalena Frey. Though the announcement was published, an actual marriage entry is not found at Blotzheim. See FREYENBERGER in the Appendix for background on this couple.
6. Johannes/Jean Zimmerman was born at Ungersheim June 26, 1794, and died at adjacent Pulversheim Sept. 14, 1846. His civil birth entry described his parents as Christian Zimmerman der alte [senior] and Susanna Goldschmidt, who would have been 49 years of age. The birth year seems unrealistically late in her child-bearing span (perhaps she was not the true mother?). Johannes/John married Magdalena/Madeleine Roth. She was born circa 1788, and died at

¹³ Château de Froeningen was rebuilt in the 1800s, but destroyed again during World War I.
¹⁴ Marc-RENÉ de Voyer de Paulmy d’Argenson (1771-1842) was a consumate political survivor. He became Marquis d’Argenson at age 13. At age 18 he assumed a fortune and a number of estates, and also became a lieutenant of dragons. In 1792 he became aide-de-camp to General Gilbert du Motier, the Marquis de Lafayette, the hero of the American Revolutionary War who became commander-in-chief of France’s National Guard and general of the Army of the North. On Aug. 10, 1792 the Tuileries Palace was stormed by the National Guard of the Paris Commune, and the royal family was put to flight. The revolutionary Committee of Public Safety was formed in January of 1793. The Marquis de Lafayette immediately fell under suspicion, and fled to the Austrian Netherlands, where he was imprisoned for five years. D’Argenson made a trip to England to accompany a sister and purchase farm equipment. By the time he returned suspicion had fallen on him as well, and he quietly retired to his ancestral estate in Touraine. There he married the widow of Prince Victor de Broglie and adopted her children, ensuring their safety. He introduced new agricultural methods on his farms, and new English mechanical innovations based around the steam engine in his ironworks in Upper Alsace. Napoleon Bonaparte offered him a position as chamberlain, but instead he chose to serve as the prefect of Antwerp 1809-13. During the 100 Days restoration of Napoleon’s rule, he became a deputy for the Territoire de Belfort. While a deputy he was one of the founders of the newspaper Le Censeur Européen and the Club de la liberté de la presse. He served as a departmental deputy for Belfort or Upper Alsace until 1824, then was recalled in 1828. In 1830 he was elected as a deputy for Châtelerault in western France. He was not re-elected there the following year, but instead became a deputy for more liberal Strasbourg. He retired from public life in 1834.
Amish Mennonites in Tazewell County, Illinois

Christian/Chrétien Zimmerman

Christian/Chrétien Zimmerman was born at Ungersheim or Soultz, Upper Alsace circa 1765. These two communities are only a few miles apart.

He married Elisabeth Röschlin (found as Röschlin, Reschly, Reschley, Roschle, Reshlé, and Roschler). She was born at Saulxures Nov. 11, 1764. They first farmed at Ungersheim and then on Weckenthal farm at Berwiller (four miles south). Weckenthal farm was on the grounds of a ruined castle that had last been rebuilt in 1650; Weckenthal is now a district of the large community of Berwiller.

Christian/Chrétien died on Weckenthal farm March 4, 1809. His civil death entry described him as Chrétien Zimmerman, the 44-year-old husband of Elisabeth Raschler.

On June 4, 1810 at Berwiller Elisabeth remarried to widower laborer Christian Brechbühl, a resident of Hombourg, Upper Alsace (across the Rhine River from Schliengen and Auggen, Baden) who was born at Bellfosse, Lower Alsace May 28, 1759. He was likely a son of Martin Brechbühl and Anne Bachmann of Bénaveille; he was also a brother to Magdalena Brechbühl (often found as 'Madeline Prachpiller' or 'Prachpil'), the wife of Christian Rüp (uncle to Andreas Ropp).

Christian Brechbühl's first wife had been Elizabeth Roup (aunt to Andreas Ropp). They had lived at Bénaveille, on a rise between Plaine and Saulxures in Lower Alsace, then at Soultz and Hombourg. Elisabeth died at Hombourg Feb. 12, 1810. Her civil death entry described her as Elisabeth Ropp, 47; one witness was her laborer husband, 51; he signed Christian Brichbill.

Children of Christian/Chrétien Zimmerman and Elisabeth Röschli include:

1. Barbe Zimmerman was born at Ungersheim March 6, 1792. On Nov. 17, 1814 at Berwiller she married Peter/Pierre Roth. The civil marriage entry described the groom as a 24-year-old servant at Weckenthal farm. He was born at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines, Upper Alsace Nov. 23, 1790, and died at Uffholtz, Upper Alsace Oct. 5, 1828, a son of Nicolas Roth and Anne Müller. Witnesses on his civil death entry included brother Joseph Roth, a 36-year-old cultivator at Weckenthal; and 27-year-old neighbor and day laborer Jean Wintenberger. On April 17, 1829 at Uffholtz Barbe remarried to Jean Wintenberger. The civil marriage entry described him as the 52-year-old widower of Jean Marie Rauch. He was born at Uffholtz Dec. 7, 1777, a son of the deceased Joseph Wintenberger and Anne Marie Berger. The bride was described as the 37-year-old widow of anabaptiste cultivator Pierre Roth of Weckenthal, Berwiller, and a daughter of the deceased Chrétien Zimmerman and farmer Elisabeth Reschly of Weckenthal, who was present and consenting.

2. Magdalena Zimmerman was born at Ungersheim April 25, 1794, and died before Aug. 20, 1795. Her civil birth entry described her parents as Christian Zimmerman der Jüng, a Wiedertäufer [Anabaptist] plowman, and Elisabet Röschlin.

3. Magdalena Zimmerman was born at Ungersheim Aug. 20, 1795. Her civil birth entry described her parents as Christian Zimmerman and Elisabeth Röschlin. It was witnessed by Hans Roth and Johannes Volf. On March 23, 1818 at Pulversheim she married François Joseph Roth. Their civil marriage entry described the groom as a 30-year-old cultivator, a son of Anabaptist cultivator Chrétien Roth, 50, and Barbe Sherk, 40, who had died Oct. 6, 1808. The bride was Marris Magdeleine Zimmerman, a 25-year-old daughter of deceased anabaptiste Chrétien Zimmerman who had died March 10, 1809, and Elisabeth Reschelin, 56, a farmer at Weckenthal. Witnesses included Jacobo Rotty, an Annabattiste cultivator at Ensisheim; and cultivator Joseph Rübre [Rüpp or Raber?] 56.

4. Catherine Zimmerman was born at Ungersheim April 2, 1797, and died in Tazewell County before 1870.

5. Jean Zimmerman was born circa 1801, and died at Berwiller April 5, 1806. His civil death entry said he was five years old.

6. Anne Marie Zimmerman was born at Berwiller March 7, 1802.

7. Marie Anne Zimmerman was born at Berwiller March 30, 1803. On Feb. 25, 1822 at Pulversheim she married Johannes/Jean Roth. He was born at Pulversheim Feb. 23, 1794. The marriage entry described the groom as a son of annabaptiste laborer Christian Roth and the deceased Barbe Schirch, who had died at Pulversheim Oct. 6, 1808. The bride was described as 18 years, nine months old, born at Berwiller, a daughter of the deceased Chrétien Zimmerman and Elisabeth Reschly of Weckenthal. It was witnessed Nicolas Roth, 27, of Billesheim, Ensisheim, a brother of the groom; Joseph Roth, 30, of Bollwiller; a brother of the groom; and Christian Rupp, 31, an anabaptiste shopkeeper at Pulversheim who was a brother-in-law of the groom [see ROPP, FULTON COUNTY RUPPS]. Their son Christian Roth was born at Bollwiller Aug. 2, 1833, and died in Tazewell County in 1897. On March 8, 1868 at Morton he married Frances 'Fanny' Staker. See STAKER for the details of his Civil War service and his marriage.

8. Anne Zimmerman was born at Berwiller Dec. 13, 1804, and died there April 6, 1806.

9. Elisabethe Zimmerman was born at Berwiller March 31, 1806, and died there March 24, 1807.

10. Anne Zimmerman was born at Berwiller June 12, 1808. On May 4, 1827 at Berwiller she married Jean Ulrich Amstutz. Their civil marriage entry described the groom as 37-year-old Jean Ulrich Amstutz, born at Roches [in the
Amish Mennonites in Tazewell County, Illinois

district of Münster in the Jura Mountains of Canton Bern] Sept. 19, 1790, a son of the deceased Jean Ulrich Amstutz who had died in Maison Rouge, Normanvillars, Florimont in the Territoire de Belfort May 7, 1824, and Barbe Wenger of Florimont. The bride was described as 19-year-old Anne Zimmerman, born on Weckenthal farm at Berrwiller June 12, 1808, a daughter of the deceased Chrétien Zimmerman who had died March 4, 1809, and Elisabeth Reschler, living on Weckenthal farm.

Catherine Zimmerman was born at Ungersheim, Upper Alsace April 2, 1797.
On April 28, 1819 at Berrwiller she married Jacob/Jacques Rich. He was born at Ruederbach Jan. 12, 1789. Their civil marriage entry described the groom as 30-year-old Jacques Rich, born at Ruederbach Jan. 12, 1789, a son of the deceased Peter Rich (who had died July 15, 1814) and Barbe Linder (who had died Jan. 15, 1809) from 'Burgenhoff,' Ruederbach. The bride was identified as Catharine Zimmerman, 22, born at Ungersheim April 2, 1797, a daughter of the deceased Chrétien Zimmerman and Elisabeth Röschlé [Röschli], a resident of Weckenthal, Berrwiller, who was present and consenting.

Catherine died in Tazewell County before 1870, and was buried in Guth Cemetery at Washington. Jacob appears as an 83-year-old in the household of his son Joseph Rich on the 1870 federal census of Morton.

For the story of their immigration and background on their family see RICH.

Jacob/Jacques Zimmerman

Jacob/Jacques Zimmerman was born in 1784, and died in 1852.

On Dec. 9, 1805 at Froeningen he married Catharina/Catherine Ropp, a daughter of Hans Roup/Jean Ropp and Barbara Hochstettler and a sister to Andreas Ropp, the patriarch of the Central Illinois family. She may have been born at Falkwiller, Upper Alsace circa 1785, and died at Dornach (now a neighborhood district on the west side of Mulhouse) Jan. 31, 1840.

The ban notice published one and two weeks before the wedding, and inserted in civil records Nov. 28, describes the bride as Catharina Ruphin, 20, living at Jettingen, a daughter of Andreas Ruphin and an unknown mother - information almost certainly provided by Zimmerman.

The marriage entry holds a number of clerical and factual errors. It describes a ceremony for 22-year-old farmhand and cultivator Jacques Zimmerman (he signed 'Jacob Zimmermann') and 20-year-old Catharine 'Ruphin'.185 She is described as a daughter of the deceased 'André Ruphin' and Barbara 'Hosetter' [Hochstettler] of 'Falckelsheim' [Falkwiller].

Presumably the name of her older brother Andreas Ropp was carried over from the ban. Or, it may have been purposely substituted for her father's (Hans/Jeann). Under French law Andreas was her legal guardian, and civil requirements would have required a death certificate from the home community of the deceased Hans/Jeann, but none was available (in 1788, Sigolsheim Catholic records did not include the deaths of Anabaptist residents).

Marriage witnesses included her 24-year-old younger brother cultivator Joseph 'Ruphin' of Jettingen; 23-year-old farmer and musician Joseph Hostetter; 30-year-old day laborer Johannes/Jean König the younger; and 31-year-old Georg Bachler. Catharine Ropp signed with an 'x', indicating she was illiterate.

Jacob is described in a number of later entries as 'anabaptiste.'

A footnote in Christian Ropp's 1892 autobiographical notes gives only a few thin threads on this forgotten sister of Andreas Ropp (we have added pertinent dates and locations in brackets): "One of her sons, a Zimmerman, lived near Meadows, Illinois. Two daughters [Barbara and Catharine] came to Washington, Tazewell County. One [Barbara] married a Rich [Daniel] - no children; the other [Catharine] was the second wife of Joseph Rich with two sons, Christian [March 8, 1865-Nov. 20, 1839 Glendale Cemetery] and Joe Rich [1861-Dec. 10, 1913 Glendale Cemetery]. Son Joe married Louisa Roth [April 29, 1866-Jan. 7, 1940 Glendale Cemetery, a daughter of Daniel Roth and Catherine Ropp, married in Tazewell County April 26, 1887]."

Despite poor handwriting and a number of errors, the civil death entry of Catherine Ropp is also a significant document linking the Ropp family. It was originally created at Dornach Jan. 31, 1840 as an entry for 'Catherine Roth.' The name Roth was later inked out, and 'Ropp' inserted; notes in the left margin acknowledging the correction were signed by the original witnesses, widower Jacob Zimmerman and Christian Schlatter. In its

185 A one-page German-language 'publication de mariage' that was posted on the front door of the Froeningen town hall has also been preserved on FHL microfilm 734150. It is clear that 'Ruphin' on the marriage entry was a poor transcription of the announcement's 'Ruppin,' a dialect form of Rupp. Catharina's parents were described on the announcement as "the deceased Andreas Ruppin and his wife unknown" (as explained in the text, Andreas Ropp was actually her brother and legal guardian, since both parents and oldest brother Jacob were deceased).
corrected form, it states that Catherine Ropp had died that day in Dornach at the age of 55; that she was born in 'falqelsheim,' but lived in Dornach; and that her parents were Jean Ropp and Barbe Hochstätler. The witnesses were described as 55-year-old farmer Jacques Zimmerman and 44-year-old cultivator Jacob/Jacques Schlatter (the older brother of Jacques' daughter-in-law Anne Marie Schlatter).

Children of Jacob/Jacques Zimmerman and Catharina/Catherine Ropp born at Froeningen include:

1. Catharina Zimmerman was born Jan. 18, 1807, and died at Froeningen April 2, 1815. On the birth entry her father was described as a 23-year-old 'Baptiste vasal et cultivateure' living at Froeningen, and her mother as 'Catharina Ropp,' 22.
3. Anna Maria/Anne Marie Zimmerman was born May 27, 1810. Jacob/Jacques Goldschmidt was born at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines Dec. 17, 1808 (his birth entry called him Jacques Goldschmidt), a son of cultivator Jacques Goldschmidt and Barbe Kauffmann. On April 9, 1839 at Bourgfelden he married Barbe Stucky. For her information see STUCKY. Barbe died at Allschwil (on the Swiss side of the border with Hegenheim) Dec. 13 or 16, 1842. Their children born at Allschwil include:
   a. Jacob Goldschmidt was born April 19, 1838, and died at Huningue, Upper Alsace May 21, 1878. On July 2, 1869 at Neuwiler, Upper Alsace he married Catherine Graber.
   b. Joseph Goldschmidt/Goldsmit was born Nov. 16, 1841, and died at Pettisville, Fulton County, Ohio Nov. 16, 1888; he is buried in Eckley Cemetery at Pettisville. On Jan. 26, 1868 at Allschwil he married his cousin Marie Anne Goldschmitt. She was born a la Hütten (often a name for a community-owned shelter) at Kiffis, Upper Alsace Jan. 17, 1846, a daughter of Jacob/Jacques’s brother Jean Goldschmidt and Marie Klopfenstein. Her civil birth entry described her parents as Jean Golschmitt, 31, born at Markirch [Ste. Marie-aux-Mines], but a resident of Kiffis, and Marie Klopfenstein, 35. They sailed from Le Havre on the ship Canada, and arrived at New York Nov. 24, 1883. They are found on the passenger list as laborer Joseph Goldschmit, 42, German; Marie, 37, German; Joseph, 12; Marie, 10; Jacqu, 9; Barbe, 8; Catherine, 6; Nanette, 5; Anna, 4, and Emma, 1. Herald of Truth, March 1888: “On the 3rd of February, near Pettisville, Fulton County, Ohio, Joseph Goldschmidt, aged 46 years, two months, and 27 days. He suffered severely for over two months of glandular swellings. He was buried on the 5th. Services by Christian Freyenberger and Chr. S. Stuckey, from John 11:23-26. He leaves his wife and eight children to mourn his death, having lived in marriage 19 years and nine days. He emigrated from Allschwiller, Canton Basel, Switzerland, to Fulton County, Ohio, in 1883. He was a member of the Amish Mennonite church.” On Feb. 9, 1897 in Fulton County Marie Anne remarried to Samuel Burkholer. He was born in Wayne County, Ohio April 24, 1838. They are found on the 1900 census of Richland, Allen County, which said that Mary, 54, was born in Switzerland in January of 1846, and immigrated in 1850. After 1910 they returned to Pettisville to live in the home of her daughter Mary Goldschmidt Roth. Marie Anne is buried in Eckley Cemetery as “Mary, wife of Joseph Goldsmith, born Jan. 14, 1846, died Sept. 7, 1920.” Two of their children had connections to Tazewell County:
   - Jacob Goldsmith was born at Allschwil June 11, 1873, and died at Harlem, Montana June 6, 1946. He came to Morton in 1893 after living in Fulton County, Ohio for 10 years. On July 31, 1898 at Pekin he married Caroline Gerber. She was born at Elm Grove Feb. 24, 1868, and died at Highmore, South Dakota May 20, 1948, a daughter of Christian Gerber and Anna Roth. According to the 1900 census, they also lived in a home on the family farm at Elm Grove. However, because of severe allergic reactions, they sold the land and most of their belongings to move to Highmore in 1907. Jacob helped to establish the Missionary Alliance Church of Highmore.
   - Barbara Goldsmith was born at Allschwil Sept. 17, 1874, and died at Bloomington, McLean County April 27, 1954. On Aug. 16, 1900 in Ford County she married Serenus Ropp. He was born at Pekin Feb. 23, 1870, and died at Gibson City, Ford County April 7, 1947, a son of John Ropp and Catherine Gerber. They are buried in Drummer Township Cemetery in Ford County.

On June 7, 1845 at Dornach, Upper Alsace Jacob/Jacques remarried to Anna Maria/Anne Marie Zimmerman. At the time he was a 37-year-old cultivator living at Allschwil with his father; his mother had died Oct. 30, 1833. Witnesses on their civil marriage entry included Anne Marie’s younger brothers Jacob/Jacques and Christian/Chrétien. Their children born at Allschwil include:
   a. Catherine Goldschmidt was born May 10, 1849. On Jan. 12, 1873 at Hégenheim she became the second wife of Benoit Stucky. He was born at Hégenheim, Upper Alsace March 8, 1835, and died at Gridley, McLean County Jan. 19, 1896. Background on his first wife and family, their immigration in 1882, and their children can be found in STUCKY in the Appendix.
   b. Lisette Goldschmidt/Goldsmith was born Oct. 27, 1854, and died at Morton Sept. 11, 1823. She immigrated with her sister Catherine and brother-in-law Benoit Stucky in 1882, and became the second
wife of minister Daniel Roth in Tazewell County Sept. 15, 1887; see ROTH for background including her obituary, or STUCKY in the Appendix.

4. Jacob/Jacques Zimmerman was born Sept. 15, 1812. On Feb. 7, 1839 at Mulhouse he married Anna Marie Schlatter. She was born April 11, 1810 at Richwiller, Upper Alsace (a suburb of Mulhouse). Their civil marriage entry states that he was 26 and she was 28, a daughter of cultivator Chrétien Schlatter and the deceased Anne Marie Roth (she died at Richwiller July 30, 1832), and that the bride had been living at Pfistatt (between Richwiller and Mulhouse). The parents of the groom, cultivator Jacob/Jacques Zimmerman and Catherine Ropp, were residents of Mulhouse. Witnesses included brothers-of-the-bride Chrétien Schlatter of Dornach, 41, and Benedict/Benoit Schlatter of Pfistatt, 28, both cultivators.

5. Barbara/Barbe Zimmerman was born March 9, 1815; one birth witness was François Joseph Riche, a 48-year-old tailor. On March 12, 1848 at Dornach she married Daniel Rich. He was born at Riespach (nine miles below Altkirch) July 14, 1819, a son of cultivator Daniel Rich, who had died at Walheim (near Altkirch) Jan. 6, 1845, and his widow Eve Rich, who attended the wedding. Witnesses included Barbe's younger brothers Jacob/Jacques and Christian/Chrétien. Daniel appears as a resident of Washington on the 1852 Illinois state census. He died at Washington, Johnson County, Iowa July 6, 1855 (minister Joseph Goldsmith established an Amish Mennonite congregation in Johnson County in 1855). As a widow, Barbara was probably the 44-year-old born in France found on the 1860 federal census of Morton in the household of Joseph Rich and her younger sister Catharine; in 1870 she appears as a 55-year-old born in France and living in Iowa City, Iowa. She died Jan. 24, 1899. Barbara/Barbe and Daniel are buried in Peter Miller Cemetery at Kalona, Johnson County, Iowa.

6. Jean Zimmerman was born June 19, 1818, and died at Froeningen Sept. 6, 1818.

7. Christian/Chrétien Zimmerman was born Aug. 2, 1819. On Feb. 12, 1850 at Dornach he married Elisabeth 'Barbara' Joder. She was born at Morvillars, Belfort April 12, 1821, a daughter of cultivator Joseph Joder and Anne Stucky of Montebèliard. Witnesses included Christian's brother-in-law Daniel Rich of Froeningen, 30; Elisabeth's brother-in-law cultivator Jean Roth of Montbéliard, 40; brother of the bride and cultivator Jean Joder of Dizier [probably Saint Dizier l'Évêque, Belfort], 30; and uncle of the bride cultivator Michel Joder of Morvillars, 44. We could not determine whether this couple immigrated. However, they had a son Chrétien who was born at Mulhouse Oct. 30, 1853, died May 24, 1859, and is buried in Waldo Cemetery at Flanagan. He immigrated in 1873, according to his report on the 1900 census of Waldo. As Christian R. Zimmerman he married Anna Sommer on Feb. 4, 1879. She was born at Spring Bay, Woodford County March 15, 1850, and died March 13, 1929, a daughter of George Sommer and Anna Gasser. They farmed at Meadows.

8. Catharine Zimmerman was born May 22, 1824, died in Tazewell County April 12, 1891, and is buried in Glendale Cemetery at Washington. She was the second wife of Joseph Rich of Morton (a son of Jacob/Jacques Rich and Catherine Zimmerman; see RICH for background on this couple).

Descendants of Jacob Zimmerman

This portion of text will include Fulton County, Ohio; Butler County, Ohio; and the background of Christian Zimmerman (1827-1879), who is buried in Railroad Cemetery at Elm Grove, and Jacob Zimmerman (1829-1898), who is buried in the Old Apostolic Cemetery at Morton. Their sister Catherine 'Katie' Zimmerman (1831-1902) may have lived at Morton, and may also be buried in the Old Apostolic Cemetery there. Jacob Zimmerman was born at Sexau Dec. 16, 1735, a son of Christian Zimmerman and a Rüpp.

He married Barbara Schneider. She was born on the Wangen estate at Tiengen bei Freiburg (16 miles southwest of Sexau) Oct. 2, 1742, and died before 1820.

In 1772 Michael Müller died, and his lease on the Hochburg estate at Sexau was assumed by Jacob Zimmerman, Michael’s son Christian Müller, and Michael’s son minister/elder Jacob/Jakob Müller. It would remain an Amish Mennonite meeting place under the custodianship of the two families until it became a government agricultural school in 1846.

In 1789 Jacob Zimmerman and Jacob Müller also leased the grounds of Falkenbühl Castle above Zarten and the Baldenwegerhof above Zarten (five miles east of Freiburg im Breisgau).\footnote{Baldenwegerhof is still a thriving estate inviting tourists with its own website. The community around Baldenwegerhof seceded from Zarten to become Wittental in 1970; all are within the Freiburg district.}

Jacob Zimmerman became a minister of the congregation on the Hochburg estate, and elder after the death of Jacob/Jakob Müller.

On April 5, 1805 he informed the district administrators that Benedict König (see KING for background) would take his place as elder. He died before Nov. 12, 1807.

Children of Jacob Zimmerman and Barbara Schneider include:
1. **Christian Zimmerman** was born on the Hochburg estate at Sexau circa 1768, and died at Bourgfelden Nov. 9, 1805 (his civil death entry calls him Christian Zimer).

2. Jacob/Jacques Zimmerman was born on the Hochburg estate circa 1777, and died at St. Louis, Upper Alsace Sept. 27, 1804. Circa 1801 he married Anne Marie Stucky. She was born at Walbach, Upper Alsace in 1775, and died at St. Louis Sept. 26, 1851, a daughter of Mathias Stucky and his first wife Elisabeth Schwartz. They had children at St. Louis in 1802 and 1803. His civil death entry said Jacques Zimmerman was 27, and described his parents as Jacques Zimmerman and Barbe Schneider of Hochbourg. It described him as married [Fr. marié], but did not name his widow. On Dec. 16, 1806 at St. Louis widow Anne Marie Stucky remarried to Christian/Chrétien Eicher. For details of their civil marriage entry see STUCKY.

3. Michael Zimmerman was born on the Hochburg estate circa 1780. On Aug. 20, 1802 at Riedseltz he married Veronica Roggi. She was 17, a daughter of Johannes Roggi and Elisabetha Eyer of the Diefenbacherhof at Riedseltz.

4. Johannes Zimmerman was born circa 1784. On Nov. 12, 1807 at Riedseltz he married Elisabetha Roggi. Their civil marriage entry described the groom as Johannes Zimmerman of Hochbourg, 22; his parents were Jacob Zimmerman and Catharina Schneider. The bride was Elisabetha Roggi, 19, a daughter of Johannes Roggi and Elisabetha Eyer of the Diefenbacherhof. They lived in the adjacent villages Blansingen and Tannenkirch, on the east (Baden) side of the Rhine River, 10 miles north of St. Louis.

**Christian Zimmerman** was born on the Hochburg estate at Sexau circa 1768, and died at Bourgfelden Nov. 9, 1805 (his civil death entry calls him Christian Zimer).

In 1789 he married Elisabetha König. She was born on the Obernimburg monastery estate at Nimburg (seven miles west of Sexau) in 1769, and died at Bourgfelden Dec. 13, 1833, a daughter of Christian König and Elisabetha Stucki. They farmed with Christian’s brother Jacob on the Michelfelderhof at St. Louis, Upper Alsace (just above Basel).

On Feb. 16, 1803 they leased a farm at Bourgfelden. Bourgfelden is west of Basel, adjacent to Saint-Louis at the three-way border point where France and Switzerland meet below Baden-Württemberg. Someone in French Bourgfelden could simply walk across the town boundary into the Swiss city of Basel (where there was an Amish Mennonite congregation called Basel-Binningen), or cross a bridge over the Rhine and walk four miles to German Weil am Rhein.

Children of Christian Zimmerman and Elisabetha König include:

1. **Christian/Chrétien Zimmerman** was born on the Hochburg estate at Sexau March 10, 1790.

2. Johannes/Jean/John Zimmerman was born on the Hochburg estate at Sexau Oct. 17, 1791, and died at Pettisville, Fulton County, Ohio Jan. 25, 1873. His marriage to Magdalena Reidiger was entered in records at Auenheim, Baden (adjacent to Kehl on its north side) and at Ichenheim Nov. 19, 1815. She was born circa 1795, and died at Hegenheim, Upper Alsace July 8, 1834, a daughter of Jakob Reŭtiger and his first wife Jakobea/Jakobina Güngerich. Her civil death entry described her as Madelaine Rodinger, 39, the wife of cultivator Jean Zimmerman, 43. On Dec. 17, 1834 (the 10-year index says Jan. 13, 1835) at Hegenheim he remarried to Barbara Nafziger. Their very abbreviated civil marriage entry said he was cultivator Jean Zimmerman of Bourgfelden, a son of the deceased Chrétien Zimmerman and Elisabethë Bürger. The bride was described as Barbe Nafzger, 23, a resident of Allschwill, Suisse [Allschwil, Switzerland, on the Swiss side of the border with Hegenheim], daughter of cultivator Pierre Nafzger and the deceased Barbara Liechty. Barbara Nafziger was born March 24, 1811, and died in Fulton County Jan. 25, 1873, a daughter of Peter/Pierre Nafzger and Barbara Liecht/Liechty. Johannes/Jean/John and Barbara sailed from Le Havre on the Argo, and arrived at New York May 24, 1841. The entire traveling party appeared on the passenger list as: Jacob Joder, 62, France; Barbara [wife Barbe Liechty], 48; Anne, 18; Verena, 15; Barbara, 12; Barbara, 57; Ch.n Liechty, 46, France; Joseph, 17; Jacob, 13; Jacob, 38; Jacob, 8; Pierre Eschlyman, 23, France; Jean Zimmerman, 50, France; Barbara, 32; Catharina, 5; Joseph, 4; Barbara, 1; Christian, 20; John, 15; and Daniel, 7. 187 The Zimmermans are found next door to Christian Rupp and Christine Stuckey (traveling companions of sister Magdalena in 1843) on the 1850 census of German Township, Fulton County. The 1860 census of German

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187 ‘Jacob Joder, 62, France’, otherwise known as Jacques Joder, was born at Grandvillars in the Territoire de Belfort July 11, 1779. He was a son of Joseph Joder and Anne Marie Stücki. On Oct. 9, 1821 at Hirtzbach, Upper Alsace he married Barbe Liechty. See YODER, DESCENDANTS OF BROTHER CASPAR.

‘Pierre Eschlyman, 23, France’ was Peter Aeschlimann. He was born at Sainens, Dung, Doubs Feb. 6, 1824, and died at Pettisville, Fulton County Nov. 27, 1890. His parents were Peter Aeschlimann and Catherine Gearig or Guerick [Görg], who had immigrated without him in 1834. He married Barbara Rupp. She was born at Orschweier, Baden Dec. 18, 1828, and died in Fulton County June 11, 1872, a daughter of Jacob Rupp and Magdalena König. They are buried in Aeschliman Cemetery at Pettisville. The misstatement of his age may have been intentional if he left Europe to avoid military training. Background on his family can be found online in Aeschliman by Mona Mann at https://archboldlibrary.org.
Township shows them as farmer John Zimmerman, 69, Germany; Barbara, 49, Germany; Elzabeth, 16; Jacob, 16; Franey, 13; Jonathan, 12; Peter, 10; Benj., 8; and Ann, 5; all children born in Ohio. They were living next door to Nicholas King, 45, Germany; Elizabeth, 52, Switzerland; and five children born in Ohio. Barbara died Nov. 9, 1873. They are buried in Lauber Hill Cemetery in Fulton County, Ohio

3. Barbara Zimmerman was born at Denzlingen circa 1793, and died at Bourgfelden Dec. 12, 1855. She married her cousin Michel Lauber. He was born at Jungholtz, Upper Alsace in March of 1781, and died at Bourgfelden, Upper Alsace Dec. 28, 1851, a son of Abraham Lauber and Barbara/Barbe Zimmerman.

4. Magdalena Zimmerman was born on the Hochburg estate at Sexau Dec. 29, 1797, and died at German, Fulton County, Ohio in 1860. On March 25, 1823 at Bourgfelden she married her cousin (once removed) Christian Lauber. He was born at Denzlingen Oct. 20, 1795 (civil birth entry, despite Oct. 29, 1796 on his headstone), and died in Fulton County Aug. 14, 1875, a son of Abraham Lauber and Barbara/Barbe Zimmerman. See the earlier note on this couple and their emigration from Europe in 1834.

5. Joseph Zimmerman was born in the Michelfelden quarter of St. Louis, Upper Alsace Oct. 14, 1799, and died at Bourgfelden Aug. 2, 1814. His civil birth entry said his parents were cultivators living at Michelfelden. His civil death entry was witnessed by farmer Michel Lauber, 34, an employee of Baron Barbier. Joseph was 13.

6. Anne Marie Zimmerman was born at St. Louis June 14, 1802. Her civil birth entry was witnessed by uncle Jacques Zimmerman. On April 8, 1823 at Bourgfelden she married Daniel Eyer. Their civil marriage entry describes the groom as cultivator Daniel Eyer, born Nov. 16, 1797, a son of the deceased Jean Eyer and the deceased Barbe Brennemann of Wülfendingen, Grand Duché de Baden. His father had died at Wilferdingen Feb. 26, 1816, and his mother Jan. 28, 1814. Daniel had been living at Waeglisberg, Grand Duché de Baden. The bride was Anne Marie Zimmerman, born at St. Louis June 14, 1802, a daughter of the deceased Chrétien Zimmerman and Elisabeth Koenig. One witness was cultivator Michel Lauber, 41, brother-in-law of the bride. They signed Daniel Eyer and Maria Zimmerman.

Christian/Chrétienn Zimmerman was born on the Hochburg estate at Sexau March 10, 1790, and died in Butler County, Ohio before March 23, 1852. On Nov. 17, 1824 his marriage to Catherine Sommer was entered into Bourgfelden civil records. She was born at Sélestat, Lower Alsace March 11, 1802, and died in Butler County between March 23, 1852 and the 1870 census, a daughter of Johannes/Jean Sommer and Barbara Stücki.

They sailed from Le Havre on the Hebrew and arrived at New York June 23, 1836. The passenger list shows Christian Zimmerman, 46; Catharina, 34; Christian, 9; Jacob, 7; Catharina, 5; and Barbe, 3.

Christian was naturalized at Hamilton, Butler County, Ohio March 10, 1840. His household appears on the 1840 census of Wayne, Butler County: one male in the 50-59 year age range; one male 10-14; one female 40-49; and two females 5-9. They lived next door to Christian's cousin Christian König, a son of minister Benedict 'Benz' König/King and Maria Magdalena Reidiger/Rediger; 'Benz' likely lived there as well. When Christian died circa 1845, the Wayne farm was assumed by Catherine's brother David Sommer, and the orphaned Zimmerman children relocated to Collinsville in Milford Township. The 1850 census of Collinsville shows cooper Christian Zimmerman, 23, France; Barbaray [Kinsinger], 26, Germany; Barbaray, 54, Germany [the widowed Catherine Sommer]; Jac., 21, France; and Catharine, 19, France.

After Christian/Chrétien's death, Catherine Sommer remarried to Jean Buré/John Bower. The ceremony at Milford, Butler County was performed by minister Nicholas Augspurger. Part of his journal was published by W.H.

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188 Antoine de Barbier Schroffenberg was born at Hegenheim in 1774, and died there Jan. 2, 1841. He was born to a father who was a seigneur or hereditary landowner of Bourgfelden and Hegenheim. These privileges were reduced, but not completely withdrawn, with the French Revolution of 1789. He become a deputy in the district assembly. Be became a baron by marrying Francoise Albertini d'Ichratzheim, the daughter of the baron Albertini d'Ichratzheim, at Porrentruy, Canton Jura July 2, 1810.

189 An entry at Hegenheim, Upper Alsace dated Oct. 19, 1823 stated that a child had been born there to Christian Zimmerman of Bourgfelden, 33, and Barbe Sommer. When that child died at Bourgfelden Oct 20, 1824, age 1, the parents were named as Christian Zimmerman and Catherine Sommer. The name 'Barbe Sommer' also appears in an Illinois historical reference.

190 David Sommer married Barbara Sehlungen, a daughter of JohannesSchlunegger and Veronica/Freni 'Fanny' Lichty. They can be found on the 1850 census of Wayne Township as David Sommer, 49, Germany; Barbary, 47; John, 21; Christian, 20; Peter, 18; Fanny, 17; Jacob, 15; Mary, 14; David, 12; Joseph, 10; Daniel, 8; and Hanna, 6; all children born in Ohio. Their next door neighbors were Elizabeth Ire [Eyer] the widow of Christian König, and her daughter Mary König.

191 Milford Township holds Collinsville, Darrtown, and Somerville. It is located adjacent to Wayne Township. Wayne Township holds Jacksonburg and Seven Mile. The congregation at Collinsville under Joseph Goldschmidt/Goldsmith and Benedict König/King had taken a neutral stance in the 1835 division between 'hook and eye' conservative and 'button' progressive churchgoers.
Kaufmann, a farmer-cultivator born circa 1793, was married to Anne Zimmerman, born circa 1798. Apparently the link between 1930, a son of Moses Augspurger and his first wife Veronica Frey. They can be found on the 1900 census of Madison, Butler County, where her birth date is given as February 1856.

Children of Christian/Chrétien Zimmerman and Catherine Sommer include:

1. Catharina Zimmerman was born at Hegenheim, Upper Alsace Oct. 19, 1823, and died at Bourgfelden Oct. 20, 1824. The mother is named on the birth entry as 'Barbe Sommer.' However, Catharina's death entry one year later states that her mother was Catherine Sommer.

2. Christian Zimmerman was born in Bourgfelden March 27, 1827, and died of Bright's Disease and asthma in Tazewell County June 23, 1879. He is buried in Railroad Cemetery at Elm Grove, where his grave is marked by a small white obelisk along the right-of-way fence line. His birth entry names his mother as Madeleine Rediger. Magdalena Rediger was actually his aunt, the wife of father Christian Zimmerman's younger brother Johannes/Jean. According to The History of Tazewell County, Illinois (Chapman) his mother was named Barbara Sommer. On Sept. 8, 1850 in Butler County he married Barbara Kinsinger; the ceremony was performed by minister Nicholas Augspurger. She was born on the Heckenashbacherhof estate at Contwig, Pfalz-Zweibrücken Jan. 1, 1820, and died at Washington Nov. 17, 1896, a daughter of Johannes Kinsinger and Christina Schrag. She is buried as 'Barbara Zimmerman, grandma' in the Slonneger group on the Glendale Cemetery at Washington. The 1850 census of Milford, Butler County shows cooper Christian Zimmerman, 23, France; Barbray, 26, Germany; Barbrary, 54, Germany; Jac., 21, France; and Catharina, 19, France. The family can be found on the 1860 census of Oxford, Butler County as 'C. Zimmerman,' 33, a farmer from France; Barbra, 37, France; Fanny, 8; Barbra, 6; Bena, 4; Cristina, 3; and Christian, one month; all children born in Ohio; and others including laborer Joseph Sumers [Sommer], 36, France; housekeeper C. Kinsinger, 64; and servant Barbara Slenicker [Slonneger], 16, Ohio. The 1870 census of Milford, Butler County has farmer Christian Zimmerman, 42, France; Barbara, 57, Bierne [Bayern or Bavaria] Germany; Christian, 12, Ohio; Phoebe, 13, Ohio; Lizzie, 7, Ohio; and Christiana, 10, Ohio; in Wayne Township the household of Samuel Smith has domestic servant Barbara Zimmerman, 16, Ohio. Widow Barbara can be found as 'Barbara Kensenger, 50' on the 1880 census of Morton. She was a boarder in the home of John Frank; Alsace is given as her birthplace and the birthplace of her parents. Children of Christian Zimmerman and Barbara Kinsinger born in Butler County, Ohio include:

a. Fannie Zimmerman was born in 1852. She is found as domestic servant Frany Zimmerman, 18, Ohio, in the James Hardin household on the 1870 census of Milford. Butler County (farther down the page from her family); then as servant Fany Zimmerman, 28, Ohio, in the household of Jacob A. Augspurger, 33, and Magdalena [Kannel], 28, on the 1880 census of Madison, Butler County.

b. Barbara Zimmerman was born Dec. 19, 1853, and died at Washington, Tazewell County March 30, 1926. On March 30, 1880 in Butler County she became the third wife of John Slonneger. He was born at Trenton, Butler County Dec. 12, 1839, and died at Washington April 6, 1921, a son of Jacob Schlueneger and Elizabeth König/King. He had come from McLean County from Butte County, Ohio in 1869, and resettled at Morton in 1877. On Jan. 29, 1864 he married Magdalena Sommer, who was born in June 1839, and died March 28, 1867. On Aug. 29, 1871 he remarried to Mary Belsley. She was born in Woodford County Nov. 16, 1848, and died April 18, 1878, a daughter of Peter/Pierre Belsley and Catherine Springer. The 1880 census of Morton shows farmer John Slonneger, 40, born in Ohio to parents from Switzerland and Baden; Barbara, 26, born in Ohio to parents from Alsace; Albert, 16, Ohio; Magdalena, 4, Illinois; Bertha, 2, Illinois; boarder and farm laborer Fred Weitwich, 25, Switzerland; and sister-in-law Christine Zimmerman, 20, born in Ohio to parents from Alsace and Bavaria. Barbara and John Slonneger are buried in Glendale Cemetery.

c. Jacobine/Bina/Phoebe Zimmerman was born Feb. 3, 1856, and died at Cincinnati, Ohio April 28, 1928. She married Joseph F. Augspurger. He was born at Madison, Butler County in January 1856, and died in 1930, a son of Moses Augspurger and his first wife Veronica Frey. They can be found on the 1900 census of Madison, Butler County, where her birth date is given as February 1856.

d. Christian Zimmerman was born in February 1858. On Jan. 27, 1881 in Tazewell County he married Rose Ann Hoffman. She is found on the 1880 census of Groveland as Rosa Hoffman, 19, born in Illinois to Magdalena, 4, Illinois; Bertha, 2, Illinois; boarder and farm laborer Fred Weitwich, 25, Switzerland; and sister-in-law Christine Zimmerman, 20, born in Ohio to parents from Alsace and Bavaria. Barbara and John Slonneger are buried in Glendale Cemetery.

192 Johannes/Jean Zimmerman and Anna Schneider – the 'Indiana Zimmermans' – traveled from Zarten, Baden to Hegenheim for the delivery of their first child (before their civil ceremony) on Feb. 5, 1822. "Christian Zimmerman and Catherine Sommer – the 'Collinsville Zimmermans' – also traveled from Bourgfelden to Hegenheim for the delivery of their first child (before their civil ceremony) on Oct. 19, 1823. Both couples had a Kaufmann listed as a witness on the birth entry. Pierre Kaufmann, a farmer-cultivator born circa 1793, was married to Anne Zimmerman, born circa 1798. Apparently the link between Bourgfelden and Hegenheim was the Comte de Barbier, who employed family members on estates in both locations.

193 Barbara Slonneger was born at Collinsville in September 1844, a daughter of Jacob Schlunegger and Elizabeth King.
parents from Darmstadt; her parents appear as farmer Philip Hoffman, 48, Darmstadt; and Joanna, 49, Darmstadt. The 1900 census of Deer Creek shows them as farmer Cris Zimmerman, born in Ohio in February 1858 to German parents; Rosana, born in Illinois in June 1861 to German parents; and nine children born in Illinois.

e. Christina Zimmerman was born May 30, 1860, and died in Tazewell County Aug. 5, 1888. On March 31, 1881 in Tazewell County she married Johannes/John Schunk. He was born in Wehenheim, Germany Feb. 16, 1851, and died in Polk County, Iowa Aug. 26, 1907. He can be found on the 1880 census of Morton as day laborer John Shunk, 29, Germany; he was living as a boarder in the home of Carl Ueberrhein. They are buried in Roberts Cemetery at Morton.

f. Elizabeth K. Zimmerman was born June 21, 1862, and died at Wright, Iowa Dec. 14, 1920. On Feb. 4, 1886 she married Daniel Unsicker. He was born at Morton March 8, 1857, and died at Wright July 4, 1943, a son of Johannes Unzicker/John Unsicker and Katharina Kennel. Daniel graduated from Evergreen City Business College at Bloomington. He later farmed in Livingston County and bought 490 acres at Wright. This farm grew to 1,000 acres. On the 1900 census of Spring Creek, Mahaska County, Iowa he is listed as a grain dealer; on the 1920 census of the same location he is a bank president. His biography can be found in Past and Present of Mahaska County, Iowa.

3. Jacob Zimmerman was born at Bourgfelden May 11, 1829. His headstone in the Apostolic Christian Cemetery at Morton says he was born May 12, 1830, and died July 18, 1899. On March 23, 1852 at Collinsville, Butler County Jacob married Catherine 'Katie' Unzicker; the ceremony was performed by minister Nicholas Augspurger. She was born at Wilmot, Ontario March 21, 1827 (though some of her children believed she was born in Ohio), and died at Danvers Nov. 23, 1869, a daughter of Daniel Unzicker and Magdalena Kahn. She is buried in Stout's Grove Cemetery at Danvers. She can be found on the 1850 census of Milford, Butler County, as 'Catherine Unzicker, 22, Canada' in the household of Joseph Augspurger and Barbara König/King. Jacob and Catherine can be found on the 1860 census of Danvers as farmer Jacob Zimmerman, 31, France; Catharine, 33, Canada; Magdalena, 7, Ohio; Barbara, 5, Ohio; Catherine, 3, Illinois; Fanny, 2, Illinois; and Mary, 1, Illinois. Widower Jacob Zimmerman can be found on the 1870 census of Dry Grove, McLean County as a 41-year-old farmer born in France, with children Magdaline, 17; Barbary, 16; Catherine, 14; Fanny, 12; Liddy, 9; Henry, 7; Emma, 4; and Daniel, 2; the oldest pair born in Ohio, the others in Illinois. On Feb. 12, 1872 in Tazewell County Jacob remarried to Susanna Tunis Rector, the widow of Ezra Rector. Tunis and Rector had married at Muskingum, Ohio Nov. 15, 1840 and settled in Dillon. Jacob and Susanna are found on the 1880 census of Nemaha, Kansas as farmer Jacob Zimmerman, 49, born in Prussia to parents from Prussia; Susan, 57, born in Ohio to parents from Ohio; and stepson and schoolteacher Ava [Alvie] Rector, 26, born in Ohio to a father from Virginia and a mother from Ohio. Fannie, Henry, and Daniel Zimmerman lived next door in the Wymer household. Children of Jacob Zimmerman and his first wife Catherine 'Katie' Unzicker include:

a. Magdalena Zimmerman was born at Collinsville, Butler County Feb. 23, 1853, and died at Stanford, McLean County Dec. 7, 1885. On Sept. 1, 1870 in McLean County she married Heinrich Christian Wick. He was born at Marburg, Hesse Sept. 16, 1836, and died in McLean County Nov. 20, 1904, a son of Justus Wick and Dorothea Itzel. In America he was known as Conrad Henry Wick. The 1880 census of Stanford shows them as harness maker C.H. Wick, 43, Hesse-Cassel; Magdalanie, 27, born in Ohio to a father from Germany and a mother from Ohio; and two children born in Illinois.

b. Barbara Zimmerman was born at Collinsville, Butler County July 29, 1854. On Jan. 7, 1875 she married Christian Ayersman in McLean County. They are found on the 1880 census of Danvers: laborer Christian Ayersman, 27, born in Ohio to a father from Hesse-Darmstadt and a mother from Prussia; Barbara, 24, born in Ohio to a father from Hesse-Darmstadt and a mother from Canada; and three children born in Illinois to parents from Ohio.

c. Katharina/Catherine Zimmerman was born in Illinois Nov. 9, 1856. She is found as recently as the 1870 census.

d. Fannie Zimmerman was born in Illinois Feb. 26, 1858. On Aug. 2, 1877 in McLean County she married Jacob Wimer. He was born in Ohio circa 1844. Their household is found on the 1880 census of Nemaha, Kansas as farmer Jacob Wymer, 36, born in Ohio to parents from Ohio; Fannie, 22, born in Illinois to a father from Prussia and a mother from Ohio; Otto, 1, born in Illinois to a father from Ohio and a mother from Illinois; brother-in-law (of Jacob Wymer) laborer Henry Zimmerman, 17, born in Illinois to a father from Prussia and a mother from Ohio; and brother-in-law Daniel Zimmerman, 12, born in Illinois to a father from Prussia and a mother from Ohio.

e. Mary Zimmerman was born in McLean County March 28, 1860. She died before the 1870 census.

f. Lydia 'Liddie' Zimmerman was born in McLean County July 1, 1861, and died Dec. 2, 1947. On Dec. 18, 1892 in McLean County she married James M. Davis. He was born in Illinois March 2, 1852, and died July 28, 1928 (headstone dates). The 1900 census of Deer Creek shows them as lumber dealer James M. Davis, born in Illinois in March 1850 to parents from New York; milliner Lydia, born in Illinois in July 1861 to a father from Germany and a mother from Ohio; and Mary, born in Illinois in October 1884. They are buried in Stout's Grove Cemetery at Danvers.
g. Henry Zimmerman was born in McLean County May 28, 1863. He is shown on the 1880 census of Nemaha. He married Minnie Burger. She was born in Jefferson County, Illinois in February 1868, a daughter of M.M. Burger and Mary Emily Scoville. The 1900 census of Seneca, Nemaha County, Kansas shows his household as Henry Zimmerman, born in Illinois in May 1863 to a father from Germany and a mother from Ohio; Minnie, born in Illinois in February 1868 to a father from New York and a mother from Vermont; and three children born in Kansas.

h. Emma Zimmerman was born in McLean County Aug. 26, 1865. The Illinois Statewide Marriage Index lists only one Emma Zimmerman married in McLean County, to Peter Auschicks Sept. 1, 1882 – just after Emma's 17th birthday. We could find no further record of the groom.

i. Daniel Zimmerman was born in McLean County circa 1868. He is found on the 1880 census of Nemaha, Kansas living with his sister Fannie and brother Henry, next door to his parents.

4. Catharine ‘Katie’ Zimmerman was born at Bourgfelden July 10, 1831. Her birth entry gives her mother's name as Barbe Sommer. As noted earlier she is found on the 1860 census of Milford as a 29-year-old from France, living with her widowed mother and stepfather. The 1880 census of Morton shows a Catherine Zimmerman, 49, widowed, Germany; and the 1900 census of Morton has Katie Zimmerman, 68, born in Germany in June 1831 to German parents, immigration 1837. Tazewell County Register of Deaths Book 3 shows that this individual was buried in the Apostolic Christian Ground at Morton (the Old Apostolic Cemetery), though she is not found in the newer county cemetery book transcriptions from headstones. The record has Katie Zimmerman, born in Baden, lived in Illinois 25 years (from 1877), died at Morton Jan. 22, 1902 at age 70 years, 4 months, 27 days. This would equate to a birth date circa Aug. 25, 1831.

5. Barbara Zimmerman was born at Bourgfelden March 17, 1833, and died at Milford, Nebraska Sept. 2, 1896. She is buried in Fairview Mennonite Cemetery at Milford. On Sept. 22, 1853 in Butler County she married third cousin Jakob Zimmerman; the ceremony was performed by minister Nicholas Augspurger. Jacob was born at Lorrach, Baden March 18, 1827, and died at Milford, Nebraska July 1, 1885, a son of Johannes/Jean/John Zimmerman and Anna ‘Emma’ Schneider. See his note for background on this couple.

Descendants of Andreas Zimmerman

The information in this portion of text will lead to families in Butler County, Ohio; and in Tazewell and Woodford Counties.

Andreas Zimmerman was born at Denzlingen before 1756 (based on a lease renewal), and died in 1793, a son of Christian Zimmerman and a Rupp. On Sept. 26, 1776 he signed a lease renewal on the Zehnthof estate on behalf of himself and his widowed mother, who was sick in bed. Anabaptist Christian Leutweiler of Schupholz, who was working on the Mauracher Hof at Denzlingen, and Andreas’s brother Jacob Zimmermann of the Hochburg estate acted as guarantors for a 315-guilder commitment as surety.

Within a year he married Anna Maria. Her surname may have been Isen/Eissen. She was likely a daughter of Michel Isen/Eissen, who co-signed as a leaseholder on the Hochburg estate at Sexau in 1745 and 1754. Handwritten documents that refer to her appear to say Eisien or Islé. Her mother may have been the widow of Hans Rupp (a son of Christen/Christian Rupp) who remarried to Michel.

In 1780 Andreas became sole leaseholder on the Zehnthof estate with the death of his mother. In 1782 he loaned 600 guilders to the community of Denzlingen; this was returned as a 100-guilder deduction from each of six annual lease payments. In 1790 officials praised him for his expertise in animal husbandry, improving the bloodlines of community steers and hogs.

The lease was renewed again in 1792, and this time Andreas loaned out another 200 guilders. He died at Denzlingen in 1793.

His widow continued to farm the Zehnthof estate. A list of Anabaptists who paid the religious protection tax in 1796/97 included the widow of Andres Zimmerman, who was described as a tenant on the community farm at

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194 We found Daniel's birthdate as Jan. 7, 1868 in one source; however, this may be confused with Daniel D. Zimmerman born at Mason City, Mason County, adjacent to Tazewell County. He was married to Flora E. Ide in Mason County in 1893.

195 The first Apostolic Christian Church of Morton was constructed at the corner of Jefferson and Third Streets in 1867. It was rebuilt to accommodate more members in 1891. The building was destroyed by arson Dec. 12, 1912. The present building was constructed on Jefferson Street in 1913. The Old Apostolic Cemetery at the corner of Queenwood Road and Robin Avenue was established in 1876. The Apostolic Christian Cemetery at the corner of Fourth Street and Birchwood Road was established in 1910.
Denzlingen. On March 27, 1797 at Emmendingen she remarried to Johannes Müller, 33, a native of Barr, Lower Alsace, and the Zehnthof lease passed into the Müller family.

Children of Andreas Zimmerman and Anna Maria Isen/Eissen include:

1. Michael Zimmerman was born at Denzlingen in 1778, and died at Elm Grove in 1860.
2. Barbara Zimmerman was born circa 1782 (presumably at Denzlingen), and died on the Schlatthof at Tiengen bei Freiburg Oct. 19, 1812.  
   Jacob Zimmerman likely belongs in this family. He was born circa 1782 (presumably at Denzlingen), and died at South Easthope, Ontario Sept. 1, 1855.
3. Catharina Zimmerman was born circa 1787, and died at Denzlingen Feb. 7, 1806. Her death entry described her parents as Andreas Zimmerman, Wiedertaüfer, and Anna Maria. Her age was 19.
4. Verena Zimmerman was born Dec. 31, 1789, and died at Morton April 10, 1878. She married Niclaüs Roth, and became the matriarch of the Roth family in Tazewell County (see ROTH for more on this couple).
5. Andreas/Andrew Zimmerman was born at Denzlingen in 1793, and died in Butler County, Ohio Jan. 13, 1841.

Michael Zimmerman

Minister and farmer Michael Zimmerman was born at Denzlingen in 1778.

On Aug. 18, 1801 at Riedseltz, Lower Alsace, he married Barbara Rogi. Their civil marriage entry described the groom as Michael Zimmerman, 23, born at Langen Dentzlingen in the Marggraf Badischen in 1778. He was a son of the deceased Michel Zimmerman and the living Anna Maria Zimmermann. The bride was described as a 19-year-old born on the Dieffenbacher Hoff at Riedseltz in 1782, a daughter of Johannes Rogi and Elisabeth Rogi.

Barbara’s mother Elisabethe Eyer was born at Remchingen, Baden, a child of Benedikt 'Benz' Eyer. Barbara died at Domgermain, Meurthe-et-Moselle June 19, 1832, a daughter of Johannes/Jean Roggy and Elisabethe Eyer.

The marriage was the first of three Zimmerman-Rogi/Roggy connections that drew the Zimmermans into a circle of Illinois-bound families. Two of Michael’s cousins from the Hochburg estate also married at Riedseltz, where civil records were kept in German until 1812. The two cousins, Michael and Johannes, were sons of Michael’s uncle, minister/elder Jacob Zimmerman: 1) Michael Zimmerman, born in 1780, married Barbara’s sister Fronica/Veronica at Riedseltz Aug. 20, 1802; and 2) Johannes Zimmerman married Barbara’s sister Elisabetha at Riedseltz Nov. 12, 1807. The marriages have a greater significance because the Roggi sisters had a brother, Jean, who married Catherine Guingerich and relocated to the Weidesheim estate at Kalhausen. Weidesheim was the site of a number of family events involving Roggys, Engels, Ringenbergs, Guingeriches, and Nafzigers. Thus Riedseltz served as a link between Amish Mennonite families in Baden and Moselle.

Michael and Barbara may have lived at Wildtal (four miles north of Freiburg im Breisgau, now part of Gundelfingen im Breisgau) and perhaps Waltershofen (seven miles northwest of Freiburg im Breisgau, adjacent to Umkirch) from their marriage until 1810. They leased the Schlatthof estate at Tiengen bei Freiburg (seven miles west of the center of Freiburg im Breisgau) 1811-1817.  

They then farmed 129 miles to the west at Vannes-le-Châtel, Meurthe-et-Moselle, and nine miles to the north of Vannes-le-Châtel at Bois-le-Comté, Domgermain, Meurthe-et-Moselle. These communities are southwest of the city of Nancy.

At Vannes-le-Châtel Michael was described as a farmer on the grounds of the castle. The Château de Vannes was constructed circa 1600 by the noble Ligniville family, but had fallen into ruin by the time the Zimmermans were living there. At adjacent Bois-le-Comté he farmed on the grounds of an abandoned glazed ceramics pottery factory.

Children of Michael Zimmerman and his first wife Barbara Rogi/Roggy include:

1. Jean Zimmerman was born at Wildtal June 2, 1802. On Feb. 28, 1824 at Haboudange, Moselle he married Madeleine Guingerich. She was born at Lagarde Feb. 26, 1808, and died at Wuisse, Moselle Dec. 9, 1854, a daughter of Jean Guingerich and Anna Schertz of the farm Malgré Xousse at Lagarde, and a niece of Bistroff elder Christian Guingerich who petitioned the French government with elder Christian Engel. Madeleine's sister Catherine Guingerich was married to Christian Engel (born 1798), a nephew of the elder Christian Engel.

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196 A number of sources say this Barbara Zimmerman married Matthias Kaltenbach. Matthias Kaltenbacher was born at Tennenbronn (34 miles northeast of Denzlingen) March 20, 1784, a son of Christoph Kaltenbacher and Barbara Aberle. Matthias and a Barbara Zimmerman had a son Matthias born there Sept. 21, 1810. The son was christened in the Evangelisch church at Tennenbronn Sept. 26. The couple married at Tennenbronn Jan. 30, 1811. That entry names her parents as Michael Zimmerman and Barbara Müller. It also says that she was born at Muelheim Nov. 10, 1785.

197 The Schlatthof, now called the Schlatthöfe, is still a functioning farm at the end of the Schlatthofstrasse in Tiengen.
2. Magdalena/Madeleine Zimmerman was born in the district of Freiburg Dec. 20, 1803. She died at Naives-en-Blais, Meuse Nov. 9 or Sept. 11, 1879. On March 21, 1832 at Bois-le-Comté, Domgermain, Meurthe-et-Moselle, she married David Schmitte. He was described as David Schmitt, 25, a merchant living in the Bois le Comte, born at Keskastral Jan. 20, 1807, a son of David Schmittle and Anne Eve Schmitte who were present and consenting.

3. Marie Zimmerman was born in the district of Freiburg, Baden April 4, 1806, and died at Bar-le-Duc, Meuse Nov. 16, 1831. On Oct. 26, 1828 at Domgermain, Meurthe-et-Meuse she married miller Joseph Dettweiler. He was born at Zweibrücken Dec. 8, 1805, and died at Sarraguelines June 7, 1853, a son of Joseph Dettweiler and Madeleine Hauter. Witnesses included cultivator Christian Gerber of Saulxures-les-Naney, 70, friend of the groom; Jean Gerber of Nancy, 37, friend of the groom; shopkeeper Nicolas Gingerich of Sarralbe, 55, uncle of the bride; and Jean Zimmerman of Haboudange, 26, brother of the bride. Following her death Joseph remarried to Jacobine Roggy of Weidesheim farm at Kalhausen. Jacobine was born Dec. 7, 1817, and died at Kalhausen March 1, 1885.

4. André/Andrew/Andreas (headstone) Zimmerman was born in the district of Freiburg Aug. 29, 1807, and died at Chenoa, McLean County Feb. 23, 1889. On Feb. 6, 1832 at Domgermain, Meurthe-et-Moselle, he married Jacobine ‘Phebe’ Gingerich. She was born at Rhode Sept. 25, 1814, and died in Livingston County June 9, 1880, a daughter of Jean Gingerich and Anne Marie Müller. Their civil marriage entry described her as Jacobine Ginrich, 17, a resident of Brandelfing, Gros-Réderching, Moselle who was born at Rhode Sept. 25, 1814; she was a daughter of the deceased Jean Gingerich, who had died at Fribourg Sept. 8, 1824, and the deceased Marie Miller, who had died at Gros-Réderching April 21, 1831. Witnesses included cultivator and brother-of-the-groom Jean Zimmerman, a resident of Mont-le-Vigneoble [below Domgermain]; miller Jean Deteveiler, 23, of Mont-le-Vigneoble; uncle-of-the-bride Nicolas Gingerich, 58; and miller Joseph Deteveiler, 55. They came to Tazewell County in 1853. Andrew was ordained as a minister of the Dillon Creek congregation circa 1855. His household is shown on the 1860 census of Elm Grove, where he mistakenly calls himself by his neighboring younger brother Christian’s name: Christ Zimmerman, 53, France; Phebe, 46, France; Madaline, 26, France; Andrew, 24, France; Joseph, 14, France; Joseph Springer, 30, France; and laborer John Gangloof, 40, France. In the second half of that year they moved to Bureau County, where he gave sermons every three weeks for the Bureau Creek congregation until 1877. The 1870 census of Dover shows farmer Andrew Zimmerman, 62, Germany; Phebe, 57, Germany; and Joseph, 24, France. From 1877 until his death he ministered for the Gridley Prairie congregation. In 1880 they were living at Pike, Livingston County. Herald of Truth, July 1880: “On the 9th of June, in Livingston Co., Ill., of general debility and consumption, Sister Jacobine Zimmerman, wife of Andrew Zimmerman, aged 66 years. Buried the 11th. Funeral services by Chr. Schlegel and J. P. Schmitt, from 1 Cor. 15." Herald of Truth, March 15, 1889: "On the 23d of February, at 11 o'clock, P.M., Pre. Andrew Zimmerman, of McLean County, Ill., calmly fell asleep in Jesus, aged 81 years and 6 months. On the 26th his mortal remains were consigned to mother earth, on which occasion many relatives and friends assembled to pay our departed brother and fellow-worker their last tribute of respect. Funeral services were conducted by Joseph Yoder, of Indiana, Daniel Steinman and John P. Smith. The deceased brother was born in the district of Freiburg, Baden, Germany in 1807. His companion preceded him several years. He leaves three children, two sons and a daughter and a number of grandchildren to mourn his death. He was a devoted member and faithful minister in the Amish Mennonite church. Peace to his ashes.”

5. Michael Zimmerman [Jr.] was born in the district of Freiburg circa 1810, and remained in Europe. We found no evidence of a birth in local records. However, Annette Surrault found him as a 26-year-old on the 1836 census of Lagney, St. Valentin. He is found as a witness to a marriage ceremony at Meurthe-et-Moselle in 1837. Surrault also writes that Michael was a wheat and wine merchant at Issoudun (near St. Valentin) in 1844. There he ended up in court for neglecting to pay special duties on red wine.

Earlier children may have been born at Tiengen bei Freiburg, but authorities there were not obligated to keep records of Anabaptists before 1811. The Schlatthof entries noted here were found in Protestant Reformed records.

6. Elisabeth Zimmerman (twin) was born on the Schlatthof at Tiengen bei Freiburg May 9, 1811, and died there July 11, 1811.

7. Jacob Zimmerman (twin) was born on the Schlatthof May 9, 1811, and died there Aug. 7, 1811. Witnesses listed on the death entry include Michael Zimmerman of Hochburg and Jacob Zimmerman (his location is illegible), both described as Wiedertäufer.

8. Heinrich Zimmerman was born on the Schlatthof April 30, 1812, and died the following day.

9. Daniel Zimmerman was born on the Schlatthof March 20, 1813, and died in Tazewell County Oct. 19, 1888. No birth entry has been identified, but Larry Zimmerman identified his marriage entry from St. Valentin dated Oct. 8, 1834. It describes the groom as Daniel Zimmerman, 21, born at ‘chlatoff’ March 20, 1813, a cultivator on Nile des Lagny farm at St. Valentin, a son of cultivator Michel Zimmerman and the deceased Barbe Roggin, who had died at Domgermaine June 19, 1832. The bride was described as Madelaine Miller, 27, born at Hochburg March 13, 1807, a daughter of Jean Miller [he signed Johan Müller] and Madelaine Aier [Eyer] who were present and consenting. It was witnessed by Joseph Risser, 54; Pierre Zer [Zehr], 24; Andrée Roth, 22; and Pierre Zimmerman, 23. A copy of

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108 No Anabaptist birth records were kept at Freiburg before 1810.

109 His French marriage entry said he was born at Bourgematt, Freibourg. This was likely Burgmatt.
Amish Mennonites in Tazewell County, Illinois

their passport was found at Châteauroux by Annette Surrault: *Passport No. 38, Department l'Indre, issued at Châteauroux Feb. 6, 1837.* Cultivator Daniel Zimmerman accompanied by his wife Madelaine Miller and Daniel their 17-month-old son. Native of Fribourg living at Lagny, St. Valentin. Destination Ohio. Age 23. Hair brown, eyes gray. Height 1.6 meters (5 foot-4). Larry Zimmerman found the passenger list of the Vaillant as it arrived at New Orleans from Le Havre April 14, 1837. It lists "Zimmerman, wife and one child, two trunks" (Daniel Zimmerman and Magdalena Miller) and "Rohodes and wife, also two trunks" (Andreas/André/Andrew Roth and Barbe Müller). Their household appears on the 1860 census of Elm Grove as Daniel Zimmerman, Baden; Madaline, 50; Baden; Andrew, 22; Ohio; Christian, 12; Illinois; and Daniel [David], 11, Illinois. The 1880 census of Elm Grove shows widower Daniel Zimmerman, 66, Germany, living in the household of his son C. Zimmerman, 34. Their children include:

a. Daniel Zimmerman was born circa September 1835, according to his parents' passport copy.

b. Andrew Zimmerman was born in Hamilton County, Ohio Nov. 26, 1837, and died at Roanoke, Woodford County Sept. 30, 1924. On Feb. 8, 1863 in Tazewell County he married Elizabeth Pfister; the ceremony was performed by minister Benedict Weyeneth. She was born July 7, 1844, and died Nov. 11, 1934. They can be found on the 1880 census of Roanoke as farmer Andrew Zimmerman, 41, born in Ohio to a father from Alsace and a mother from Baden; Elizabeth, 34, Switzerland; and seven children born in Illinois. They farmed Section 30 of Roanoke. They are buried in the Apostolic Christian Cemetery at Roanoke, Woodford County.

c. Christian Zimmerman was born in Illinois July 5, 1847, and died Sept. 10, 1932. On Sept. 24, 1876 in Tazewell County he married Marie Anne Maurer. She was born in Switzerland Feb. 6, 1846, and died Feb. 12, 1931. They are buried in Milford Cemetery at Milford, Indiana.

d. David Zimmerman was born in Illinois March 1, 1850, and died July 14, 1901. On Oct. 3, 1874 in McLean County he married Barbara Katharina RosinaFranz. She was born at Döttingen, Württemberg Nov. 3, 1851, a daughter of Friederich Franz and Barbara Katharina Ackermann. They can be found on the 1880 census of Roanoke as druggist David Zimmerman, 30, born in Illinois to a father from Alsace and a mother from Baden; and Barbara, 28, Baden.

10. Barbara Zimmerman was born on the Schlatthof Aug. 27, 1814, and died there Oct. 11, 1816.

11. Verena Zimmerman was born on the Schlatthof Dec. 26, 1815, and died there Jan. 25, 1816.

12. Christian Zimmerman was born on the Schlatthof Feb. 3, 1817, and died at Pekin March 7, 1887. He departed from Le Havre on the *Burgundy*, and arrived at New York Jan. 12, 1841. The passenger list shows a group of four: blacksmith Jean Gingerich, 20, France; shoemaker Nich. Riebenacht, 17, France; coachmaker Christ Zimmerman, 33, France; and miller Joseph Gingerich, 23, France. His age was exaggerated; he would also have been 23. On June 13, 1847 in Peoria County he married Elizabeth Stalter. She was born circa 1821. She may have been a daughter of John Stalter of Peoria (see STALTER, 'OTHER' STALTERS, JOHN STALTER OF PEORIA); if so, she immigrated in 1831. They are found on the 1850 census of unincorporated parts of Tazewell County living next to his father Michael Zimmerman. Christian swore to a Declaration of Intent for naturalization at Pekin May 12, 1853; his application stated that he was born in Austria, was 36, had departed Le Havre Dec. 25, 1840, and arrived at New York Jan. 15, 1841. His household is shown on the 1860 census of Elm Grove, where Christian's household appears on the same page as that of older brother Andrew. The census report erroneously gave him Andrew's name: Andy Zimmerman, 43, France; Elizabeth, 48, Bavaria; and Jacob Shedler, 14, Bavaria. The 1870 census of the Third Ward, Pekin shows miller Christian Zimmerman, 54, France; and Elizabeth, 57, Bavaria. Christian is buried in Pleasant Grove Mennonite Cemetery.

13. Jacob Zimmerman (also known as Jacob J. Zimmerman) was born at Vannes-le-Châtel, Meurthe-et-Moselle April 20, 1847, and moved to Illinois around 1850. They are found on the 1850 census of unincorporated parts of Tazewell County living next to his father Andrew. The census report erroneously gave him Andrew's name: Andy Zimmerman, 43, France; Elizabeth, 48, Bavaria; and Jacob Shedler, 14, Bavaria. The 1870 census of the Third Ward, Pekin shows miller Christian Zimmerman, 54, France; and Elizabeth, 57, Bavaria. Christian is buried in Pleasant Grove Mennonite Cemetery.

14. Catherine Zimmerman was born at Vannes-le-Châtel April 17, 1820, and died at Morton Oct. 1, 1864. Her birth entry described her father as a 40-year-old cultivator and farmer at Château-le-Vannes, and gave the age of her mother Barbara as 39; one witness was farm equipment operator Christian Roth, 36. She is buried in Guth Cemetery at Washington as “Catharina Riser, wife of John.” On Feb. 27, 1838 at St. Valentin she married Jean Risser/John Reeser, a son of Jean Risser and Françoise Bergmann. Their civil marriage entry described the groom as laborer Jean Risser, 20, born at Gros-Rédéching, Moselle Oct. 9, 1817 [his headstone at Roanoke Mennonite Cemetery erroneously says Oct. 15, 1811], a son of the deceased Jean Risser who had died there July 21, 1828, and Reine Radimere [Françoise Bergmann], a day laborer on the Boug farm there. The bride was described as Catherine Zimmerman, 18, born at Vannes, Meurthe, a daughter of cultivator Michel Zimmerman and the deceased Barbe

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200 Elias Zimmerman wrote that Andrew was born in Hamilton County, Ohio (the location of Cincinnati). Descendant Larry Zimmerman believes that he was actually born at Hamilton, Butler County, Ohio.

201 Jacob Shedler may have been Jacob Zeiler, see BECHLER/BECKLER.
Amish Mennonites in Tazewell County, Illinois

Roggine [Roggy]. Witnesses included Jean Buré, 34, day laborer at St. Valentin and stepfather of the groom; Jean Ponroy, 50, friend; Michel Zimmerman, 59, father of the bride; and Jean Miller [Johannes Müller], 53. See RISSER/REESER for more on this couple.

16. Joseph Zimmerman was born at Vannes-le-Châtel Feb. 16, 1826. According to Elias Zimmerman’s family genealogy, Joseph married Anna Schnert (1838-1917) in Tazewell County and became a Methodist preacher; however, no listing for such a marriage is found in the county marriage register or Illinois Statewide Marriage Index, transcribed from register certificates. He is supposed to have died from sunstroke after speaking at St. Louis circa 1855.

In 1832 Michael accepted employment from Comte Henri Gatien Bertrand, the former aide-de-camp to Napoleon, at Lagny, St. Valentin in the department of Indre, 16 miles northeast of Châteauroux, and approximately 170 miles south of Paris (see ROTH for background on Bertrand).

Michael remarried to Magdalena Erb at St. Valentin April 20, 1835. She was born at Breitenbach, Lower Alsace July 7, 1805, a daughter of weaver Daniel Erb and Marie Stöcky [Stücki]. They farmed at Lagny (now Les Lagnys), three miles northwest of St. Valentin.

When Bertrand's wife Fanny died in 1836, the name 'Michel Zimmerman' is mentioned with Müller and Riser [Risser] as someone who could not sign an inventory document owing to the restrictions of his religion. But his signature does appear at the bottom of the page.

Annette Surrault found the 1836 census of Lagny, St. Valentin:

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>89</td>
<td>Michel Elzimmerman [Zimmerman]</td>
<td>Cultivator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90</td>
<td>Madeleine Herbe [Erb]</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>91</td>
<td>Jacob Elzimmerman</td>
<td>Cultivator</td>
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<tr>
<td>92</td>
<td>Daniel</td>
<td>Cultivator</td>
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<td>[Daniel's wife Magdalena/Madeleine Müller and son Daniel were listed with the Müller family]</td>
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<tr>
<td>93</td>
<td>Michel</td>
<td>Cultivator</td>
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<tr>
<td>94</td>
<td>Joseph</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>95</td>
<td>Catherine</td>
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In 1839 the last Amish Mennonite families departed. The Zimmermans are found on the passenger list of the packet ship Poland as it arrived at New York from Le Havre May 3, 1839: Michel Zimmerman, 58, France; Magdalena, 33; Joseph, 13; Maria, 3; and Jacobina, six months. The Müller family from St. Valentin and Springers accompanied them.

They can also be found on the 1840 census of Liberty, Butler County, Ohio on the same page as Michael's younger brother, Andrew. The entry lists one male in the age range 60-70 (Michael, who would have been 62), one female 30-40 (Magdalena), one male child 10-15, and two female children under five years of age. They moved west in a covered wagon in 1843. At first they lived at Tremont, then at Washington with a daughter. The Zimmerman Genealogy notes that they saw more than one home destroyed by hearth fire accidents.

An 1850 census of unincorporated portions of Tazewell County lists Michael Zimmerman, 70, a farmer from Germany; Magdalena, 46, Germany; Mary [Maria], 14, Germany; Phoebe [Jacobine], 12, Germany; and Peter, 8, Ohio. He lived next door to his 35-year-old son Christian and his wife Elizabeth Stalter.

An 82-year-old Michael Zimmerman is listed on the 1860 census in the Elm Grove household of son-in-law Christian Schrock. He died later that year. He is thought to have been buried in Railroad Cemetery at Elm Grove, though there is no headstone for him.

Magdalena Erb outlived every member of her husband's first family, and died at Flanagan, Livingston County Feb. 23, 1892. Herald of Truth, March 15, 1892: "On the 23rd of Feb. 1892, in Livingston Co., Ill., of the infirmities of age, widow Magdalena Zimmerman, aged 82 years. She was found dead in her bed in the morning, having retired as usual the evening before. Before midnight her daughter had gone to her room, and found her quietly sleeping. For several years her mental vigor had wandered, but her trust in God remained steadfast. She was a faithful mother in Zion and had been a widow for many years. Buried on the 25th. Funeral services by John P. Schmitt from Sir. 41: last seven verses, Joseph Buercky of Bureau Co., and Daniel Orendroff, from 2 Cor. 5. The deceased sister leaves one son and two daughters, 23 grandchildren, and 15 great grand children." She was buried in Waldo Cemetery at Flanagan.

Children of Michael Zimmerman and his second wife Magdalena Erb include:

16. Maria/Mary Zimmerman was born at St. Valentin, Indre Oct. 5, 1835, and died Dec. 20, 1920. On March 14, 1852 in Tazewell County she married Christian Schrag/Schrock; the ceremony was performed by minister Andrew Ropp. He
was born at Kösching, a suburb of Ingolstadt April 24, 1826, and died Oct. 29, 1917, a son of Christian Schrag and Elizabeth Bürki. See SCHROCK, THE SCHRAGS OF KÖSCHING for more on this couple.

17. Marie Jacobine Zimmerman was born at St. Valentin, Indre June 18, 1838, and died at Peru, Bureau County June 1, 1900. On Feb. 25, 1858 in Tazewell County she married Joseph Burcky; the ceremony was performed by minister Andrew Ropp. He was born in Illinois May 29, 1836, and died at Peru Aug. 1, 1920, a son of Andrew Burcky and Barbara Oyer. He served as a minister and elder at Willow Springs Mennonite Church of Tiskilwa, Bureau County. He apparently spelled his own name 'Buercky'; it appears that way on many obituaries included in this text (his obituary is given in a footnote to BIRKY/BIRKEY).

18. Peter Zimmerman was born in Ohio Dec. 15, 1842, and died at Garden City, Missouri May 5, 1931. On Feb. 26, 1865 at Gridley City he married Magdalena Schlegel. She was born in Tazewell County May 3, 1846, and died July 3, 1921, a daughter of Christian Schlegel and his wife Salomé 'Sarah' Sommer. She is buried in the Metamora Township Mennonite Cemetery. Gospel Herald, July 31, 1931: “Peter Zimmerman was born in Ohio, Dec. 15, 1842; died at the home of his son Edward in Garden City, Mo., May 5, 1931; aged 88 y. 4 m. 20 d. On Feb. 26, 1865, he was married to Magdalena Slagle of Tazewell Co., Ill., who preceded him in death July 3, 1921. They spent over 56 years in wedded companionship. This union was blessed with six children, two of whom died in infancy. Those surviving him are William and wife Leah, who have four children, 12 grandchildren and one great-grandson; Edward and wife Martha, who have five children and two grandchildren; Lydia and husband with six children and two grandchildren; Jonathan and wife Elizabeth have three children and one grandchild. These with a host of relatives and friends are left to mourn their loss. He was laid to rest beside his helpmate in the Harmony Cemetery. Services were held at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Joseph D. Helmuth, and at the Roanoke, Ill., Church Thursday afternoon, May 27, 1931. He united with the A. M. Church in his young manhood and was a member of the same at the time of his death. He was ordained to the ministry in 1878 at the Roanoke Church, in which capacity he served for over fifty-one years - including the congregations at Larned, Kans.; Garden City, Mo.; Delaplaine, Ark.; and later returning to Roanoke, Ill., where he remained until the last six years which were spent with his children in their different homes.” For Magdalena's obituary see SCHLEGEL.

Jacob Zimmerman

Jacob Zimmerman was born circa 1782 (presumably at Denzlingen), and died at South Easthope, Ontario Sept. 1, 1855.

He married Elisabeth Becher/Becker. According to their passenger list, she was 47 in 1831, thus born circa 1784. This may have been an accurate estimation (at least unlikely to fall much later), because their first child was born in the spring of 1801.

Jacob appears as a witness on a number of civil entries at Robert-Espagne, Meuse in 1827 and 1828. All of the entries give ages that result in an approximate birth year of 1782.

Their daughter Marie Zimmerman married Pierre Serach/Peter Schrock at Robert-Espagne Aug. 25, 1827. Marie was described as a 26-year-old day laborer, born at Emmendingen in the Grand Duchy of Baden [Baden was still a margraviate at the time she was born] April 17, 1801. Her parents were farm equipment operator Jacob Zimmerman and Elisabeth Becher, residents of Robert-Espagne who were present and consenting.

THE BALTIMORE VOYAGE OF 1831 in the Appendix tells the story of an unidentified ship that arrived at Baltimore May 21, 1831, after 44 days at sea. The Amish Mennonite families onboard had initially assembled at Rhodes, Moselle. Several were purposely evading civil requirements regarding military conscription. Some of the male passengers may have been traveling under assumed names.

The passenger list shows farmer Jacob Zimmerman, 52; Christopher [son Christian], 12; John, 4 [who may have been a Johannes or Jean, possibly a twin to Catherine]; Betsey [Elisabeth Becher/Becker], 47; Madaline [Magdalena], 18; Catherine, 4 [possibly a twin to John]; and Anna, 2. We assume Jacob’s age was overestimated by three years, because it is the only description that yields a birth year of 1779.

It is difficult to discern the route that Jacob and Elisabeth took from New York to Ontario. However, a possible clue is found in an Illinois publication.

Johannes/Jean/John Shrock and Catherine Salzman were also passengers on the 1831 voyage. John is found on the passenger list as passenger number 147, 'Jno. Gerral', a 30-year-old farmer. Catherine appears later as passenger number 152, 'Catherine Gerrard', 26. Their two children were passengers number 156 and 157, one-year-old Catherine and three-year-old Joseph. John was an older brother to Peter Schrock, the husband of Jacob and Elisabeth’s daughter Marie Zimmerman.

According to Portrait and Biographical Record of Woodford County (1889), John and Catherine stayed one year in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, then continued on to Ohio in 1832. It is probable that Peter and Marie
traveled with them; they later lived on the same road in Lemon Township, Butler County (John and Catherine departed for Illinois after the 1850 census).  

Recall from ROPP that Lancaster County ministers actively sought to divert new arrivals from settling there. They made arrangements for land in what became the German Block of Wilmot Township, Ontario. Thus Jacob and Elisabeth may have received assistance with travel and settlement by going from Lancaster County directly there.

Wilmot was originally a place where one could sign up for a 50-acre parcel of land, live on it while making improvements, then claim it and an adjoining 100 acres with no payments or very small ones. However, in 1828 the Canadian government had given all of the 150-acre lots to King's College (now the University of Toronto). The school offered to sell the adjoining parcels of land, but only at a price that was roughly double what the settlers had expected. Many settlers who had spent years developing their lots felt betrayed.

Despite any relationships in Wilmot, the bitterness of Ontario winters and the dispute over remaining community land convinced some families to move to Butler County in 1831-32. They saw no future in paying steep prices for further acreage in a cold climate with a short growing season.

The name Jacob Zimmerman appears on a land assessment document created at Wilmot in 1833. But by the following year they had moved on.

The publication Daniel S. Iutzi, Jacob R. Bender, Servants of God and the Church (1984) by Hugh Laurence and Lorraine Roth can be found online. It contains plat maps of South Easthope Township and East Zorra Township in 1835-50, 1850-60, and 1870-1880. Both communities are just west of Wilmot Township, Waterloo County; but South Easthope is in Perth County, while East Zorra is in Oxford County. The 1835-50 map shows Jacob Zimmerman on Lot III-8 in South Easthope, with his son Christian Zimmerman on the catty-cornered Lot II-9. In 1850-60 Jacob is absent (he may have been living with children); Lot II-9 is now occupied by Christian Bier (and Jacob’s youngest daughter Anna); and Christian has moved over a few lots into into East Zorra. Neither Zimmermans nor Biers are found on the 1851 census. In 1870-80 only Christian remained, on his East Zorra farm.

Jacob Zimmerman died at South Easthope Sept. 1, 1855. Elisabeth died there April 1, 1856. It likely that they were residents of and died in the home of their youngest daughter Anna and Christian Bier.

After their deaths the Zimmerman and Bier families joined the Reformed Mennonites. By doing this, they were severing ties with the Amish Mennonite community that surrounded them.

The Reformed Mennonite Church was established in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania by John Herr in 1812. Herr put almost as much emphasis on the writings of Menno Simons as on the Bible. The movement reached a peak membership of only 3,000 by the time Herr died in 1850.

The local area held a number of small Reformed Mennonite congregations. The Amish Mennonite custom had been to attend services in a home every second Sunday, leaving the odd Sunday to visit relatives. The smaller Reformed Mennonites groups met once every week, traveling more widely to meet in a variety of homes and later churches. By crossing counties they made new acquaintances and possibly found marriage partners.

Several of their children are buried in the New Hamburg Reformed Mennonite Cemetery, also known as Hostettler’s Cemetery. It is located at the south end of Lot 20, North Snyder’s Road, Wilmot. This cemetery may have had many early burials with wooden markers that no longer exist.

Children or Jacob Zimmerman and Elisabeth Becher/Becker are thought to include:

202 The 1840 census of Lemon Township, Butler County, Ohio shows the household of Marie Zimmerman and son-in-law Peter Schrock: Peter Schrack, one male in the 30-39 year age range; two males 10-14; one female 30-39; one female 15-19; and two females under 5. It may be significant that the property next door had the name Elizabeth Bacher. That household has one female in the 30-39 year age range – too young to be his mother-in-law Elisabeth Becher/Becker – one female 10-14, and one female 5-9; one male 10-14, and one male 5-9. Did Peter and Marie place a house on or adjacent to their property in the name of Elisabeth Becher/Becker? If so, it is no longer apparent on the 1850 census.

203 Did Elisabeth Becher/Becker have a relative at Wilmot? According to the late Ontario historian Lorraine Roth, Joseph Becker married Catharina Schrag at Wilmot June 24, 1838. She was born circa 1802, and died before 1851. The 1851 census of Wilmot has widow and farmer Joseph Becker, 54, Mennonite, Germany. The 1861 census of Wilmot has widow and farmer Joseph Becker, 69, Mennonite, Germany; servant Magdalena Schrag, 64, Mennonite, Germany; and labourer Henry Kotha, 19, [illegible], Germany.

204 The Reformed Mennonites have been called ‘contrarian Amish’ – a haven for those expelled from the Amish Mennonite community. Founder John Herr’s own father was among those excommunicated from a mainline congregation. Today the movement is numerically insignificant. Men do not wear beards, and concessions to modernity such as cell phones, computers, and automobiles are permitted. Attendance at public schools and universities is encouraged.

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Amish Mennonites in Tazewell County, Illinois

1. Marie/Maria Zimmerman was born at Emmendingen, Baden April 17, 1801, and died at Trenton, Butler County, Ohio Dec. 31, 1862. On Aug. 25, 1827 at Robert-Espagne, Meuse she married ‘Pierre Serach’ - Peter/Pierre Schrock. He was born at Gondrexange, Moselle June 15, 1802, and died at Trenton, Sept. 17, 1887, a son of Joseph Schrag and his second wife Marie Neuhauser. See SCHROCK for background on this couple who also immigrated on the 1831 voyage.

2. Elisabeth/Eliza Zimmerman was born circa 1805 (per the passenger list). Circa 1826 she married Christian Bächler/Bechler. He was born at Imling, Moselle Jan. 18, 1801, a son of Michel Bächtler and his second wife Marie Bertschi. They immigrated on the disastrous voyage of the *Marcia Cleveur* via New Orleans in 1840 (see GINGERICH for the story of the sinking off Baton Rouge). See BECHLER/BECKLER for more on this couple.

3. Magdalena/Madeleine Zimmerman was born circa October of 1811 (per her headstone, which says she died April 9, 1888, aged 76 years and six months). Circa 1833 she married John Schultz. He was born July 10, 1810, and died at Wilmot April 23, 1883. They are found on the 1851 census of Wilmot as farmer John Schultz, 42, Mennonite, Baden; Magdalena, 42, Mennonite, Alsace; Joseph, 17, Canada; John, 14, Canada; Christian, 10, Canada; Barbara, 7, Canada; and Magdalena, 4, Canada. They are buried in the New Hamburg Reformed Mennonite Cemetery.

4. André Zimmerman was born circa 1814, and died at age 14 in Robert-Espagne April 4, 1828. His civil death entry said he was a son of Jacob Zimmerman, 46 and Elisabeth Becker. One witness was friend-of-the-family Joseph Engel, 48.

5. Christian/Christopher Zimmerman was born circa 1819, and died in Ontario in 1891. He married Anna Meister, who was born circa May of 1820. They lived at South Easthope from 1833 until 1853 (though they are not found there on the 1851 census), and then moved a few lots over into East Zorra, Oxford County. The North Easthope Reformed Mennonite congregation was formed in 1844, and a church structure built in 1850; the families of Christian Zimmerman and John Honderich were the first to join. Hostetler’s Reformed Mennonite Church of Baden was established in 1844; Christian Zimmerman and John Honderich are named as early ministers. Sermons at both locations were given in the German language until the 1920s. Anna is buried in the New Hamburg Reformed Mennonite Cemetery, where her headstone says she died Aug. 16, 1872, aged 52 years, three months.

6. Catherine Zimmerman (twin) was born circa Oct. 12, 1826, and died at Shipshewana, LaGrange County, Indiana Dec. 28, 1894. Circa 1847 she married Joseph Roth. He was born at Dornach, Upper Alsace May 23, 1822, and died at Shipshewana Jan. 25, 1889, a son of Nicolas Roth and Anna Tschantz. They are found on the 1870 census of Newbury, Lagrange County as farmer Joseph Roth, 48, France; Catherine, 44, France; Jacob, 20, Canada; Leah, 18, Canada; Joseph, 14, Canada; Benedict, 13, Iowa; Catherine, 9, Iowa; Anna, 7, Iowa; Barbara, 5, Canada; and Susan, six months, Indiana. The 1880 census of Elkhart, Indiana has laborer Josep Roth, 56, France; Catherine, 54, France; Christian, 19, Iowa; Anna, 17, Iowa; Barbara, 15, Canada; and Suscina [Susanna], 10, Ind. *Herald of Truth*, February 1889: “On the 25th of January, in LaGrange Co., Ind., of dropsy of the heart, Bro. Joseph Roth, aged 66 years, 8 months and 10 days. He was born in France; was married to Catherine Zimmerman with whom he lived in matrimony about 42 years. He was a faithful member of the Amish Mennonite church and leaves a wife, nine children and twenty-nine grand-children to mourn his death. Buried on the 28th in Pre. C. Miller's burying ground. Funeral services by J. Gascho and Joseph Schlegel, both of Milford, Seward Co., Neb., 1 Cor. 15:19-24.” *Herald of Truth*, February 1895: “On the 28th of Dec. 1894, at Shipshewana, Ind., Catharina Roth (maiden name Zimmerman) of typhoid fever. Buried Dec. 30th. Services at Pleasant Valley (Forks) meeting house by Eli Miller in German and D. D. Miller in English. She was a member of the Amish Mennonite church.” They are buried in Miller Cemetery at Shipshewana.

7. John Zimmerman (twin) was born circa Oct. 12, 1826, and died at Bosanquet, Ontario Dec. 12, 1894; his headstone says he was “John Zimmerman, died Dec. 12, 1894, aged 68 Yrs. 2 Mos.” His entry in the death register there says he was a Mennonite born in France. He was married to Mary, whose headstone says she was “Mary Zimmerman, wife of John Zimmerman, died Oct. 24, 1895, aged 70 Yrs. 6 Mos. 8 Ds.” They are buried in Arkona Reformed Mennonite Cemetery at Arkona, Lambton County, Ontario. They lived at Bosanquet, which no longer exists; part of it became Arkona, 54 miles west of South Easthope on the shores of Lake Huron. The 1891 census of Ontario, District No. 81 East Lambton, Bosanquet Township has farmer Amos Zimmerman, 28, Ontario, French father, German mother; farmer John Zimmerman, 66, France, French parents; Mary, 64, Germany, German parents; Hester, 35, Ontario, French father, German mother, and Annie, 24, Ontario, French father, German mother. All Mennonite.

8. Anna Zimmerman was born circa 1829, and died in Ontario in 1876. She married Christian Bier. He was born in 1830, and died in 1900. After living in South Easthope, they are found on the 1871 census of Wilmot as farmer Christian Bier, 39, Mennonite, Germany; Anna, 42, Mennonite, Germany; Christian, 16, Ontario; Peter, 10, Ontario; Lydia, 1, Ontario; and Barbara [Beier], 70, Mennonite, Germany. Christian married twice more, to Catherine Alion and Margaret Moerschfelder. He is buried in the New Hamburg Reformed Mennonite Cemetery.

**Andreas/Andrew Zimmerman**

**Andreas/Andrew Zimmerman** was born at Denzlingen in 1793, and died in Butler County, Ohio Jan. 13, 1841.

On May 14, 1815 at Auggen he married Anna Müller. She was born at Auggen Aug. 7, 1797, and died at Congerville, Woodford County Jan. 2, 1850, a daughter of Jacob Müller and Anna Rüpp.
Witnesses at the wedding included older brother Michael Müller and brother-in-law Niklaus Roth, who was identified as a leaseholder at Buggingen. All participants were described as *Wiedertäufer*. An *Evangelisch* entry was created the following day.

The event was recorded at Sexau Aug. 7, 1815. The *Evangelisch* entry described the groom as Andreas Zimmerman, *Wiedertäufer* on Martin Koger’s Hof at Auggen. Witnesses included Niklaus Roth, *Wiedertäufer* farm leaseholder [Ger. *Guthbeständer*] at Buggingen; and Michael Zimmerman, *Wiedertäufer* farm leaseholder at Hochburg.

In 1821, Andreas/Andrew Zimmerman was a leaseholder on the farm of Martin Koger at Auggen. Koger was a village administrator [Ger. *Vogt*] and blacksmith who had been involved in a poaching dispute in 1798.205

A civil record of Anabaptists in the district of Emendingen [Ger. *Heimatverhältnisse der Wiedertäufer*, or 'home relationships of Anabaptists'] states that he petitioned authorities for a certificate of family origin [Ger. *Heimatschein*] Dec. 10, 1830. This petition may have indicated that he was already planning to emigrate.

The Zimmerman family sailed from Le Havre aboard the packet ship *Rhone*, arriving at New York June 17, 1839. Ship’s list #38 was located by Alana Bauman on National Archives microfilm roll 38. The family is listed as: Andreas Zimmerman, 45, farmer, Baden; Anna, 40; Anna, 20; Michael, 16; Johannes, 13; Christian, 11; and Jacob, 6. The names of Jacob Imhof, 24; and Peter Imhof, 23 immediately follow them. Peter Imhof or Imhoff later became elder of the conservative Augspurger congregation in Butler County. Three lines below, the passenger list also shows Christ Zear [Zehr], 26, Bavaria.

Andrew’s family is listed on the same page as older brother Michael on the 1840 census of Liberty, Butler County, Ohio. The household includes one male in the 40-50 year age range [Andreas/Andrew]; one female 40-50 [Anna]; and one male between 5-10 years of age [Jacob].

Andrew died in Butler County Jan. 13, 1841. He is buried in Augspurger Cemetery at Trenton, Madison Township.

Anna settled with the family of her son Michael at Congerville. She died there Jan. 2, 1850, and is buried as Anna Miller Zimmerman in Lantz Cemetery at Carlock, McLean County. This cemetery was established after her burial on her son’s farm.

Children of Andreas/Andrew Zimmerman and Anna Müller include:

1. Andreas Zimmerman was born on the Hochburg estate Nov. 10, 1816. He accidentally drowned at Kollmarsreute Sept. 22, 1821. On the Sexau death record the parent is described as *Wiedertäufer*.
2. Anna/Anne Zimmerman was born at Auggen June 21, 1818, and died June 9, 1884. She married her cousin Andreas/Andrew Roth in Butler County April 24, 1842.
3. **Michael Zimmerman** was born at Auggen Sept. 27, 1820, and died at Congerville Feb. 7, 1913.
4. Andreas Zimmerman was born at Auggen Nov. 21, 1821, and died Feb. 18, 1822.
5. Jacob Zimmerman was born at Auggen Jan. 23, 1824, and died Oct. 22, 1825.
7. Christian Zimmerman was born at Auggen Jan. 21, 1827. Although he appears on the 1839 ship passenger list, he has not been identified on American census lists.
8. A stillborn girl was born at Auggen Aug. 24, 1828.
9. Magdalena Zimmerman was born on the Hochburg estate Nov. 2, 1829, and died Feb. 24, 1830.
10. Jacob Zimmerman was born on the Hochburg estate Jan. 7, 1831, and died Jan. 11, 1914. On July 6, 1852 at St. Louis, Missouri he married Katharina/Catherine Leiter. She was born in 1837, and died in 1894. They are found on the 1880 census of Olio, Woodford County as Jacob Zimmerman, 50, Baden; Cathrine, 45, Holland; and seven children born in Illinois. Jacob is found on the 1900 census of Eureka. The 1910 census of Roanoke shows him as widowed father-in-law and farm laborer Jacob Zimmerman, 79, born in Germany to German parents; immigrated in 1839; in the household of Daniel Grenfer, 39, and Barbara, 45.

**Michael Zimmerman** was born at Auggen Sept. 27, 1820, and died at Congerville Feb. 7, 1913.

205 After two residents of Auggen were arrested for poaching and given sentences in a Lörrach prison, Koger led a group of protesting farmers on a march to Badenweiler. The group broke up after a minister blocked their path. As a result the margrave issued an edict relieving Koger and his village council of authority. Koger died Jan. 12, 1827. His house still stands behind the Hotel Rebstock.
On April 20, 1845 at Montgomery Township, Woodford County he married Katharina/Catherine Naffziger. She was born aboard the Nimrod July 9, 1826, and died at Congerville March 9, 1919, a daughter of minister 'Apostle Peter' Naffziger and Barbara Beck.

They settled in Tazewell County in 1848, then moved to Montgomery Township and resettled at what is now Congerville the following year.

Michael became a minister of the German Apostolic Church and a prosperous farmer.

The household is found on the 1880 census of Montgomery Township as farmer Michael Zimmerman, 59, born in Baden; Catherine, 53, born on the ocean to parents from Germany; Lydia, 23; Christian, 21; Hannah, 18; Joshua, 16; Cobb [Caleb], 13; and Lillie, 10; all children born in Illinois.

The 1900 census of Montgomery Township shows Michael Zimmerman, 79, born in Germany in September 1820, immigration 1839; and Katharina, 73, born at sea in July 1826, immigration 1826.

Michael and Catherine are buried in Lantz Cemetery at Carlock, McLean County, which was established on Michael's land with the burial of his mother there in 1850. At his death Michael left 70 grandchildren, and 36 great-grandchildren.

Their children include:

1. Anna Zimmerman was born in Butler County, Ohio April 25, 1846, and died at Montgomery May 9, 1935. On Oct. 6, 1872 in Woodford County she married John Witzig. He was born in Switzerland Nov. 15, 1837, and died at Goodfield March 29, 1915. John was a minister at the German Apostolic Church at Mackinaw Dells. They can be found on the 1900 census of Montgomery Township as John Witzig, 62, born in Switzerland in November 1837; Anna, 53, born in Ohio in April 1847 to a father born in Germany and a mother born at sea; and three children born in Illinois. They are buried in the Apostolic Christian Cemetery at Congerville.

2. Catherine 'Katie' Zimmerman and all later children were born at Montgomery, Woodford County. She was born Oct. 14, 1847, and died Sept. 12, 1852.

3. Barbara Zimmerman was born May 23, 1849, and died Jan. 29, 1934. On Oct. 19, 1873 in Woodford County she married John Ramseyer. He was born Nov. 1, 1847, and died April 17, 1919, a son of Nicholas Ramseyer and Barbara Sommer.

4. Elizabeth Zimmerman was born May 29, 1851, and died July 20, 1853.

5. John Zimmerman was born March 13, 1853, and died Jan. 6, 1834. On Dec. 17, 1876 in Woodford County he married Catherine Schrock. She was born Feb. 27, 1853, and died May 14, 1944, a daughter of Joseph Schrock and Magdalena Guingrich. They are found on the 1880 census of Montgomery next door to his parents as farmer John Zimmerman, 27, born in Illinois to a father from Baden and a mother from Germany; Catherine, 27, born in Illinois to a father on the ocean and a mother born in Germany; and Emma, 2, born in Illinois. An interesting coincidence that highlights the inaccuracies on this census report: both mothers-in-law - Katharina/Catherine Naffziger and Magdalena Guingrich - were born at sea on their immigration voyages, in 1826 and 1829 respectively.

6. Jacob Zimmerman was born Jan. 25, 1855, and died at Montgomery Oct. 11, 1867.

7. Lydia Zimmerman was born Feb. 22, 1857, and died at Morton. June 2, 1951. In 1877 she married Abraham Rinkenberger. He was born July 19, 1857, and died at Gridley, McLean County April 3, 1940, a son of Peter Rinkenberger and Catherine 'Katie' Garber. They lived at Montgomery; at Hancock, Minnesota; and finally at Gridley. They are buried in Gridley Cemetery.

8. Christian Zimmerman was born Feb. 12, 1859, and died March 26, 1940. He married Martha Minkosiwitz. They can be found on the 1900 census of Forest Township, Livingston County as farmer Christian Zimmerman, 41, born in Illinois in February 1859 to German parents; Marthe, 35, born in Illinois in September 1864 to a Hungarian father and a mother from Illinois; and eight children born in Illinois.

9. Hannah Zimmerman was born Aug. 15, 1861, and died May 3, 1949. She married John Hohulin. He was born in April 1867, and died in 1946, a son of minister Gottlieb Hohulin and Augustine Wenger. The Hohoulin family immigrated in 1858. John and Hannah appear on the 1900 census of Montgomery Township as John Hohulin, 33, born in Illinois in April 1876 to German parents; and Hanna, 38, born in Illinois in August 1861 to a father born in Germany and a mother born at sea. They are buried in the Apostolic Christian Cemetery at Congerville.

10. Joshua Zimmerman was born April 13, 1864, and died Feb. 25, 1926. On Feb. 25, 1890 he married Maria/Mary Wuethrich. She was born at Metamora June 7, 1871, and died June 18, 1960, a daughter of Johann Ulrich Wuethrich and Elizabeth Aeschliman. Her family had immigrated from Trub, Canton Bern circa 1870. In 1906 Joshua and Marie/Mary settled at Milford, Indiana. They are buried in Milford Cemetery.
11. Caleb Zimmerman was born April 26, 1867, and died at Congerville Oct. 28, 1957. He married Lena Wuetrich. She was born at Metamora April 4, 1873, and died July 1, 1955, a daughter of Johann Ulrich Wuetrich and Elizabeth Aeschliman. They farmed Section 23 of Montgomery. They are buried in the Apostolic Christian Cemetery at Congerville.

12. Lillie Zimmerman was born Feb. 7, 1870, and died Oct. 13, 1960; she is buried as 'Lillie Holliger' in the Apostolic Christian Cemetery at Congerville. Her father's obituary names her husband 'Louis Holliger,' but we suspect he was Fred Holliger, who was born in 1873, died in 1928, and is buried in the same cemetery.
Roth of Steffisburg

Mention of the Roth family can be found in Hilterfingen and Steffisburg church records as far back as 1560, when the surname was also spelled Rott, Roht, Root, or Rodt - all derived from the color red. Like the Stückers, their records could be found at Schwarzenegg after 1693. Recall from STAKER, “The Joder Newsletter cites Document K-893 of March 9, 1580, which has recently been moved to the State Archives of Canton Bern. The deed describes land on the border of Steffisburg and neighboring Fahrni [now Fahrni bei Thun]. The brothers Caspar and Nicolaus Joder, sons of the deceased Caspar Joder, bought, together with the families Stücker, Steinmann, Blank, Roth, and Zimmerman related to them by marriage, a large part of the March of Farni and jointly exploited it.”

Although there is a lapse of at least two generations in the 1700s that cannot be specifically identified, the Roths have always had a general idea of their past. Descendants of Anabaptist Roths at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines knew that their forebears had come from ‘a large family at Steffisburg’ that emigrated from Canton Bern in the 1690s. On March 14, 1623 at Steffisburg Michel Rott married Anna Farni (found on their entry as Varni). Their son Michel Rott was baptized at Steffisburg Aug. 6, 1626. 206 Witnesses included Michel Rott, Hans Bürczi, and Catharina Glücki.

On June 17, 1659 at Steffisburg Michel married Babý/Barbara Reüsser. The baptism entry of one of their children described Michel as an Obmann, the chairman of the village council. Children of Michel Roth and Babý/Barbara Reüsser baptized at Steffisburg include:

1. Anna Roth was baptized Sept. 4, 1659. Witnesses included Hans Meýer, Anna Küntzi, and Madlena Reüst.
2. Barßli Roth was baptized Oct. 27, 1661. Witnesses included Andreas Mûrer, Elsi Roth, and Freni Úli.
3. Michel Roth was baptized Jan. 25, 1663. Witnesses included minister Uriel Freudenberger, Hans Büchler, and Anni Koler. On April 23, 1697 at Steffisburg he married Barbara Hagi of Munsingen. Michel died at Steffisburg Dec. 12, 1744; the Totenrodel gave his age as 82. Their children baptized at Steffisburg include:
   a. Hans Roth was baptized March 13, 1698. Witnesses included Hans Güngerich, Jost Joder, and Christina Linder.
   b. Michel Roth was baptized Oct. 1, 1699. Witnesses included Daniel Blanck, Peter Reüsser, and Barbara Sásisman.
   c. Anna Roth was baptized Nov. 27, 1701. Witnesses included Chisten Hagi, Barbara Roth, and Anna Wyttenbach.
   d. Christen Roth was baptized Jan. 13, 1704. Witnesses included Wilhelm Bürczi, Hans Spring Spendvogt, and Barbara Hagi.
   e. Peter Roth was baptized May 16, 1706. Witnesses included Peter Rüssegger, Ulrich Röthlisperger, and Barbara Joder.
4. Christen Roth (twin) was baptized Feb. 26, 1665. Witnesses included Hans Rûpp, Hans Spring, and Catri Knöri. He married Anna Wyttenbach. She was born circa 1669, and died at Lütschental (28 miles southeast of Steffisburg) May 24, 1739, age 70 (as reported at Steffisburg). Their children baptized at Steffisburg include:
   a. Hans Roth was baptized Dec. 17, 1693. The baptism entry described his father as Hans Roth of Brenzikofen in the parish of Diessbach; the next two entries also used this description. Witnesses included Michel Roth, Abraham Spring, and Maria --.
   b. Cathrina Roth was baptized Feb. 20, 1698. Witnesses included Ulrich Rötlisperger, Cathrin Linder, and Barbara Gnägi.
   c. Magdalena Roth was baptized June 11, 1699. Witnesses included Christen Bähler, Magdalena Züm Wald, and Anna Christner.
   d. Christen Roth was baptized May 15, 1701. Witnesses included Johannes Karman, Peter Farni, and Anna Hûber.
   e. Jacob Roth was baptized June 15, 1704. Witnesses included Christen Leman, Jacob Roch of Thun, and Barbara Osch.
   f. Peter Roth was baptized Feb. 13, 1707. The entry is almost illegible because of ink bleed-through.

206 Another Michel Rott had been baptized at Steffisburg earlier in the year, and died in the same year. His baptism entry created April 16 was for a son of Michel Rott and Elisbeth Dierstein; witnesses included Jûncker Rodolph von Wattenwyl, Hans Ysen [Wyssen], and Anni Müller. He died at Steffisburg Dec. 12, 1744; the Totenrodel gave his age as 82. His parents Michel Rott and Elisbeth Dierstein had been married at Steffisburg Feb. 27, 1618.

207 The baptism witness Michel Rott may have been the husband of Elisbeth Dierstein. But we also note two other marriages of Michel Rotts at Steffisburg in this time frame: one to Verena Eichacher April 28, 1620; and one to Barßli Grûner June 29, 1631.
g. Maria Roth was baptized June 9, 1709. The entry is partially illegible; witnesses include Phillip Kuruns (?), Rosina Müri, and Anna Vogel.

5. Peter Roth (twin) was baptized Feb. 26, 1665. Witnesses included Stoffel Kolb, Christen Reüst, and Anni Meier. On Sept. 15, 1693 at Steffisburg he married Verena Roth. Peter may have remarried to Anna Bachman of Diessbach at Steffisburg July 4, 1704. He may be the Peter Rott on a census list of Anabaptists at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines in 1708. Children of Peter Roth and Verena Roth baptized at Steffisburg include:
   a. Barbara Roth was baptized Nov. 11, 1694. Witnesses included Heinrich Ritschart, Johanna Reüisser, and Barbara Rübi.
   b. Peter Roth was baptized Dec. 8, 1695. Witnesses included Vincentz Staüffer, Isaac Brendli, and Barbara Rübi.
   c. Anna Roth was baptized July 22, 1698. Witnesses included Daniel Blanck der Mauler, Barbara Neuenlist, and Maria Gasser.
   d. Verena Roth was baptized Jan. 7, 1700. Witnesses included Hans Güngerich, Barbara Wäglin, and Barbara Reüisser.

6. Freni Roth was baptized Feb. 3, 1667. Witnesses included Michel Rot, Peter Blanck, Madle Steiner, and Freni Joder. She died young.

7. Madle Roth was baptized April 26, 1668. Witnesses included Peter Roth of Farni and Babi Reüisser.

8. Verena Roth was baptized Oct. 17, 1669. Witnesses included Hans Bacher, Margreth Carli, and Anna Siber. She died young.

9. Hans Roth was baptized Jan. 15, 1671.
   a. Jacob/Jacques Roth was born at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines circa 1690, and died on Les Gouttes farm between Exincourt (three miles southeast of Montbéliard) and Dornach March 19, 1766. In 1724 he married Anna/Anneli Frey. She was born at Montbéliard March 10, 1709, and died on Les Gouttes farm June 26, 1779, a daughter of Ulrich Frey and Anna Schürch. He became a minister/elder of the Montbéliard congregation.
      1) Anna/Anneli Roth was born circa 1734, and died at Montbéliard Feb. 23, 1789. She married an Ulrich. As a widow she resettle with her brother Christian in the east at Urszulin (now in Poland) in 1791 at the invitation of Polish Prince Adam Czartoryski.
      2) Barbara Roth was born circa 1738.
      3) Johannes/Hans Roth was born on Les Gouttes farm circa 1742, and died at Dornach, Upper Alsace Jan. 28, 1802. He was baptized Nov. 18, 1758. He and his cousin Daniel Riehen/Riche/Rich attended the assembly of Amish Mennonite ministers at Essingen in December of 1779 as ministers/elders representing the Montbéliard [Ger. Mümpelgarten] congregation. As a widower with four children living on Les Gouttes farm, he married Freni Stücki at Grandvillars, Territoire de Belfort July 12, 1788. She was a daughter of Ulrich Frey and Anna Schürch. His death entry created at Dornach described him as 60 years of age, and was witnessed by Niclaüs Stücki and Christian Roth. Numerous sources misidentify this couple as the parents of Niclaüs Roth, who was born on Zweinrin farm at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines in 1773; he married Verena Zimmerman, and as a widow she brought their family to Ohio and Central Illinois.
   b. Maria Roth was born circa 1747, and died at Edwardsdorf, Russia Feb. 28, 1824. On Jan. 2, 1766 on the Schwabhof at Montbéliard she married Christian Graber. He was born at Sovaberie, Montbéliard circa 1746, and died at Urszulin (now in Poland) March 20, 1808, a son of Peter Graber and Cathrin Krayenbühler. They resettled in the east in 1791 at the invitation of Polish Prince Adam Czartoryski.
   c. Christian Roth was born circa 1752, and died at Sevenans, Territoire de Belfort (nine miles northeast of Montbéliard) Dec. 29, 1834. On April 25, 1779 he married Maria Gerig. She died at Sevenans June 25, 1799. He remarried to Elisabeth Schad. She was born circa 1768, and died at Dasle (12 miles southwest of Montbéliard) Feb. 27, 1838.

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208 Numerous sources misidentify Hans Roth (born in 1671) as a Hans Roth born at Steffisburg in 1665, a son of Hans Roth and Anna Schwartz. However, there were no Hans Roths baptized at Steffisburg in 1665 or 1666, though it was a common name. A Hans Roth baptized Jan. 31, 1664 was a son of Peter Roth and Verena Gerber.
Amish Mennonites in Tazewell County, Illinois

b. Ulrich Roth was born at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines circa 1692, and died at Allenjoie June 12, 1758. He married Catherine Schmucker.
c. Maria Roth was born at Jebenheim, Upper Alsace in September of 1705.
d. Ameli Roth was born at Couthenans (eight miles northwest of Montbéliard) circa 1707, and died at Voujeaucourt (four miles southwest of Montbéliard) Jan. 2 or 3, 1758. On May 30, 1730 she married Daniel Rychen. He was born at Frutigen, Canton Bern March 25, 1703, and died at Voujeaucourt April 11, 1751, a son of Peter Rychen and Margreth Brügger. Their children include:
   1) Françoise Richen/Riche/Rich was born at Voujeaucourt in 1728, and died at Couthenans June 27, 1768. On Nov. 6, 1759 at Voujeaucourt she married Jean Graber. He was born in 1732, and died at Couthenans May 2, 1810, a son of Jean Graber and Catherine Farni.
   2) Jean Richen/Riche/Rich was born May 30, 1730, and died at Voujeaucourt Feb. 20, 1798. On Oct. 28, 1760 at Montbéliard he married Barbara Kauffman. She was born at Leymen (eight miles southwest of Basel) Jan. 26, 1741, and died at Bertmont (nine miles northeast of Montbéliard) Aug. 7, 1818, a daughter of Jacob Kauffman and Marie Amstutz.
   3) Daniel Richen/Riche/Rich was born Aug. 18, 1731, and died at Voujeaucourt Feb. 20, 1798. On Oct. 28, 1760 at Montbéliard he married Barbara Kauffman. She was born at Leymen (eight miles southwest of Basel) Jan. 26, 1741, and died at Bertmont (nine miles northeast of Montbéliard) Aug. 7, 1818, a daughter of Jacob Kauffman and Marie Amstutz.
   4) Marie Richen/Riche/Rich was born in 1745, and died in 1811. On Jan. 4, 1763 at Couthenans she married Pierre Graber. He was born at Frédéric-Fontaine (17 miles northwest of Montbéliard) in 1745, and died at Montprévois (now Dampjoux, 16 miles south of Montbéliard) Feb. 4, 1805.
e. Hans Roth was born at Jebenheim Jan. 27, 1708.
10. Ulrich Roth was baptized Feb. 16, 1673. Witnesses included Christen Spring, Peter Büchler, and Catharina DeLosea. He may be the Ulrich Roth who married Verena Stettler. She was born circa 1687, and died at Steffisburg Jan. 1, 1747, age 60; the Totenrodel described her as the wife of Ulrich Roth von Farni. Ulrich died at Steffisburg Nov. 7, 1752. He was described in the Totenrodel as Ulli Roht, 80.
   a. Peter Roth was baptized at Steffisburg March 27, 1711. Witnesses included Franz Ludwig von Marth Schultheiss [mayor], Daniel de Losea Haffter zi Bern, and Rosina von Graffenried.
11. Verena Roth was baptized March 14, 1675. Witnesses included Heinrich Rüchti, Barbara Farni, and Verena Reüsser.
12. Adam Roth (twin) was baptized Aug. 11, 1676. Witnesses included Frantz Zwei of Thun, Hans Blanck of Riederen (in Steffisburg), and Christina Reüsser.
13. Eva Roth (twin) was baptized Aug. 11, 1676. Witnesses included Hans Waber, Anna Wyttenbach, and Anna Spring.
14. Abraham Roth was baptized March 30, 1679. Witnesses included Johannes Stäli of Thun, Michel Reüsser, and Cathrina Müller. Abraham Roth of Steffisburg is found at Jebenheim, Upper Alsace as an unmarried Swiss Anabaptist farm worker in 1706.
15. Cathrin Roth was baptized Aug. 15, 1681. Witnesses included Peter Meier, Anna Schneider, and Margreth Gerber.

To Baden, Indre, Ohio, and Illinois

Niclaus Roth (as he signed his name) was born at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines, Upper Alsace in 1783, and died in his home at Lagny (now Les Lagny), St. Valentin, France Jan. 6, 1834 (when a son reported his age to be 50). We could not determine when he first came to Baden.209

His only identifiable sibling was a sister, Barbara Roth. She was born at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines in 1769, and died at Umkirch, Baden Jan. 24, 1821. She married Johannes König, who was likely born on the Obernimburg

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209 Emigrant baptism records at Diessbach, Canton Bern show correspondence entries for a Roth family living in the area of the Hochburg estate as early as 1680 – though they may not have been Anabaptists. A two-page entry created in the Diessbach Taufrodel Jan. 8, 1688 records the baptisms of four Roth children. Michel Roth of Buchholterberg and Anni Brättig were the parents of:

1. Hans Cünrad Roth was baptized at Wöpplingsberg (a hamlet on the east side of Mundingen, above Emnendingen) Jan. 30, 1680. He was named for the minister performing the ceremony, Johannes Cünrad Pfäffel. Other witnesses included Peter Bacher and Anna Maria Hartman.
2. Margret Roth was baptized at Mundingen, but the date was also recorded as Jan. 30, 1680.
3. Jacob Roth was baptized at Wöpplingsberg April 8, 1683. Witnesses included Caspar Bacher and Anna Barbara Hartman.
4. Anna Barbara Roth was baptized at Wöpplingsberg March 3, 1686. Witnesses included Caspar Bacher, Maria Catharina Hartman, and Susanna Pfäffel, wife of the minister.
monastery grounds at Nimburg circa 1768, and died on the Mundenhof estate at Umkirch (seven miles south of Nimburg) Dec. 18, 1804. Their children are listed in KING, THE KÖNIGS OF NIMBURG.

On July 9, 1805 at Umkirch Barbara remarried to Jacob Sommer (1765-1838) of Le Ban de la Roche [Ger. Steinthal], Lower Alsace. Niclæüs was a witness to the 1805 wedding, and the marriage entry describes him as a brother of the bride: "Brüder, der hof Zweinrin von Maria Kirch" - a brother from the farm Zweinrin at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines. Jacob and Barbara renewed the lease on the Mundenhof estate.

Niclæüs may have been a brother or cousin to elder Jakob Roth. Jakob was born at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines circa 1765, and married Barbara Wagler on the Hochburg estate between the city of Emmendingen and the village of Sexau in 1785 (see ZIMMERMAN for background on this location). The three Roths in Baden may also have been younger siblings of Christian Roth, who was born circa 1752. Christian became an elder at Herbéviller, Meurthe-et-Meuse, and died at the age of 93 at Xouaxange Feb. 13, 1845 (recorded under the name 'Christian Rhodes'). Anne Mosimann 1761-1799 was the first of his three wives; she was also an aunt to minister Michael Mosiman. This would mean that minister Nicholas Roth of Morton and minister Michael Mosiman of Wesley City/Creve Coeur were cousins, sharing Christian Roth and Anne Mosiman as uncle and aunt; the two established the congregation at Groveland that became the Defenseless Mennonite/Evangelical Mennonite Church.

In 1807 or 1808 Niclæüs married Verena Zimmerman. Verena is equivalent to Veronica. She was called 'Reine Zimmerman' on French documents; she would be known as 'Fanny' in America.

She was born circa Dec. 31, 1789, a daughter of Andreas Zimmerman and Anna Maria Eissen. She was probably born at Denzlingen, the birth place of her older brother, but it is also possible that she was born on the Hochburg estate (see ZIMMERMAN for more on her background and brothers who also came to Tazewell County). She died at Morton April 10, 1878, and is buried near her son-in-law Joseph Stecker/Staker in Roberts Cemetery. Her gravestone gives her name as Veronika Roth, with the inscription gest. D. 10 Apr. 1878, 88 Jahre, 3 Mon., 10 Tage alt (died on April 10, 1878, 88 years, 3 months and 10 days old).

On a hand-drawn genealogy chart, Verena's grandson Daniel K. Roth used the title Groshepzogthum [Grand Duchy of] Baden-America 1837 to describe his grandfather's origin. Daniel K. wrote that, "I am not certain as to the village where my father and grandmother came from in Germany, but I heard them talk a great deal about Stuttgart and Baden...From what I remember them say, this country had very good land...Grandmother Roth [Verena Zimmerman Roth] could speak French as well as she could talk German" (Roth-Zimmerman Genealogy).

The birth records of their first seven children and the wedding entry of brother-in-law Andreas Zimmerman identify Nikolaus Roth as a Mennonite tenant farmer on an estate of the steward Roggenburger at Buggingen until 1817. The Roggenburgers were a Catholic family, and their records can be found dating back to 1740 in the Buggingen Kirchenbuch. We found the surnames Rieser/Riesser, Schad, and Stucki in Buggingen church records 1770-82. The village of Buggingen is 16 miles southwest of Freiburg im Breisgau, in a wine-growing area called the Markgräflerland.

'Buggingen' is written on the back cover of the Roth Family Bible, now held by the library of the Mennonite Historical Society at Metamora. The volume is an original Christoffel Froschauer Bible published in 1536, and was brought to America by the family in 1837.

Late in 1817 Niclæüs appeared as a witness on the wedding entry of farm laborer Johannes von Gunde (later known in America as John Gundy). There Niclæüs was identified as a leaseholder at Mengen, a village only four miles southwest of Freiburg im Breisgau. The 1817 and 1818 birth entries of children were found in records of the Protestant Reformed Church at Mengen.

Between 1800 and 1830 a number of historical events affected the area:

- In 1803 the Russian czar used his influence to elevate the margrave into a prince-elector of the Holy Roman Empire. The move was intended to strengthen Baden-Durlach as a buffer between the Holy Roman Empire and France.
- The story of Baden smuggler Karl Ludwig Schulmeister, and his part in von Mack's surrender of 25,000 troops to Napoleon at the Battle of Ulm in 1805, is told in EIGSTI. Following the event the new prince-elector of Baden-Durlach allied with France.
- In 1806 the Holy Roman Empire was abolished, and Napoleon made Karl Friedrich a grand duke and leader of the Confederation of the Rhine. His domain became a grand duchy [Ger. Groshepzogthum Baden], and was now seen as a buffer protecting France from its enemies.
- In 1811 Grand Duke Karl Friedrich died. The former margrave had played both sides to increase his political influence and enrich his family. His grandson Karl Ludwig Friedrich became grand duke.
- In 1812, Napoleon's Grand Army retreated from its humiliating losses in the Russian Campaign. Very few of the 7,000 troops from Baden returned home. Those who had deserted had their homes confiscated and sold at auction.
In 1813 losses from the Russian Campaign caused the grand duke to rethink his alliances. Between the first and third days of the Battle of Leipzig (also called the Battle of Nations) he did a complete turnaround, and shifted his allegiance to the winning allied side in a 'War of Liberation.'

In 1814 typhus spread from town to town, carried by the lice brought by billeted soldiers. In the village of Auggen alone 1,500 people died. From 1814 to 1818 the citizens of the Hochburg district 'lived to quarter troops' – housing and feeding Austrians, Hungarians, Prussians, and Russians.

In 1815 Baden became part of the German Confederation under the Treaty of Vienna. It remained a sovereign country until it joined the German Empire in 1871. (It is now part of the German state of Baden-Württemberg).

The Little Ice Age of 1814-16, created by volcanic eruptions in the Pacific Ocean, affected all of Europe and caused widespread starvation over the 1816-17 winter.

Grand Duke Karl Ludwig Friedrich signed a relatively liberal constitution shortly before his death in 1818. However, his successor reversed most of his concessions by 1830.

The Roths would make a significant move west before emigrating. In 1827 Amish Mennonite Rissers were employed on the farm L'Age at Jeu-lès-Bois and the farm Les Poquetets at St. Août in the department of Indre, 170 miles south of Paris. The properties were owned by Aimé Jacques Marie Constant de Moreton de Chabrillan (1780-1847), a former chamberlain and aide to Napoleon Bonaparte.

DE CHABRILLAN

Comte [Count] Aimé Jacques Marie Constant de Moreton de Chabrillan was born July 4, 1780, and died July 17, 1847. In 1802 he inherited the castle estate Le Magnet at Mers-sur-Indre.

He was appointed chamberlain and then aide to Napoleon, and became a Count of the Empire in 1811. He accompanied Napoleon on the Russian Campaign in 1812, often leading units at the front lines. He was taken prisoner at Dresden in 1813. The allies kept him in captivity in Hungary until the emperor's abdication.

De Charbrillan returned to France to resign his commission on May 3, 1816. In 1826 he was politically rehabilitated when Charles X appointed him an 'honorary gentleman of the chamber.'

When de Chabrillan died in 1847, his son Lionel inherited Le Magnet. Lionel was best known for a troublesome marriage with the remarkable Parisian dancer Céleste Mogador. Lionel took up with her in the 1840s. At the time they met she was a theatrical horse rider and dancer, and was said to have invented the can can. She was his mistress while he wasted his fortune at the race track. He was forced to sell Le Magnet in 1851.

The three-story Château du Magnet is still a private residence.

It is not difficult to imagine Joseph Risser corresponding with Michael Zimmerman, who he had known at Vannes-le-Châtel, Meurthe-et-Moselle. In turn Michael would have corresponded with his relatives, the Roths and Müllers in his native Baden. Perhaps the families joined the Rissers intending from the outset to create a nest egg for emigration from Europe (Joseph Risser, who had been employed there the longest, would be first to go in 1835).

The Roths were first employed on Chanteloube farm at Mers-sur-Indre, the home of de Chabrillan (now the village of Chanteloube, three miles north of Mers-sur-Indre).

Annette Surrault is the author of an article on Comte Bertrand's Amish Mennonite employees in Souvenance anabaptiste (2012) and the book De la campagne d'Egypte au Berry, le général Bertrand et le savant Hervé Faye, Alice Lyner éditions. She found the civil birth entry for the birth of Peter Roth (as Pierre Rhodes) at Mers-sur-Indre Feb. 12, 1830.

Surrault described an incident that reflects the attitude of local residents toward the nobleman de Chabrillan and his Amish Mennonite employees.

THE ST. AOÛT DISPUTE

Most European villages had nearby fields that were owned by the church or noble families. They were considered common-use area in the warmer months. Even merchant families owned at least an interest in a cow for milk and a horse for transportation. By necessity they used these uncultivated fields to graze their livestock, which were allowed to roam with minimal supervision.

Comte de Chabrillan was interested in progressive farming methods. On May 28, 1828 he ordered his employees to plow part of the fields around St. Août. This brought an immediate reaction from the alarmed residents of the village.

The rioters demanded a document stating that the lands belonged not to one family, but to the municipality. Several plows were broken before the farm manager arrived. Eventually 17 residents were arrested. Four were sentenced to one year in prison.

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210Annette Surrault writes that she found a civil death entry at Jeu-lès-Bois for the death of servant Joseph Spring, 18, of the farm L’Age. It was witnessed by Joseph Risser [Risser], 50, of the same farm.
In 1830 the Rissers and Roths moved about 10 miles north onto the St. Valentin-area properties of Comte Henri Gatien Bertrand, the former aide-de-camp to Napoleon Bonaparte. Bertrand was one of an association of patrons from Châteauroux who had planned to start a student farm to test new agricultural methods. When the funds for the project proved insufficient, he employed the farmers that had been recruited on his own properties.

BERTRAND

Recall Comte Henri Gatien Bertrand (1773-1844) from AUGSPURGER. He was a military engineer who advanced to become a general and Napoleon Bonaparte's aide-de-camp, earning the title Marshal of the Court.

On Sept. 16, 1808 Bertrand married Elisabeth Françoise 'Fanny' Dillon (1785-1836), whose mother Marie de Girardin was a cousin of the Empress Joséphine de la Pagerie Beauharnais. When Napoleon suggested she marry his aide Bertrand, she is said to have replied, "What, sire! Bertrand, Bertrand? Why not the pope's monkey?"

Bertrand and Fanny accompanied Napoleon into exile on Elba and St. Helena, even though Napoleon's second wife Marie Louise did not accompany him after Elba. Fanny actually tried to throw herself overboard from the Bellepheron on their surrender voyage from Rochefort to England.

On St. Helena they lived in a villa called Hutt's Gate, about a mile from Napoleon's residence at Longwood. They arrived with three children, and a fourth was born in 1817.

On his death bed Napoleon openly expressed regret that he had not had Fanny as a mistress despite many rumors to the contrary. The Bertrands and their children surrounded Napoleon when he died May 5, 1821.

In November 1830 Bertrand was appointed commandant of l'Ecole Polytechnique, and won election as a deputy from the department of Indre. In 1834 he failed to win re-election, and retired from public life to his castle estate Chateau La Leuf at St. Maur (adjacent to Châteauroux).

In 1840 the English government released Napoleon's will and allowed the return of his body from St. Helena to France for enshrinement in Les Invalides in Paris. Bertrand was named executor of the will, and received a bequest of 500,000 francs.

Perhaps the last significant event of Bertrand's life was a visit to the United States via Martinique in 1843. He entered the country at New Orleans, and visited a dozen cities where he was received by ex-presidents Jackson, Adams, and Van Buren, and ex-senators Henry Clay and Daniel Webster. He departed from New York Harbor Nov. 24. On his return voyage he met and befriended second lieutenant of Army engineers Henry Wager Halleck, who would serve as a major general and general-in-chief of all federal armies during the Civil War.

Bertrand died at Châteauroux Jan. 31, 1844. He was entombed in Les Invalides near Napoleon. His name was carved into the east pillar of the Arc de Triomphe in Paris. His Châteauroux townhouse has been preserved as a state museum called the Musée-Hôtel Bertrand.

His death may have inspired Alexandre Dumas to include him as a minor character in The Count of Monte Cristo, published later that year. In the novel merchant-sailor Edmund Dantès delivers a packet to Comte Bertrand on Elba, then returns to Paris with a sealed letter. Because of the letter he is accused of being a pro-Bonapartist enemy of the new Bourbon regime, and is imprisoned in the Château d'If.

After 1830 the Rissers and Roths worked alongside other future settlers of Tazewell, Woodford, and McLean Counties including the Müllers, Springers, and Zimmermans. They lived at Lagny (now Les Lagnys), three miles northeast of St. Valentin, 10 miles northeast of Châteauroux.

Annette Surrault has gleaned details of the Bertrand properties from old documents. She described the layout of Bertrand's 900 hectares (2,223 acres) of land surrounding what is now Lagny. The names of the properties were derived from incidents or locations in the Egyption campaign.

- Grand Lagny, the central property, 142 hectares (350 acres) farmed by Charles Delaveau. 700 sheep, 40 baskets of honey bees.
- Petit Lagny, 142 hectares (350 acres) farmed by Michael Zimmerman and Magdalena Erb. 480 sheep.
- Lesbë, 76 hectares (187 acres) farmed by Johannes/Jean Müller.
- Sédiman, 91 hectares (224 acres) farmed by Niclaüs Roth and Verena Zimmerman, then by their son Andreas/André/Andrew Roth.
- In addition, footpaths led to Bertrand's farms at St. Valentin called Les Pyramides, Le Nil, and Le Caire.

Wheat, oats, and barley were grown as crops, but seeding was rotated each year to prevent the depletion of specific trace elements. Land was reclaimed by the planting of nitrogen-fixating seed clover and alfalfa to restore

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211 Cosco called the farms Bursch, but this is simply a German word for 'student.'
212 Halleck was considered a better administrator than a fighter. In 1864 he was promoted to chief of staff to make way for his aggressive former subordinate Lt. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant.
nutrients to the soil; at the end of the season this growth was plowed under. Altogether the farms contained 804 sheep and 1,319 other animals. The experimental breeding of local sheep with Merino rams failed in 1832.

Annette Surrault writes that when Fanny Dillon Bertrand died at St. Valentin March 6, 1836, an inventory of her possessions was taken. A surviving document says that "...Müller, Zimmerman, and Riser [Risser] said they did not sign in consideration of the restrictions of their religion." Michel Zimmerman was named in this document; he was a brother to Verena Zimmerman, known in Baden and Woodford County as Michael Zimmerman.

In addition to these families, Christian Roth and Barbe Goldschmitte [Goldschmid] lived on the farm Les Genévriers at St. Maur (adjacent to Mers-sur-Indre), indicating they were also employees of Bertrand. Their daughter Barbara would marry future minister Joseph Stuckey in Butler County, Ohio in 1844; after her death, he would remarry to her widowed sister Magdalena Roth Habecker (see STAKER for Stuckey background, and HABECKER).

The earliest document showing the Roths at Mers-sur-Indre is the civil birth entry of their son Peter Feb. 12, 1830. The earliest document showing them at St. Valentin is a civil marriage entry for the marriage of their oldest daughter Barbara Roth and Pierre Zehr (Joseph Stecker's cousin) dated April 25, 1832. It described the groom as cultivator Pierre Zehr [Zehr], 22, born at Gros-Réderching, Moselle Aug. 20, 1809, a son of the deceased Michel Zerh of Gros-Réderching who had died June 30, 1813, and Madeleine Farny, who was present and consenting. The bride was described as Barbe Roth, 17, born at Buggingen in the Grand Duchy of Baden Dec. 28, 1813, a house girl at Lagny. It was witnessed by cultivator Joseph Risser, 52, of Lagny [Pierre's stepfather, who earlier had been living at Jeu-lès-Bois]; day laborer Christop Rot, 48 [Christian Roth, later of St. Maur]; day laborer Jean Bure, 27 [later known as John Bower, the stepfather of Christian Risser/Reeser]; and guard Jean Ponroi, 45.

Niclaŭs Roth died in his home at Lagny (now the village of Les Lagnys), St. Valentin Jan. 6, 1834. His civil death entry created Jan. 7 described him as cultivator Nicolas Roth, 50, living at Lagny, the husband of Reine Zimmerman. It was witnessed by his son and cultivator André [later Andrew] Roth, 22, of Lagny, St. Valentin; and son-in-law and cultivator Pierre Zer [Zehr], 23, of Lagny, St. Valentin.

According to Surrault, a meeting of the town council of St. Valentin Feb. 1, 1835 considered burials in their cemetery. It was proposed that a line separate Catholics from non-Catholics, and the non-Catholics enter by a new second gate, but this was declined because "...on the other hand the dissidents are very small in number in the community, perhaps 40; they have no place of worship; their presence may be only temporary because none of them own land; and several have already emigrated." In the end a hedge was planted. Niclaŭs Roth is thought to be buried in this cemetery.

Their daughter Barbara and her husband Peter Zehr sailed from Le Havre to New York in 1835. They accompanied the family of Joseph Risser and Magdalena Farny on the packet ship Formosa. See RISSER/REESER for more on the passenger list. The move may point to yet another connection between Amish Mennonites and French military officers: the Zehrs and possibly the Rissers first settled in Lewis County, New York, where Napoleon Bonaparte's older brother Joseph had owned substantial property from 1816 to 1835. See the Appendix, THE LEWIS COUNTY SETTLEMENT more on Lewis County.

Annette Surrault found an 1836 census of Lagny, St. Valentin:

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110  André Roch [Andreas/Andrew Roth]  39 [actually 25]
111  Reine Bibymilaire, wife  21  [Andreas's wife Barbe Müller]
112  Raine Bibymilaire  17  [Frena Roth]
113  Raine Roch, widow of Zimmerman  40  [Verena Zimmerman Roth, actually 46]
114  Pierre Roch  7  [Peter Roth]
115  Anne Roch  9
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213 The signature of Christian Roth of St. Maur is very prominent on the 1834 death entry for Niclaûs Roth, though no relationship is stated on the witness line. Annette Surrault assumes they were brothers. This suggests some interesting connections in Central Illinois. As we have shown, Niclaûs's son Nicholas Roth and Michael Mosiman were cousins. They were also ministers prominent in the establishment of the Defenseless Mennonite/Evangelical Mennonite movement. Now it appears that Nicholas was also a cousin to the two wives of minister Joseph Stuckey, who was prominent in the establishment of the Central Conference of Mennonites.
Roth children were likely cousins to minister Michael Mosiman. We have already shown how the connections. KING, THE KÖNIGS OF NIMBURG shows how the Roth children and the Goldschmidt/Goldsmiths were cousins, sharing Johannes König and Barbara Roth as aunt and uncle. The Roth children's relationship to minister Benedict King was less direct – his older brother Johannes had married Barbara Roth, their aunt – but they must have known him as the former leading church elder in the Breisgau region. We have already shown how the Roth children were likely cousins to minister Michael Mosiman.

Verena and her children traveled from New York City directly to Butler County, Ohio, where she had family connections. KING, THE KÖNIGS OF NIMBURG shows how the Roth children and the Goldschmidt/Goldsmiths were cousins, sharing Johannes König and Barbara Roth as aunt and uncle. The Roth children's relationship to minister Benedict King was less direct – his older brother Johannes had married Barbara Roth, their aunt – but they must have known him as the former leading church elder in the Breisgau region. We have already shown how the Roth children were likely cousins to minister Michael Mosiman.

As a widow Verena Zimmerman also chose to emigrate. The packet ship François I sailed from Le Havre with only 17 passengers Jan. 26, 1837. It arrived at New York City March 10. Verena is noted on the passenger list as 'Ferenica Roth,' age 47, from Bavaria. Her five accompanying children were Nicolas [Nicholas], 23, farmer; Ferenica [Frena], 16; Anna, 10; Pierre [Peter], 8; and Daniel, 4. Her son Andreas/Andrew would immigrate via New Orleans only a month later.

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Verena resettled in the Roberts settlement at Morton between 1844 and 1850.

VERENA AND THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD

The Underground Railroad in Illinois was a loose association of people with a strong belief in the abolition of slavery. It originally existed to conceal fugitive slaves as they fled from the south to urban areas in the north.

In 1841 Queen Victoria issued a policy statement, "That every fugitive from United States slavery be recognized and protected as a British subject the moment his or her foot touched the soil of her domain." After this, the ultimate goal became the Canadian border.

The Revised Statutes of the State of Illinois Sections 3 and 9 stated that, "It shall be the duty of all coroners, sheriffs, judges and justices of the peace, who shall see or know of, or be informed of any such assemblage of slaves or servants, immediately to commit such slaves or servants to the jail of the county, and on view or proof thereof to order each and every such slave or servant to be whipped not exceeding thirty-nine stripes on his or her bare back." "If any slave or servant shall be found at a distance of ten miles from the tenement of his or her master, or person with whom he or she lives, without a pass or some letter of token whereby it may appear that he or she is proceeding by authority from his or her master, employer or overseer, it shall and may be lawful for any person to apprehend and carry him or her before a justice of the peace to be by his order punished with stripes, not exceeding thirty-five at his discretion."

According to Charles Chapman's History of Morton, "The Underground Railroad which began late in 1830 and ceased early in 1850 was operating in the Morton vicinity. This railroad originated in some of those causes which culminated in the Civil War... The Roberts settlement, one and one-half miles northwest of town, was one of the main stations."

The Roth-Zimmerman Genealogy states that Verena (Zimmerman) Roth, "When first arriving in the Morton area, lived several miles north of Morton [center], likely in this Roberts settlement." It is unlikely that Verena was unaware of her circumstances. Chapman's History of Tazewell County: "Pro-slavery men complained bitterly of the violation of the law by their abolition neighbors, and persecuted them as much as they dared; and this was not a little. But the friends of the slaves were not to be deterred by persecution. The blood of martyrs is the seed of the church,' and persecution only made them more determined than ever to carry out their just convictions of right and duty. No class of people ever made better neighbors than the Abolitionists, or better conductors on a railroad."

The four adjacent farms of the Roberts settlement belonged to brothers (west to east) John Montgomery Roberts, Darius Phelps Roberts, Walter Basset Roberts, and Ambrose Bryant Roberts. The Roberts family had come from New York State, and claimed their "improvement bordering on the Illinois timber land" in 1831. Oldest brother John was known to be an ardent abolitionist, and it was later acknowledged that all four brothers were conductors. John's sister-in-law Eliza Wood Burhans published her recollections of living in his home and later at Tremont; see LIFE IN PRAIRIE LAND in the Appendix.

The homes of Josiah Matthews of Elm Grove and lawyer John Albert Jones of Tremont were often the first stations for fugitive slaves crossing Tazewell County. History of Tazewell County describes how federal marshals captured a mother and children as they rode in a wagon from the Matthews home north toward the farm of Uriah Crosby of Morton. The father and son on foot were picked up by John Roberts. He arranged for them to be taken to Peoria Lake to escape their pursuers. They eventually reached Canada. But the mother and her three children were taken to St. Louis and sold, "as the slave hunters could realize more by selling them than by returning them to the owner and receiving the reward."

Another time a fugitive slave arrived in Tazewell County alone. "A company [of fugitives] had passed on northward when a young man hastily came up. He had invented a cotton gin, and was in haste to overtake the others of the party as they had the model of his invention. He was separated from them by fright. J. M. Roberts found this young man in the morning hid away in the hay-stack, fed him, and sent his son, Junius, with him to hasten Mr. [Uriah] Crosby. On his arrival
Conductor Crosby put him in his wagon, covered him with a buffalo robe, and drove through Washington and delivered him to Mr. Kern, who took him in an open buggy to the Quaker settlement. He overtook his companions.”

Early History of Washington, Ill. and Vicinity tells a story about one Roberts home, Prairie Lodge: "John M. Roberts was quite an artist, and on the walls of his living room he painted scenes. There was a blind door at the side of the fireplace and back of that was a space in which he secreted Negroes. A master came searching for his slaves. Mr. Roberts’ mother, an elderly lady, sat in a rocking chair in front of this door knitting. He [the master] said, ‘I will not ask grandmother to get up.’ He went away without finding his slaves, but later swore he could smell them, but not find them.”

The Underground Railroad became more of a risk to the conductors in 1850. In that year the Fugitive Slave Act made the federal government responsible for apprehending fugitives. A conductor faced the possibility of a $1,000 fine and six months in prison. Escaped slaves could no longer blend into northern urban areas, and were forced to take more direct paths to the Canadian border. This made evasion much more difficult.

On May 30, 1854, Joseph Stecker/Staker and Verena’s daughter Frena Roth purchased an improved farm in Section 17 of Morton from Joseph N.H. Campbell. On Sept. 12, 1854 son Nicholas Roth purchased the adjacent property from James Palmer. ‘N. Roth’ can be found in the northwest quarter of Section 17 on the 1864 plat map of Morton. The two farms were on the east side of the four farms that made up the Roberts Settlement, and one mile southwest of the home of Uriah Crosby.

The 1860 census of Morton shows Verena living nearby in the household of her youngest child Daniel Roth and his wife Catherine Ropp: Daniel Roth, 27, Germany; Catharine, 25, Illinois; Francis, 4, Illinois; Phoebe, 4, Illinois; Joseph, 2, Illinois; laborer Simon Deanig, 20, Germany; and Francis Roth, 70, Germany. On the 1864 plat map of Morton the property of ‘D. Roth’ is shown near the N. Roth and Staker properties, in Section 9. Their neighbors included Thomas Roberts, Christian Ackerman, John Oswald, and Uriah Crosby.

Niclaus Roth and Verena Zimmerman had at least 13 children from 1808 to 1833. Six died before 1837. The Roth Family Bible only provides a date of death for one (many of the entries were blurred by water damage).

1. Christian Roth was born May 14, 1808. He is known to us only as a crossed out note in the Roth Family Bible. He likely died young.
2. Nicolas Roth was born July 31, 1809. He is found in the Roth Family Bible as a crossed-out name. He died before April 1815.
3. Andreas/André/Andrew Roth was born Dec. 9, 1811, and died Feb. 23, 1886. He is buried at the S. Apostolic Church Cemetery at Fairbury. On July 23, 1834 at St. Valentin he married Barbe Müller. Their civil marriage entry described the groom as cultivator André Roth, 22, born at Buggingen, Baden Dec. 19, 1811, living at Lagney with his mother, a son of the deceased Nicolas Roth, who in life had been a cultivator in this community and died here Jan. 7, 1834, and Reine [Verena] Zimmerman, who was present and consenting. The bride was described as Barbe Miller, 20, born at Buggingen Dec. 28, 1813, and a daughter of Jean Miller and Madelaine Aier [Eyer], who were present and consenting. Witnesses included cultivator Joseph Risser, 54; Pierre Zer [Zehr], 24; cultivator Michel Zimmerman, 52; and cultivator Christian Roth, 50. The groom signed ‘André Rhodes.’ A copy of their passport was found at Châteauroux by Annette Surrault: Passport No. 37, Department l’Indre, issued at Châteauroux April 6, 1837. Cultivator André Rhodes accompanied by Barbara Miller his wife and Daniel Miller, 24 [Barbara’s brother]. Native of Fribourg living at Lagny, St. Valentin. Destination Ohio. Age 25. Hair brown, eyes gray. Height 1.6 meters (5 foot-4 inches). Signed ‘André Rhodes.’ Larry Zimmerman found the passenger list of the Vaillant as it arrived at New Orleans from Le Havre April 14, 1837. It lists “Zimmerman, wife and one child, two trunks” (Daniel Zimmerman and Magdalena Müller) and “Rohodes and wife, also two trunks” (Andreas/André/Andrew Roth and Barbe Müller). We could not determine the date of Barbe’s death. On April 24, 1842 in Butler County he remarried to his cousin Ann/Anna Zimmerman; the ceremony was performed by minister Peter Naffziger. She was born at Auggen June 21, 1818, and died June 9, 1884, a daughter of Andrew F. Zimmerman and Anna Müller. He became the first of his family to move west from Ohio, resettling at Washington, Tazewell County in 1844. He may have been accompanied by his cousin Benjamin Goldscheid/Goldsmith, who also resettled at Washington about that time. The 1850 census of Tazewell County shows the household of farmer Andrew Rhodes, 39, Germany; Anne, 30, Germany; Nicolas, 7, Ohio; Anne, 6, Ohio; Barbara, 3, Illinois; and Peter, 10 months, Illinois. ‘Andreas’ Roth can be found in Public Domain Land Tract Sales records of Tazewell County, as the claimant of 40 free acres at Washington Sept. 9, 1852. ‘Andrew’ Roth can be found on the same lists, gaining 40 more free acres there Aug. 6, 1853. On Aug. 7, 1854, he purchased another 40 acres from John Wilson for $1,200. Andrew and Ann had eight children (according to a hand writing by Daniel Roth in the Roth-Zimmerman Genealogy). On May 24, 1856 Andrew submitted a Declaration of Intent for Naturalization at Pekin. He described himself as a 44-year-old who had owed his allegiance to the Duke of Baden. As an Apostolic Christian (also called ‘New Amish’) he "...was reported to have remained in the house-yard at the funeral of his mother, Veronica [Verena], who had remained a member of the Amish Mennonite church” (Roth-Zimmerman Genealogy). One son, Daniel Roth, became an Apostolic Christian minister.
4. Magdalene Roth (as her name is found) was born at Buggingen Dec. 12, 1812, and died 12 days later. She is listed in the Buggingen Kirchenbuch. Her entry in the family Bible has been obliterated by water damage.
5. Barbara Roth was born at Buggingen Dec. 28, 1813, and died Sept. 21, 1888. Her birth is recorded in the Buggingen Kirchenbuch. It notes that Verena Zimmerman was the mother of Barbara and Nikolaus [Jr.], mentioning that there was “yet another older child [Andreas/Andrew] who was not registered because Mennonite.” The details of her marriage were given earlier. Peter Zehr attended medical classes in Paris. They sailed from Le Havre, and arrived at New York on the packet ship Formosa Dec. 28, 1835. Their first child Andreas/Andrew was born Dec. 16, 1835 on the Transatlantic voyage; other children include Barbara 1837 (who married Daniel Eymann/Eiman), Peter birth date unknown, Magdalena 1846, Joseph 1848, Christian 1852, and Anna 1854. They were accompanied by Peter's mother Magdalena/Madeleine Farny and her second husband Joseph Risser; and 11-year-old John Forney and 7-year-old Magdalena Farny, the illegitimate children of Peter's cousin Marie Farny of Singling (the biological father is thought to be Joseph Risser, see RISSER/REESER). Peter and Barbara first settled at Crogham in Lewis County, N.Y. One of the earlier settlers who might have eased their transition was Peter's older stepbrother Michael Zehr, who had become a minister there. Michael and his wife, Anne Jantzki of Belgrade farm, had arrived in America in 1833. Peter continued to study medicine and was ordained as a minister by elder Joseph Farny. According to Lorraine Roth, Peter and Hans/Jean/John Jantzki made a trip from Lewis County to Canada in June 1837. She also writes that Peter, Barbara and their children may have visited Butler County, Ohio in 1838 or 1839, before they moved to Wilmot, Ontario in 1839. Kennels, Jantzis, and Gerbers from Lewis County also resettled at Wilmot. Peter became the first minister of a congregation at South Easthope, Perth County; this later became the East Zorra Mennonite Church (East Zorra is adjacent but over the line in Oxford County). Peter Zehr and Barbara Roth traveled to Illinois in 1871, where he attended the Diener Versammlung assembly of ministers, and visited their daughter Barbara living at Elm Grove. Barbara died in 1888, and Peter died in 1898. For more information about the Zehrs, see the article Dr. Peter Zehr's European Ancestry in the April 1994 issue of Mennonite Family History. Herald of Truth, Feb. 15, 1898: "Dr. Peter Zehr – The township of South Easthope lost one of its very oldest and most highly respected residents on Sunday morning, January 2, 1898, by the death of Brother Peter Zehr at his home, lot 11, con. 2, aged 89 years and 8 months. He was widely known throughout this entire section, and while the sorrow of his death is general yet it is mitigated by the knowledge that after a long, useful and happy life, a good man has gone home. Deceased was born in the then French province of Lorraine in 1808, and was therefore about seven years old at the time of the battle of Waterloo. He chose medicine as a profession and underwent a thorough study in his youth. In 1831 he was married to Barbara Roth. He emigrated with his family, landing in Lewis Co., New York, 62 years ago. After remaining there for three years he came to South Easthope, Perth Co., Ontario, in 1836, settling on the farm upon which he died. The township was then a wilderness and he had to make his way through the woods to Goderich to get the title to his land. Being a prudent, hard-working man he accumulated a competency besides placing each of his four sons upon farms and providing for his daughters. His family consisted of four sons and three daughters of whom one son and two daughters preceded him to the grave; four children, 41 grandchildren and 22 great-grandchildren survive. A year ago the old minister's rugged health gave way before the encroachments of old age and since that time he has gradually failed until the end came. He was a strong Christian character and for about 67 years he was a preacher in the Amish Mennonite church. His funeral drew out an immense gathering at the East Zorra Amish Mennonite M. H. from far and near who came to pay their last tribute of respect to the departed friend whose kindness and skill and generosity had brightened the lives of so many in this section. Funeral services by Chr. Litwiller from Otterville and by Jacob M. Bender from John 17:3."

6. Nikolaus/Nicholas Roth was born at Buggingen April 25, 1815, and died at Washington Feb. 3, 1894.
7. Anna Roth was born at Mengen Jan. 18, 1817, and died Nov. 2, 1821. Her birth entry was witnessed by Johannes von Condé [von Gunden] and Ulrich von Condé of Alsace.
8. Johannes Roth was born June 8, 1818, and died Aug. 7, 1818. His birth entry with a death notation was also found in the records of the Protestant Reformed Church at Mengen. (An entry in the family Bible may have been obliterated by water damage). Witnesses were Ulrich von Condé of Alsace and Johannes Müller of Ginzling, born at Mangau.
9. Frena Roth was born July 3, 1819. She married Joseph Stecker/Staker. The Roth Family Bible handwritten entry of her birth: "die Frena Rothin ist gebohren den 3ten Heimonath im Jahr Christy 1819" (“Frena Roth was born the 3rd of July in the year of Christ 1819”). See STAKER for background on this couple.
10. Joseph Roth was born Jan. 20, 1822. He is only known from the Roth Family Bible; he likely died young.
11. Anna Roth was born May 24, 1826, and died Sept. 14, 1887. She married Christian Gerber (1819-1907) on Oct. 25, 1844. They had 10 children. They are buried in Railroad Cemetery at Elm Grove. See GERBER for background on this couple.
12. Peter Roth was born Jan. 11, 1830, and died Aug. 9, 1901. Annette Surrault found his civil birth entry at Mers-sur-Indre. It names him as Pierre Rhodes, and his parents as Nicolas Rhodes and Renette Cinasmomme [Verena Zimmerman]. Nicolas was described as a laborer in the fields at Chanteloube farm. Witnesses included cultivators Joseph Ris [Risser], 48, and Christophe Rodes [Christian Roth], 48, both living on Chanteloube farm. On Feb. 8, 1857 in Tazewell County he married Jakobina 'Phoebe' or 'Bena' Naffziger; the ceremony was performed by minister Michael Mosiman. She was born in Butler County Jan. 9, 1836, and died at Panola Jan. 17, 1928, a daughter of minister Jacob Naffziger (brother of ‘Apostle Peter’ Naffziger) and Barbara Krehbiel. They had nine children. His family can be found on the 1860 census of Morton: Peter, 31; Jacobina, 24; Sam; 6; Lydia, 2; El Paso Journal, Aug. 17, 1901: “Last Friday night at 10:30 o’clock occurred the death of a well known and highly respected citizen of Panola township in the person of Mr. Peter Roth. Mr. Roth was born in Alsace, Germany Feb. 12, 1829. His father
Amish Mennonites in Tazewell County, Illinois

died when Peter was four years of age, and three years later Mrs. Roth brought her children, Peter being third in order of birth to America. They were forty two days on the ocean landing at New York City, and locating in Butler County, O. Peter was early compelled to earn most of his own living. At the age of 16 he commenced to make his own way, first as a farm laborer for a period of twelve years. In 1856 he came to Tazewell county, this state, and soon after married Miss Bena Naffziger, which event occurred Feb. 8, 1857. To them nine children were born, six of whom with their mother are living. The three who preceded their father to the great beyond were Peter, Jr.; Lydia, wife of John Krug and William. The six living children are Daniel, John, Jacob, Mrs. S.E. Schertz, Mrs. Jas. Holt and Ella, the latter living at home. The family moved to this county in 1874 and have lived in Panola Township ever since. The funeral services were held in Shiloh Church last Monday morning at 10 o’clock, Revs. Lackland, of Gridley; Schantz, of Hudson, and Egle, of Waldoo officiating. A large number followed the remains to the Baughman Cemetery, where the interment took place.” El Paso Journal, Jan. 26, 1928: “Mrs. Peter Roth Sr. An Aged and Respected Lady Passes to Her Final Reward Last Week. Mrs. Peter Roth Sr. died at her home in Panola township January 17, aged 92 years and nine days. On December 20, 1927, she was stricken with apoplexy and had since been confined to her bed. Jacobena Naffsiger was born in Butler county, Ohio, January 6, 1836. In her early youth she came with her parents to Partridge Township, Woodford County and was married to Peter Roth February 8, 1857. The new home was made near Morton, Tazewell County, where they resided until 1874 when they moved to the present home near Panola, where the deceased had since resided. Mr. Roth died August 9, 1901. Nine children were born to this union, three of whom preceded the parents in death...”

13. Daniel Roth was born at Petit Lagny, St. Valentin Feb. 5, 1833, and died at Morton Feb. 10, 1922. His civil birth entry described his parents as cultivator Nicolas Roth of Petit Lagny, St. Valentin, and Reine Zimmerman; it was witnessed by older brother and cultivator André (later Andrew) Roth, 21, Lagny, and cultivator Pierre Zer [Zehr], 23, Lagny. Daniel became a well-known minister of the Pleasant Grove Mennonite Church. From the Roth-Zimmerman Genealogy: “Mr. Roth was a man about five foot, nine inches tall, of fair weight, with a long Amish style beard. Both it and his hair inclined to be red. Red in German is 'Roth,' and this is an inherited trait.” The 1850 census of Tazewell County shows laborer Daniel Rhodes, 17, Germany. On Feb. 27, 1855 in Tazewell County he married Catherine ‘Katie’ Ropp; the ceremony was performed by her father. She was born at Pekin Dec. 27, 1835, had nine children including a set of twins, and died at Dillon March 25, 1885; a daughter of Andrew Ropp and Jacobena Vereler. On Sept. 15, 1887 he remarried to Lisette Goldschmidt/Goldsmith. She was born at Allschwil (on the Swiss side of the border with Hegenheim) Oct. 27, 1854, and died at Morton Sept. 11, 1923, a daughter of Jacob/Jacques Goldschmidt and his second wife Maria Zimmerman. She had immigrated with her sister Catherine and brother-in-law Benoît Stucky in 1882; see STUCKY or ZIMMERMAN for background. Their two children were Amelia, born at Morton May 5, 1889, died at Morton in 1955; and Samuel Raymond, born July 7, 1891, died at Morton in 1963. The 1860 census of Morton shows Daniel Roth, 27; Catherine, 25; Frances, 4; Phoebe, 4; and Joseph, 2. The value of their farm was appraised at $2,700, and personal possessions at $200. Their daughter Jakobina, also known as ‘Bena’ (Phoeba’ is found on the county marriage record) married Nicholas Staker, a son of Nicholas Staker on March 7, 1880. Their grandson Roy Daniel Roth was a pastor of the Pleasant Hill Church at East Peoria, and later became president of Hesston College. Gospel Herald, March 2, 1922: “Roth. - Daniel Roth was born in France Feb. 5, 1833; died at his home in Morton, Ill., Feb. 10, 1922; aged 89 y. 5 d. Brother Roth came to America with his widowed mother when but four years of age. For a few years they lived in Ohio but later moved to Tazewell Co., Ill., where he lived the rest of his life. He was one of the pioneer settlers of this county, experiencing many of the privations and hardships of those early days, having been enabled to see the changes in the community in the course of its development from raw prairie to the thickly settled, modernized farms and towns of today. This can be better understood when we remember how he often related the fact that he helped to cut wheat with the cradle on the ground where the town of Morton now stands. He accepted Jesus as his personal Savior when a young man, uniting with the Mennonite Church. His Christian character won the respect of his fellow Christians, being called to the ministry by his church in which capacity he served them until the infirmities of old age settled upon him, having been a faithful shepherd of the flock and remaining loyal to his Master until called by death. In the year 1855 he was married to Catherine Ropp, who preceded him in death in 1885. This union was blest with nine children. In 1887 he

214 Several of the participants at the 2003 Staker reunion in Morton were descendants. Gospel Herald, Jan. 8, 1925: “Sister Jacobina Staker, daughter of the late Daniel Roth, was born near Morton, Ill., Feb. 14, 1856; fell asleep in Jesus Dec. 24, 1924; aged 68 y. 10 m. 10 d. She accepted Jesus as her personal Savior in her youth and united with the Mennonite Church remaining a loyal and faithful member to the end. In the year 1880 she was united in matrimony to Nickolas Staker. To this union were born nine children, four of whom preceded her to the Great Beyond. She leaves to mourn her departure her husband, five children, 15 grandchildren, five brothers, five sisters, and many other relatives and friends. The children surviving her are: Mrs. Ed. Backman, Tiskilwa, Ill.; Mrs. Chris Yoder, Morton, Ill.; Daniel, Mrs. Joseph Kurtz, and Mrs. Otto Gerber, all of Tremont, Ill. Our beloved sister lived a devoted Christian life and was a kind and sympathetic mother. The church and community are bereft of a devoted sister and loving friend. Our loss is her gain. May we all meet her in heaven. Funeral services were held Dec. 26 at the home and at Pleasant Grove Mennonite Church, by Bros. Samuel Gerber and Jonas Litwiller. Text, II Cor. 5:1-10. Interment at Pleasant Grove Cemetery.”
was married the second time to Lisette Goldsmith. Two children were born to this union. He leaves his loving wife, eleven children, 43 grandchildren, and 25 great-grandchildren, and a large concourse of neighbors and friends. The children were all in attendance at the funeral. They are Mrs. Fannie Hieser, Mrs. Phoebe Staker, Joseph, Amos, Jacob, Mrs. Louisa Rich, Mrs. Katie Rediger, Daniel, Mrs. Mary Teuscher, Amelia, and Samuel. The funeral was largely attended, conducted by Bro. C. F. Derstine at the home, and at the church by Bro. Derstine and Bro. Simon Gingerich. Texts, Ecc. 12:5; Psa. 90; Phil. 1:21.” From the Roth-Zimmerman Genealogy: “He was chosen minister by the Dillon Creek congregation and served till the close of his life. His preaching was all in German and in his lifetime he saw the church make the complete change from the old ways to the modern; from all German to English; from the assembly in the home to the church houses; from our hook and eye days to buttons everywhere; from everything so plain and simple, so just like old Germany, until today, when the show begins in a sort of immaculate polish on the car as it rolls up to the door and lasts till most of the benediction is forgotten.” Gospel Herald, October 1923: “Sister Lisetta Goldsmith Roth was born in Switzerland, Oct. 27, 1854; died at her home at Morton, Ill., Sept. 11, 1923; aged 68 y., 10 m., 14 d. In 1882 she with her sister came to America and made her home in Gridley, Ill., later coming to Washington of the same state, where she was united in marriage with Daniel Roth. To this union two children were born: Miss Amelia, who remained at home with her mother and Samuel R., who also resides in this immediate community. Besides the above named children she leaves one sister, nine step-children, one grandchild, and a host of relatives and friends to mourn her death. Early in life she united with the Amish Mennonite Church and remained faithful to her profession till death. In life she always manifested deep interest in spiritual things, and during her final illness expressed an earnest desire to leave the world and be at rest. Her husband preceded her in death by nearly one and a half years, and after his departure she took consolation in her children and found comfort in the hope of salvation through her Savior in Whom she had trusted during her Christian life. Funeral services were held at the home, Sept. 14, by Bro. S.C. Yoder of Kalona, la., and at the Pleasant Grove Menointite Church by Bros. Sam Gerber and S.C. Yoder.” Daniel and his two wives are buried in Pleasant Grove Mennonite Cemetery.

Verena’s son Nikolaus/Nicholas Roth was born at Buggingen April 25, 1815, and died at Washington. Feb. 3, 1894. His birth record was found in the Buggingen Kirchenbuch.

He is described as a 23-year-old servant on the 1836 census of Lagny, St. Valentin.

His marriage to Katharina/Catherine Habecker is thought to have taken place in Butler County circa 1843, though no civil entry is found there. She was born at Trippstadt Dec. 27, 1823, and died at Washington Dec. 2, 1888, a daughter of Johannes/John Habecker and Barbara Stalter. She had immigrated with her parents in 1831 (see HABECKER).

The 1850 census of Tazewell County shows farmer Nicolas Rhodes, 35, Germany; Catherine, 26, Germany; Andrew, 6, Ohio; Barbara, 3, Illinois; Fanny, 3, Illinois; Caleine [Caroline], one month, Illinois; and laborer Daniel Rhodes [Nicholas’s younger brother], 17, Germany. They lived next to brother Andrew Roth and Anna Zimmerman, and are found on the same census page as Peter Good, Benjamin Rediger [Rediger], and Jacob Ower [Oyer], indicating that the community was Washington.

The Tazewell County Grantor’s Index of Deeds lists land purchases by Nicholas Roth from brother Daniel Roth ($235 on May 24, 1852); Daniel Stauffer ($850 on Sept. 21, 1853); J.B. and J.J. Rediger ($1,050 on Feb. 25, 1854); Michael Mosiman ($1,050 on Feb. 25, 1854); and James Palmer ($590 on Sept. 12, 1854).

One source says that Nicholas and Katharina/Catherine sailed from Le Havre on the packet ship Poland, arriving at New York June 12, 1839. It is implied that they were married in Europe after Nicholas had returned there from Butler County. However, the Poland passenger list shows Nicholas Roth, 25; and Catharine, 27. Katharina/Catherine Habecker was actually eight or nine years younger than Nicholas, and would have been only 16 at the time of the Poland voyage.

The 1860 census of Washington has farmer Nicholas Roth, 44, Germany; Catharine, 37, Germany; Andrew, 14, Ohio; Barbara, 13, Ohio, FHenry Luce, 13, Ohio [this was a garbled entry - an ‘F’ is written over the ‘H’ - for Barbara’s twin Fanny, and the word ‘twin’ is bracketed around them]; and labourer John Luce, 21, Germany.

Nicholas attended the assembly of ministers at Danvers in 1866, as a representative of the Dillon Creek congregation. As a minister, he fellowshipped with minister Henry Egly (1824-1890), who founded the Defenseless Mennonite Church of Berne, Indiana in 1865-66. Influenced by Egly, Nicholas may have withdrawn from the Dillon Creek congregation as early as 1868. He collaborated with minister Michael Mosiman to establish a congregation bridging Mosiman’s Busche Gemeinde with families in Groveland and Morton.

A building for the Egly Amish Church in Groveland was constructed in 1879 (later called the Defenseless Mennonite Church, and the Evangelical Mennonite Church of Groveland, presently inactive as its congregation has merged with the First Mennonite Church of Morton; see STAKER).

The 1870 census of Washington shows farmer Nicholas Roth, 55, Baden; Catharine, 47, Germany; and Fanny, 23, Illinois. The family before them on the census page was that of brother Andrew Roth; the family following them was son Andrew Roth, 26, Illinois; and Barbaray [Staker], 27, Ohio. Late in life Nicholas and Catherine lived with
their oldest son Andrew and his wife Barbara Staker, a daughter of Joseph Stecker/Staker and Frena Roth. The 1880 census of Washington listing the household of Andrew Roth includes retired farmer Nicholas Roth, 65, and Catherine, 57, born in Bavaria. They are buried together in the Evangelical Mennonite Cemetery at Groveland.

Children of Nicholas Roth and Katharina/Catherine Habecker include:

1. Andrew Roth was born in Butler County, Ohio Feb. 8, 1844, and died April 27, 1911. On March 12, 1865 in Tazewell County he married Barbara Staker; the ceremony was performed by minister Michael Mosiman. Since Nicholas was Frena Roth's older brother, this was a marriage of cousins as well as next-door neighbors. She was born at Hamilton, Butler County Jan. 26, 1841, and died Jan. 26, 1918, a daughter of Joseph Stecker/Staker and Frena Roth. The couple lived in Groveland Center, just north of the farm of Barbara's brother Christian. They are buried in the Evangelical Mennonite Cemetery at Groveland.

2. Veronika 'Fanny' Roth (twin) was born at Washington April 26, 1847, and died there April 8, 1922. On Jan. 2, 1877 in Tazewell County she married Ernst Schmallenberger. He was born at Brooklyn, N.Y. Dec. 7, 1852, and died at Morton in August 1889 (headstone date), a son of Heinrich Schmalenberger and Elizabeth Stalter. They are buried in the Evangelical Mennonite Cemetery at Groveland. Fanny shares a joint headstone with her daughter Katie, who died three days later.

3. Barbara Roth (twin) was born at Washington April 26, 1847, and died at Harper, Kansas Sept. 1, 1920. On Dec. 18, 1865 in Tazewell County she married Joseph Smith; the ceremony was performed by minister Michael Mosiman. He was born at what is now Congerville May 23, 1843, and died at Harper Jan. 3, 1889, a son of Christophe Schmitt/Christian Smith and Magdalena Schrag/Schrock. They are found on the 1880 census of Morton as Joseph Smith, 37, born in Illinois to German parents; Barbara, 32, born in Illinois to parents from Alsace and Bavaria; and seven children born in Illinois. They lived next door to Barbara's aunt Frena Roth Stecker/Staker (now 1000 W. Jefferson Avenue), and Peter Oyer and Anna Garber. Joseph and Barbara are buried in the Christian Apostolic Cemetery at Harper.

4. Caroline Roth was born at Washington in 1850, and died young. 'Caleline' appears as a one-month-old on the 1850 census of Tazewell County. She may be buried in Roberts Cemetery.

Nicholas Roth purchased the property between the Roberts brothers and his brother-in-law Joseph Stecker/Staker. The 1830-1886 diaries of John Roberts (1807-1886) are being edited by his great-great-great granddaughter Marilyn Gottwald of Peoria.

John's journeys began at Blenheim, N.Y. Aug. 21, 1830. He traveled through Illinois to St. Louis and New Orleans, then back to New York, and finally to Illinois where he picked out the land that became the family farms. On the second trip he brought his parents, wife, three brothers, and a sister. In his diary he commented on Indian mounds, prices, weather, the Black Hawk War of 1832, and the abolitionist movement.

A few excerpts:

**Sept. 11, 1830 at Olean, N.Y.:** "I proceeded on my journey, and passed through Newtown, which is quite a pretty village. One sidewalk is paved... I met a man who was returning from Illinois. He talked quite discouragingly. He said I would curse the day in which I started. I then felt rather dejected, but still determined to see the country."

**Nov. 7, 1830:** "At length arrived at Cincinnati, which is 65 miles from Maysville, Kentucky, and 110 miles from Kentucky line. One thing is a little remarkable here. We started from Olean [N.Y.] on Sunday, the next Sunday arrived at Franklin [N.Y.] half-way to Pittsburgh, next Sunday arrived at Pittsburgh, next Sunday at Wheeling, next Sunday at Marietta [Ohio], next Sunday at Burlington [Ohio] at the Kentucky line, and finally at Cincinnati on the 6th Sunday. I am now over 1,100 miles from home."

**Dec. 10, 1830 in Illinois:** "Snow falls plentiously this morning. At last turns into hail. There are many curiosities in Illinois. Remains of fortifications, walls, human bones, etc. In one place on the side of a hill, some hunters discovered a stone standing outside of a mound. They took it down and entered a room 20 ft. square where they judge were five or six cartloads of human bones...."

**Dec. 11, 1830 on the Illinois prairie:** "The prospect is sublime beyond description. There are two kinds of wild plum, crab apple, pawpaw, persimmon, black and white walnut, black and white oak acorn, pecan for wild turkeys, etc., geese, prairie hens, wolves, foxes; black, moccassin, and adder snakes, etc. abound. The streams are full of fish – cat, buffalo, pike, pickerel, bass, etc."

**Dec. 29, 1830 in Illinois during the Great Snow of 1830:** "Snow falls from abundance coming from the south. Yesterday clear...Flannel worn next to the skin both summer and winter are the antidote to the endemics of the climate. Winter generally sets in about the 10th of November and lasts till the last of February, though hard frosts and even snows are common from October to March... Northern people, after living here two years, generally enjoy a good degree of health."
Those living on the borders of great waters are seized with diseases generally of the intermittent kind. Those from the southern and middle states are subject to those disorders, especially the first settlers after their arrival. The settlers of all descriptions who settle themselves in the interim at a distance from any large body of water are seldom attacked by endemics.

Dec. 31, 1830 at St. Louis during the Great Snow of 1830: "A severe cold morning. A heavy snow squall last evening. The Missourians say this is far the hardest winter for upwards of 25 years."

March 26, 1831 on the Mississippi River: "The planters’ houses are elegant and the slave houses are arranged in rows, all of them the same size. Some of them are all framed and painted white. In the rear of the two rows of slave houses is the planter’s mansion – in front the overseer, in the center a beautiful park the width of the plantation. There now are one mile and more large droves of slaves plowing and hoeing the cane and cotton. The river here is much narrower than at St. Louis. It is not more than a half-mile, in some places less, very narrow. From Natchez down, no islands. Water even with the banks within 30 miles. Every now and then, we see sloops, schooners, and barges trading on the shore for cotton and sugar. Met seven or eight steamboats today. On every plantation we see 50 or 60 negroes, women and men at work hoeing cane, etc."

March 27, 1831 at New Orleans: "Have walked over a good part of the city. Words alone will not admit of a correct detail of this place. Stores and shops all open, music sounding, fiddling and dancing in the streets, no attention to the holy day. All noise and confusion in the markets. More than two-thirds of the inhabitants colored – negroes, mulattoes, Indians. Indian in all kinds of costumes, some almost naked. The city is below the surface of a river, defended in front by a wide levee. Buildings similar to those of New York, though in some places the French and Spanish style still exist."

March 31, 1831: "Walked about some and went through the markets, etc. I saw yams, bananas, pineapples, oranges, lemons, figs, besides a number of other fruits and nuts which I do not know the names of. This evening a schooner came up and lashed alongside of us loaded with slaves for the market. I looked on them with pity. I saw several of them sold. Too cruel!!"

Aug. 23, 1831 in what became McLean County: "My father and I started for the Fox River country, passing through Dry Grove and Staat's Grove [Stout's Grove, later Danvers] and Mackinaw town, and crossed the Mackinaw. The river was quite high – up midside to our horses and a very rapid current. I feared trouble. Pursued onto the Illinois timber toward Fort Clark [Peoria]. Put up for the night."

Aug. 24, 1831 in what became Morton: "Examined some land and at last bargained for an improvement bordering on the Illinois timber. The flies are being very troublesome. We returned to our family. Thirty miles in the evening, came to the Mackinaw River and found it had risen about one foot. After much deliberation, we ventured to cross it. Nearly swam our horses – it was four feet deep and a powerful current. Came to the house where we had left our family, and found them gone. We at last found them in another house three-quarters of a mile distant."

The following day Roberts stopped by the Illinois River to make a sketch of Peoria. Though Roberts died in 1886, his sketch was used as the basis for a mural painted in Peoria City Hall during its construction in 1898. No doubt Roberts would have been astonished at the $50,000 commission paid to the artists.

April 22, 1832 on his farm, hearing news of what became the Black Hawk War: "Yesterday received a letter from N.P. Tyler. News comes from disturbance at Rock Island with the Indians. Men are rendezvousing at Fort Clark, and from Beardstown to Naples."

May 14, 1832: "Our troops had a battle with the Indians; ten killed, one missing. Captain Adams of our company killed. Pleasant weather about these days."

May 24, 1832: "Again called up to go against the Indians on Fox River. Nearly every family above here is moving away from the Indians, even from Black Partridge. Last Monday, there were 16 persons massacred on Indian Creek, about 13 miles from the mouth of the Fox River."

June 1, 1832: "Our neighbors began to build a fort for their mutual defense against the Indians. There is great alarm throughout this country. The Menominees, together with the whites, are going to drive the Sioux out of Illinois."

Dec. 25, 1839: "Christmas. Attended church. After sermon by Rev. E.S. Huntington, Dr. Davidson delivered a lecture on temperance. In the evening I was appointed vice president of the [temperance] society. Went to Father Waters. Took supper. In the evening, visited Mr. Morst. Came home and got lost on the prairie, it being foggy and no road. Wandered around for about 2 hours or upwards, the horse was nearly tired out. Finally, the moon arose, which enabled me to tell where east was. I then, after a long while, came on a road which had a house, at nearly one o'clock."
May 20, 1842: "Mr. M took possession of the Presbyterian Church. Speeches by Elihu Chase and Moffat, Darins, Burton, etc. with swearing ruffians with clubs at the door to keep out all the abolitionists. We left Washington and went to Pleasant Grove. Had a discourse with Mr. Lovejoy and Dicky – 15 or 20 joined the society." "History of Tazewell County" (1879) retells this incident: "In those exciting days of the Underground Railroad, old Father Dickey and Owen Lovejoy, strong anti-slavery men, made an appointment to speak at Washington. On the notice of the meeting being announced, the pro-slavery men took forcible and armed possession of the church to be occupied by these speakers, and determined, at all hazards, to prevent the meeting from being held there. A prominent man of conservative views on the slavery question advised the anti-slavery men not to attempt to hold the meeting as they were determined to do, as the mob, he said, was frenzied with liquor, and he feared the consequences. So they concluded to go to Pleasant Grove Church, Groveland [the Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, constructed on the south side of Allentown Road at Elm Grove in 1833] where they addressed one of the most enthusiastic anti-slavery meetings ever held in this part of the state. Owen Lovejoy was the operator of the day. The mob was determined to follow and break up that meeting also, but was deterred by being told that as the antislavery men were on their own ground they would fight, and doubtless blood would be shed." James Henry Dickey (1780-1856) was a well-known minister from Delavan. He was the father of Theophilus Lyle Dickey (1811-1885), a prominent supporter of Stephen A. Douglas. For background on Owen Lovejoy, see OWEN LOVEJOY AND ABRAHAM LINCOLN in the Appendix.

Feb. 7, 1843: "22 degrees below zero. Some say 30 below."

Nov. 7, 1843: "Two colored men from St. Louis on their way to Canada came here – at night, sent them on. Received a letter from Eliza Farnham." Eliza Woodson Burhans Farnham, author of "Life in Priarie Land" (1846), was the sister of John’s first wife Mary Woodson Burhans Roberts.

March 18, 1844: "4 degrees above zero – it snowed 2 inches last night. Cold winter's day. The Erysipelas – or black tongue – grows worse in Pekin. Hardly a day without hearing of more or less death – truly the judgments of God are abroad in the land."


Aug. 9, 1845: "Bought 80 acres of land. Attended an anti-slavery meeting at Dillon settlement. Rev. Mr. Skinner addressed this meeting." This may have been Universalist minister and reformer Otis Ainsworth Skinner of the Warren Street Church at Boston. In 1857 he became president of Lombard University at Galesburg.

Nov. 1, 1845: "Antislavery meeting at Morton school house. Lecture by Rev. Mr. Spencer. Dry, dry." This may have been abolitionist Levi Spencer, a Congregationalist minister at Bloomington and Peoria.

March 18, 1846: "Scott came after shrubbery. G. Parker taking the census. [Parker] Served a petition on R. Scott for harboring negroes. I count security for his appearance at court – bond of 400 dollars. Warm, with thunder showers."

May 6, 1846: "Another rain storm. Attended a mass meeting of the Abolitionists at Peoria – heard Mr. Coddling and Mr. Blanchard lecture in the evening. A mob drove them out." Ichabod Coddling was a lecturer for the American Anti-Slavery Society. He was one of the original publishers of the American Freeman, an abolitionist circular distributed from Milwaukee. Minister Jonathan Blanchard was a nationally-known abolitionist speaker who became president of Knox College at Galesburg in 1845.

June 1, 1846: "Every able-bodied man notified to appear at Tremont to raise volunteers for the Mexican war. War with all its horrors I feel is our doom."

Oct. 7, 1848: "Anthony meeting at Morton Schoolhouse. Lecture by Mr. McCoy of Woodford County. Began gathering apples yesterday."

Nov. 14, 1848: "Four colored ladies from St. Louis came and Boggs and Oakley followed them to my house."

May 16, 1849: "Went to Peoria - cholera there pretty bad. Dreadful news from Cincinnati, St. Louis, and the canal of the fatality of the cholera - fearful times. Mary had a chill today – poor little girl. Commenced planting in the big field." See STEIDER for more on the cholera epidemic of 1848-49.

July 4, 1849: "Celebrated the day at Mr. Crandall's [Charles Crandall of Morton, an underground railroad operator]. Anti-slavery address – no temperance speeches. Fine dinner – good time."
June 6, 1854: "Anti-slavery meeting at Morton. I am to write to Frederick Douglass to get him to lecture to us." Douglass visited Illinois from Rochester, N.Y. later that year, as noted below. He spoke at Peoria in 1859, 1864, and 1870. In his autobiography he wrote that on one of the first two visits to Peoria he was forced to walk the streets all night to keep from freezing, after failing to find receptive accommodations. Discussing the first visits he wrote, "Perhaps there were Christian ministers and Christian families in Peoria at that time... In charity I am bound to say there probably were such ministers and such families, but I am equally bound to say that in my former visits to this place I had failed to find them."

June 26, 1854: "Anti-slavery meeting at Morton. Extremely hot weather – 102 degrees in the shade."

Oct. 17, 1854: "Mass anti-slavery meeting at Morton. Mr. Cooper addressed the meeting." Thomas Cooper was later elected town supervisor of Morton, with John Montgomery Roberts as town clerk. Roberts does not mention speeches by Abraham Lincoln and Senator Stephen A. Douglas at Peoria the previous day. The most widely reprinted quotation from Lincoln's speech was, "Although volume upon volume is written to prove that slavery is a very good thing, we never hear of the man who wishes to take the good of it, by being a slave himself." Lincoln spent Oct. 17 in a carriage traveling north to Lacon, where he expected to speak again with Sen. Douglas (the senator pleaded poor health and told Lincoln he could not appear; when Lincoln went on to other business, Douglas went immediately to Princeton, Bureau County where his speaking adversary was the bombastic abolitionist Owen Lovejoy). On Oct. 20, Frederick Douglass was scheduled to speak with Sen. Stephen A. Douglas in the First Congregational Church at Aurora, a reprise of the Lincoln-Douglas debate at Peoria. Apparently both were taken ill, and made only brief remarks.

Oct. 9, 1856: "Attended a Republican mass meeting in Peoria. Heard Lincoln and Senator Trumbull – Morton obtained the silk banner." Senator Lyman Trumbull's abolitionist views would be considered contradictory today. He supported the Illinois black codes restricting the movement of former slaves. He may be best remembered for the statement, "There is a great aversion in the West – I know it to be so in my state – against having free Negroes come among us. Our people want nothing to do with the Negro." However, he felt that the slave indenture system was immoral ("A crime against nature"), and held that both slave holders and slaves were morally damaged by their experiences. This had strong appeal to voters whose ancestors had worked off indenture contracts to pay for the immigration voyage. In 1864 Trumbull co-sponsored the bill that created the Freedman's Bureau to help former slaves find housing and later education. In 1865 he wrote the final draft of the Thirteenth Amendment declaring slavery and servitude illegal.


Nov. 4, 1856: "Election day – great excitement. Fremont, Buchanan, and Fillmore."

Jan. 4, 1857 at Galesburg: "Heard Mr. Tyler preach and Dr. Beecher. Heard Mr. Bacon play church music." Minister Henry Ward Beecher used his position at the Plymouth Congregationalist Church in Brooklyn, New York to press for social reforms. He was an ardent abolitionist who supported the Free Soil Party, and later the Republican Party. In October of 1858 the Republican Party in New York was searching for a viable presidential candidate; Beecher acted as their representative when he invited Lincoln to speak at his church. The venue was changed to the Great Hall at Cooper Union at the last minute to allow a larger audience. During the Civil War, Beecher raised funds to equip an infantry regiment, lectured in England on abolitionism, and urged Lincoln to issue the Emancipation Proclamation. His sister Harriet Beecher Stowe wrote Uncle Tom's Cabin.

June 15, 1858: "Went to Pekin for an Old Settlers meeting. Saw the oldest and first settlers in Tazewell County. Mr. Eades 78, and Mr. Dillon, Jacob Tharp aged 85. Had a good time." William Eads and William Davis constructed a grist mill at what is now Elm Grove in 1825. Tazewell County was incorporated in 1827. The headstone of Nathan Dillon at Dillon Cemetery says he was the "first white settler of Tazewell County, died June 17, 1868, aged 69 yrs. 11 mo. 23 d." (born June 24, 1798). He built the first cabin in Tazewell County on Dillon Creek in what is now Dillon in 1823. The headstone of Phoebe Crawford (1750-1827) in Weyhrich Cemetery at Elm Grove is the oldest in Tazewell County. She came to the area in 1824 after the death of her husband Jacob W. Tharp (1744-1793), with her son Jacob F. Tharp. Jacob was born at New Providence, N.J. Oct. 10, 1773, and died at Pekin Nov. 28, 1871.

Aug. 14, 1858: "Republican mass meeting at Tremont."

Aug. 30, 1858: "Republican Convention at Tremont. Lincoln and Kellogg spoke. Cool weather." This was only a local meeting. Lincoln had been nominated as a candidate for the Senate in the Republican State Convention at the Springfield Statehouse June 16, 1858, the same day he gave the extreme 'House Divided' speech that may have doomed his campaign. He debated Stephen A. Douglas at Freeport (near the Wisconsin border) Aug. 27. According to the brass plaque at the site, Aug. 30 was the last time he spoke at the Tremont Courthouse, where he had participated in many 8th Circuit trials. The second speaker was minister Hiram Kellogg, the first president of Knox College at Galesburg. In 1843 Kellogg served as one of nine U.S. delegates to the World Anti-Slavery Convention in London.
Diary pages for the period 1859-1871 have not been located.

April 2, 1872: "Joseph Staker died today." His next door neighbor and brother-in-law, the son of Joseph Stecker (#1) and Barbe Farny, and husband of Frena Roth.

Sept. 10, 1872: "Went to Forpaugh Menagerie. John Ali sick." Adam Forpaugh (1831-1890) competed with P.T. Barnum. He was the first promoter to combine circus with wild west show. John Ali was the youngest of Roberts's children, born Dec. 11, 1853.

April 1, 1873: "Town meeting. Thomas Cooper Supervisor, J.M. Roberts Town Clerk. The 14th time we voted to build a town house."

March 21, 1874: "Joseph Staker died this morning." Joseph, the oldest son of Joseph Stecker/Staker and Frena Roth, was kicked by a horse during shoeing and suffered grave internal injuries. He and his father are buried in Roberts Cemetery.

Dec. 9, 1876. "Birthday – 70 years old. 14 below freezing. Last night saw an eclipse of Venus by the Moon – a curious spectacle. Shall never see again." Venus was next eclipsed by the moon June 8, 2004.

July 17, 1882: "Mrs. Abraham Lincoln died in Springfield last Saturday of apoplexy."

April 10, 1883: "Peter Cooper of New York died a few days ago. Called on Thomas Roberts, John Ali, and Crosby." Peter Cooper was an abolitionist, industrialist, inventor, and philanthropist who established the Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art in New York City in 1858. He was also a supervisor at the laying of the first Transatlantic telegraph cable, invented the first steam engine for a train built in America, and ran for president in 1876 on the Greenback Party ticket. Abraham Lincoln's address at Cooper Union Feb. 27, 1860 has been called 'the speech that made Lincoln president.' Lincoln spoke after Frank Blair and Cassius Clay. The 90-minute audition for New York Republicans convincingly demonstrated that he could hold an audience as well as the two well-known orators. They also noticed that his lean, well-reasoned style of speech made easily-readable newspaper copy. The following day the New York Tribune said, "No man has ever made such an impression on his first appeal to a New York audience." Frederick Douglass also spoke at Cooper Union, at a celebration following the issue of the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863.

Oct. 22, 1886: "Frosty and clear."

John Montgomery Roberts died the following day. He is buried in Roberts Cemetery near his brothers Darius Phelps Roberts and Walter Basset Roberts. Brother Ambrose Bryant Roberts is buried at New Market, Iowa.
Miller: Müller of Hochburg

While this portion of text does not directly address a Tazewell County family, it does help to fill in some of the background of other arrivals. Johannes/Jean Müller is found on a number of civil entries from St. Valentin, on the farms of Comte Henri Gatien Bertrand. There he knew the Risser/Reesers, Roths, and Zimmermans who came to Central Illinois. His son Jacob was later elder of the progressive Hessian congregation in Butler County, Ohio that ultimately fed into the South Danvers Hessian congregation. A number of families moved west to Central Illinois in the footsteps of the three Hessian congregation ministers Naffziger, Kistler, and Müller.

As with the Zimmermans, in almost every instance while the family was in what is now Germany ‘Jacob’ was interchangeable with ‘Jakob,’ and we have made no attempt to sort out preferences except when citing a form used in documentation.

A Müller is a miller of grain.

The Müller or Miller family completes the circle of Amish Mennonites from the Hochburg congregation of Baden that had strong ministerial traditions. Others we have already mentioned include König, Leutweiler/Litwiller, Roth, Rupp, and Zimmerman.

Michel Müller was married to Anna Rupp. She was a daughter of Christen/Christian Rupp of Steffisburg, who crossed into Baden-Durlach from Kunheim, Upper Alsace in 1713 and leased grounds surrounding ruined Hochburg Castle (see ROPP, RÜPP OF HOCHBURG for background on Rupp, and ZIMMERMAN for background on the Hochburg estate).

In 1713 Michel held the lease on the fields of the Weier castle estate [Ger. Weierschlossgut] at Schupholz. Knowing he would have been at least 21 years of age to hold this lease, we can safely assume that he was born in 1692 or earlier.

In 1713 Michel also acted as guarantor for his father-in-law Christen/Christian Rupp’s lease on the Hochburg estate. He assumed the lease after Rupp’s death in 1746. In 1755 the names of Michel Isen/Eissen and Michel Müller’s son Christian were added as co-leaseholders.

In 1772 a second son who had been farming at Rohrburg bei Altenheim, Baden-Durlach (12 miles below Strasbourg on the opposite side of the Rhine River) returned to the Hochburg estate to share the lease with his brother Christian Müller and Jacob Zimmerman.

Jacob Müller would represent the Hochburg congregation at the assembly of ministers at Essingen in 1779. He married Verena Isen. She was born circa 1745, and died at Sexau Oct. 25, 1822. Her Evangelisch death entry described her as the 77-year-old wife of Jacob Müller, farm leaseholder at Hochburg, and a daughter of Michel Isin and Katharina Gürlin. It was witnessed by Hochburg farm leaseholder Michael Zimmerman and Christina Rupp. The entry added that those mentioned were all Wiedertäufer.

We will follow the descendants of two of Jacob and Verena’s sons.

Deacon Michel Müller/Michael Miller

Jacob Müller had a son Jacob Müller born at Hochburg in 1776, who died at Sexau March 18, 1837.

Circa 1794 he married Anna Rupp. She was born circa 1775, a daughter of Christian/Chretien Rupp and Barbara/Barbe Litwiller; a granddaughter to Jacob Rupp who had represented their congregation at the assembly of ministers at Essingen in 1759; and a great-granddaughter to Christen/Christian Rupp of Steffisburg.

They took a nine-year lease on the Baldenwegerhof estate above Zarten, Baden in 1798. They were noted as residents of Rohrburg (Rohrburg bei Altenheim, roughly 40 miles to the north of Zarten) on the 1832 civil marriage entry of a daughter.

Jacob’s death was registered at Sexau May 20, 1837 as Jacob Müller, aged 60 years, five months, and six days. It names his widow as Anna geb. Raupp [Anna born Rupp]. Witnesses included Michel Zimmerman, leaseholder at Hochburg, and Johann König, leaseholder at Hegenheim.

Anna’s death was registered at Emmendingen Feb. 12, 1855. The entry described her as Anna Rupp, the 80-year-old wife of deceased Hochburg tenant Jacob Müller.

Children of Jacob Müller and Anna Rupp include:

1. **Michel Müller/Michael Miller** was born July 28, 1795, died Aug. 23, 1873, and is buried in Lantz Cemetery at Carlock, McLean County.
2. Anna Müller was born at Auggen Aug. 7, 1797, and died at Congerville Jan. 2, 1850. On May 14, 1815 she married Andreas/Andrew Zimmerman (he was a brother of Verena Zimmerman, the matriarch of the Tazewell County Roth family). The event was recorded at Sexau Aug. 7, 1815. See ZIMMERMANN for background on this family.

3. Jacob Müller was born on the Hochburg estate Aug. 28, 1801. On Aug. 10, 1832 at Strasbourg he married Maria Eymann. She was a daughter of Joseph Eymann and Katharina Roess or Rees. Their civil marriage entry described the groom as cultivator Jacques Müller, born at Hochburg, Sexau Aug. 26, 1801, a son of farmer Jacques Müller and Anne Rupp who were residents of Rohrburg [Rohrburg bei Altenheim]. The bride was Marie Eymann, born at Strasbourg Aug. 16, 1807. She was a daughter of the deceased cultivator Joseph Eymann, who had died at Strasbourg Feb. 1, 1811, and the deceased Catherine Roess, who had died at Strasbourg May 25, 1824 (in a second marriage to cultivator Jacques Schwartz). Witnesses included cultivators Chrétien Stucki, 56; Joseph König, 29; and Jean Schlatter, 31. The marriage was also registered in the Evangelisch church at Sexau. Jacob and Maria became leaseholders on the Sohn estate at Heiligenzell near Lahr, then at Munzingen.

4. Johann Müller was a miller at Kollmarsreuth, and then on the Hasenhof at Tiengen bei Freiburg.

5. Magdalena Müller. On May 12, 1846 at Sexau she married Michael Griesser of Öhningen. The Evangelisch entry named the groom’s parents as Jacob Müller and Anna Maria Rupp, and the bride’s parents as Heinrich Griesser and Barbara Bart.

6. Christian Müller was born circa March of 1807, and died unmarried at Sexau July 21, 1840, age 33 years and four months. His Evangelisch death entry created July 23 described him as ein Mennonit. It named his parents as Jakob Müller and Anna Maria Rupp. Witnesses included Jakob Zimmerman and Michael Zimmerman, Mennonit tenants on the Schlossgut [castle farm].

7. Verena Müller lived unmarried at Hochburg.

8. Catharina Müller. On May 19, 1843 at Sexau she married Christian Lauber. He was born as Chrétien Lauber at Bourgfelden, Upper Alsace Dec. 15, 1815, a son of cultivator Michel Lauber le declarant Anabaptiste de Secte and Barbe Zimmerman. The marriage ceremony was performed by Mennonit Jakob Zimmerman of Munzingen. Their Evangelisch marriage entry described the groom as Christian Lauber of Bourgfelden im Elsass. The bride’s parents were Jakob Müller, Mennonit tenant on the Hochbürger Schlossgut, and Anna Maria Rupp. Witnesses included the younger Jakob Zimmerman, Mennonit leaseholder [Ger. Beständer] at Hochbürg; and Jakob Rediger, Mennonit leaseholder on the Ottenweier Hof.

Michel Müller/Michael Miller was born July 28, 1795, died at Danvers Aug. 23, 1873, and is buried in Lantz Cemetery at Carlock, McLean County.

On July 24, 1825 at Sexau he married Magdalena König. She was born Sept. 6, 1800, and died in McLean County Nov. 22, 1882, a daughter of Christian König and Maria Zimmerman. Her parents were leaseholders at Bamlach, an estate about 30 miles southwest of Hochburg on the Rhine River.

The Evangelisch entry at Sexau named the parents of the groom as Jacob Müller and Anna Maria Rupp, and the parents of the bride as Christian König and Maria Zimmerman.

They sailed from Le Havre on the Salem, and arrived at New Orleans Nov. 13, 1835. The passenger list shows Müller Michel, 40, Baden; Madelena, 35; Christian, 9; Madelena, 7; Jacob, 5; Michel, 4; Johann, 3; and Frena, 6 months.

The family rented a farm at Oxford, Butler County, Ohio, where they remained until 1851. They appear on the 1850 census of Oxford as farmer Michael Miller, 54, Germany; Magdalina, 45, Germany; Christian, 24, Germany; Jacob, 19, Germany; Michael, 16, Germany; John, 15, Germany; Elizabeth, 9, Ohio; Joseph, 6, Ohio; and Magdalena, 18, Germany.

In 1851 they resettled on 50 acres at Dry Grove, and soon purchased 120 more. Michael became a deacon of the Rock Creek Amish Church with his younger cousin Jacob Müller.

The 1860 census of Dry Grove shows the household as farmer Michael Miller, 59, Baden; Mather, 60, Baden; farm laborer Crist Bergamer [Christian Birckelbaw], 25, Hesse; domestic Elizabet B Miller, 18, Ohio [daughter Elizabeth later married farm hand Christian Birckelbaw]; and farmer [son] Joseph, 15, Ohio. In 1870 they appear as retired farmer Michael Miller, 75, Baden; Magdalena, 70, Baden; farmer Joseph, 22, Ohio; and servant Liddia Gaber, 16, France. The 1880 census of Dry Grove has widow Magdal. Miller, 79, born in Baden to parents from Baden; and son and farm hand John Miller, 35 [should have been 45 or older], born in Baden to parents from Baden. They lived next door to the household of youngest son Joseph.

215 There is some question about where the couple lived before emigrating from Europe. J. Virgil Miller identifies the location as Schönheim, but locates it on a map and describes it as if it were Niederschöpfheim (seven miles southeast of Altenheim and 44 miles north of Munzingen). Niederschöpfheim was within walking distance of the Ottenweierhof, leased by Reidigers. However, there is a Schönheim: it is above Rheinfelden, 15 miles southeast of Bamlach, near the border of Baden and Switzerland.
Their children include:

1. Christian K. Miller was born in Baden May 29, 1826, and died Feb. 18, 1904. He married Elizabeth Birckelbaw. She was born Nov. 3, 1833, and died Nov. 3, 1913, a daughter of Christian Birckelbach and Marie/Mary Schwartzentruber. They are found on the 1880 census of Hudson, McLean County as farmer Christian Miller, 54, born in Baden to parents from Baden; Elizabeth, 47, born in Ohio to parents from Hesse-Darmstadt; and seven children born in Illinois. They are buried in North Danvers Mennonite Cemetery.

2. Magdalena Miller was born in Baden Sept. 18, 1827, and died at Danvers Aug. 25, 1911. On Oct. 27, 1850 in Butler County she married Christian Stuckey. He was born in Butler County June 17, 1831, died at Eureka Springs, Arkansas Aug. 30 or Sept. 3, 1885, and is buried in Park Lawn Cemetery at Danvers, a son of Peter Stuckey and Elizabeth Sommer. He was a younger brother to minister Joseph Stuckey. They are found on the 1880 census of Danvers as farmer Christian Stuckey, 48, born in Ohio to parents from Switzerland and France; Magdalena, 52, born in Baden to parents from Baden; and four children born in Illinois. Their immediate neighbors included the families of Michael Rupp, 35; Christian Strubbar, 36; and Christian Ehrisman [Ehresman], 35.

3. Jacob Miller was born in Baden Aug. 23, 1830, and died April 16, 1912. On Aug. 8, 1858 he married Mary Birckelbaw. She was born in Butler County Sept. 28, 1835, and died Feb. 6, 1903, a daughter of Christian Birckelbach and Marie/Mary Schwartzentruber. They are found on the 1880 census of Montgomery, Woodford County as farmer Jacob Miller, 52, born in Baden to parents from Baden; Mary, 36, born in Ohio to parents from Germany; and four children born in Illinois. They are buried in North Danvers Mennonite Cemetery.

4. John K. Miller was born in Baden July 27, 1833 (according to his headstone at Lantz Cemetery), and died Aug. 2, 1885. However, the 1850 census age and birth order would indicate that he was born after Michael, circa 1835. He is found living with his mother as a 35-year-old (he would actually have been 45 or older) born in Baden, occupation farm hand, on the 1880 census of Dry Grove.

5. Michael Miller was born in Baden circa 1834, according to the 1850 census. The 1870 census of Dry Grove shows his household as farmer Michael Miller, 33, Baden; Anna, 26, Ohio; Peter, 6, Illinois; Magdaline, 4, Illinois; servant Elizabeth Burky, 18, Illinois; and 'farming' Daniel Swartz, 26, Iowa [he may have been a Schwartzentruber, the family next door with one child born in Iowa]. The 1880 census of Rantoul, Champaign County shows them as farmer Michael C. Miller, 45, born in Baden to parents from Baden; Anna, 36, born in Ohio to parents from Darmstadt; Peter, 17, born in Illinois to parents from Baden and Ohio; and Maggie, 15, born in Illinois to parents from Baden and Ohio.

6. Fannie Miller was born in Butler County in 1836, and died the same year.

7. Kate Miller was born in Butler County in 1837, and died the same year.

8. Elizabeth Miller was born at Oxford May 7, 1841, and died July 7, 1873. On Feb. 14, 1864 at Dry Grove she married Christian Birckelbaw, a son of Christian Birckelbach and Marie/Mary Schwartzentruber. He was born in Butler County Aug. 25, 1838, and died at Danvers March 19, 1905. At the time of their marriage he was working as a farm laborer for her father for $8 per month. Gospel Herald, August 1873: "July 7th, in McLean Co., Ill., of consumption, Elisabeth Birgelbach, aged 32 years, and 2 months. She leaves a bereaved husband, and 4 children to mourn their loss. Remarks appropriate to the occasion were made by Joseph Stuckey from John 3."

9. Joseph K. Miller was born at Oxford Sept. 29, 1844, and died Jan. 1, 1904. On June 24, 1872 in McLean County he married Elizabeth 'Lizzie' Mast. She was born at Berlin Township, Holmes County, Ohio Oct. 2, 1854, and died on a visit to Peoria Feb. 9, 1918, a daughter of Daniel Mast and Elizabeth Troyer. They farmed 198 acres at Dry Grove, McLean County. Their household is found on the 1880 census of Dry Grove as farmer Joseph Miller, 34, born in Ohio to parents from Baden; Elizabeth, 25, born in Ohio to parents from Pennsylvania and Ohio; William O., 6, Illinois; Burtha, 4, Illinois; Josie V., 11 months, Illinois; and housekeeper Amelia Mast, 19, born in Ohio to parents from Pennsylvania and Ohio.

216 Christian Birckelbach was born circa 1798. He married Marie/Mary Schwartzentruber. She was born in Hesse-Darmstadt Oct. 11, 1804, and died at Dry Grove May 5, 1892. Christian died circa 1838, leaving her with four children. On Aug. 20, 1843 at Trenton, Butler County she remarried to Johannes von Gunde (1791-after 1860) of La Broque, Salm, known in America as John Gundy (see ROTH for his European origin). His first wife Anna König had died in childbirth circa 1831. His children from the first marriage were Barbara, Anna, and John; a fourth child Joseph died before the second marriage. Her children were Catherinne (1830), Elizabeth (1833), Mary (1835), and Christian (1838). They had three more children together: Fannie (1844), Jacob (1847), and Jacobina 'Phoebe' (1850). The family appears on the 1860 census of Charleston, Lee County, Iowa as John Gundy, 68, Germany; Mary, 52, Hesse-Darmstadt; Fanny, 15, Ohio; Jacob, 13, Ohio; and Phoebe, 9, Ohio.
Elder Jacob Müller/Jacob Miller  
Michel/Michael's cousin

Jacob Müller had a second son, **Johannes Müller**. He was born at Hochburg or Munzingen approximately June 12, 1783, and died in Woodford County in 1859.217

In 1806 Johannes married Magdalena Eyer. She was born circa 1787, and died before 1850, a daughter of elder Daniel Eyer and an unidentified Dettweiler, who lived on the estate Remechingen. She was a granddaughter of Rudolf Eyer and Veronika Kurtz, and a great-granddaughter of Benedikt Eyer.

In 1832 Johannes and Magdalena accepted employment from Comte Henri Gatien Bertrand, the former aide-de-camp to Napoleon, near St. Valentin in the department of Indre, and approximately 170 miles south of Paris (see ROTH for background on Bertrand).

Johannes and Magdalena were present and consenting at the marriages of two of their daughters at St. Valentin: Barbara to André (later Andrew) Roth July 23, 1834, and Magdalena to Daniel Zimmerman Oct. 8, 1834. Johannes also witnessed the marriage of Jean Risser and Catherine Zimmerman there Feb. 27, 1838. Although the civil entries called him Jean Miller, he signed as Johan Müller.

Annette Surrault found the 1836 census of Lagny, St. Valentin:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Relationship</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>99</td>
<td>Jean Miller</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>Cultivator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100</td>
<td>Barbara Madeleine</td>
<td>44</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>101</td>
<td>Madeleine Fournier</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>Servant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>102</td>
<td>Jacobée Miller</td>
<td>13</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>103</td>
<td>Catherine Miller</td>
<td>14</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>104</td>
<td>Madeleine Miller</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>[married to Daniel Zimmerman]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>105</td>
<td>Daniel Miller</td>
<td>10 months</td>
<td>[Daniel Zimmerman, son of Daniel Zimmerman and Madeleine Müller]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>106</td>
<td>Elizabeth Miller</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>107</td>
<td>Suzanne Miller</td>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>108</td>
<td>Jean Miller</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>Cultivator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>109</td>
<td>Daniel Miller</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>Cultivator</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Müllers departed from St. Valentin with Michael Zimmerman and Magdalena Erb, and Springers. They are found on the passenger list of the packet ship *Poland* as it arrived at New York from Le Havre May 3, 1839: Jean Muller, 54; Magdalena, 50; Johannes, 26; Catharina, 17; Jacobina, 16; Lesbith, 15; Suzana, 13; and Catharine, eight months [the child of Johannes Müller and Catharine Farny].

Johannes became Reverend John Miller in America, and followed 'Apostle Peter' Naffziger as elder of the Hessian congregation in Butler County. *A History and Biographical Cyclopaedia of Butler County, Ohio* says that the division between conservatives and progressives "...created a division of the members into two parties, and the other party [the Hessian-oriented 'button' congregation], which may be termed the liberal party, obtained another elder or bishop from Germany, by the name of John Miller, and Joseph Augspurger, Christian Holly, and Peter Kennel were elected assistant ministers, and the two parties held their meetings separately in their dwellings."

His household appears next door to Christian Holly on the 1850 census of Liberty as minister John Miller [widower Johannes Müller], 64; Susan, 22 [his daughter]; Elizabeth, 20 [his daughter]; Jacob, 33 [his son]; and Magdaln [Magdalena Moser, Jacob's wife], 40, all born in Germany.

Johannes/John may have joined his grown children in Illinois as early as 1851 (his son Jacob moved there between 1851 and 1855), or as late at 1859. He was buried in Miller Cemetery at Montgomery, Woodford County Oct. 3, 1859.

Children of Johannes Müller/John Miller and Magdalena Eyer include:

1. Magdalena Müller/Madeleine Miller was born on the Hochburg estate March 13, 1807, and died in Tazewell County after 1860 but before the 1880 census. On Oct. 8, 1834 at St. Valentin, Indre she married Daniel Zimmerman, a son of Michael Zimmerman and his first wife Barbara Roggy. Their civil marriage entry described her parents as Jean

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217 Johannes's birthdate was calculated from the year-month-day total found on his headstone.
Magdalena, wife of Jacob Mueller, aged 84 years, 1 month and 15 days. She was buried on the 20th. Services by passenger list.

1872. Christian Reeser and Barbara Zimmerman.

France; Madeleine, 55, France; and day laborer John Detweiler, 21, France. They lived next door to minister to describe Jacob's two younger sisters Susan and Elizabeth who lived with him and his father. Grubb's booklet, died." Jacob may have had two daughters who have not been identified; however, it is more likely that Grubb meant born in France; Louis Craig, 20, born in Illinois to parents from Ohio and Indiana; and James Fry, 17, born in Illinois to parents from Illinois.

He married Magdalena Moser. She was born May 20, 1805, and died at Montgomery July 18, 1889.

Johannes Müller /Jean Miller was born on the Hochburg estate March 15, 1809. At St. Valentin, Indre Dec. 5, 1837 he married Catherine Farny. Their civil marriage entry described the groom as domestic laborer Jean Miller, 28, born on the Hochburg estate March 15, 1809 and living at Petit Lagny, St. Valentin, a son of Jean Miller and Magdeline Eyer. The bride was described as Catherine Farny, 22, born at Sailly [now Sailly-Achâtel], Moselle, Aug. 7, 1815, a daughter of the deceased Joseph Farny, who had died at Juville [Moselle] May 10, 1836, and Marguerite Goldebariere [Coldabert], living at Juville and present and consenting. [For more on Joseph Farny see STAKER]. Witnesses included cousin-of-the-groom and cultivator Michel Zimmerman, 59, living at Lagny; father-of-the-groom Jean Miller, 53, living at Petit Lagny; cousin-of-the-groom and domestic servant Jean Miller, 22, Petit Lagny; and friend-of-the-bride and laborer Christoffe Erismin, 24, of Lagny.

3. Jacob Müller was born at Munzingen, Baden June 18, 1811, and died at Montgomery, Woodford County Aug. 22, 1893.

Barbara Müller was born at Buggingen, Baden Dec. 28, 1813, and died before April 24, 1842 (the date of her husband's remarriage in Butler County to his cousin Ann/Anna Zimmerman). On July 23, 1834 at St. Valentin, Indre she married Andreas/André (later Andrew) Roth, a son of Nicaës Roth and Verena Zimmerman. The civil marriage entry gave her age as 20. For more on this couple see ROTH.

Catherine Müller was born circa 1822. She appears on the 1836 census and the passenger list.

Jacobée/Jacobine Müller was born circa 1823. She appears as Jacobée on the 1836 census list, and as Jacobina on the passenger list.

Elizabeth Müller was born July 27, 1824, and died at Stanford, McLean County Sept. 5, 1865; she is buried in Stout's Grove Cemetery at Danvers. On March 4, 1854 in Butler County she married Christian Gingerich. He was born at Andernach, Hesse Oct. 5 (local histories) or 28 (headstone date), 1820, and died at Stanford June 20, 1908, a son of Michael Gingerich and Barbara Heinemann. He sailed to America in the spring of 1850, landing at New Orleans. From there he made his way to Butler County, then to McLean County in 1852. He returned to Butler County to marry Elizabeth. In 1862 he was ordained as a minister for Bureau Creek and Wesley City congregations by John Michael Kistler. In 1863 he was chosen as an elder of the Hessian congregation at Walnut, Bureau County by minister/elder John Nafziger. On Sept. 7, 1866 Christian remarried to Catherine Gingerich, a daughter of Jacob Gingerich (of Butler County and Dry Grove) and his first wife Catherine. He served as minister and elder for the South Danvers Mennonite Church.

Susanne/Susan Müller was born Sept. 7, 1826, and died at Montgomery Jan. 16, 1861; she is buried in Miller Cemetery at Montgomery. On Oct. 25, 1854 she married Christian Engel. He was born at Frankenstein July 16, 1818, and died at Bloomington Jan. 17, 1912, a son of Johann Jakob Engel and Elisabetha Jotter (see ENGEL, ENGEL OF DIEMERSTEIN). In 1862 he remarried to Magdalena Ehrisman of near Morton." We have not been able to identify her family.

Jacob Müller was born at Munzingen, Baden June 18, 1811, and died at Montgomery Aug. 22, 1893.

He married Magdalena Moser. She was born May 20, 1805, and died at Montgomery July 18, 1889.

In History of the Mennonites of Butler County, Ohio, Grubb wrote that, "Jacob Mueller, an ordained minister, came from Germany to Butler County in 1845, with his wife and two daughters. While here, he lived in a house on the farm of Christian Holly and had oversight of the Hessian congregation. In 1855 they moved to Illinois, where he died." Jacob may have had two daughters who have not been identified; however, it is more likely that Grubb meant to describe Jacob's two younger sisters Susan and Elizabeth who lived with him and his father. Grubb's booklet, published in 1916, also fails to mention the father.

Between 1851 and 1855 Jacob followed the two earlier leaders of the Hessian congregation (elder 'Apostle Peter' Naffziger and minister John Michael Kistler) to Dry Grove, McLean County. There he served with his older cousin Michel Müller/Michael Miller as a deacon for elder Jonathan 'Yony' Yoder. In the spring of 1853 his influence helped to raise $500 needed to build the Rock Creek Amish Church (the 'Yoder Church') north of Danvers. This church provided only German-language services until the North Danvers Mennonite Church was constructed in 1872.

Their household is shown on the 1860 census of Montgomery, Woodford County as farmer Jacob Miller, 48, France; Madeleine, 55, France; and day laborer John Detweiler, 21, France. They lived next door to minister Christian Reeser and Barbara Zimmerman.

Joseph Stuckey replaced Yoder as elder at Danvers after Yoder's death in 1869. The story is told in STAKER.

On the 1880 census of Montgomery they appear as Jacob Miller, 69, born in France; Madeleine Miller, 57, born in France; Louis Craig, 20, born in Illinois to parents from Ohio and Indiana; and James Fry, 17, born in Illinois to parents from Illinois.

Herald of Truth, August 1889: "On the 18th of July, near Congerville, Woodford County, Ill., of dropsy, Magdalena, wife of Jacob Mueller, aged 84 years, 1 month and 15 days. She was buried on the 20th. Services by
John Stahly, M. Kinsinger and others, from Ps. 90 and I Cor. 15:37, 38. The deceased was a member of the Amish Mennonite church and leaves an aged husband in poor health to mourn her departure.”

Müller served as deacon and counsel to minister/elder Joseph Stuckey until his death at age 82 on Aug. 22, 1893. Father Johannes Müller, son Jacob Müller, and Jacob’s wife Magdalena Moser are all buried in Miller Cemetery at Montgomery.
Risser and Reeser

A Reusser is a person who fishes without a hook or net. In mountainous parts of Europe this was typically done by weighting a wicker basket and setting it in a stream. A Reusser could also be the person who made the basket. Rüsser, Reüsser, Rüesser, Risser, and Reeser are all variations. Risser may also have been derived from Ryser, a description of someone who lives on a steep slope.

A number of Anabaptist Risser families emigrated from Canton Bern in the early 1700s. They followed the Rhine River to the communities of Ribeauvillé in Upper Alsace [Ger. Rappoltsweiler] and 17 miles farther north to Kogenheim in Lower Alsace. 218

The Risser's that came to Tazewell and Woodford Counties may have been descendants of families that migrated from Alsace west into the region of Lorraine, in a part that is now the French department of Moselle.

Jacob/Jacques Risser

The birth year of laborer Jacob/Jacques Risser could not be identified. Presumably it was circa 1733, the probable birth year of his wife.

He may have had two identifiable sisters. Marie Risser was born circa 1735, and died at Gondrexange, Moselle Oct. 4, 1800. She married Christian Zwalter (see the Appendix, ZWALTER for more on the family). 219

Anne Risser was born circa 1735 or 1743, and died at Rhodes, Moselle Nov. 28, 1798. In 1770 she married Johannes/Jean Suisse/Schweizer.

Jacob/Jacques married Catherine Roupe/Ruppe/Rupp, who was born about 1733. There is no direct documentation that shows her family connections. We can speculate that she was related as a sister or cousin to Anna Rupp, the leaseholder on the Bärbelsteinhof at Erlenbach bei Dahn in the Pfalz (mentioned in EHRESMAN, Erlenbach bei Dahn is 38 miles southwest of Friedelsheim). Anna was first married to Hans/Jean Ringenberg of the castle estate Ketzting at Gondrexange, then to Isaac Hochstettler.

Jacob/Jacques and Catherine lived on the Alzing farm at Gosselming (11 miles northeast of Gondrexange, now in the department of Moselle). According to daughter Freni's civil marriage entry, Jacob/Jacques died before 1789. Catherine died at Gosselming Dec. 10, 1801, age 68. 220

Children of Jacob/Jacques Risser and Catherine Roupe/Ruppe/Rupp include:

1. Anne Risser was born circa 1761, and died at Gosselming April 29, 1808, age 47. She became the second wife of Joseph Farny (1748-1800). They lived on Nolveyer Pond at Bisping.
2. Nicolas Risser was born circa 1764, and died at Gosselming Jan. 19, 1814.
3. Freni Risser was born in 1768, and died in 1814. She married Christian Engel. He was born in 1765, and died in 1814, a son of Jean Engel and Anne Rouvenacht. They lived at Zommange. When they died within two days of each other, Christian's brother-in-law Nicolas Fonkennel and cousin Christian Engel (later elder of the Partridge Creek meeting) became co-guardians of their children. See ENGEL for more on this couple.

Nicholas Risser was born circa 1764, and died at Gosselming Jan. 19, 1814.

On July 23, 1798 at Gosselming he married Barbe Engel. She was born at Guermange circa 1776, and died at Gosselming Sept. 15, 1833, a daughter of Jean Pierre Engel and Magdalene/Madeleine Rouvenacht.

Their marriage entry described the groom as a 34-year-old cultivator on Alzing farm at Gosselming. The bride was described as the 22-year-old daughter of the deceased Jean Pierre Engel and 'Magdelaine Riffennacht' of Guermange. Witnesses included Joseph Farny, a miller on Nolweyer Pond at Bisping (he was Nicolas's brother-in-law, married to Anne Risser); Christian Engel, a Zommange cultivator (Barbe's cousin); Jacob/Jacques Moser,

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218 In Christian Reeser: The Story of a Centenarian, Ethel Reeser Cosco wrote that the families of three Risser brothers came from Switzerland in 1757 to the estate Mennonitenhof at Friedelsheim in the Pfalz. However, she offered no evidence to link them to the families in the region of Lorraine.

219 A daughter of Christian Zwalter and Marie Risser, Anne Marie Risser, married Joseph Mosimenn. One witness on their civil marriage entry was Nicolas Risser, son of Jacob/Jacques Risser and Catherine Roupe/Ruppe/Rupp, who was described as a cousin of the bride.

220 Alzing farm at Gosselming is also found as the German 'Alsing,' even in French civil records. Alzing (Ger. Alsingen) is also the name of a village above Dalem, Moselle, almost 60 miles northwest of Gosselming.
miller at Bisping and neighbor to the bride (he later married Joseph Farny's widow); and Joseph Engel, miller at Lorentzen (Barbe's younger brother).

A census of Mennonite families created April 24, 1809 lists Nas. Ruser as a head of a household at Gosselming (seven residents).

Their children born at Gosselming include:

1. Pierre Risser was born June 29, 1800, and died at Gosselming April 8, 1808.
2. Marie Risser was born July 8, 1802. On Nov. 29, 1830 at Gosselming she married Jean Suisse. He was born at Rhodes Jan. 30, 1802, and died on Alzing farm at Gosselming Dec. 4, 1871, a son of Christophe Suisse and Marie Farny. At the time of the marriage she was living on Alzing farm, and he was a cultivator by Nolweyer Pond at Bisping. Brother of the bride André Risser signed as a witness on the civil entry.
4. Barbe Risser was born May 26, 1807, and died at Gosselming July 27, 1813.
5. André Risser was born April 11, 1809. On April 4, 1837 at Gosselming he married Marie Schertz. She was born at Bickenholtz, Moselle in 1806, a daughter of Jacob Schertz and Anne Marie Martin.
6. Nicolas/Nicholas Risser was born at Gosselming, Moselle Oct. 19, 1811, and died at Stanford, McLean County Aug. 15, 1889.
7. Barbe Risser was born July 22, 1813, and died at Gosselming Feb. 10, 1815.

Nicolas/Nicholas Risser was born at Gosselming, Moselle Oct. 19, 1811, and died at Stanford, McLean County Aug. 15, 1889.

On Dec. 16, 1845 at Imling, Moselle Nicolas married to Catherine Schmitt (she appears on the entry as Schmid). She was born at Imling April 15, 1824, and died in 1859 or 1860. Their family can be found on the passenger list of the Heidelberg as it arrived at New Orleans from Le Havre in February 1859: Nicolas Riesser, 47, France; Catherine, 32; Andrés, 16; Joseph, 14; Emilie [later found as Marie or Mary], 12; Hanette [later found as Anna], 10; Pierre, 8; Catherine, 6; and Madeleine, 3. They traveled directly to Woodford County.

Catherine must have died in 1859 or 1860, because Nicolas/Nicholas remarried to Magdalena Kempf before the 1860 census. This has caused some confusion for genealogists, particularly because the wives had proximate ages. Magdalena Kempf was born circa April 15, 1824 (figured from her headstone count), and died at Stanford, McLean County Feb. 18, 1884.

They are found on the 1860 census of Montgomery, Woodford County as farmer Nicholas Reaser, 50, France; Magdalene, 36, France; Andrew, 18; Joseph, 16; Mary, 14; Anna, 12; and Catherine, 6; all children born in France. His cousin Christian Farny (with his brother Peter 'the Amishmen who hired Lincoln') and Christian's wife Magdalena Strubhar appear on the same census page.

History of McLean County says they relocated to Tazewell County in 1863, and MacLean County in 1871, but in 1870 they are once again found on the census of Montgomery, where they are shown next door to the Farnys as farmer Nicholas Raseman, 52, France; Madalene, 40, France; Adino [slurred handwriting meant to be 'Andrew'], 27; Joseph, 24; and Peter, 21; sons born in France. The 1880 census of Stanford, McLean County shows their household as farmer Nickolas Risser, 69, born in France to French parents; Magdalina Risser, wife, 55, born in France to French parents; Maggie Nafziger, daughter, 24, born in France to French parents; Victoria Risser, daughter, 20, born in Illinois to French parents; and Louisa Schwitzer, 5, born in Illinois to French parents.

Children of Nicolas/Nicholas and his second wife Magdalena Kempf include André/Andrew (married to Marie/Mary Schweitzer), Joseph (married to Catherine Schweitzer), Emilie Marie/Mary, Annette/Anna, Peter (married to Barbara Strubhar), Magdalena/Madeleine/Maggie (married to Valentine Naffziger), and Victoria (married to William R. Rusmisell).

Nicolas/Nicholas and Magdalena are buried in Mount Pleasant Cemetery at Stanford. See SCHWEIZER for the story of the Risser's involvement in a Schweizer and Springer family feud.

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221 We could only identify one clue to the parentage of Catherine Schmitt. Marie Risser was born at Imling, Moselle Sept. 30, 1846. Her parents were described as cultivate Nicolas Risser, 36, of Berthelming (in Moselle), and Catherine Schmitt, 22, of Berthelming. The birth took place in the home of Anne Schmitt, 50, a miller; the father (presumably Catherine's) living at Imling.
Joseph Risser/Reisser

Anabaptist farmer Joseph Risser/Reisser was born circa 1752, and died in the hamlet Singling within Gros-Réderching, Moselle Nov. 26, 1817.\(^\text{222}\)

He actually signed his name 'Joseph Reisser,' though 'Risser' is found in the texts of birth and marriage entries he signed.

Joseph married Anne Marie Kropf, who was born circa 1750, and died at the hamlet Singling within Gros-Réderching Dec. 4, 1833.

Their children include:

1. Catherine Risser was born on Janau farm at Rahling, Moselle Feb. 13, 1778. On March 30, 1799 at Rohrbach-les-Bitche, Moselle she married Joseph Schantz. He was born on the Waderhof estate at Lorentzen Aug. 13, 1775, a son of Christian Schantz and Anne Rubi.\(^\text{223}\) She signed their marriage document 'Catarina Risserin.'

2. **Joseph Risser** was born circa 1780.

3. Marie Risser was born at Singling in 1789. On June 16, 1812 at Gros-Réderching she married Andreas/André Schantz (a double wedding). He was born at Rohrbach-les-Bitche, Moselle in 1780, also a son of Christian Schantz and Anne Rubi.

4. **Johannes/Jean Risser** was born circa 1791.

5. Barbara/Barbe Risser (twin) was born at Singling Jan. 20, 1793, and died at Diedendorf, Lower Alsace June 30, 1872. Her birth record, written in German, was signed by her father Joseph Reisser. Her mother's name was written 'Magdalena Kropf' rather than 'Anne Marie Kropf,' and she signed with an 'x', indicating she was illiterate. On June 16, 1812 at Gros-Réderching Barbe married Valentín Schantz (double wedding). He was born on the Waderhof estate at Lorentzen, Lower Alsace in 1776, and died at the hamlet Singling within Gros-Réderching Sept. 8, 1827, also a son of Christian Schantz and Anne Rubi. Barbe remarried to laborer and cultivator Joseph Roggy at Gros-Réderching Oct. 20, 1828. He was born on the Waderhof at Lorentzen in 1797, and died at Enchenberg, Moselle Sept. 30, 1840; his parents were Jean Roggy and Catherine Birki.

6. Susanne Risser (twin) was born at Singling Jan. 20, 1793. According to Jean François Lorentz she married Christian Fritz. He was a son of Joseph Fritz and Anna Schantz.

7. Veronica/Véronique Risser was born at Singling Nov. 13, 1794, and died there Nov. 3, 1804.

Older brother Joseph Risser

The family relationships of Joseph Risser have been questioned over the years. The information that follows draws on the research of Gary L. Yordy, Ardys Serpette, Steve Estes, and Annette Surrault to complete a picture of John Forney, a farmer who came from New York State to live on Allentown Road in Elm Grove and worship with the Dillon Creek meeting. Forney came to America in a party with Joseph Risser, who may also have been his biological father.

**Joseph Risser** was born circa 1780.

On Aug. 3, 1814 at the hamlet Singling within Gros-Réderching he married widow Madeleine Farny. She was born on Belgrade farm at Bistroff in 1783, a daughter of Christian Farny and Anne Hirschi. She was a sister to Barbe Farny, wife of Joseph Stecker (#1).

Family notes say Magdalena/Madeleine had a child Peter/Pierre born May 2, 1808. Her marriage entry delays this date to Aug. 20, 1808. On Sept. 7, 1809 she married the likely father, twice-widowed Michel Zehr, on Olferding estate at Gros-Réderching. The groom was 50 and the bride 26, which has caused some confusion for genealogists. A civil entry for both the birth and marriage was entered Sept. 7. Mariage witnesses included Michel Engel, 55, a cultivator at Brandelfing farm at Gros-Réderching (a brother of Christian Engel, who was later elder of the Partridge Creek meeting); and Joseph Risser, 55, of Singling.

Michel Zehr brought several children to the marriage from his first two marriages (to Catherine Esch and Anne Marie Kohler).

For more on Peter/Pierre Zehr and Barbara Roth, see ROTH.

They also had a daughter, Magdalena/Madeleine Zehr. She was born March 13 or 18, 1813, and died at Gros-Réderching, Moselle April 12, 1823. Her death entry was witnessed by stepfather Joseph Risser. Magdalena/Madeleine's first husband Michel Zehr died June 1, 1813.

\(^{222}\) The birthdays of Joseph Risser and Anne Marie Kropf are taken from their death entries; other sources vary to make them as much as 10 years younger.

\(^{223}\) Her name is spelled 'Rouvy' on birth records.
Joseph and Magdalena/Madeleine employed a servant, Marie Farny. She was a niece of Magdalena/Madeleine, and a daughter of Joseph Farny (born Nov. 12, 1776) and Anne Neyhouser (born May 15, 1772).

Joseph Risser was the biological father of Marie's illegitimate son, and perhaps her illegitimate daughter, according to an account told by the son's son Aaron Forney to his children.

1. Jean Farny/John Forney was born at the hamlet Singling within Gros-Rédérenching July 14, 1824, and died at Graymont, Livingston County Dec. 26, 1908.

2. Magdalena Farny was born at the hamlet Singling within Gros-Rédérenching April 13, 1828. This birth date comes from a family note, and cannot be confirmed by civil records. She died at Wilmot, Ontario Nov. 1, 1915.

Both of these children can be found in civil records as bonded servants of their grandfather, Joseph Farny. This allowed him the legal rights of a guardian despite their illegitimacy.

In 1827 Joseph Risser and Magdalena/Madeleine were living on the farm L'Age at Jeu-lès-Bois, in the department of Indre, 170 miles south of Paris. The property was owned by Aimé Jacques Marie Constant de Moreton de Chabrillan (1780-1847), a former chamberlain and aide to Napoleon who lived on the castle estate Le Magnet at adjacent Mers-sur-Indre (see ROTH for background on de Chabrillan).

In 1830 they relocated onto properties belonging to Comte Henri Gatien Bertrand, the former aide-de-camp to Napoleon (see ROTH for background on Bertrand). They farmed at Les Lagnys near St. Valentin (10 miles north of Jeu-lès-Bois) until 1835 with Müllers, Roths, Springers, and Zimmermans who later settled in Central Illinois.

Thanks to French author Annette Surrault, we have an abundance of information on the immigration of this family.

A copy of a passport created at Châteauroux June 19, 1835 can be found in the archives of the department of Indre. It named Joseph Rizer, 55, a cultivator living at St. Valentin; destination New York. He was to be accompanied by his wife Madelaine Risser, 53; Jean Rizer, 11; Madelaine Rizer, 9; and servant Madelaine Mayer or Mozer, 33.

A sheet of physical description names Joseph Riser and Pierre Zer. Riser is described as age 55; height 1.842 meters (6 foot-½); grayish-blonde hair; gray eyes; and beard gray, strong, and long; and Zer as age 26; height 1.67 meters (5 foot-5¾); blonde hair; gray eyes; and red beard.

On Oct. 12, 1835 at Issoudun the deputy mayor of the community of St. Valentin created a document attesting to the good character of the Rissers and Zehrs. He described the party as Joseph Risser, 55, who had been a farmer at Petit Lagny since 1830, his wife Madeleine Risser [born Madeleine Farny], 53; their son, Jean Risser, 11; a daughter of Madeleine Risser age 9 [born Magdalena Farny]; Pierre Zer [Peter Zehr], 26, a son of Madeleine Risser; and his wife Barbara Risser [born Barbara Roth]; "...all well behaved so as not to have any accusation against them."

In November of 1835 Joseph Risser, Magdalena/Madeleine Farny Risser, servant Marie Farny's two illegitimate children, and Magdalena/Madeleine's son Peter/Pierre Zehr with his pregnant wife Barbara Roth (a daughter of Nicolaüs Roth and Verena Zimmermann) reached the port of Le Havre. They embarked on the packet ship Formosa, and arrived at New York Dec. 28, 1935. The passenger list reads: Joseph Risser, 55, farmer, France; Magdelina, 53; Jean, 12; Magdelaina, 10; Peter Yer [Zehr], 26; Barbara Yer, 22; and Andreas, 1. Andreas Zehr (later called Andrew) had been born at sea Dec. 15.

Joseph Risser and Magdelena/Madeleine Farny simply step off the pages after their arrival. We found no records that might identify them in North America. If they lived with Peter Zehr, they would have left for Canada before appearing on an American census. They may have died before the first Canadian census in 1851 (actually counted in 1850), when they would have been 70 and 72 years old.

The Peter/Pierre Zehr family settled in the Amish Mennonite settlement at Croghan, Lewis County, New York, where Peter/Pierre was ordained as a minister by elder Joseph Farny and studied medicine. One of the earlier settlers who might have eased their transition was Peter/Pierre's older stepbrother Michael Zehr, who had become a minister there. Michael and his wife, Anne Jantzi of Belgrade farm, had arrived in America in 1833.

They lived in New York three years before continuing to Waterloo, Ontario. In 1842, 18-year-old Jean Farny/John Forney traveled by foot about 430 miles to Lemon, Butler County, Ohio. There he was employed as a laborer on the farm of his cousin-once-removed, Peter Schrock.
In 1848 the Kropp [Kropf] family arrived in Butler County. There John met their daughter, Elisabeth/Elizabeth 'Louisa' Kropp, who was 16 years old. She was born at St. Michel-sur-Meurthe, Vosges March 14, 1833, a daughter of André Kropp [Kropf] and his second wife Madeleine Beller.

The Kropp family traveled to what is now Elm Grove in 1849, perhaps because of their ties to the Schrots and Ropps. This apparently prompted John to make several trips to Central Illinois. In late 1852 he finally made a permanent move, finding work on the farm of minister Andrew Ropp. He purchased 120 acres on Allentown Road next to Andrew's younger brother Jacob Ropp Feb. 4, 1954. Within a year he built a house and barn on the property.

John and Elizabeth were married in the Dillon Creek meeting by minister Andrew Ropp April 17, 1855. Their household appears on the 1860 census of Elm Grove as farmer John Forney, 33, France; Elizabeth, 27, France; Verlinda [Magdalena], 4, Illinois; Joseph, 2, Illinois; laborer Christian Rhodes, 25, France; and laborer Joseph Luther, 45, France.

In 1864, John became a naturalized citizen. In the spring of 1865 he sold his farm in Elm Grove to John Sommer and purchased 360 acres at Pike, Livingston County. The family found temporary shelter there in a sod house until a new one could be built. The land was damp, and in the first year it had to be drained by creating irrigation ditches lined with clay tiles. John and Elizabeth continued to accumulate property over the next 15 years.

In 1892, John and Elizabeth moved into a 15-by-20-foot cottage on the Rook's Creek property of their daughter Mary, who was married to John Beller.

By 1894, Elizabeth was confined to bed and developed morbid obesity. This may have contributed to the stroke that caused her death. *Gospel Herald*, June 1, 1894: "On the 5th of May 1894, in Livingston Co., Ill., sister Elisabeth Forney, wife of John Forney, aged 62 y., 1 m., 21 d. Sister Forney was born near St. Dietel [St. Die], Vosges, France. Of her nine children, three have preceded her. She received all the care and attention during her long sickness that a loving husband and affectionate children could bestow. At times her sufferings were so great that she became delirious. She was very patient and awaited the end with Christian fortitude. She was a faithful sister in the Amish Mennonite denomination. Besides her husband and six children she leaves a number of grandchildren. Her remains were buried on the 7th in the Pike Twp. graveyard, followed thither by many friends. Funeral services by Chr. Zimmerman, Daniel Orendorf, Joseph Zehr and John P. Schmitt from 2 Cor. 5 and Heb. 4:11.

When daughter Mary and her husband moved to a different farm, John's cottage was jacked up on rails and pulled by a team of horses to the new location. John's eccentricities included visiting the home of his daughter and son-in-law to eat each meal alone, then returning to his shelter before the Beller family could sit down at table.

John Forney died of stomach cancer Dec. 26, 1908. His funeral was held in Bethel Methodist Church. At the time of his death he owned a substantial amount of land in Livingston County. His modest cottage was used as a storage shed until it was destroyed by fire in 1959. The original Graymont farm had grown to 1,200 acres. Divided into several farms, the property is still largely cultivated by his descendants.

They are buried in Pike Township Cemetery at Graymont, Livingston County. *Gospel Herald*, Jan. 16, 1909: "John Forney was born in France July 23, 1824, and died Dec. 26, 1908; aged 84 y. 5 m. 3 d. At ten years of age he emigrated to Canada, later to Pekin, Ill., and finally to Graymont, Ill. He was married to Elizabeth Kropp in 1855, who preceded him to the spirit world. Nine children were born to this union, five of which are still living. He also leaves 37 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren to mourn his departure."

Children of Jean Farny/John Forney and Elizabeth Kropp include:

1. Magdalena 'Lena' Forney was born July 7, 1856, and died at Pontiac, Livingston County Nov. 21, 1940. On Sept. 18, 1876 at Pike, Livingston County she married John Rich. He was born in France June 8, 1846, and died at Pontiac Nov. 18, 1921, a son of Jean Rich and Catherine Eicher. They are buried in Pike Cemetery.
2. Joseph Forney was born Aug. 7, 1858, and died at Graymont, Livingston County July 31, 1868. He is buried in Pike Cemetery.
3. Mary Forney was born at Elm Grove March 5, 1861, and died at Graymont Nov. 17, 1904. On Dec. 29, 1879 in Livingston County she married John Beller. He was born at Plaine, Lower Alsace (a location associated with the Ropp family) June 21, 1860, and died at Pontiac July 21, 1953, a son of Jacob Beller and Elizabeth Schirch. They lived at Yates, McLean County, and moved to Graymont in 1885. He remarried to Sarah Good in 1906; she was born in 1869 and died in 1967, a daughter of Joseph Guth and Katharine Stalter. They lived at Pontiac after 1917.
4. Elizabeth Forney was born Nov. 1 or 2, 1863, and died at Chenoa July 27, 1943. On Jan. 18, 1885 at Flanagan she married John Roszhart. He was born at Elm Grove Aug. 29, 1861, and died at Chenoa April 19, 1943, a son of Johannes Rosshardt and Crecenita Dierberger.
5. Aaron Forney was born April 18, 1865, and died in Livingston County June 9, 1941. On Jan. 22, 1889 at Danvers he married Mary B. King. She was born in McLean County Dec. 17, 1861, and died in Livingston County Jan. 12, 1942, a daughter of Christian King and Maria Baechler. They are buried in Pike Cemetery.

6. John Forney Jr. was born in Livingston County Jan. 23, 1867, and died at Flanagan, Livingston County Jan. 21, 1944. On July 5, 1892 at Danvers he married Mattie Kropf. She was born at Musselburg, Ontario May 5, 1872, and died in Livingston County May 12, 1944, a daughter of David Kropf and Magdalena Lichty. John remarried Jan. 23, 1907 to Fannie Zehr/Sears. She was born in Illinois Oct. 8, 1874, and died at Washington, Tazewell County July 31, 1964, a daughter of Christian Zehr and Jacobine Eigsti. They are buried in Pike Cemetery.

7. Andrew Forney was born at Livingston County Sept. 7, 1868, and died there Oct. 6, 1868. He is buried in Pike Cemetery.

8. Eva Forney was born at Graymont Oct. 26, 1871, and died there May 5, 1872.

9. Fannie Forney was born at Graymont June 7, 1874, and died at Esmen, Livingston County May 22, 1929. On Jan. 8, 1893 at Pekin she married her cousin Carl/Charles Fahsbender Jr. He was born at Elm Grove Dec. 24, 1872, and died at El Paso, Woodford County June 24, 1956, a son of Carl/Charles Fahsbender and his second wife widow Barbara Maurer (she had been married to André Kropp/Andrew Grubb Jr.). For background on this family see FAHSBENDER in the Appendix. They are buried in Pike Cemetery.

Magdalena Farny, the sister of Jean/John Forney, lived with Peter/Pierre Zehr and Barbara Roth in New York and Ontario. She was 'adopted,' though she retained her surname, while John was not.

She married Joseph L. Liechti, who was born at Largitzen, Upper Alsace (a location associated with the Ropp family) March 12, 1824. He was a son of Christian Liechti and Magdalena Litwiller. By 1851 his family had purchased a home in the Amish Mennonite settlement at Wilmot, Ontario. Joseph purchased this lot from his father in 1859. He became a minister of the Wilmot Amish Mennonite congregation and later the newly-organized Wellesley congregation.

Liechti died at Wilmot June 18, 1890. *Herald of Truth*, September 1890: "On the 18th of June, in Wilmot Twp., Waterloo Co., Ontario, Pre. Joseph L. Lichty, aged 65 years. He was a faithful laborer in the church and was in the ministry about 36 years. He leaves a sorrowing widow and 8 children, all married. On the 20th his mortal remains were consigned to their last resting place in Chr. Zehr's graveyard, on which occasion a very large number of friends and acquaintances met to look for the last time upon the face of him who had so often brought the sweet message of salvation. Funeral services by Joseph Ruby and John Gascho."

Magdalena Farny died at Wilmot Nov. 1, 1915. She and her husband are buried in the Amish Mennonite Society Cemetery there.

**Younger brother Johannes/Jean Risser**

Johannes/Jean Risser "...was a Frenchman and native of Lorraine. While a soldier of France, he met and afterwards married a German lady [Françoise Bergmann], who was born and reared in Germany." According to Cosco, son Christian later stressed that his father had served in one of the noncombatant roles permitted to conscientious objectors.

Françoise (also found as Veronika and Véronique) Bergmann was born near Neustadt in the Upper Pfalz in 1794 to parents Christophe Bergmann and Marguerite Häffner (both Swiss families). During the Napoleonic Wars Johannes/Jean must have served at Gerlfangen, just north of Moselle. Son Joseph was born there in 1814. Under Napoleon 'Gerlefingen' was within the extended boundaries of Moselle. Following the Treaty of Vienna in 1815 it became 'Guerlefangen' in the Saar region of Prussia; it is now known as Gerlfangen, Saarland, Germany.

Son Jean was born at the hamlet Singling within Gros-Réderching (approximately 40 miles to the southeast of Gerlfangen).

Jean and Françoise Bergmann were married in a civil ceremony at Gros-Réderching July 22, 1818, perhaps for legal recognition or inheritance rights for their two children. The details were documented in a two-page civil entry.227

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226 It is often difficult to discern how this surname should be spelled for a given individual. The Bernese Leichti family is found at Biglen, above Grosshochstetten. Many emigrated to Montbéliard, then migrated into Alsace and the Pfalz when restrictions relaxed. They became 'Liechty' in Alsatian civil records; many of those families changed the spelling to 'Lichti' in North America. Some of the families that came to Ontario reverted to 'Liechty' within a few generations.

227 Her marriage entry says that she was from 'Flosse' at Neustadt. There is no such village, and apparently 'Flosse,' which means 'fin,' describes the shape of a bend in the river next to the city. Neustadt is also called Neustadt an der Weinstrasse; it is an important trading center in the wine industry. The entire area was annexed by Napoleon in 1802.
Son Christian and daughter Marie Véronique were born at nearby Guebenhouse [Ger. Guebenhausen], Moselle in 1819 and 1821. The remaining children were all born at the hamlet Singling within Gros-Réderching. Nearby estates included Olfertding and Brandelfing, where Engel, NaZiger, and Schantz families held leases.

In 1827 the Rissers were employed on the farm Les Poquetets at St. Aout in the department of Indre, 170 miles south of Paris. The property was owned by Aimé Jacques Marie Constant de Moreton de Chabrillan (1780-1847), a former chamberlain and aide to Napoleon (see ROTH for background on de Chabrillan).

Father Johannes/Jean died after an accident during the construction of a building there July 21, 1828. The civil death entry found by Annette Surrault described him as laborer Jean Risser, 37, born at Sainsglin [Singling] but living at Poëtet [Poquetet farm], an employee of de Chabrillan. It named his wife as Françoise Bergman, and his parents as Joseph Risser and Marie Grob [Anne Marie Kropf]. It was witnessed by laborer Joseph Gerber, 60, living at St. Aout.

In 1830 the family relocated to properties at Lagny (now Les Lagnys), three miles northwest of St. Valentin.228 There they were employed by Marshal Henri Gatien Bertrand, the former aide-de-camp to Napoleon (see ROTH for background on Bertrand). In 1832 they were joined by other families including Roths, Mullers, Springers, and Zimmermans who later settled in Central Illinois.

Children of Johannes/Jean Risser and Francoise Bergman include:

1. Joseph Risser was born at what is now Gerlfangen, Saarland Oct. 5, 1814, according to a statement by his mother for her 1818 marriage document. Joseph later traveled with brothers John and Christian Reeser, eventually settling in Montgomery, Woodford County. He had four children, but his wife died during the birth of the last child. He died of yellow fever while visiting his sister Marie in New Orleans.

2. Jean/John Risser, also known as John Reeser, was born at the hamlet Singling within Gros-Réderching Oct. 9, 1817, and died Feb. 9, 1902. His headstone at Roanoke Mennonite Cemetery erroneously gives the birth date Oct. 15, 1811. On Feb. 27, 1838 at St. Valentin, Indre he married Catherine Zimmerman. She was born at Château-le-Vannes, Meurthe-et-Moselle April 17, 1820, died at Morton Oct. 1, 1864, and is buried in Guth Cemetery at Sunnydale in Washington as “Catharina Riser, wife of John.” She was the daughter of Michael Zimmerman and his first wife Barbara Roggy, and the niece of Verena (Zimmerman) Roth. Their civil marriage entry described the groom as laborer Jean Risser, 20, born at Gros-Réderching, Moselle Oct. 9, 1817 [his headstone at Roanoke Mennonite Cemetery erroneously says Oct. 15, 1811], a son of the deceased Jean Risser who had died in the canton Châteauroux, Indre July 21, 1828, and Reine Radimère [Françoise Bergmann], a day laborer at St. Valentin. The bride was described as Catherine Zimmerman, 18, born at Vannes, Meurthe, a daughter of cultivator Michel Zimmerman and the deceased Barbe Roggine [Roggy]. Witnesses included Jean Buré, 34, day laborer at St. Valentin and stepfather of the groom; Jean Ponnroy, 50, friend; Michel Zimmerman, 59, father of the bride; and Jean Miller [Johannes Müller], 53. They arrived at New Orleans in 1939 with brother Christian. Their household is found on the 1850 census of Liberty, Indiana as farmer John Riser, 32, France; Catharine, 30, France; Joseph, 12, France; Fanny, 7, Ohio; John, 4, Indiana; and Catharine, 2, Indiana.

3. Christian Risser/Reeser was born at Guebenhouse, Moselle Sept. 19, 1819.

4. Marie Véronique/Mary Risser was born at Guebenhouse July 5, 1821, and died at New Orleans in 1864. She married Paul Deutsch at New Orleans, and worked with him in a tailor shop. Although Cosco lists her children as Eugene, Elizabeth, Clara, and Isabelle, the Louisiana Birth Index is more specific, listing the parents as Paul Deutsch and Marie Risser: Eugenius, Jan. 17, 1843; Elizabeth, Feb. 1, 1845; Maria Catherine, March 3, 1847, died May 21, 1854; Mathilda Clementine, April 29, 1849; Eva Isabella, May 16, 1851; and Josephine Caroline, May 24, 1854.

5. Madeleine Risser (twin) was born at the hamlet Singling July 14, 1825, and died there July 18, 1826. “At 9 a.m. on July 14; 1825, Jean Rissert, 35 and unskilled, came to me, Jean Breger, mayor and official of the civil administration of Guebenhause, District of Sarreguemines, Department of Moselle. He presented a female child born at 11 a.m., July 13 in his home in Guebhauenhouse. He and Véronique Bergmann his wife choose to name the child Madelaine. This declaration and presentation was made in the presence of Nicholas Hubant, 29 and living in Puttelange, and Henry Guengrich, a 49-year-old cultivator living in Farschviller.”

6. André Risser (twin) was born at the hamlet Singling July 15, 1825, and died at St. Aout, France April 10, 1830. His civil death entry was signed by laborer André Rhodes [Andrew Roth] of Chanteloube farm at Mers-sur-Indre, and laborer Pierre Zer [Peter Zehr].

Annette Surrault found an 1836 census of Lagny, St. Valentin. It shows Christian Risser/Reeser with his friend Nicolas Mourer/Nicholas Maurer; they are listed after the Zimmerman family, and before the Müller family. Both families came to Woodford County.

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228 Cosco calls the farm Bursch, but this is simply a German word for 'student.'
Widow Françoise Bergmann remarried to day laborer Johannes Bauer/Jean Buré before Feb. 27, 1838 (the marriage date of her son Jean).

The last families departed from the area of St. Valentin in 1839.

Cosco wrote that in 1839 Christian traveled to America with his brothers John (presumably accompanied by his wife Catherine Zimmerman) and Joseph and sister Marie. Cosco wrote that the males were avoiding compulsory military training, and that Christian stowed away and paid his fare at sea. The story goes that they originally intended to land in Canada, but their ship was blown off course and arrived in New Orleans in the summer of 1839. The brothers traveled up the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers by flatboat, while Marie remained in New Orleans and married tailor Paul Deutsch.

Christian's obituary says that he came to New Orleans in 1839 with his brother Jean/John (presumably accompanied by his wife Catherine Zimmerman) and friend Nicolas Mourer/Nicholas Maurer.

Passenger lists were created before the debarkation, and there is no reason that the group would not be found on one. Yet no list has been identified that might verify the accounts. Presumably the young men did not give their correct names. It is understandable that as a minister Christian Reeser would have been reluctant to pass down details of his illegal entry into the country.

Christian declared his intent to become a citizen as 'Christian Risser' at Hamilton Courthouse in Butler County, Ohio in September 1840. The group he came with is listed under John Stecker/Staker's information.

According to Cosco, Christian and his brothers worked on the farm of a 'Mr. Schertz' in Butler County. This was probably the Madison farm of John Schertz, the brother of John Stecker/Staker's wife Barbara Schertz. Schertz bought, developed, and sold a number of land parcels over the years (in many cases in partnership with John Stecker/Staker). John Schertz, Peter Iutzi, Elias Kumler, Christian Augspurger, and minister Joseph Goldsmith all appear on the 1840 census of Madison.

The Risser brothers later accumulated savings by working for Kumler. Kumler's farm is shown on the 1836 plat map of Madison; it was approximately one mile south of the farm where Joseph Stecker/Staker and Frena Roth lived from 1841/42 until 1854. In October 1842 the Reesers purchased 320 acres at Liberty, Delaware County, Indiana from Kumler for $1,240.229 Christian followed his older brother John there in 1847.

Their stepfather Jean Buré and mother Françoise Bergman followed them to America some time between 1847 and 1850.

The family can be found living in two dwellings on the 1850 census of Liberty. The first is the home of Christian 'Reser,' 30, a farmer born in France with $1,000 in property; living with him are John Bower [stepfather Jean Buré], 52, described as a farmer born in France, and his wife Fanny [Françoise Bergmann], 54, born in Germany. The second dwelling holds the family of John 'Reser,' 32, farmer from France with $1,000 in property; wife Catharin, 30, born in France; Joseph, 12, born in France [this must have occurred just before their departure]; Fanny, 7, born in Ohio; John, 4, born in Indiana; and Catharin, 2, born in Indiana.

Christian Reeser's mother Françoise Bergmann died at Liberty after the 1850 census. In 1852 John Bower remarried to Catherine Sommer, the widow of Christian/Chrétien Zimmerman. They are found on the Milford census in 1860 as John Bower, 57, France; Barbaray, 65, France [it is not clear why Catherine was called Barbe or Barbara at a number of points in her life, including the birth entries of two children]; and Catherine Zimmerman, 29, France [Catherine/Barbara’s daughter]. By 1870 John was a widower.

Christian and Barbara traveled to Collinsville in Butler County to be married by minister Nicholas Augspurger before the Hessian congregation March 23, 1852. Augspurger's journal listing their ceremony, copied verbatim into Grubb's History of the Mennonites of Butler County, Ohio, describes them as 'Boor and Barbara Zimmerman.' (Christian was the stepson of John Bower at the time). At the same meeting, Augspurger performed the ceremony of Jacob Zimmerman of the Milford family and Catherine 'Katie' Unzicker. Christian and Barbara then returned to Indiana, where they had a civil ceremony performed at Muncie April 15, 1852.

229 Banker, merchant and farmer Elias 'Liz' Kumler was born Oct. 21, 1809 in Brednocks Township, Berks County, Pennsylvania, a son of bishop Johannes Heinrich Kumler and Susanna Wingart [Wenger]. The family moved to Greenscliffe, Pennsylvania the following year, and to Butler County in 1819. The 1860 census of Oxford in Butler County shows the enormous wealth of Elias Kumler and wife Anna Elizabeth Clippinger: $20,000 in land and $70,000 in personal property, at a time when most farmers averaged about $3,000 together. He died in 1873. His Gothic Revival house built in 1856 at 120 S. Main Street in Oxford is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.
She was born at Lörrach, Baden April 4, 1830, a daughter of Johannes/John Zimmerman and Anna Schneider. Although family notes originating from Katharine Zimmerman (Mrs. John A. Zimmerman) say they came to Indiana in 1849, the Zimmermans do not appear on the 1850 census, and their children gave their own immigration date as 1851 on later censuses.

Apparently Christian and Barbara fell victim to a land swindle in 1853. Christian may have been illiterate. While they thought they were only accepting an offered price, Barbara signed a receipt: “Christian Reeser and his wife Barbara Reeser to the Cincinnati, New Castle and Michigan Railroad Company for $2,400 on October 8, 1853, 120 acres.” No payment was received, but Christian felt it was against his moral principles to contest the document in court.

The Reeser family continued on to Woodford County by covered wagon in 1857. Perhaps they were taking advantage of the tremendous devaluation of plains land caused by the Financial Panic of 1857. Christian eventually owned 296 acres at Eureka, Montgomery Township, including a two-story house, large barn, summer kitchen, woodshed, smokehouse, hog shed, and other outbuildings.

They can be found in the 1860 census of Montgomery Township: Christian 'Reasar', 41, farmer from France; Barbara, 30, from Baden; John, 6, born in Indiana; Anna, 5, born in Indiana; Joseph, 3, born in Indiana; Christian, 1, born in Illinois; and niece Josephine 'Reasar', 14, born in Ohio. The 1880 census shows Christian Reeser or 'Reesor,' a 61-year-old farmer, and his wife Barbara, 50. He said his birthplace was France, and his parents were born in France and Germany; she said hers was Baden, and both parents were born in Baden.

Barbara died at Eureka March 26, 1903. Christian died at Eureka Jan. 14, 1923, and was buried in Roanoke Mennonite Cemetery at Roanoke next to Barbara. Gospel Herald, Feb. 21, 1923: “Christian Reeser was a native of Alsace, Lorraine, (Sangamese) [the administrative district of Sarreguemines] which at the time of his birth was a part of France. He was born Sept. 15, 1819, a son of French and German parents. His father, whose name was John, was a Frenchman and native of Lorraine. While a soldier in France he met and afterwards married a German lady, who was born and reared in Germany. The father died while comparatively young, at the age of thirty-five years. [More likely in 1835, when he would have been 44 years old]. His widow came to America and settled in Indiana, at which place she was laid to rest, at the age of sixty years. To this union were born four children, John, Joseph and Mary deceased; Christian, the subject of this sketch, being the only one living. [Note that youngest son André is omitted]. He was reared in France and educated in the French language, but, as usual in those border provinces, he also learned to speak German. While a boy his occupation was herding sheep. In 1839, at the age of twenty years, he came to America with his brother John and a friend, Nicklos Murrier [Nicholas Maurer]. The voyage was made in a sailing vessel, 45 days being spent on the Atlantic. He located on a farm in Butler County, Ohio. Thirteen years later, at the age of thirty-three years, in Delaware County, Ind., he was married to Miss Barbara Zimmerman, a native of Baden, Germany. To this union were born thirteen children; Joseph and Andrew deceased. The living are: John P. Reeser and Mrs. Fannie S. Ulrich of Nampa, Ida.; C. B. Reeser and Mrs. Anna D. Ulrich of Eureka, Ill.; Jacob of Albany, Oreg.; Mrs. Barbara B. Ummel of Reeds, Mo.; Samuel of Goodfield, Ill.; Mrs. Wm. Plaag of Peoria, Ill.; and Peter E. of Seattle, Wash. There are also 82 grandchildren and 101 great-grandchildren. Christian Reeser came to Montgomery Township, Woodford Co., Ill., in 1858 from Delaware Co., Ind. by wagon immigration. In 1895 he decided to quit farming and in doing so moved to Eureka, Ill., at which place he lived ten years. In 1903, at the age of seventy-two, his wife died. He then made his home in Missouri, with his daughter, Mrs. Ulrich, and came back to Illinois with her about four years later. In 1867 he was called to the ministry in the Mennonite Church, with which he united when a young man. He experienced pioneer experiences in the work of the ministry. Years ago his services were used largely in the community at large for funerals. His period in the ministry was 56 years. When he was 100 years old he spoke the last time. He enjoyed his work greatly, and his death was appropriately on the Lord's Day, for that is the day he appreciated most. He passed away on Sunday, Jan. 14, 1923. His age was 103 y. 3 m. 29 d. The funeral was held on Jan. 17. The church was crowded beyond capacity. Bro. Andrew Schrock preached in German on II Tim. 4:7, 8. Bro. Clayton F. Derstine preached in English on Acts 13:36. Bros. Sam Gerber and Valentine Strubhar assisted in the service. Peace to his ashes.”

Those who would like to learn more about Christian Reeser can visit the Mennonite Heritage Center in Germantown Hills, where the Cosco biography is available. A number of personal relics are on display, including the suit he used to perform weddings and the clothing trunk he brought to America. The adjacent arboretum was donated and dedicated in his honor by Reeser descendants.

Children of Christian Reeser and Barbara Zimmerman include:

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230 Nicholas Maurer can be found on the same census page: Nicholas Maurer, 38, farmer from France; Mary [Bechler], 31, born in France; and Catherine, one month, born in Illinois.
1. **John Reeser** was born in Indiana March 13, 1853, and died at Nampa, Idaho March 13, 1929. In 1878 he married Phoebe Miller. She was born at Danvers May 8, 1859, and died at Nampa March 19, 1949, a daughter of Jacob Miller and Mary Birckelbaw. They can be found on the 1880 census of Montgomery.

2. **Anne Marie/Anne Mary/Anna Reeser** was born at Muncie, Indiana Dec. 17, 1855, and died at Eureka Oct. 12, 1941. On Oct. 22, 1874 she married David Ulrich. He was born near East Peoria July 29, 1850, and died at Eureka July 7, 1934, a son of Peter Ulrich and Anna Oyer. *Gospel Herald*, March 1941: "Ulrich. - Anna, daughter of Christian and Barbara Reeser, was born near Muncie, Ind., Dec. 17, 1854; died at her home in Eureka, Ill., Oct. 12, 1941; aged 86 y. 9 m. 26 d. At the age of three she came to Woodford Co., Ill., in a covered wagon with her parents. The Reeser homestead was established along the Mackinaw River where she lived until her marriage to David Ulrich, Oct. 22, 1874. All their married life, with the exception of six years at Garden City, Mo, were lived in Woodford Co., in the vicinities of Eureka and Metamora. Having retired from the farm, they moved to Eureka in 1919. In 1934 her husband passed away. They were blessed with 11 children, all of whom survive the passing of their mother. They are: Barbara Schertz, Eureka; Anna; at home; Christian M., Eureka; Emma Schertz, Fisher; Peter N., Eureka; Elizabeth Schertz, Falfurrias, Texas; Fannie Schrock, David, Ella Schertz, Emmanuel, and Viola Harnish, all of Eureka. In her youth, she united with the Mennonite Church, in which she was a devoted and faithful member all her life. She enjoyed good health until she took sick about eleven months ago. She was very active and found much enjoyment in the duties of home life, and in association with her many neighbors and acquaintances. Much appreciated were the loving remembrances of friends and relatives shown to her during her illness. She especially loved the timber and the beauties of nature, visiting often the vicinity of her childhood home on the Mackinaw. She was a loving mother and grandmother to her 11 children, 47 grandchildren and 33 great-grandchildren. She also leaves 2 sisters (Mrs. Lena Plaag of Peoria, Ill., and Mrs. Barbara Ummel of Reeds, Mo.), and 5 brothers (Jacob of Albany, Oreg.; Peter of Seattle, Wash.; Sam of Goodfield, Ill.; and Ben and David of Congerville, Ill.). One sister and 4 brothers preceded her in death. Funeral services were held Oct. 14, at the home and at the Roanoke Mennonite Church conducted by Bro. Ezra Yordy, assisted by Bro. H. R. Schertz and Bro. Lee Lantz. Interment in church cemetery." See ULRICH for David's obituary.

3. **Joseph Reeser** was born at Liberty, Indiana Aug. 18, 1857, and died at Eureka, Ill. Nov. 21, 1895. On Feb. 9, 1888 he married Emma Baker. She was born at Eureka Sept. 26, 1866, and died at Peoria July 13, 1945, a daughter of Jacob Baker and Elizabeth Bradle. They lived at Danvers, and are buried in Olio Cemetery.

4. **Christian B. Reeser** was born at Eureka March 7, 1859, died Oct. 28, 1940, and is buried in Roanoke Mennonite Cemetery. On Jan. 24, 1884 at Eureka he married Dora Householder. She was born at Worth Feb. 6, 1861, and died at Eureka April 10, 1935. *Gospel Herald*, April 1935: "Dora (Householder) Reeser was born in Woodford Co., Ill., Feb. 6, 1861; died at her home, Eureka, Ill., April 10, 1935, after an illness of one day which developed into bronchial pneumonia; aged 74 y. 2 m. 4 d. She was married to Christian Reeser Jan. 24, 1884. To this union were born 4 sons and 7 daughters. One daughter preceded her in death in infancy. Surviving her are her sorrowing life companion, 4 sons and 6 daughters (Debolt of Benson, Clara Heiser of Peoria, Barbara Heiser of Eureka, Katy Ackerman of Washington, Florence Kinsinger of Carlock, William of Peoria, Chris of Benson, Emma Rastetter of Eureka, Henry of Jacksonville, Anna Buck of Washington). At the death of her eldest son's wife she mothered their 4 children, 3 of whom survive. She is also survived by 19 grandchildren, 5 great-grandchildren, 1 sister (Anna Kamp of Eureka), 2 brothers (Debolt of Eureka and Joseph of Fairbury), and a host of relatives and friends. She united with the Mennonite Church in her youth at Washington, and remained faithful to the end. She was of a quiet, patient, and loving disposition. She never enjoyed the best of health but exercised great patience and never complained her lot in life. The funeral services were held April 13 at the home conducted by Buns and Esch, and at the Roanoke Mennonite Church by Ezra Yordy and Val. Strubhar."

5. **Veronica 'Fannie' Reeser** was born at Eureka April 25, 1861, and died March 29, 1937. In January 1878 she married Samuel Ulrich. He was born Jan. 12, 1855, and died Dec. 20, 1936, a son of Peter Ulrich and Anna Oyer. They lived near Bloomington and later at Albany, Oregon.

6. **Barbara Reeser** was born at Eureka June 2, 1863, and died March 22, 1946. On Dec. 2, 1882 she married Benjamin 'Ben' Ummel. He was born in Switzerland circa 1859, and died in 1936. He was naturalized in McLean County Oct. 22, 1888. In 1910 they were living with three children at McDonald, Avilla County, Missouri. They are found on the 1930 census of Jasper, Avilla County, Missouri as Ben Ummel, 71, born in Switzerland to Swiss parents, immigrated 1881; and Barbara, 66, born in Illinois to a father from France and a mother from Germany. They are buried in Avilla Cemetery.

7. **Jacob Reeser** was born at Eureka July 30, 1865, and died at Albany, Oregon Oct. 14, 1941. Jacob was an engineer in Arkansas before moving to Oregon. In August 1889 he married Mary Nofziger. She was born at Pettisville, Ohio March 20, 1869, died at Albany Dec. 5, 1932, a daughter of Christian Nofziger and Magdalena Yoder. They are buried in Riverside Cemetery at Albany. *Gospel Herald*, January 1933: "Mary (Nofiger) Reeser, wife of Jacob Reeser, was born at Archbold, Ohio, March 20, 1869; died at her home at Albany, Oreg., Dec. 5, 1932; aged 63 y. 8 m. 16 d. She was married to Jacob Reeser in August 1889. To this union were born eight sons and three daughters. She leaves her husband and all her children as follows: Simon and Dewey of Van Nuys, Calif.; William, Jessica, Edwin, Cecil, Ray, Walter, Mrs. Lena Erb, Mrs. Jennie Erb, and Mrs. Marie Widmer, all of Albany; also 33 grandchildren, five brothers, three sisters, and many other relatives and friends. She was in failing health for several..."
months. She bore her suffering patiently and cheerfully, which was characteristic of her life. She accepted Christ when a young woman, united with the Mennonite Church, to which she has remained faithful to the end. Funeral services were held Dec. 8 at her late home and at the Grace Mennonite church, by W. Harley King, assisted by N. A. Lind." Following Mary's death Jacob remarried to Sara Shoemaker.

8. Samuel Reeser was born at Eureka April 21, 1867, and died in 1942. In 1892 he married Francis Reel, who was born in 1872, and died in 1960. They lived at Montgomery. They are buried under a joint headstone in the Apostolic Christian Cemetery at Congerville.

9. Magdalena Reeser was born at Eureka May 1, 1869, and died March 13, 1953. In Fulton County June 2, 1921 she became the second wife of William Plaag. He was born at Peoria circa 1886. William is found on the 1910 and 1920 censuses of Peoria with a wife Emma, born circa 1883. William and Magdalena are found on the 1930 census of Peoria as William, 46, born in Illinois to parents from Illinois; and Lena, 60, born in Illinois to a father from France and a mother from Germany.

10. Benjamin E. Reeser was born at Eureka Oct. 16, 1871, and died at Bloomington Aug. 7, 1955. On Jan. 31, 1899 he married Clara M. Reel [Riehl]. She was thought to have been born at what is now Congerville July 18, 1883, and died at Eureka Nov. 19, 1935 (though her headstone gives the dates 1882-1934). They lived in Arkansas but returned to Illinois to live at Congerville, and are buried in Imhoff Cemetery.

11. David Reeser was born at Eureka Nov. 28, 1873, and died at Congerville March 19, 1954. On Dec. 28, 1898 at Congerville he married Ellen B. Miller. She was born at Danvers March 7, 1873, and died Dec. 25, 1944, a daughter of Jacob Miller and Mary Birckelbaw. They lived at Congerville and are buried in Imhoff Cemetery there.

12. Andrew Reeser (twin) was born at Eureka May 1, 1877, and died in August 1877.

13. Peter Elmer Reeser (twin) was also born at Eureka May 1, 1877, and died at Miami, Texas Oct. 10, 1963. In 1899 he married Eva Roberts. She was born in Eureka circa 1881, and died in 1932. Peter remarried to Clara Vogel. They lived at Seattle, Washington.

### Peter/Pierre Risser

Farmer and day laborer Peter/Pierre Risser, born between 1762 and 1768, is only known to us through two civil entries. He may have been a younger brother to Joseph Risser/Reisser.

He married Catherine Stücker/Stecker, who was also born circa 1768. Circumstances suggest that she was a daughter of Adrian Anthoni Stücker/Antoine Stecker and Marie Müller. However, the connection cannot be proven with available evidence.

Catherine died on Stockbronn farm at Éguelshardt, Moselle (18 miles east of the hamlet Singling within Gros-Réderching) March 24, 1816. Her civil death entry described the widower as Peter Risser, 48 [thus born circa 1768], a farm equipment operator on Stockbronn farm at Éguelshardt.

The last mention of Peter/Pierre Risser was the 1819 civil death entry of his son Chrétien. It described Pierre as a 57-year-old [thus born circa 1762] day laborer on Morauville farm at Rimling (six miles northeast of the hamlet Singling). He signed ‘Peter Risser.’

Children of Peter/Pierre Risser and Catherine Stücker/Stecker include:

1. Joseph Risser was born circa 1792, and died at Gondrexon, Meurthe-et-Moselle Oct. 11, 1857. On Dec. 31, 1818 at Nitting he married Madeleine Zehr. She was born circa 1792, and died at Gondrexon June 15, 1868, a daughter of Christian Zehr and Fremi Martin. Their children include:
   a. Catherine Risser was born at Hesse, Moselle (Hesse is located two miles above Nitting) in 1823, and died March 26, 1837.
   b. Joseph Risser was born at Hesse, Moselle May 22, 1824. He married Madeleine Vercler in 1849, becoming her third husband. She was born at Herbéville, Meurthe-et-Moselle March 24, 1817, a daughter of Jacob Vercler and Marie Brechbühl. Her first husband could not be identified; the second was Jean Springer.
   c. Barbe Risser was born at Hesse, Moselle Oct. 5, 1826, and died at Wilmot, Ontario Feb. 13, 1903. She married Jean Kennel. He was born at Macheren, Moselle July 14, 1825, and died at East Zorra, Ontario July 21, 1904, a son of Jean Kennel and Elisabeth Saltzmann. They settled on Lot 28E at East Zorra, Ontario. They are buried in the East Zorra Mennonite Cemetery.
   d. Jean Risser was born at Hesse, Moselle Nov. 24, 1828.
   e. Madeleine Risser was born at Fraquelfing, Moselle June 3, 1833. On May 24, 1859 at Gondrexon she became the second wife of Jean Schrag/Schrack. He was born at Bénestroff Jan. 29, 1815, a son of Simon Schrag and Anne Suisse/Schweitzer. Jean was previously married to Madeleine Sommer.
   f. Pierre Risser was born at Gondrexon April 24, 1838. On April 2, 1878 he married Catherine Gerrard.

2. Madeleine Risser was born circa 1792, and died at Gros-Réderching May 3, 1799.

3. Catherine Risser was born at Gros-Réderching Nov. 21, 1795.
4. Barbe Risser was born at Singling March 25, 1800. On Jan. 9, 1826 at Haboudange she married Jean Sommer (1803-1871). They had five children. Only one of them came to America: Anna Sommer was born Feb. 20, 1841, and died at Fairbury, Livingston County April 23, 1926. On Dec. 17, 1866 at Yates Township, McLean County she married Peter Garber. He was born as Pierre Guerber (as found in the text of the civil birth entry) at Saulxures-lès-Nancy, Meurthe-et-Moselle July 4, 1839 (his headstone says July 22), and died at Fairbury March 26, 1914, a son of Pierre Gerber/Peter Garber and Barbara Saltzmann. His civil birth entry describes his parents as cultivator Pierre Guerber, 28, living at Saulxures, and Barbe Salsmann, 24. It was witnessed by paternal uncle and cultivator Joseph Guerber, 34, of Saulxures. Both the father and his brother signed with the spelling 'Gesber.' In 1852 Peter immigrated with his parents, who settled in Big Lick Township, Hancock County, Ohio, where his father opened a blacksmith shop. Anna and Peter are found on the 1900 census of Fairbury City, Indian Grove Township, Livingston County, where their years of immigration are both given as 1852. They are buried in Graceland Cemetery at Fairbury.

5. Chrétien Risser was born circa 1805, and died at Rimling Jan. 22, 1819. The death entry reads, “Death today of Chrétien Risser, 13, son of Pierre Risser and the deceased Catherine Stücker. Witness Pierre Risser, 57, day laborer on Morauville farm at Rimling, father of the deceased.” Peter Risser signed the entry.

Jean Risser/Riser

Jean Risser/Riser married Marie Schneider.

Their son Jean Risser/Riser was born at Rahling circa 1771. On March 30, 1799 at Rohrbach lès Bitche, Moselle he married Madeleine Schantz. She died at Bettviller, Moselle Jan. 7, 1845, a daughter of Christian Schantz and Anne Rubi. (Recall that three of her siblings married children of Joseph Risser and Anne Marie Kropf).

Their son Christian/Chrétien Risser was born at Rahling, Moselle July 6, 1807, and died at Epping, Moselle March 11, 1842.

On Nov. 29, 1830 at Rahling he married Anne/Anna Roggy. She was born on the Waderhof at Lorentzen Oct. 14, 1805, and died at Panola, Woodford County Aug. 14, 1882, a daughter of Johannes/Jean Roggy (he wrote his own name 'Johannes Roggy') and Catherine Birki.231

Her daughter’s obituary says that as a widow Anne/Anna took her four children to live with an uncle at Zweibrücken, Bavaria. That uncle was almost certainly Andreas/André Roggy on the Offweilerhof.

According to a son’s 1900 census report, the family immigrated in 1853.

The household of daughter Catherine Risser and her husband Christian Ruvenacht is found on the 1880 census of Panola. Mother Anne/Anna Roggy Risser and brother Valentine Risser were living with them: Christian Ruvenacht, 46, born in Prussia to Prussian parents [Alsace-Lorraine was occupied 1870-1918]; Catherin, 45, born in Prussia to Prussian parents; Annie, 14, Illinois; Barbara, 12, Illinois; Solomon, 7, Illinois; Valentine Risser, brother-in-law, 47, Prussia; and Annie Risser, 77, mother-in-law, Prussia.

The headstone of Anne/Anna in Baughman Cemetery says, “Annie Risser, died April 14, 1882, aged 79 yrs, 6 mos.”

Children of Christian/Chrétien Risser and Anne/Anna Roggy include:

1) Jean/John Risser was born at Rahling Oct. 9, 1831, and died at El Paso March 11, 1869. On March 11, 1856 in Woodford County he married Anne/Anna Farny. The application called them 'John Resser' and 'Ann Forney.' She was born at Buhl-Lorraine, Moselle May 10, 1831, and died at El Paso Dec. 12, 1911, a daughter of Jean Farny and Catherine Gerber. Her family had arrived on the Belle Assise with Christian Ruvenacht in 1853. Jean/John and Anna lived at Spring Bay, and relocated to Roanoke in 1860. As a widow Anna moved to El Paso to live with a daughter in 1910. Herald of Truth, April 1869: “On the 11th of March in Woodford County, John Risser, aged 37 years, five months, and three days. He was a member of the Omish Mennonite Church. Funeral addresses were delivered by Jacob Naftziger and Christian Risser from I Cor. 15.” Gospel Herald, January 1912: “Anna Farney was born in Beil, France, Apr. 20, 1832; died at El Paso, Ill., Dec. 12, 1911, aged 79 yr. 7 m. 22 d. She was united in marriage Mar. 11, 1856, to John Risser. To this union were born eight children, of whom five survive, all being present at time of death. Soon after marriage they moved on a farm near Springbay, Ill., living there a few years and then in 1860 moved on a farm near Roanoke, Ill., and lived there until 1899, when she moved to Roanoke. In 1910 she with her daughter, Mrs. Mattie Belsley, moved to El Paso, Ill. She united with the Mennonite Church in her youth and has been a faithful and devoted member ever since. She leaves to mourn her departure two sons, three daughters, one brother, 15 grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren. Funeral services at the Roanoke Church Dec. 14. Bro. P.D.

231 A number of sources mistakenly say she was the wife of Joseph Guingrich; this is incorrect, and arose out of confusion over another much younger couple.
Schertz spoke from *Psa. 90:15, 16*, and Bro. I.W. Royer from *Psa. 16:11*. Interment in nearby cemetery. John and Anna are buried in Roanonke Mennonite Cemetery.

2) Valentin/Valentine Risser was born at Bourscheid, Moselle June 13, 1833, and died in Woodford County Nov. 25, 1908. He is found on the 1860 census of Montgomery Township, and on the 1880 census of Panola. He is buried in Baughman Cemetery.

3) Catherine Risser was born at Bourscheid June 8, 1835, and died at Panola April 14, 1882. On Sept. 1, 1864 in Woodford County she married Chrétien Rouvenacht/Christian Ruvenacht. He was born at Asswiller Dec. 26, 1834, and died at Graymont, Livingston County Dec. 11, 1904, a son of Christian Rouvenacht and Anne Rediger. See RUVENACHT for more on this couple.

4) Joseph W. Risser was born at Bourscheid April 16, 1838, and died at Washington, Tazewell County Aug. 22, 1906. On March 26, 1863 in Woodford County he married Barbara Nafziger. The application called them 'Joseph Resser' and 'Barbary Nafziner.' She was born at Washington April 30, 1843, and died Dec. 18, 1918, a daughter of elder Jean/John Nafziger and Anne Marie Gerber. They are found on the 1870 census of Washington as farmer Joseph Risser, 32, France; Barbary, 27, Illinois; John, 6, Illinois; Christian, 4, Illinois; Peter, 3, Illinois; Elizabeth Noffziger, 22, Illinois; and farm laborer Rudolphe [illegible], 35, Germany. They also appear on the 1880 and 1900 censuses of Washington. They are buried in Glendale Cemetery.
Maurer: Mourer of Hattigny

A Mûrer or Maurer is a mason, stone fitter, or brick layer. This surname appears in Bernese records as Mûrer, and in French records as Mourer. The 1682 Mosestafel tableau in the Protestant Reformed Church at Steffisburg has a coats-of-arms board [Ger. Wappentafel] for Andres Mûrer. It shows a Gothic stone wall.

Peter/Pierre Maurer was born circa 1745, and died at Fénétrange, Moselle Nov. 27, 1824. He may have signed his own name Mûrer, as his son Nicolas did. He married Marie Barbe Risser. She was born circa 1750, and died at Fénétrange Aug. 24, 1820. They lived on Risholtz farm at Hattigny, Moselle from at least 1787 to 1795. From 1798 until their deaths they farmed on Broudergarten farm at Fénétrange.

Their children include:

1. Véronique Mourer was born on Risholtz farm at Hattigny circa 1784, and died at Fénétrange Feb. 16, 1816. On July 11, 1810 at Fénétrange she married widower Joseph Sommer. He was born at Bust, Lower Alsace July 15, 1780, and died at Ratzwiller, Lower Alsace Sept. 25, 1835, a son of Jacques Sommer and Catherine Springer. His first wife had been Madelein Martin (see MARTIN).

2. Catherine Mourer was born on Risholtz farm at Hattigny circa 1787, and died at Washington in 1845. On Jan. 20, 1800 at Fribourg, Moselle (an entry made at Rhodes) she married Christian Nafziger. He was born at Waltenbourg, Moselle Jan. 20, 1779, and died at St. Jean-Kourzerode, Moselle May 27, 1829, a son of Christian Nafziger and Catherine Sommer. As a widow Catherine and her children sailed from Le Havre on the Marengo, arriving at New Orleans Nov. 25, 1837. They settled at Washington, Tazewell County. See NAFZIGER, THE NAFZIGERS OF WASHINGTON for more on this family.

3. Pierre Mourer/Peter Maurer was born on Risholtz farm at Hattigny March 24, 1787 (headstone date), and died at Bloomington, McLean County Jan. 2, 1873.

4. Marie Mourer was born on Risholtz farm at Hattigny circa 1793, and died at Oppen, Germany Dec. 6, 1857. On Aug. 23, 1820 at Neufgrange, Sarreguemines she married Joseph Blaser. He was born at Bisten-en-Lorraine, Moselle in 1790, and died there Jan. 7, 1845, a son of Jean Blaser and Marie Ann Gerber.

5. Nicolas Mourer was born on Risholtz farm at Hattigny Feb. 10, 1794, and died at St. Valentin, Indre in central France Sept. 19, 1834.

6. Barbe Mourer/Barbara Maurer was born on Albéschaux Farm at Fribourg, Moselle Feb. 3, 1798. On May 5, 1818 at Sarrebourg Hof she married Joseph Springer. He was born in the Mattmuhl at Sarrebourg May 5 or 15, 1791, and son of miller Jorg/George Springer and Madeleine Virckler. Marriage witnesses included Christian Springer, 25, and Pierre Springer, 22, brothers of the groom; and Pierre Maurer, 28, and Nicolas Maurer, 25, brothers of the bride. See SPRINGER for more on this couple.

PIERRE MOURER/PETER MAURER

Pierre Mourer/Peter Maurer was born on Risholtz farm at Hattigny, Moselle March 24, 1787 (headstone date), and died at Bloomington, McLean County Jan. 2, 1873.

On Oct. 28, 1823 at Fénétrange he married Marie Sommer. She was born on Guindrimont farm at Bertrambois, Meurthe-et-Moselle Dec. 23, 1797, and died at Bloomington, McLean County Aug. 16, 1880, a daughter of Joseph Sommer and Elisabeth Gerber. The civil entry described Pierre as a cultivator on Risholtz farm at Hattigny. His younger brother Nicolas Mourer was a witness.

The family may have sailed from Le Havre on the Science, and arrived at New Orleans June 14, 1830. The National Archives does not have a copy of this passenger list. All that survives are index cards kept in the Index of U.S. Passenger Arrivals, which are no better than third- or fourth-hand transcriptions. They document farmer Peter Mourere, 42, Switzerland, destination Cincinnati; Ms. Moureue, 31, Switzerland; A. [female], 8; Marie, 6; and Pauline, 4. If this is the family – and it is possible because there were few passengers coming into New Orleans from Le Havre at this early date – the names and ages of the children are completely wrong.232

Portrait and Biographical Album of McLean County (1887): "They were married in France in 1825, and in 1830 came to the United States and located in Butler County, Ohio. They remained there eight years, and thence removed to Woodford County, Ill., where Mr. M. purchased 160 acres of land and where both ... resided until his death." This roughly agrees with the idea that Peter and his family came to Central Illinois only after his initial land purchase. In 1837 he bought 160 acres in Sections 26 and 27 of McLean County from Isaac and Polly Stout. The

original property lines can be found on the 1873 plat map of Woodford County as the farm of oldest son Joseph Maurer, within the southern boundary of Woodford County.

The 1840 census of McLean County shows the household of Peter Morey [Maurer] next door to John Stroup [Strubhar]: one male 50-59 years of age; one male 10-14; one male 5-9; one male under 5; one female 40-49; and one female 10-14.

In 1843 Peter provided land at Congerville for a cemetery; this is now the Peter Maurer Cemetery.

The Illinois Public Land Tract Sales Database indicates that 'Peter Murer' purchased parcels of 80 and 40 acres for 63 cents per acre in Section 16, Township 25N of Woodford County March 19, 1846.

Their household appears on the 1850 census of District 56 (Woodford County) as farmer Peter Mooney, 63, France; Mary, 53, France; Joseph, 23, France; John, 11, Illinois; Catharine, 9, Illinois; and Barbara Donner, 6, Illinois. They lived next door to Joseph Gerber and Magdalena Sommer, who appear on the census as Joseph Gerber, 45, Ohio; Lenah, 36, Ohio; their six children born in Ohio; and Catharine Gingry, 13.

They appear on the 1860 census of Montgomery Township, Woodford County as Peter Maurer, 73, born in France to French parents; Mary [Sommer], 63, born in France to French parents; John, 21, born in Illinois to parents from France; Jacob Maurer, 25, born in Germany to German parents [their son-in-law Jacob Donner married to Catherine]; Catherine, 18, born in Illinois to French parents; and Alena [Magdalena, Jacob and Catherine's daughter], one month, born in Illinois.

The 1870 census of Bloomington, McLean County shows Peter living with his son Joseph: retired farmer Joseph Maurer, 45, France; Fanny, 33, Ohio; Wanple, 9, female, Illinois; Elizabeth, 7, Illinois; William, 5, Illinois; Benjamin, 3, Illinois; Peter, 84, France.

Peter's Bloomington Pantagraph obituary: "Maurer, Peter, d. at the res. of his son, on W. Mulberry St. Bloomington, Ill. Jan. 2, 1873, aged 85 years, 9 months, 9 days."

Peter and Marie/Mary are buried in Peter Maurer Cemetery near County Road 75 N, southeast of Congerville on the Woodford-McLean county line.

Their children include:

1. Joseph Mourer/Maurer was born at Fénétrange Oct. 1, 1824, and died at Bloomington Aug. 18, 1874. On March 6, 1859 he married Veronica/Fanny/Fannie Mae Mosiman. She was born in Butler County, Ohio Feb. 26, 1837, and died June 21, 1901, a daughter of Christian Mosiman and Barbara Peter Smith. Joseph purchased 40 acres of federal land in section 27 of Montgomery Township for $1.25 an acre Sept. 17, 1852, then returned to the land office on Oct. 22 to claim 80 acres of federal land in section 27 of Montgomery Township for free. He is found on the 1865 state census of Danvers listed immediately after Christian Rupp, John Struphar, Valentine Struphar, Joseph Stuckey, and Christian Imhoff. Joseph's headstone in Evergreen Memorial Cemetery at Bloomington says, "Joseph Maurer died Aug. 18, 1874; aged 49 Ys. 10 Ms. & 13 Ds." On Jan. 14, 1875 in McLean County Fanny remarried to Wilhelm/William Schenk. He was born in Germany July 20, 1842, a son of John Schenck and Margaret Mire. He had immigrated with his younger sister Anna in 1864. Fanny’s headstone at Evergreen Memorial Cemetery calls her Fanny Mosiman Schenk and says that she died June 21, 1901, aged 64 years, 3 months, and 25 days.

2. Barbe/Barbara Mourer was born at Fénétrange May 27, 1826, and died during the 1830 immigration voyage.

3. Marie Mourer/Mary Maurer was born at Hattigny Sept. 22, 1828, and died in McLean County June 18, 1849. As a 15-year-old on Nov. 7, 1843 in Woodford County she married Jacob Donner. He was born April 17, 1820, and died at Aurora, Nebraska Nov. 9, 1893, a son of Peter Donner and Barbara Naflziger. See DONNER for background on this couple.

4. Anna Maurer was born in Illinois in 1833, and died before the 1840 census.

5. Magdalena Maurer was born in Illinois in 1835, and died before the 1840 census.

6. Christian Maurer. The 1840 census of McLean County shows an unidentified boy between the ages of five and nine. He apparently died before the 1850 census. Portrait and Biographical Album of Woodford County listed nine children in this birth order, including one named Christian. Several genealogies confuse this Christian with a son of Samuel Maurer and Magdalena Schwartzentubir, perhaps because both had a younger brother named Peter.

7. Peter Maurer was born in Illinois circa 1836, and died between the 1840 and 1850 censuses.

8. John Maurer was born in Illinois circa 1839. On Nov. 22, 1868 in McLean County he married Anna Schenck. She was born in Germany circa 1845, and died at Bloomington, McLean County circa 1870, a daughter of Frederick Schenck and Margaret Mire. She had immigrated with her brother Wilhelm/William in 1864. According to Portrait and Biographical Album of McLean County (1887), on the voyage 33 people died from dehydration, trying to drink salt water after fresh water ran out. In 1875 Anna's brother Wilhelm/William became the second husband of Veronica/Fanny/Fannie Mae Mosiman Maurer; she was the widow of John’s older brother Joseph Maurer.

9. Catherine Maurer was born in Illinois in Dec. 19, 1841, and died July 5, 1926. On June 30, 1859 in McLean County she married Jacob Maurer. He was born at Neukirchen (now a neighborhood of Kaiserslautern) in the Pfalz Nov. 1, 1834, and died Jan. 8, 1907. He immigrated from Bavaria in 1855 and worked as a farm laborer in Pennsylvania and Butler County, Ohio before resettling at Dry Grove, McLean County in 1859. Jacob was naturalized in McLean
Amish Mennonites in Tazewell County, Illinois

Count Jan. 18, 1868. They appear in the household of her parents in 1860, and again on the 1880 census of Montgomery Township with five children, where Jacob's nationality was given as Bavaria; his widowed mother-in-law Marie/Mary Sommer was listed with them as Mary, 82, born in France to French parents. They are buried under a joint headstone in Evergreen Memorial Cemetery at Bloomington. Jacob's father was Samuel Maurer, who was born at Merzheim (30 miles southwest of Wiesbaden) March 5, 1795, and died at Danvers June 22, 1863; he is buried in Stout's Grove Cemetery at Danvers. On April or Sept. 27, 1825 at Mehlingen Samuel married Magdalena Schwartzentrub/Schwartzenträu. She was born at Freinsheim Aug. 18, 1800, and died at Danvers Nov. 3, 1884. She is buried in Park Lawn Cemetery at Danvers.

NICOLAS MOURER

Nicolas Mourer (he signed his own name Niclas Mûrer) was born on Risholtz farm at Hattigny, Moselle Feb. 10, 1794, and died at St. Valentin in the department of Indre in central France Sept. 19, 1834.

On March 23, 1820 at Fenetrange he married Marie Kropf. She was born at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines, Upper Alsace Jan. 1, 1800, and died at Schneckenbusch, Moselle in 1859, a daughter of Anthoni/Antoine Kropf and Marie Baecher.

They may have been farming at Mérigny (30 miles southwest of Châteauroux) shortly before Nicolas died. His civil death entry created at St. Valentin called him Nicolas Muret. It was witnessed by cultivator Michel Zimmerman, 25; and his brother cultivator Daniel Zimmerman, 22; they were sons of Niclaus/Nicolas Roth and Verena Zimmerman (see ROTH for background on the Amish Mennonite families working for Comte Bertrand at St. Valentin).

Their children born at Xures, Meurthe-et-Moselle, found in those records as Moureur, include:

1. Marie Moureur was born March 11, 1821, and died at Xures March 22, 1821. Her civil birth entry described her parents as Nicolas Moureur, 26, a cultivator on the farm Guedelexat at Xures, and Marie Croupe. It was witnessed by friend Jean Oyer, 33, and second cousin Joseph Farny, 28, both millers in the mill at Guedelexat. Signatures looked like Niclas Mûrer, Hans Oyer, and Joseph Farni.

2. Nicolas Moureur was born at Xures, Meurthe-et-Moselle March 3, 1822. His civil entry described his parent as Nicolas Moureur, 28, a cultivator on the farm Guedelexat, and Marie Croupe.

3. Marie Catherine Mourer was born at Xures April 19, 1823.

Nicolas Moureur was born at Xures, Meurthe-et-Moselle March 3, 1822. Elsewhere throughout life he would be known as Nicolas Mourer or Nicholas Maurer. He died at Danvers, McLean County June 21, 1894.

Annette Surrault found an 1836 census of Lagny, St. Valentin. It shows Nicholas and his friend Christian Risser/Reeser listed after the Zimmerman family, and before the Müller family. Both families immigrated in 1839 and settled in to Woodford County.

96 Chrosto Hermence  Servant  21
97 Christian Risser  Servant  17
98 Nicolas Marais  Servant  15

The servants were employed in the household of Comte Bertrand.

Christian Risser/Reeser's obituary in the Gospel Herald Feb. 21, 1923 said that he came to America with Nicholas: "In 1839, at the age of twenty years, he came to America with his brother John and a friend, Nicklos Murrer."

On Christmas Day of 1848 in Butler County, Ohio he married Marie/Mary Bechler; the ceremony was performed by minister Nicholas Augspurger. The entry is found in Grubb's History of the Mennonites of Butler County, Ohio; it was transcribed from Augspurger's journal as “Nicholas Muer and Mary Heeler.”

233 In 1860 they followed their son Jacob, who had immigrated five years earlier. The steam ship Illinois departed from Le Havre, and arrived at New York June 20, 1860: farmer Samuel Maurer, 55, Bavaria; Magdalene, 50; Jacobina, 26; Christian, 28; Peter, 25; Elizabetha, 22; and Catherina, 18. Samuel and Magdalene farmed 80 acres at Danvers. Portrait and Biographical Album of McLean County (1887) described the children of Samuel and Magdalena as Jacob married to Catherine Maurer; Phebe married to Frederick Heidenfelter; Christian; Peter, Elizabeth married to Eckhardt Wendrath; John married to Barbara/Babette Imhoff; Daniel married to Helen Otto; and Catherine married to Earnest Linneman.

234 Marie Kropf's birth entry was witnessed by 'Chrétien Augstberger,' 41, a cultivator at the farm Pointe du Jour [day break] who signed his name Christian Augsburger. This was Christian Augspurger, who was born at Gemaingoutte (now in Vosges) in 1756, and died at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines Sept. 13, 1808. In 1781 he had married Maria Magdalena Kropf. They may have been aunt and uncle to Marie. Their children were the Augspurgers who settled in Butler County, Ohio.
Marie/Mary was a daughter of Christian Bächler/Bechler and Elisabeth/Eliza Zimmerman. Her family arrived from Le Havre at New Orleans on the Marcia Cleaves July 26, 1840. For background on that disastrous journey, see GINGERICH; for background on her father, see BECHLER/BECKLER.

The Maurers are found on the 1850 census of District 56 (Woodford County) as farmer Nicholas Moorey, 30, Germany; and Mary, 28, Germany.

On Sept. 11 and 25, 1852, Nicholas claimed 80 acres of federal land in Section 11 of Montgomery Township on warrants. The 1860 census of Montgomery Township, Woodford County shows Nicholas on the same page as Christian Risser/Reeser: farmer Nicholas Maurer, 38, France; Mary [Bechler], 31, France; and Catherine, one month, Illinois.

We could not ascertain the exact date of Marie/Mary's death, which must have taken place in Woodford County between 1860 and 1864. Circa 1864 Nicholas remarried to next-door-neighbor Mary Kohler. She was born in Switzerland April 15, 1837, and died July 21, 1897, a daughter of Christian Kohler and Susanna Maurer. She immigrated with her parents in 1862.

On Dec. 17, 1867 Nicholas purchased a 40-acre parcel in sections 25 of Montgomery Township for $8.10 an acre, then purchased another 120 acres in Section 10 for the same price.

Their 280-acre farm can be found in section 10 on the 1873 plat map of Woodford County. The farm of Christian Kohler was below them in section 15. The farm of Christian Risser/Reeser (found as C. Risser) was directly north of them in section 3.

The household is shown on the 1880 census of Montgomery Township as farmer Nicholas Maurer, 58, France; Mary C., 43, Switzerland; Catherine, 19, Illinois; Samuel, 14, Illinois; Joseph, 13, Illinois; Lydia, 9, Illinois; John, 7, Illinois; Mary, 1, Illinois; and laborer John Kohler, 21.

In 1885 Nicholas and Mary relocated onto a farm at Danvers, McLean County. When he died there in 1894 he owned 1,500 acres in Woodford and McLean Counties.

The Past and Present of Woodford County, Illinois: "Maurer, Nicholas, farmer; P. O. Danvers; was born in France in 1822; his father, Nicholas Maurer, was a farmer; here Mr. Maurer spent his younger days working on the farm; his father died when he was about 13 years old; this put him out in the world to work for himself: his first work one year was for $1.40 and clothing; next two years for $20.00 per year; here he saved money enough to pay his passage to America in 1839; when he landed here was without money and friends; he set out from New Orleans, this being the port he landed at, having been 56 days in making the trip; by steamer he went to Cincinnati, O., then to Butler Co., and commenced to farm at $10 per month; he came to Woodford Co.; his first work here was with his uncle [Peter Maurer] at $5 per month; in 1845 he purchased 80 acres of land, and to-day, with hard labor and good management, is one of the successful farmers of Woodford Co.; owns a fine improved farm, 990 acres: he married twice; 1849, to Miss Mary Bechler, one child; second wife Mary Choler; four children." Note that an arrival 'without friends or money' would contradict Christian Risser/Reeser's obituary stating that they arrived together.

235 A handwritten journal found in the pocket of minister Nicholas Augspurger after his death was transcribed with its original spelling errors. The transcription was published in Grubb's History of the Mennonites of Butler County, Ohio.

236 A less reliable version of early events is told in Historical Encyclopedia of Illinois, Volume 2, History of McLean County. Its dates and numbers suggest that Nicholas's father died when he was seven (he was actually 13); that he came to America circa 1835; and if the 'age of majority' for an orphan is considered to be 21, that he did not come to Illinois until circa 1843. It also implies that his uncle Peter Maurer was in Ohio until circa 1843. "Nicholas Maurer, father of Samuel E., spent his extreme youth on a farm in France, and at the age of seven was left an orphan dependent upon the care and protection of relatives and friends. At the age of fourteen he came to America with a friend who shared his ambition to see more of the world, and thereafter he lived in the home of his uncle, in Ohio, until attaining his majority. He then came to McLean County, Ill., and secured employment on a farm, soon after marrying Mary Garber, with whom he locatied on a rented farm for a couple of years. He then invested his earnings in eighty acres of land in Woodford County, Ill., and so wisely developed the resources of the same, that he soon supplemented his original eighty acres with as much more land. Possessed of a calm and far-seeing judgement, he proceeded along safe and conservative lines, at the same time reaching out for larger fields of activity, in time becoming the owner of 800 acres of land in Woodford County. In 1885 Mr. Maurer bought, and settled on, a farm in Danvers Township, McLean County, and to the same kept adding until he owned in the vicinity 700 acres of land. Thus was he true to the best traditions of thrift of his native land, and at the time of his death in 1894, was the possessor of 1,500 acres in two of the most fertile counties in the state. Mr. Maurer was a man of deep religious convictions, and a devout member of the Mennonite church. In politics he was independent. To his first wife was born a daughter, Katie, who became the wife of John P. Kohler, a minister in the Mennonite church, residing in White Oak Township. For a second wife Mr. Maurer married Mary Kohler who was born in Germany, and who is the mother of five children: Samuel E., Joseph C., a farmer of Danvers Township; Liddy, wife of G. Miller, of Danvers Township; Amelia, wife of E.Y. Zook, of Danvers Township; and John, a farmer of Danvers Township, all being members of the Mennonite church."
Mr. Maurer is the possessor of 320 acres of fine land in McLean County, and in politics he is independent. A view of Mr. Maurer's residence and surroundings is given on another page of this work.

The family of our subject included six children: Catharine, Samuel, Joseph and Lydia; Johnnie and Mary, two. The farm is supplied with a good barn and all necessary outbuildings. Our subject and his wife are members of the Mennonite Church, and died in infancy. He was a faithful member in the Mennonite congregation at the above place. Bro. Maurer was twice married. His first wife was Mary Bechler with whom he had 7 children, of which but one survives. His second wife's maiden name was Kohler. Of their 6 children, 5 remain. Sister Maurer was too ill to attend the funeral of her beloved companion on the 22d at the North Danvers M.H. Funeral services by Joseph Stuckey from Rev. 14:13 and Phil. 1:21 and Joseph King from Isa. 38:12. Bro. Maurer was highly esteemed and his loss will be deeply felt."

Marie/Mary Bechler is buried next to the joint headstone for Nicholas and his second wife Mary Kohler in North Danvers Mennonite Cemetery. Unfortunately her headstone calling her 'Mary Maurer' lacks dates of birth or death.

According to his obituary Nicolas Mourer/Nicholas Maurer and his first wife Marie/Mary Bechler had seven children, and only one survived him. It would have been more accurate to say that Nicholas had seven children by two wives (one from the first, six from the second), and the daughter from his first wife survived him.

According to his obituary Nicolas Mourer/Nicholas Maurer and his second wife Mary Kohler had six children, and five survived him. All were born at Montgomery Township, Woodford County.

1. Catherine/Katharina 'Kate' Maurer was born at Montgomery Township, Woodford County June 28, 1860, and died June 1, 1944. On March 15, 1883 at Dry Grove, McLean County she married her step-uncle John P. Kohler; the ceremony was performed by minister Joseph Stuckey. He was born in Switzerland May 10, 1859, and died at Dry Grove, McLean County Sept. 8, 1930, a son of Christian Kohler and Susanna Maurer. He immigrated with his parents in 1862. Their household appears on the 1900 census of Dry Grove, McLean County as farmer John Kohler, 41, born in Germany in May 1859 to German parents; Katie, 39, born in Illinois in June 1860 to parents from France and Ohio; Jesse, 13, born in Illinois in November 1886; Frank, 9, born in Illinois in May 1891; and Leland, 2, born in Illinois in June 1897. John was ordained as a minister of the North Danvers Mennonite Church in 1899, and as elder in 1903, serving until 1921. They are buried next to each other in North Danvers Mennonite Cemetery as Kate Maurer Kohler and Reverend John P. Kohler.

According to his obituary Nicolas Mourer/Nicholas Maurer and his first wife Marie/Mary Bechler had seven children, and five survived him. All were born at Montgomery Township, Woodford County.

2. Samuel Maurer (also known as Samuel E. Maurer) was born June 15, 1865, and died Dec. 8, 1953. On Feb. 12, 1891 in McLean County he married Dinah Ropp; the ceremony was performed by minister Joseph Stuckey. She was born at White Oak Township May 27, 1870, and died Oct. 30, 1900, a daughter of David S. Ropp and Barbara King. They are buried under a joint headstone in North Danvers Mennonite Cemetery. They are found on the 1900 census of White Oak Township, McLean County as dry goods merchant Samuel E. Maurer, 34, born in Illinois in June 1865 to parents from France and Switzerland; Dinah, 30, born in Illinois in May 1870 to parents from Illinois; and Pearl L., 7, born in Illinois in June 1893. On Dec. 15, 1901 Samuel remarried to Mary Catherine Sakemiller. She was born in Ohio Aug. 20, 1878, and died Nov. 25, 1964, a daughter of Jacob Sakemiller and Mary Ann Gasson. In 1940 they were living at Stanford, White Oak Township next door to Harvey Ropp: Samuel Maurer, 74, Illinois; and Mary, 61, Ohio. She is also buried under the joint headstone.

3. Joseph Maurer (also known as Joseph C. Maurer) was born in November 1867, and died at Bloomington March 5, 1937. He married Anna Ummel. She was born in 1870, and died in 1951, a daughter of Christian Ummel and Susan

Portait and Biographical Album of McLean County (1887) gives yet another version of events: "Nicholas Maurer, of Danvers Township, has been a resident of this State since 1843, and two years later located in McLean County, where he has continued to make his home until the present. His homestead is located on section 10, Danvers Township, where he is engaged in general farming, and living the life of an upright and conscientious citizen. The subject of our sketch was born near the River Rhine, Germany, in 1822, and is the son of Nicholas and Mary (Korb) Maurer, natives of the same country, where they were reared and married in 1819. Nicholas Maurer, Sr., and his wife were the parents of four children Christian, Catherine, Nicholas of our sketch, and Joseph. They are buried under a joint headstone in North Danvers Mennonite Cemetery. They are found on the 1900 census of White Oak Township, McLean County as dry goods merchant Samuel E. Maurer, 34, born in Illinois in June 1865 to parents from France and Switzerland; Dinah, 30, born in Illinois in May 1870 to parents from Illinois; and Pearl L., 7, born in Illinois in June 1893. On Dec. 15, 1901 Samuel remarried to Mary Catherine Sakemiller. She was born in Ohio Aug. 20, 1878, and died Nov. 25, 1964, a daughter of Jacob Sakemiller and Mary Ann Gasson. In 1940 they were living at Stanford, White Oak Township next door to Harvey Ropp: Samuel Maurer, 74, Illinois; and Mary, 61, Ohio. She is also buried under the joint headstone.
Ramseyer. They appear on the 1900 census of Danvers as Joseph Maurer, 32, born in Illinois in November 1867 to a father from France and a mother from Switzerland; Anna, 30, born in Ohio in February 1870 to Swiss parents; Clark, 10, born in Illinois in March 1890; and Clara, 3, born in Illinois in August 1896. They are found on the same census page as Joseph's brother John and wife Emma. Joseph is buried in Park Lawn Cemetery at Danvers as Joseph C. Maurer, 1867-1937; Anna is buried there as Anna Ummel Maurer, 1870-1951.

4. Lydia 'Liddy' Maurer was born Jan. 27, 1870, and died in McLean County Jan. 21, 1916. On Feb. 14, 1889 in McLean County she married August Miller; the ceremony was performed by minister Joseph Stuckey. He was born in Woodford County April 15, 1864, and died in McLean County May 6, 1927, a son of Jacob Miller and Mary Birckelbaw. They purchased land at Danvers in 1890. According to History of McLean County, August raised Angus cattle, Percheron horses, and Poland China hogs.237 They are buried in North Danvers Mennonite Cemetery.

5. John Maurer was born in January 1873, and died at Danvers July 3, 1931. On Aug. 2, 1894 in Williamson County he married Emma Hoege. She was born in Illinois in April 1874, and died at Bloomington, McLean County Nov. 30, 1946. The 1900 census of Danvers shows farmer John Maurer, 27, born in Illinois in January, 1873 to parents from France and Switzerland; and Emma, 26, born in Illinois in April 1874 to parents from Switzerland; they are found on the same census page as brother Joseph and his wife Anna. They are also found on the 1920 and 1930 Danvers censuses. They are buried in Park Lawn Cemetery at Danvers.

6. Mary Amelia Maurer was born Jan. 4, 1879, and died at Carlock, McLean County Jan. 15, 1935. On Dec. 23, 1896 in McLean County she married Christian Eli Stahly. He was born at Danvers, McLean County March 7, 1874, and died in McLean County March 19, 1898, a son of Johann/John Stahly and Rose Marie Stahly. On Dec. 4, 1900 in McLean County she remarried to Elijah Yoder Zook. He was born at Neshannock Falls, Pennsylvania Aug. 3, 1873, and died in 1956, a son of John R. Zook and Magdalena/Malinda Hertzler. They are buried in North Danvers Mennonite Cemetery.

■ A child who died young.

237 The Poland China hog is usually identified with Butler County, Ohio, where it was first bred in 1816.
Litwiller: Leutweiler of Schupfholz

The surname Leutwiler originated in the Aargau region of territories administered from the city of Bern. Leutwil is a village in the upper (southern) sector, adjacent to Berrwil and Reinach.238

The Aargau region takes its name from the Aare River, which flows north from Lake Thun through the city of Bern and into the region. From the 15th through 18th centuries it was considered a territory of the city-state of Bern in the Old Swiss Confederacy, and its administrators persecuted Anabaptists under the same laws. It was not until 1803 that the region became a canton/state of the reconstituted Swiss Confederation.

It appears the Amish Mennonite Litwillers who immigrated to Illinois and Ontario came from a single family grouping that appeared in the area above Freiburg im Breisgau, Baden in the mid-1700s. The first generation mingled with many of the Hochburg congregation families mentioned in ROTH and ZIMMERMAN. The second generation migrated west into Alsace and Lorraine and settled among the Dieuze circle of families in Moselle. A third generation made decisions to emigrate or remain in Europe.

The genealogy trail was somewhat muddied by a wide variety of creative spellings. We found...

Leutweiler  Luetweiler  Luitenweiler  Leitenwiler  Letweiler  Letweiller  Ludvuleur
Lettweiler  Lettweiler  Letweller  Letwiller  Littweller  Letwiller  Letweller
Littwiler  Ritwiller  Lidwiller  Lüttwüller  Lüttwüllr  Leutwiler  Litwiller

It would be incorrect to say the surname evolved from one form to another. Variety is still found in Europe and North America. To avoid confusion in what follows, we have reduced all the forms to only two: Leutweiler (the earliest form found in Baden) and Litwiller (the spelling generally employed by North Americans). An individual may be called 'Litwiller' in this text, though he or she may actually have signed 'Lidviller' or some other variant.

Schupfholz is a tiny village in the administrative district of Denzlingen, Baden, on the west side of that village. It is also just four miles west of Sexau and Emmendingen.

The fields of the Weier castle estate [Ger. Weierschlossgut] at Schupfholz may have been cultivated by Anabaptists as early as 1670.239 These farm workers worshipped with the Hochburg congregation.240

In 1764 the noble von Dungern family put the Weier castle estate up for auction. As Swiss citizens, the members of the Hochburg congregation could lease but not own land, and could not place a bid. The property and their burial ground were sold in parcels to bidders including the mayor of Emmendingen.

At least one portion of the estate was then leased back to Anabaptists by a new owner. According to the Häberlein article Eighteenth-Century Anabaptist in the Margravate of Baden and Neighboring Territories, the district archives at Denzlingen show Weier castle estate tenant Christian Leutweiler "appears in the village of Schupfholz from 1771 to 1794."

Christian married Elisabeth Wagner (also found as Vagner and Vagnerin). She was born at Mussbach, a village 10 miles northeast of Schupfholz. The Anabaptist Wagner family worked on the Laberhof at Tennenbach (adjacent to Mussbach), a property leased from a Cistercian abbey by Anabaptist Michael Zimmerman.

The Leutweilers must have prospered. Christian Leutweiler of Schupfholz and Jacob Zimmerman of Hochburg acted as guarantors for a 315-guilder commitment as surety when the lease on a Denzlingen property was renewed by the widow of Christian Zimmerman in 1774. Hermann Guth wrote that at the time Leutweiler was working on the Mauerther Hof at Denzlingen (now an organic farm bakery).

In 1787 Leutweiler reached an agreement with a landowner in Tunsel to lease his property for 10 years. Tunsel is 17 miles southwest of Schupfholz, in an area where the Hapsburgs had interests. The lease had to be approved by Further or Outer Austria [Ger. Vorder Österreich] authorities. According to the Häberleins, a second would-be lessee named Gschwander objected. The second candidate was an outer Austrian native, and the

238 Some genealogists have suggested that antecedents of the surname 'Litwiller' come from the Netherlands. However, the surname only appears there after the arrival of Johannes Leutweiler of Basel in 1742. There has also been some confusion with the Pfalz village Lettweiler.

Through sheer coincidence, there is a Littenweiler only 9 miles southeast of Schupfholz, Baden, on the edge of the Black Forest. The Freiburg im Breisgau suburb was called 'Lutenwile' in the 11th century.

239 Aerial photos of Schupfholz show a distinctive rise next to a reservoir, marking the former site of the Weier castle.

240 One of the earliest Anabaptist tenant families found on the Weier estate was Hodel of Steffisburg (found in Alsace as 'Hodler').
authorities decided in Gschwander's favor, on the grounds that "Anabaptists were not generally tolerated but only accepted under particular circumstances."

There are no strict rules that might lead us to Anabaptist records for this period in Baden. In some villages they were disregarded as non-citizens, or because they were not affiliated with recognized religions. In others Catholic or Protestant churches kept their entries at the request of the tolerant margrave. It is possible that we will eventually be able to find records for the generation born at Schupfholz. In the meantime, a tentative list of the children of Christian Leutweiler and Elisabeth Wagner might include two that cannot be directly connected to Schupfholz by known documentation.241

1. Christian 'Litwiller' [Jr.] was born circa Dec. 6, 1758. 'Christian Leutweiler' paid a religious protection tax [Ger. Schutzgeld] while living on the farm of Georg Binningen at Vörsetten (on the east side of Schupfholz) in 1796/97. An entry in the Denzlingen Kirchenbuch says he died there June 6, 1805, age 46 years, six months. Denzlingen is on the east side of Vörsetten.

2. Jacob/Jacques Litwiller may have been born at Schupfholz circa 1759, and died at Tagsdorf, Upper Alsace Feb. 19, 1814. His civil death entry described him as 52-year-old cultivator 'Jaque Lütwüllr,' and stated that he died in the home of 39-year-old cultivator Morand Bühl at Tagsdorf. His birthplace was given as 'Schupfholz en Brussgaure' [Schupfholz by Freiburg im Breisgau]. Earlier civil entries reported him to be 38 in 1797 (1759), 40 in 1799 (1759), 44 in 1801 (1757), and 48 in 1803 (1755). The overall pattern is consistent with many married males who feared losing their conscription exemptions during the Napoleonic wars - their ages 'accelerate' until they pass beyond the 45-year mark, a second disqualifier. See ONTARIO LITWILLERS.

3. Elisabetha Litwiller was born at Schupfholz circa 1763, and died at Ostheim, Upper Alsace (32 miles west of Schupfholz) Dec. 18, 1818.242 She married Jean Hochstettler and Conrad Schweitzer. See HOCHSTETTLER for details of her marriages.

4. Johannes/Jean Litwiller was born circa 1764. He died at Repaix, Meurthe-et-Moselle Jan. 29, 1822; the civil entry stated his age as 58. See ILLINOIS LITWILLERS.

5. Catherine Litwiller was born circa 1767, and died at Arracourt, Meurthe-et-Moselle (23 miles west of Diane-Capelle) Oct. 5, 1838. On Feb. 17, 1787 at Rohrburg bei Altenheim, Baden she married Christian Zehr (also found as 'Zert').243 He was born at Neuville-sur-Faye (later in Vosges Department) circa 1761, and died at Arracourt Aug. 3, 1853. They had a daughter Elisabeth Zehr born at Domèvre-sur-Vezouze, Meurthe-et-Moselle Aug. 25, 1808; she married her cousin Conrad Schweitzer [Jr.].

Ontario Litwillers

Older son Jacob/Jacques Litwiller was born at Schupfholz circa 1759.

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241 The index of civil death entries at La Petite Pierre includes the name of Nicolas Lituville, who died Sept. 3, 1810. Jacob Litwiller and Anna Maria Maurer moved from there to Hattigny circa 1798, so it is unlikely he was one of their children.

242 There were earlier connections between the Hochburg congregation and the village of Ostheim. Benedict 'Benz' Stucki/Stucky (circa 1716-1793) was mentioned in ROPP as a minister who represented the Colmar congregation at the assembly of ministers at Essingen in 1759 where Hans Rupp/Jean Ropp, the father of Andreas Ropp. Benedict and his wife Anna Maria Neuhauser lived on the the Schoppenhwaer estate at Ostheim. Their daughter Barbara Stucki married Johannes Zimmermann of Emmendingen; after the marriage the couple farmed at Ostheim. Their daughter Elisabetha Stucki married Christian König of Nimburg, Baden (see KING). The surnames Hochstettler and Dettweiler could also be found at both locations.

243 Rohrburg bei Altenheim [Rohrburg near Altenheim] is so named to differentiate it from a Rohrburg ruined castle site at Dursenheim, Baden. The village of Rohrburg is actually midway between Altenheim and Ichenheim; Ichenheim was the location of the Ottenweierhof estate, a home to Reiger/Redigers. These locations are on the eastern side of the Rhine River, about 12 miles southeast of Strasbourg, and about 30 miles north of the area of the Hochburg congregation.
He married Anne Marie/Anna Maria Maurer. She was born circa 1767, and died at Wilmot, Ontario Sept. 22, 1836, a daughter of Johannes/Jean Maurer and Marie Conde.244 Jacob and Anne Maria lived in a variety of locations. From 1793 to 1797 children were born in the German-speaking hamlet Litzelstein near La Petite Pierre in 'Crooked Alsace,' about six miles from the border of Lorraine. The area is now encompassed by the Parc naturel régional des Vosges du Nord.

In 1798 they relocated about 30 miles southwest to the Risholz farm at German-speaking Hattigny, Moselle [Ger. Hattingen], where children were born 1799-1803. The village is adjacent to Richeval [Ger. Reichenthal], the home of brother Johannes/Jean's oldest son Christian; also adjacent to Niderhoff [Ger. Niederhof], the home of the Oyers; and only eight miles from Diane-Capelle [Ger. Dianenkappel], the home of Johannes/Jean. Another couple living on Risholz farm was Johannes/Jean/Hans Roth (found in local records as 'Rodh') and his wife Freni/Véronique Mosimann; they were uncle and aunt to minister Michael Mosiman. The Litwillers lived among the 'Dieuze circle of families' – the mostly Bernese Anabaptists who lived in the network of lakes, ponds, and small rivers that interlace the area surrounding Dieuze, Moselle.

In 1805 Jacob and Anne Marie migrated southeast to Illfurth, Upper Alsace [Ger. Illfurt, four miles above Altkirch]. They had children there in 1805 and 1809. An 1813 civil marriage entry for one of their daughters created at Tagsdorf (three miles east of Altkirch) described the parents as residents of Tagsdorf.

Jacob died at Tagsdorf Feb. 19, 1814. Anne Marie was farming there in 1816, and may have remained in the area until her migration to Ontario in 1827.

The difficulty in locating records of Jacob's children was heightened by small complications: Jacob spelled his signature a number of ways over the years; he often formed the letter 'e' as an Old German 'n,' similar to the way the handwritten Engel surname often appeared to be 'Engnl'; and Anne Marie Maurer was occasionally described in French-language records as 'Marie Masson' or 'Marie Mason,' a literal translation of the German 'Maurer,' which means 'brick layer.' It was also obvious that Jacob was either functionally illiterate or did not care to correct the entries written over his signature.

Children of Jacob Litwiller and Anne Marie Maurer include:

1. Catherine Litwiller was born April 10, 1786, and died at Wilmot April 11, 1873. On June 24, 1813 at Tagsdorf (next to Altkirch) she married Christian Boshart. He was born at Staffelfelden circa 1785 (he was 28 and one-half years old at his wedding), and died at Wilmot, Ontario Nov. 20, 1850. a son of the deceased Johannes/Jean Boshart and Anna Maria Müller. After his father's death on the Schönsteinbach convent farm at Wittenheim Oct. 31, 1794, his mother had moved the family to Luemschwiller. There Christian became a farmer and cultivator, and was a witness at the wedding of Christian Hirschi and Anne Marie Ropp, a cousin to Andreas Ropp. Christian was still living at Luemschwiller at the time of their marriage, but afterward they lived at Tagsdorf. They are thought to have arrived at Wilmot in 1832. They settled on Erb's Road in the German Block of Wilmot. Catherine can be found as a widow on the 1851 and 1861 censuses of Wilmot, nationality France, religion 'Amish.' (For background on the Boshart family see the Appendix).

2. Joseph Litwiller was born at La Petite Pierre Oct. 18, 1793, and died there March 2, 1798. The birth entry indicated that the family resided at Litzelstein; Jacob signed 'Jacob Luitenwiler.'

244 The identification of Anne Marie Maurer's parents rests on a civil marriage entry filled with spelling errors. It was created at Hattigny March 11, 1803. Christian Roth, 25, a son of Jean Roth and Marie Lehman, married Elisabeth Mourni, 23, a daughter of 'Jean Mourni' [Maurer] and 'Madelaine Conti' [Conde, derived from von Gunten — both spellings and other variations found particularly in Salm]. Witness 'Jacquob Lhitevuleur' (as found in the entry text), 40, who signed his name 'Jacob Litweiler,' was described as a brother-in-law of the bride. Other witnesses included brother-of-the-groom Jean Roth, 30; maternal uncle-of-the-groom Christian Lehman, 40; and Michel Mosimann, a friend of the bride.

The residence of the bride's parents was described as 'Clainedal, Haut-Fain.' This may have been Klingenthal, a foundry town in the Boersch forest next to Rosheim, Lower Alsace. If so, 'Jean Morni' may have been the Johannes/Jean Maurer who is mentioned by J. Virgil Miller in Both Sides of the Ocean, born circa 1750, and found in 1780 on a leased farm 'at Rosheim, on the road to Strasbourg...He may have been the son of Johannes Maurer and Christina Fahrni, who were married at Bärbelstein [another name for Bewarstein Castle near Erlenbach in the Pfalz near the border of Lower Alsace] in 1720.' The older Johannes was in turn the son of Michael Maurer (also found as 'Michel Murer'), who was born circa 1690 and was at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines in 1763.

Coincidentally, when Anne Marie Maurer Litwiller arrived at Wilmot Township in 1827, there was already someone there with a connection to Bewarstein Castle. Johannes/Hans/John Oesch was born there in 1791, a son of Johannes 'Hannes' Esch and Freni Heres [Ehrisman?]. He married Barbara Schultz at Rothsee below Munich in 1820. They farmed at Probfeld in the Donaumoos, departed Neuburg an der Donau June 1, 1824, sailed from Amsterdam on the Osprey, and arrived at New York Sept. 2, 1824. Oesch arrived at Wilmot Township shortly after it was surveyed. He became a minister in February 1829, and replaced 'Apostle Peter' Naffziger as elder in September 1829. He died at Bayfield, Huron County in 1850.
3. Jean Litwiller was born at La Petite Pierre Aug. 24, 1795, and died at Hattigny, Moselle Dec. 13, 1798. Father Jacob signed Jean's birth entry as 'Jacob Leitenwiler.'

4. Magdalena/Madeleine Litwiller was born at Litzelstein circa 1796, and died at Wilmot between 1862 and 1869. On Dec. 3, 1816 at Hirtzbach, Upper Alsace [Ger. Hirzbach] she married Christian/Chrétien Liechti. He was born at Friesen, Upper Alsace March 12, 1796, and died at Wilmot Sept. 6, 1865, a son of Johannes/Jean Liechti and Magdalena Joder. The civil marriage entry stated that the 22-year-old groom was a farmer at 'Granlzelen,' and noted that the 24-year-old bride was born at 'Lutzelnstein, Meuse.'²⁴⁵ The parents of the bride were described as the deceased Jacques Litwiller and Marie Maurer, who was farming at Tagsdorf and was present and consenting. Witness Chrétien Boshart of Tagsdorf, 30, was described as a brother-in-law of the bride. In 1821 and 1826 civil entries created at Largitzen for the births of sons named Christian indicated that Chrétien Liechti and 'Magdalena Ritviller' were residents there; this was also the residence of Andreas Ropp and Elisabeth Eymann.

5. Marie/Maria Litwiller was born at La Petite Pierre Oct. 29, 1797, and died at Wilmot Sept. 4, 1863. The birth entry indicated that the family were residents of Litzelstein; Jacob signed 'Jacob Luitenweiler.' On April 2, 1823 she married Rodolphe/Rudolph/Rudolf Roth. He was born Jan. 23, 1799, and died at Wilmot June 1, 1853, a son of Jean Roth and Marie Lehmann. Like Christian Liechti and Magdalena Litwiller, in 1824 the civil entry for the birth of son Jean stated that Rudolf Roth, 28, and 'Marie Anne Ritwiller,' his wife, were living at Largitzen; they were still there when Jean died May 25, 1826. Roth was ordained a minister in 1835 and elder in 1843. Later he and his family left their congregation to become Reformed Mennonites. They are found on the 1851 census of Wilmot as Rudolf Roth, 54, France, yeoman, married; and Maria Roth, 54, France, married.

6. Elisabeth Litwiller was born at Hattigny Nov. 22, 1799. The birth entry calls the father 'Jaquob Litewiler,' though he signed 'Jacob Litewiler;' he was described as a 40-year-old cultivator. The mother was identified as 'Marie Mason,' a literal translation of the German 'Maurer,' or bricklayer. Elisabeth presumably died before 1806.

7. Freni/Véronique/Veronica/Frances Litwiller was born at Hattigny Dec. 6, 1801. Her birth entry described her as 'Freny Ludvuleure;' her father as Jacob Ludvuleur, a 44-year-old cultivator (he signed as 'Jacob Litewiler'); and her mother as 34-year-old Marie Mason. She died in Ontario in 1869. In 1828 at Wilmot she married Jacob Gingerich. He was born in Alsace circa 1797, and died in Waterloo County, Ontario, Nov. 21, 1869, a son of Peter Gingerich. Freni left the church to become a Reformed Mennonite.

8. Joseph Litwiller was born at Hattigny Dec. 23, 1803, and died there April 18, 1804. The death entry described his father as a 48-year-old living on Risholz farm, and identified his mother as 'Marie Masson.'

9. Elisabeth 'Barby' Litwiller was born at Illfurth, Upper Alsace Oct. 4, 1805. Her civil birth entry described her father as "Jaques Lidewiller âgé de quarante six ans anabaptiste natif de Schupholz pres Fribourg en Brisgau, domicilé a Illfurth," and her mother as 'Marie Murer.' At Wilmot she married Jacob Gardner.²⁴⁶ He was born circa 1802, a son of Daniel Gärtnner and Elizabeth. He served as a minister 1845-50, but they left the church to become Reformed Mennonites.

10. Peter/Pierre Litwiller was born at Illfurth, Upper Alsace Jan. 8, 1809, and died at Wilmot July 7, 1878. His civil birth entry named him 'Pierre Lidwiller,' describing his father as 50-year-old farmer Jaques Lidwiller living at Illfurth, and his mother as Anna Maria Maurer. The father's signature looks like 'Jacob Littnwiler,' the surname 'n' representing an 'e.'²⁴⁷ The report of Peter's death at Wilmot stated that he was born at "France, Gamay," a location we could not identify.

²⁴⁵ Baron Charles de Reinach (1785-1871) employed Liechitis and Joders from Morvillars on Granzelen, the castle estate of the Château de Hirtzbach. He served in the French military and fought in a number of battles during the Napoleonic wars. After a serious injury at Moscow he was made a chevalier of the Legion of Honor. He rejoined Napoleon for his Hundred Days return form Elba. In 1827 he was elected to the national assembly, and served until 1848. The château is now a national historic site.

²⁴⁶ The Gardner family is descended from Frantz Benedikt Gurtner. German documents say he was born at Seftigen, Canton Bern circa 1687. Baptisms for Seftigen children were performed in the Protestant Reformed Church at Gurzelen. Thus he may have been the Burkhardt Gurtner baptized at Gurzelen Nov. 10, 1687, a son of Frantz Gurtner and Elsi Spari. He arrived on the Winchenbach estate near Siegen, Nassau between 1714 and 1726, and died there in 1773. He had four sons. His descendants in Nassau used the spelling 'Gärtnner.'

²⁴⁷ Peter Litwiller's Death Register information was provided by witness Mennonite minister John Gascho, who also stated that Peter had been ill with rheumatism and sciatica for a year and a half. He described Peter's occupation as 'minister of the Gospel.'
At Wilmot Peter Litwiller selected a lot on the north side of Erb Street. He was directly across the street from two lots occupied by Andreas Ropp and his oldest son Andrew; they moved south to Butler County in 1831-32. Peter's brothers-in-laws lived only a few lots west on Erb Street. A census of Wilmot created by assessor John Hamacher 1830-34 (with spellings as found) includes: Jacob Gingrich, Lot 15, Bleam’s Road, North-South; Christian Boshard, Lot 9, Erb’s Road North; Christian Lichty, Lot 10, Erb’s Road South; Jacob Gardner, Lot 24, Bleam’s Road South; Rudolph Roth, Lot 9, Erb’s Road South; and Peter Litwiller, Lot 7, Erb’s Road North.

In 1830 Peter married his sister-in-law Elizabeth Liechti. She was born at Hitzbach Oct. 2, 1808, and died at Wilmot Feb. 25, 1882, a daughter of Johannes/Jean Liechti and Magdalena Joder. They completed improvements on their property and claimed a free title in 1835. Peter became a minister of the Wilmot Amish Mennonite congregation in 1845, following the example of others such as 'Apostle Peter' Nafziger, Christian Farny, his brother-in-law Rudolph Roth, and his brother-in-law Jacob Gardner. In 1850 he became an elder with oversight over the entire area from Wilmot to Lake Huron. The family can be found on the 1851 census of Wilmot as Peter Litwiller, 44, France, Amish, yeoman; Elizabeth Litwiller, 44, France, Amish, married; and 11 children born in Canada, ranging from 2-21 years of age.

Peter had a warm relationship with a Catholic priest at St. Agatha. More than 200 carriages formed a procession for Peter's funeral in 1878; as they passed the Catholic Church, its bells chimed in tribute. 

_Herald of Truth_, August 1878: "July 8th, of long suffering with rheumatism, Peter Litzwiler, bishop of the Amish Mennonite church, at the age of 69 years, 5 months, and 27 days. He was beloved by all who knew him."

A Froschauer Bible that belonged to minister Peter Litwiller is now held in the Nelson and Ada Litwiller Collection at Goshen College. The second page inscription in German reads, "This book was the property of Bishop Peter Litwiller, who was born in Alsace, Jan. 8, 1809. He traveled to America in January 1827 and was married to Elisabeth Lichti in the year 1830. He was called to the office of bishop in which he served faithfully to his end. He died on the 7th of July 1878, at the age of 69 years, 6 months less one day. He left me this book as a remembrance. At his suggestion I had this rebound in the year 1881. Christian Litwiller, Wilmot, April 15, 1881."²⁴² Christian (1848-1924) became a minister of the Wilmot Amish Mennonite Church.

_Herald of Truth_, April 1882: "On the 25th of February, in Waterloo County, Ontario. Widow of Peter Litwiler aged about 70 years. She leaves a large number of children and grand-children. She was respected by all who knew her and was very kind to the poor."

Peter and Elizabeth's 11 children left many descendants in the area.

**Illinois Litwillers**

Younger son Johannes/Jeann Litwiller was born circa 1764, and died at Repaix, Meurthe-et-Moselle on Jan. 29, 1822. Johannes/Jean married Freni Zehr, who is also found as Françoise or Véronique Serre. She was born in 1766, and died at Repaix Aug. 9, 1819, a daughter of Christian Zehr and Freni/Véronique Martin.

Three of their children lived in Butler County, then Tazewell or Livingston Counties. It is likely that they were welcomed to Butler County by a cousin, Magdalena Litwiller, and her second husband Christian Sommer.

Children of Johannes/Jeann Litwiller and Freni Zehr include:

1. Jean Litwiller was born at Richeval circa 1783, according to his marriage entry. Richeval is adjacent to Hattigny, which was later the home of Jacob Litwiller and Anna Maria Maurer. He died at Repaix May 13, 1851. On March 2, 1814 at Chazelles-sur-Albe he married Marie Mosimann; the civil entry described him as a laborer at Richeval. She was born at St. Quirin (on the opposite side of Hattigny from Richeval) Nov. 6, 1794, and died at Repaix March 19, 1853 or 1855, a daughter of Michel Mosimann and Suzanne Brechbühl. She was an older sister to minister Michael Mosiman. Descendants of this couple belonged to the Repaix congregation; when that congregation was absorbed by a church at Lunéville in 1928, the last elder was named Jean Lidviller.

2. Christian Litwiller was born at Diane-Capelle (eight miles above Richeval and Hattigny) April 13, 1791, and died at Badonviller, Meurthe-et-Moselle (12 miles below Hattigny) July 15, 1840. On Dec. 1, 1814 at Badonviller he married Elisabeth Sommer. She was born at Saulxures, Vosges Nov. 2, 1799, and died at Badonviller Oct. 12, 1854, a daughter of Moise Sommer and Marie Innocente Bansept (text)/Banzet (signature). They lived on Le Chamois farm at Badonviller, which is still in the possession of a Lidviller family.

²⁴² A transcription by Steve Buckwalter from the mcusa-archives website. Correspondence, a deed, and a sermon are also part of the collection. The Mennonite Archives of Ontario at Conrad Grebel University College holds Peter's business account book and a communion sermon.
3. Catherine Litwiller was born at Diane-Capelle March 11, 1796. Her father signed the civil entry ‘Johannes Lutviller,’ and her mother was described as ‘Frène Sère.’ One witness was cultivator George Steider, 32. Catherine died Nov. 15, 1806, according to a civil entry created at Diane-Capelle.

4. Joseph Litwiller was born at Diane-Capelle March 29, 1799, and died at Dillon May 27, 1884. On his birth entry his parents were described as ‘Jean Litwiller’ and ‘Frène Sère;’ the father signed his name ‘Johannes Litwiler,’ and farmhand Jean Abresol, 26, served as witness. On Sept. 19, 1829 at Hirsingue, Upper Alsace he married Barbé/Barbara Ulrich. She was born at Walheim, Upper Alsace March 20, 1804, and died in Butler County Dec. 29, 1847, a daughter of weaver Pierre Ulrich and Catherine Laufer. They sailed from Le Havre with her brother Peter in May 1831, arriving at New York in July after a 44-day voyage. They raised their family in Butler County, where Joseph appears on the 1840 census of Milford as ‘Joseph Litwiller.’ The form shows two males under five years of age, one male 5-10, 1 male 40-50, 1 male 60-70; two females 5-10, one female 30-40, and two females 50-60. Widower Joseph appears on the 1850 census of Milford as ‘Jos. Litwell, 50, France’ with seven children. In 1851 he brought his children to Dillon. On Feb. 3, 1856 in Tazewell County he remarried to Magdalena ‘Malinda’ Sommer; the ceremony was performed by minister Andrew Ropp. She was born Nov. 20, 1803, and died Feb. 21, 1878. The 1860 census of Dillon lists the household as Joseph Litwiler, 60, farmer, France; Madalene, 57, France; Joseph, 24, Ohio; Peter, 20, Ohio; John, 19, Ohio; and Fanny, 18, Ohio. The 1870 census of Dillon shows Jos. Letweiler, 71, retired farmer, France; and Malinda, 69, France; they lived next to sons Peter and John. They are buried in the Mennonite Cemetery at Hopedale. *Gospel Herald*, June 1884: “On the 27th of May, in Tazewell Co., Ill., Deacon Joseph Litwiller, aged 84 years and a few months. The funeral was very largely attended. Services by Joseph Springer, Christian Naffziger and Noah Augsburger. He was a peaceful member of the Amish Mennonite Church.”

Children of Joseph and his first wife Barbé/Barbara Ulrich include:

a. Peter Litwiller was born June 1, 1830, and died before 1839.

b. Barbara Litwiller was born at Milford Sept. 25, 1831, and died at Hopedale June 12, 1899. On Jan. 12, 1851 in Butler County she married George Zehr. He may have been born Sept. 27, 1825, and died at Minier April 16, 1904. See ZEHR for background on this couple.

c. Joseph Litwiller was born at Milford March 13, 1833, and died before 1836.

d. Catherine Litwiller was born at Milford May 21, 1834, and died at Milford, Nebraska May 1, 1930. On April 1, 1855 in Tazewell County she married her second cousin Nicolas/Nicholas Martin, the ceremony was performed by minister Andrew Ropp. He was born at Imling, Moselle March 15, 1834, and died Feb. 19, 1905, a son of Christian Martin and Elisabeth Zehr. See MARTIN for more on this couple.

e. Christian Litwiller was born at Milford Sept. 15, 1835, and died at Waldo, Livingston County Aug. 13, 1917. On March 28, 1859 in Tazewell County he married Magdalena Springer; the ceremony was performed by minister Andrew Ropp. She was born Feb. 2, 1840, and died at Colfax, McLean County July 16, 1921, a daughter of David Springer and Elizabeth Guth.

f. Joseph Litwiller was born at Milford Dec. 12, 1836, and died March 28, 1914. On March 9, 1862 in Tazewell County he married Catherine Birkey; the ceremony was performed by minister Andrew Ropp. She was born March 13, 1843, and died Dec. 30, 1923, a daughter of Christian Birkey and Catherine Mosiman. They are found on the 1880 census of Elm Grove. Joseph became a minister at Hopedale. They are buried in the Mennonite Cemetery there. *Gospel Herald*, April 1924: “Catherine (Birky) Litwiller was born in Tazewell Co., Ill., March 13, 1843; died Dec. 30, 1923; aged 80 y. 9 m. 17 d. She was united in marriage to Joseph Litwiller, March 9, 1862. To this union were born nine children, namely: Mary Oswald, Beemer, Nebr., Salome Eichelberger, Emden, Ill., Katie, at home, Christian A., John W., Daniel and Louis of Hopedale, Ill., and Ben F., Lakeworth, Fla. Her husband and two sons preceded her to the great beyond. She is also survived by 3 brothers, 3 sisters, 36 grandchildren, and 25 great-grandchildren, besides many relatives and friends. She united with the Amish Mennonite Church in her youth and remained faithful and loyal to the end. Funeral services were held Jan. 2, at the A. M. Church near Hopedale, Ill., conducted by Samuel Gerber, of Tremont, Ill.”

g. Veronica/ Frances Litwiller was born at Milford Oct. 28, 1838. She died before the 1840 census.

h. Peter Litwiller was born at Milford Sept. 9, 1839, and died June 28, 1900. On March 8, 1864 in Tazewell County he married Anna ‘Nancy’ Ehresman. She was born Feb. 22, 1841, and died at Hopedale April 11, 1909, a daughter of Christian Ehresman and his second wife Anna Barnett. They are buried in the Mennonite Cemetery at Hopedale. See EHRESMAN for her obituary.

i. John Litwiller was born at Milford Feb. 27, 1841, and died July 15, 1922. On Nov. 8, 1863 in Tazewell County he married Veronica ‘Fannie’ Birkey; the ceremony was conducted by minister Michael Moiman, who was a cousin to the bride’s mother. Veronica was born in Tazewell County Nov. 16, 1845, and died at Hopedale Dec. 21, 1930, a daughter of Christian Birkey and Catherine Mosiman. They are buried in the Mennonite Cemetery at Hopedale.

j. Veronica or Frances ‘Fanny’ Litwiller was born at Milford June 17, 1842. She married Peter Zehr in Tazewell County Feb. 3, 1861; the ceremony was performed by minister Andrew Ropp.

k. Magdalena Litwiller was born Oct. 19, 1844, and died within the year.

5. Magdalena/Madeleine Litwiller was born at Kerprich-aux-Bois (next to Diane-Capelle) March 30, 1801, and died in Livingston County in 1855. On Nov. 20, 1829 at Niderhoff, Moselle she married Joseph Oyer. At the time
Magdalena was living on Le Chamois farm at Badonviller, Meurthe-et-Meuse with older brother Christian. Magdalena assumed the care of eight Oyer children, and had five more before the family emigrated on the Superior in 1830.

6. **Peter/Pierre Litwiller** was born Jan. 30, 1808, and died in Tazewell County June 26, 1871. We could not confirm this birth date or ascertain his place of birth. He may have been buried in Schertz-Mosiman Cemetery at East Peoria, which now lies beneath Interstate 74; or was one of many who were buried in Railroad Cemetery under perishable wooden markers.

**Peter/Pierre Litwiller** was born Jan. 30, 1808, and died in Tazewell County June 26, 1871. He sailed with Mosimans and Oyers on the Superior from Le Havre to New Orleans in October 1830, and arrived at New Orleans Dec. 4. He appears on the passenger list as 'Peter Ledwidder, 23, farmer'; the entire party was labeled 'Suisse.' From New Orleans the group traveled to Butler County, where Peter soon married fellow passenger Marie/Mary Mosiman. She was born in 1807, and died in 1871, a daughter of Joseph Mosiman and Maria Zwalter of Azoudange, Moselle (see STAKER for more on the voyage).

'Peter Lithwiller' is found on 78 acres in the east half of the northwest quarter of Section 27 on McBride’s 1836 plat map of Milford, Butler County. The land was purchased with Christian Mosiman and Barbe Schmitt/Barbara Smith. The household appears under the name 'Peter Lithwiller' on the 1840 census of Milford, next door to Christian Mosiman and on the same page as older brother 'Joseph Lithwiller': one female under five years of age; one female 20-30; one female 30-40; two males under five years of age; one male 5-10; and one male 30-40.

Peter filed a naturalization *Declaration of Intent* as 'Peter Lettweller, 31, from France' at Hamilton, Butler County in September 1840: He went to the courthouse with Christian Gerber, whose sons Christian and Peter later settled on Allentown Road in Elm Grove, and John Iutzi. The complete list of those who filed in this time frame is given in STAKER.

"Peter Lettweller an alien. Butler County. Be it remembered that Peter Lettweller, an Alien or native of France aged thirty-one years, on solemn affirmation in open Court declares that it is bona fide his intention to become a Citizen of the United States, and to renounce forever all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign Prince, Potentate, State, or Sovereignty whatever and particularly to the King of France, whereof he is now a subject."

In 1842 Peter was involved in litigation involving repayment of a $500 note at eight percent interest. In 1849 the Litwillers purchased land at North Pekin, directly below Wesley City; this property is labeled 'Lettweiller' on the west side of the 1864 plat map of Groveland. The household appears on the 1850 census of Tazewell County as Peter Letwiller, 42, miller, France; Mary, 42, France; Catherine, 18, Ohio; Mary, 17, Ohio; Frances, 16, Ohio; Joseph, 13, Ohio; Peter, 10, Ohio; and Barbara, 8, Ohio.

In 1870 they appear on the census of Elm Grove as Peter 'Letweiler,' 62, farmer, France; and Mary, 62, France. Their next door neighbors were John Young and John Ropp, indicating they lived near the west end of Allentown Road.

Peter's probate papers file at Pekin named his heirs as widow Mariah and children Catharine Birkey, Maria Gerber, Fanny Schertz, Joseph Litwiller, and Peter Litwiller Jr. Peter Jr. acted as executor of his estate.

Children of Peter/Pierre Litwiller and Marie/Mary Mosiman include:

1. Catherine Litwiller was born in Butler County July 28, 1832, and died Aug. 24, 1870. On June 20, 1848 in Tazewell County she married Andreas/André/Andrew Birky; the ceremony was performed by minister Andrew Ropp. Andreas/André/Andrew was born Oct. 10, 1822, and died at Morton Nov. 7, 1893, a son of Valentine Birky and Elizabeth Unzicker. See BIRKY/BIRKEY for background on this couple.

2. Marie/Mary Litwiller was born in Butler County Dec. 28, 1833, and died Nov. 18, 1856. On Dec. 8, 1850 in Tazewell County she married Samuel Garber; the ceremony was performed by minister Andrew Ropp. Samuel was born in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania Sept. 2, 1824, and died at Emden, Ill. Dec. 7, 1909, a son of John Garber and Eva Caroline Paithe. Marie/Mary is buried in the Gerber grouping of graves in Railroad Cemetery. On June 27, 1858, Samuel remarried to Catherine 'Kate' Staker, a daughter of Christian Farny/Stecker/Staker and Magdalina Gabriell; the ceremony was performed by minister Andrew Ropp. She was born in Moselle March 22, 1834, and died July 13, 1893. They are buried in Prairie Rest Cemetery at Delavan.

3. Frances 'Fannie' Litwiller was born in Butler County in 1834. On July 7, 1857 she married David Schertz. He was born in 1832, and died in 1875, a son of David Schertz and his second wife Anne Rocher. They can be found on the 1870 census of Pekin.

4. Joseph Litwiller was born at Hamilton, Butler County Dec. 24, 1837, and died at Tremont June 1, 1902 (his headstone says 64 years, 6 months, 7 days according to the Tazewell County cemetery book, yielding the birth date). On May 8, 1862 in Tazewell County he married Mary Ropp; the ceremony was performed by minister Michael Mosiman. The ceremony was conducted by minister Michael Mosiman. She was born July 6, 1841, and died Feb. 7,
1920, a daughter of Andrew Ropp and Jacobine Vercler. They are found on the 1880 census of Elm Grove as Joseph Litwiller, 42, born in Ohio to parents from France; Mary, 37, born in Illinois to parents from Alsace; and six children born in Illinois. They eventually had eight children. Joseph was a minister of the Pleasant Grove Amish Mennonite Church; his son Jonas also became a minister.249 They are buried in Pleasant Grove Mennonite Cemetery.

5. Peter Litwiller was born at Hamilton, Butler County Sept. 9, 1840, and died at Mattoon Sept. 1, 1915 (according to a Mattoon death entry, where he is found as Peter Litwiler'). On Nov. 22, 1863 in Tazewell County he married Josephine Ropp; the ceremony was performed by minister Andrew Ropp. She was born in 1844, and died in 1904, a daughter of Jacob Ropp and Elizabeth Schlegel. They lived at Mattoon, and are buried in Railroad Cemetery.

6. Barbara Litwiller was born at Milford in 1841, and died in Tazewell County in 1854.

Barbara and Samuel

A few genealogy fragments suggest that Christian Leutweiler had siblings.250 Barbara/Barbe Litwiller was born circa 1743, and Samuel Litwiller was born circa 1750.

BARBARA/BARBE LITWILLER
Barbara/Barbe Litwiller (found as Littweiller, Lindweiler, and Littwiller) was born circa 1743, and died Oct. 29, 1791. She married Christian/Chrétien Rupp. He was born circa 1740, a son of Jakob Rupp and Anna Halblützer (Jakob is found as leaseholder of the Steckenhof estate at Denzlingen in 1757, and represented the Hochburg congregation at the assembly of ministers at Essingen in 1759). See ROPP, RÜPP OF HOCHBURG for background on their family.

SAMUEL LITWILLER
Samuel Litwiller (found as Littweiller) was born in Baden circa 1750, and died before 1815. They farmed at La Wantzenau, just across the Rhine River in Alsace, northeast of Strasbourg.

Before 1774 he married Barbara/Barbe Rupp. She was born at Emmendingen in 1749, and died at Lingolsheim, Lower Alsace Nov. 6, 1821, a daughter of Hans Rupp and Fronica Müller. They farmed at La Wantzenau, just across the Rhine River in Alsace, northeast of Strasbourg.

Her civil death entry identified her as Barbe Rupp, 72, the widow of Samuel Litwiller, and a resident of Maison No. 80. Her parents were Samuel Litwiller [an obvious error] and Fronica Müller of Emmendingen. Witnesses included Jean Rothacker, 60, and Chrétien Stucki, 45.

Their children include:

1. Barbara Litwiller was born circa 1774. On Feb. 14, 1797 at Lingolsheim she married Johannes Rothacker. He was born circa 1767, a son of Christian Rothacker and Anna Rupp. He acted as a witness at the wedding of Barbara's sister Magdalena and Johannes/Hans Rupp.

2. Magdalena/Madeleine Litwiller was born at La Wantzenau Oct. 21, 1777, and died in 1864. On Feb. 21, 1805 at Lingolsheim she married her cousin Johannes/Hans Rupp. He was born at Rohrburg bei Altenheim, Baden Sept. 29, 1776, and died at Eckbolsheim Aug. 14, 1814, a son of Christian/Chretién Rupp and Barbara/Barbe Litwiller (found as Littweiller, Lindweiler, and Littwiller). See ROPP, RÜPP OF HOCHBURG for background on their marriage, as

249 Jonas Litwiller followed his father as a minister of the Pleasant Grove Church. Gospel Herald, June 2, 1944: "Jonas Litwiller, son of Preacher Joseph and Mary (Rop) Litwiller, was born near Tremont, Ill., June 12, 1865, and passed away May 7, 1944; aged 78 y. 10 m. 24 d. He was united in marriage to Katie Eigsti on Jan. 31, 1889, who survives him with the following children: Elmer of Tremont; Louella (Mrs. Harvey Staker), Groveland; Albert and Lester, Morton; and Raymond, Chicago. He leaves also 13 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren. One brother, Andrew of Metamora, and 2 sisters, Elizabeth (Mrs. John Augsburger), Hopedale and Martha (Mrs. Dan Stauffer) Milford, Nebr., preceded him in death. The brothers and sisters surviving are Silas, Middlebury, Ind.; Thomas, Tremont, Ill.; Mrs. Emma Litwiller, Hopedale, Ill.; and Anna (Mrs. Dan Stauffer) Milford, Nebr. In youth he accepted Christ as his Savior and united with the Pleasant Grove Mennonite Church near Tremont, Ill. He was ordained to the ministry in 1903 at the age of 38 and served as a faithful servant of the church. He engaged in farming near Tremont until 1904 when he moved to the farm one mile south of Morton. In 1926 the family moved to Morton where he spent the remainder of his life. He believed in the simple life, in honest dealings and few words. He leaves behind many friends who will remember his quiet and unpretentious life. Funeral services were conducted at the home of his son, Albert, by Bro. Leland A. Bachman and at the church by Bro. Simon Litwiller, assisted by Bro. J. N. Kaufman. Text 11 Tim. 4:7, 8. Interment in the Pleasant Grove Mennonite Cemetery, north of Tremont, Illinois."

250 According to Mark Häberlein in Weisweil: Ein Dorf am Rhein, "An Anabaptist named Leutweiler – perhaps identical with or related to the Christian Leutweiler who had earlier resided in Schupfholz – left the village of Weisweil on the Rhine River just north of the Kaiserstuhl hills for the Alsace in 1795." We could not identify this individual; it is apparent that several Litwillers had crossed into Alsace well before this date.
well as Magdalena/Madeleine’s remarriage to Christian/Chrétien Sommer at Eckbolsheim Dec. 20, 1815 and subsequent emigration from Europe.
Sommer of Neuviller

Sommer is the German word for summer.

The Sommer family is associated with Sumiswald, a village 20 miles northeast of the city of Bern. The Emmenthal community was a commandery of the Teutonic Knights of Alsace-Swabia-Burgundy from 1225 until its purchase by the city of Bern in 1698. The parish of Sumiswald had been home to Hans Haslibacher, an elderly minister who became the last Anabaptist martyr to be beheaded in 1571.

The Emmental region [Ger. **Emmenthal**] centered around the valley of the Emme River held many citizens who here sympathetic *Halbtäufer*. When the Council at Bern cracked down on Anabaptists in 1670-71, the *Halbtäufer* protested the intolerance of their government by warning or hiding their neighbors. When a few Anabaptists were arrested, 60 citizens stormed the local jail before they could be transferred to the nearby prison-castle at Trachselwald.

The friendship and cooperation of *Halbtäufer* families influenced the attitude of Sumiswald elder Hans Reist, who opposed Jacob Amman’s intolerant stance in 1693. In 1702 the *Täuferkammer* or Anabaptist Commission at in the city of Bern ordered an Anabaptist hunt. Their records show that, "The efforts of the hunters were frustrated when the majority of the populace aided the Anabaptists to escape through various signals, as blowing horns, shooting, calling, and the like. Between sixty and seventy Anabaptists were released from prison through mob action of the sympathetic residents at Sumiswald April 24, 1714. Bern [the commission] fined the community 100 *Taler* [$2,000] for its actions."

Mathÿs Sümer and Anna Steiner were the parents of Úlli Sŭmer, later known as Ulrich Sommer. He was baptized at Sumiswald March 17, 1639. One witness was Úlli Sŭmer, who may have been the father’s father or brother (the name is found on the next page of baptism entries as the husband of Lucia Burkhart). The actual appearance of the surname Sümer in Bernese records was slightly different; the letter ‘m’ was topped by a line indicating a doubling of the vowel.

On Nov. 22, 1669, he married Christine Rehsee/Resse (1651-1691). They resettled at Waldersbach in the area of Le Ban de la Roche (now in Lower Alsace) about 1671, where Christine had one child. French genealogist Monique-Marie François has made an extensive study of the families in the area. Several interrelated Swiss Rûpp/Roup/Ropp families lived there after 1716, concentrating in the hamlet Le Haute Goutte.

"On Oct. 16, 1691, between 11 p.m. and midnight, Christine Ris, the Swiss wife of Ulrich Sommer died at Fouday between midnight Oct. 16, 1691, and was buried there Oct. 18." After Christine’s death, Úlli/Ulrich remarried Feb. 2, 1696 at Waldersbach to Christine Kommer [Kammerer]. They had three more children.

Úlli/Ulrich died at Rothau Jan. 8, 1725.

Johannes/Jean Sommer was born in 1672, and died at Waldersbach Feb. 10, 1706. "Jean Sommer of the reformed religion, a 34-year-old landowner at Waldersbach, died there Feb. 10, 1706 at 3 a.m., and was buried the following day in the cemetery at Fouday." He was the one child of Ulrich and his first wife, Christine Rehsee/Resse. He married Catherine Kommer.

(Johannes/Jean Sommer's half-brother was André Sommer, a son of Ulrich Sommer and second wife Christine Kommer. He married Anne Pinckele [Bingeli]. One of their children was Elizabeth Sommer. It is probable that she was the wife of Jacob Roup, and a grandparent to Andreas Ropp.)

Jean Sommer was born circa 1700-1705. He married Marie Barbe Neuhauser. He settled on Sommerhof farm, located outside Neuville (it became Neuville-la-Roche in 1961) at the Croix-Rouge meeting of the Rothaine Valley (the Rothaine River came from the western Rothau direction) and the Chergoutte Valley (coming from the eastern Barr direction).

Jean Sommer was born circa 1731, and died on Sommerhof Dec. 9, 1805. He married Marie Rubi/Robý before October 1769. She was born circa 1749, and was present at her son Joseph's marriage in 1806.

Joseph Sommer was born on Sommerhof Sept. 18, 1775, and died at Paris, Stark County, Ohio Aug. 4, 1856. On Jan. 15, 1806 at Neuville he married Anne Marie/Mary Göerig/Guérich. She was born in the Le Hang basin near Bourg-Bruche, Lower Alsace Sept. 14, 1788, and died at Paris, Ohio in 1859, a daughter of Jean Göerig and Barbe Goldschmidt. Witnesses at the ceremony included Joseph's brother Christian Sommer, 44, and Anne Marie's brother André Göerig, 24. Both witnesses were described as residents of Sommerhof.

In the latter half of the 18th century, the Le Ban de la Roche area was influenced by three strong personalities:

- Lutheran pastor and teacher Jean-George Stouber lived at Waldersbach and Bellefosse 1750-54 and 1760-67. He believed that literacy spread the message of the *Bible*, and published an elementary primer in 1762. His daughter wrote,
“The beliefs of the Moravian brethren [Anabaptists] held many attractions in his eyes. He once made a footnote with points for and against the Anabaptists, and it became very controversial. But finally he denounced the temptation to join them, in particular because of their very shocking banter about the love of Jesus, and their unpleasant way of saying that one washes oneself and bathes in his blood; that one rests and sleeps comfortably in his wounds; and other oddities of their speech.”

– Stouber’s successor as pastor and teacher was Jean Frédéric Oberlin (1740-1826) of Strasbourg. He visited in 1766, and made a permanent move to Waldersbach March 30, 1767. He studied theology and surgery, and served as a regimental chaplain. He expanded Stouber’s library, published an almanac, established a mutual insurance company and loan office, and organized an agency that placed abandoned children in families. While Stouber was wary of industry, Oberlin welcomed it. He is best known for his contributions to early education. His “knitting rooms” for children gave them a place to knit, draw, or garden while their parents worked. Oberlin is buried next to his church at Fouday. An Oberlin museum is located in Waldersbach.

– Jean Dietrich (1719-1795) became Jean de Dietrich, a baron of the Holy Roman Empire and the largest landowner in Alsace. He also became the Comte du Ban de la Roche when he bought up its mineral rights in 1771. His mineralogists found valuable ores and expanded a foundry at Rothau. This created jobs and a new demand for horses and oxen. However, the area ultimately could not sustain the resource-intensive industry. His blast furnaces consumed huge quantities of wood, while his livestock stripped the pastureland. Pastor Oberlin helped a little by encouraging communal cooking to conserve wood, a notion he may have borrowed from Swiss settlers.

In 1814, Napoleon’s armies chose to leave the Bruche Valley undefended. Allied troops approaching from the east saw it as a potential gateway into Lorraine. Rothau mayor Nicholas Wolff hastily organized a ragtag army of foundry workmen armed with farm implements to meet them. They engaged Russian and Austrian soldiers in the woods, where their scythes and spades were no match for rifles. Wolff’s men retreated to the cemetery at Rothau, while the Russians wheeled around to the south and camped at Fouday. The two sides reached a tentative truce until Wolff’s home was looted and burned. The mayor took refuge on Sommerhof. When Cossacks knocked at the door, Wolff answered in simple black clothing and a broad-brimmed hat borrowed from his host, Joseph. He misled the Cossacks by suggesting that the Bonapartist force had retreated eastward toward Barr. The Cossacks were never seen again.

Sommerhof was once embedded in woods. But the industrial consumption of its trees apparently led the family to relocate after 1815. (The farm was finally abandoned when the last of the extended family came to America in 1834).

The Sommers resettled on Zellerhof farm above the Zinsel River west of Dossenheim, Lower Alsace (above Saverne). This location is about 40 miles north of Neuviller. Their civil records can be found at Dossenheim-sur-Zinsel.

According to the Alsace Emigration Index, the family applied to emigrate at Dossenheim in 1828. They sailed from Le Havre on the Carolina Agusta. The passenger list for the ship’s arrival at New York May 16, 1828 has a number of errors. It lists Alsatian passengers John [Joseph] Somer, 52; Maria, 36; Joseph, 19; Peter, 17; Christiann, 19; John, 14; Madeline, 13; Cathena, 11; Elizabeth, 8; Barbe, 6; and John [Jacob], 2.

From New York they went to Butler County, Ohio, where they lived until 1834. When the older children left to settle in Illinois, the remaining family members moved to Stark County, Ohio. For background on Amish Mennonite settlement in Stark County see KLOPFENSTEIN.

The family of ‘Joseph Summers’ is found on the 1840 census of Paris, Stark County, Ohio living next door to ‘John Ramesayer’ (see RAMSEYER). In 1850 the Paris census lists the household of ‘Joseph Somers,’ 75; Mary, 65; and Anna, 20.

Children of Joseph Sommer and Anne Marie/Mary Göerig include:

1. Joseph Sommer [Jr.] was born on Sommerhof Feb. 13, 1807, and died at Columbus, Ohio Aug. 25, 1847. In 1833 in Ohio he married Marie/Mary Vercler. She was born on the Château de Romecourt estate at Azoudange, Moselle June 12, 1809, died at what is now Congerville Nov. 4, 1855, and is buried in Dillon Cemetery at Elm Grove. She was a daughter of Joseph Vercler and Catherine Ringenberg of Hellocourt. General Land Office certificates 8445 and 8323 describe full payment by ‘Joseph Sommer of Tazewell County, Illinois’ for one 40-acre parcel of land in the northeast quarter of the northwest quarter of section 19, and another in the southeast quarter of the northwest quarter of section 19 of what later became Elm Grove, on Oct. 15, 1835. The household of ‘Joseph Summer’ is listed on the 1840 census of unincorporated Tazewell County. History of the Illinois River Valley: “When Peter Sommer [Joseph Jr. and Marie/Mary's son] was but three years of age [1847] the family decided to return to Ohio to visit his grandfather [Joseph Sommer Sr.], making the trip in a covered wagon, and it was on this journey that his father [Joseph Jr.] passed away at Columbus, Ohio. The mother [Marie/Mary] remained with her husband's people in Ohio.
for about a year and then returned to the little log cabin home near Pekin.” Marie/Mary also lived with her oldest brother Joseph in Woodford County. On Feb. 3, 1852 in Tazewell County she remarried to Joseph Guingrich (1803-1875; see GINGERICH); the ceremony was performed by minister Andrew Ropp. Mary/Mary Vercler is buried in Dillon Cemetery at Elm Grove as ‘Mary Sommer Gingrich;’ Joseph Guingrich is buried in Imhoff Cemetery at Danvers. One of Joseph Sommer and Marie/Mary Vercler’s children, Peter Sommer (1834-1920), is credited with inventing the wire fencing method that led his son Peter Jr. to establish the Keystone Steel and Wire Company.

2. Christian/Christinane Sommer was born on Sommerhof Nov. 7, 1808, and died in Allen County, Indiana in 1900. On June 10, 1841 in Stark County he married Mary Conrad. She was born at Montandon, Franche-Comté, France June 14, 1819, a daughter of Jacob Conrad and Anneli Graber. Their household can be found on the 1850 census of Paris as Christian Sommers, 42; Meary, 29; Jacob, 8; Joseph, 5; and Christian, 4. Christian was naturalized in Allen County Nov. 3, 1856. The 1880 census of Cedar Creek, Indiana lists their household as Christian Sommers, 73, retired farmer; Marry, 62; Christian, 33; Anna, 28; Elias, 24; and Caroline, 22.

3. Peter/Pierre Sommer was born on Sommerhof April 28, 1811, and died at Gridley March 29, 1880.

4. Jean/John Sommer was born on Sommerhof May 24, 1813, and died Aug. 28, 1893.

5. Magdalena/Madeleine Sommer was born on Sommerhof Aug. 2, 1815, and died Aug. 10, 1902. In 1833 she married Joseph Gerber, who was born at Insviller, Moselle May 25, 1806 (his headstone says May 6), and died Feb. 2, 1882 (the cemetery book gives these dates as May 26, 1806 and Feb. 21, 1882), a son of Peter/Pierre Gerber and Barbe Schertz. See GERBER AND GARBER for more on this couple.

6. Catherine Sommer was born on Zellerhof farm near Dossenheim, Lower Alsace April 19, 1818, and died at Leo (Leo and Cedar Creek have merged into Leo-Cederville), Allen County, Indiana June 30, 1895. On March 4, 1836 in Stark County, Ohio she married John Klopfenstein. He was born Dec. 16, 1813, and died April 10, 1891, a son of Jean Klopfenstein and Catherine Linder of Belfort. They may be found on the 1880 census of Cedar Creek as John Klopfenstein, 66; Catherine, 65; and Magdalena, 36.

7. Elisabeth/Elizabeth ‘Eliza’ Sommer was born on Zellerhof farm (her civil birth entry actually names the mill Zellerseegmühl) near Dossenheim, Lower Alsace June 15, 1821, and died in Allen County, Indiana May 26, 1885. She is buried in Leo Cemetery at Cedar Creek, Indiana. On May 28, 1840 in Stark County she married Jacob Conrad. He was born in Montbéliard Nov. 3, 1811, and died in Allen County Nov. or March 22, 1885, a son of Jacob Conrad and Anneli Graber. She may be the 28-year-old Eliza Sommers who appears in the household of Jacob and Catharine Weiz on the 1850 census of Paris with children Jeremia, 4; and Meary, 1.

8. Barbe/Barbara Sommer was born on Zellerhof farm near Dossenheim March 14, 1823, and died in Harper County, Kansas. Her civil birth entry called her ‘Madeline.’ On Jan. 8, 1843 in Woodford County she married Nicholas Ramseyer. He was born at Maiche, Doubs March 28, 1821 (headstone March 12, 1820), and died at Harper County, Kansas Aug. 29, 1895, a son of Johannes Ramseier and Barbara Kauffman. They came from Ohio to Woodford County in 1849. See RAMSEYER for background on this couple.

9. Jacques/Jacob Sommer was born on Zellerhof farm near Dossenheim May 29, 1826, and died at Ashtabula, Ohio Feb. 24, 1892. On Oct. 26, 1851 in Woodford County he married Leah Lantz. She was born at Belleville, Pennsylvania Aug. 28, 1831, and died in Woodford County March 17, 1868, a daughter of John Lantz and his first wife Magdalene Yoder. He was a farmer and butcher. They can be found on the 1860 census of Eureka, Woodford County as Jacob Sommers, 34, France; Leah, 30, Pennsylvania; and Anna Helderly, 15, Hesse. On May 5, 1872 at Mansfield, Ohio Jacob remarried to Kathryn Steiner. She was born at Wayne, Ohio Feb. 21, 1841, and died at Mansfield, Ohio Sept. 21, 1923.

10. Anna Sommer was born in Ohio circa 1830, and died in Illinois in 1852. She was still living with her parents in Stark County in 1850.

PETER SOMMER

Peter/Pierre Sommer was born on Sommerhof April 28, 1811, and died at Gridley March 29, 1880.

On July 13, 1834 in Tazewell County he married Catherine Schertz; the ceremony was performed by minister Christian Engel. She was born in August 1816, and died in August 1874, a daughter of David Schertz and Catherine Belsley.

They are found on the 1850 census of District 56 (Woodford County) as farmer Peter Summers, 39, France; Catharine, 34, France; Magdalane, 14; Catharine, 13; Mary, 8; Barbary, 6; Elisabeth, 4; Joseph, 2; and Christian, one month; all children born in Illinois; and farmer Jacob Summers, 22, France. The households immediately following theirs belonged to Christian Sommer and Magdalena; John Klopfenstein and Catherine Klopfenstein; and Christian Sommer and Marie/Mary Sommer.

Peter was naturalized at the Peoria Courthouse Dec. 4, 1854.

They lived at Montgomery, Woodford County 32 years, and resettled at Gridley in 1866, where they farmed 160 acres. They became Apostolic Christians.

The History of McLean County (1879): ‘Peter Sommer, farmer and stock-raiser: Post Office at Gridley; has been a resident of Illinois since 1834. He was born near Strasburg, Alsace, France, April 24, 1811. He came with his parents to the United States in 1828; they settled in Butler County, Ohio; there he lived till his removal to Illinois
Amish Mennonites in Tazewell County, Illinois

in 1834; he was one of the pioneers of Woodford County, the Indians not having yet left their hunting grounds on the Mackinaw, when Mr. Sommer took up his claim from the Government, built his log cabin, and began to carve himself a home in the wilderness. After living there thirty-two years he settled on his present farm in 1866. He owns a fine farm of 160 acres, well improved, his set of buildings being among the best in the township. His success in life is due entirely to his own exertions. He is emphatically a self-made man. Has held no political offices, giving all his attention to his legitimate business of farming. He is a leading member of the Apostolic Christian Church and was prominent in the building of the church in Gridley. He was first married in August 1834 to Miss Catharine Schertz of Woodford County. She came with her parents from Alsace, France in 1832. She was born in August 1816, and died in August 1874. They had ten children, four of whom are living: Catherine, wife of John Ehresman of Livingston County; Barbara, wife of Peter Ehresman of Gridley Township; Mary; and Elizabeth, wife of Jacob Rich of Gridley Township.

Children of Peter Sommer and Catherine Schertz born at Montgomery Township, Woodford County include:

1. Magdalena Sommer was born in 1835, and died before 1879.
2. An unidentified infant was born and died in 1836.
3. Catherine 'Katie' Sommer was born in 1838, and died Jan. 26, 1913. On Nov. 18, 1858 she married John Ehresman. He was born May 26, 1828, and died at Gridley Dec. 13, 1891, a son of Christian Ehresman and his first wife Magdalena Barnett. See EHRESMAN for more on this couple.
4. An unidentified infant was born and died in 1840.
5. Mary Sommer was born July 28, 1842, and died at Gridley Nov. 29, 1892. On Jan. 28, 1862 she married Pierre/Peter Klopfenstein. He was born at Florimont April 30, 1837, and died Dec. 28, 1863, a son of John Klopfenstein and Catherine Klopfenstein. He is buried in Slabtown Cemetery, where his headstone says he died Dec. 28, 1863 at 26 years, 8 months. She is buried at Gridley.
6. Barbara Sommer was born March 2, 1844, and died Jan. 29, 1914. On May 3, 1863 at Slabtown she married Peter Ehresman. He was born in Ohio March 5, 1837 (his headstone says 1836), and died at El Paso, Woodford County Dec. 2, 1893, a son of Christian Ehresman and his second wife Anna Barnett. For more on this couple see EHRESMAN.
7. Elizabeth Sommer was born Jan. 31, 1846, and died at Gridley May 18, 1927. On March 6, 1864 she married Jacob/Jacques Rich. He was born at Florimont Oct. 30, 1838, and died at Gridley Jan. 19, 1907, a son of Christian Rich and Marie Hirschey. They can be found on the 1900 census of Gridley, McLean County. They are buried in Gridley Cemetery.
8. Joseph Sommer was born in 1848, and died before the 1860 census.
9. Christian Sommer was born Nov. 13, 1850, and died before the 1860 census.
10. An unidentified infant was born and died in 1852.

JEAN/JOHN SOMMER

Jean/John Sommer was born on the Sommerhof May 24, 1813, and died Aug. 28, 1893.

On Nov. 30, 1839 in Tazewell County he married Barbara/Barbe Schertz. She was born circa 1824, and died May 28, 1894, a daughter of David Schertz and Catherine Belsley. They would farm on the Elm Grove land that had been purchased by John's older brother Joseph in 1835.

The 1860 census of Elm Grove shows farmer John Summer, 47, France; Barbara, 40, France; Catharine, 17; Joseph, 14; Mary, 12; John, 10; Magdaline, 8; Elizabeth, 4, all children born in Illinois; and Bavarian laborer Joseph Stalder [Stalter], 30.251 The farm was appraised at $3,000. By 1870 the value of the family farm had risen to $20,000: farmer John Sommer, 54, France; Barbara, 50, France; Joseph, 24, Illinois; John, 20, Illinois; Madelaine, 17, Illinois; and Elizabeth, 14, Illinois.

The 1880 census of Elm Grove shows John Summers Sr., 67, France; Barbara, 51, France; a Fahsbender working on the farm; John Summers Jr., 29, Illinois; Mena [Amaloe/Amelia Unzicker], 35, Illinois; and Andrew, 3 months, Illinois.

1. David Sommer was born March 1, 1840, and died in 1842.
2. Anna Sommer was born Oct. 2, 1841, and died in 1844.
3. Catherine Sommer was born Oct. 15, 1843, and died July 4, 1897. On Dec. 28, 1869 in Tazewell County she married Christian Mosiman; the ceremony was performed by minister Joseph Stuckey. He was born March 27, 1835, and died July 4, 1897, a son of minister Michael Mosiman and Maria Roche. The 1880 census of Fon du Lac lists them

251 This may have been Josef Stalter of Gern, a son of Heinrich Stalter and Jakobine Stalter born in 1828.
as retired grocer C. Moseman, 45, born in Illinois to French parents; Catharine, 39, born in Illinois to French parents; and brother Joseph Mosiman, 43, a hardware merchant born in Illinois to French parents.

4. Joseph S. Sommer was born Oct. 22, 1845, and died June 21, 1926. He married Mary F. Lange. She was born April 1, 1855, and died May 12, 1942. They can be found on the 1900 census of Groveland as farmer Joseph Sommer, 54, born in Illinois to German parents; Mary, 45, born in English Canada in April 1855 to German parents; and six children.

5. Mary Sommer was born June 30, 1847, and died in June 1930. On Feb. 17, 1867 she married Christian Augspurger, a namesake grandson of Christian Augspurger. He was born in Wayne, Butler County, Ohio Dec. 9, 1840, and died March 14, 1880, a son of Christian Augspurger [Jr.] and Magdalena Roes. They can be found on the 1870 census of Prairie, Iowa as farmer Christian Augspurger, 29; born in Ohio; Mary, 24, born in Ohio; John, 2, born in Iowa; and Anna, 6 months, born in Iowa. Herald of Truth, April 1880: “March 14th, in Pulaski, Davis Co., Iowa, Christian Augspurger, aged 39 years, 3 months and 4 days. He leaves a bereaved wife and five children to mourn the loss of a husband and father.”

6. John S. Sommer was born Oct. 12, 1849, and died March 23, 1935. On Oct. 24, 1878 he married Amalie/Amelia Unzicker. She was born May 10, 1854, and died Oct. 24, 1935, a daughter of Peter Unzicker and Katharina Kennel of Morton. They can be found on the 1910 census of Elm Grove as John S. Sommer, 60, born in Illinois to a German father and French mother; Emelia, 55, born in Illinois to German parents; and two children.

7. Magdalena ‘Maggie’ Sommer was born March 8, 1852, and died Nov. 4, 1928. On Feb. 5, 1877 in Tazewell County she married Jacob Rich. He was born at Morton March 15, 1853, and died Aug. 20, 1929, a son of Joseph Rich and Catherine Zimmerman (niece of Andreas Ropp). They can be found on the 1880 census of Cruger, Woodford County. They are buried in Glendale Cemetery.

8. Elizabeth Sommer was born Jan. 30, 1856, and died March 18, 1938. She married Jacob F. Ropp. He was born July 20, 1853, and died Nov. 21, 1928, a son of Jacob Ropp and Elizabeth Schlegel. They lived at Gridley, and had three children. They are buried in Gridley Cemetery.

**Sommer of Farnisville**

Jean Sommer was born at Raon-sur-Plaine Feb. 22, 1773, and died at La Broque, Vosges May 13, 1808. On Dec. 17, 1803 at La Broque he married Magdalena Neuhauser. She was born at La Broque May 8, 1779, and died at La Grand Fosse, Provenchers-sur-Fave Dec. 28, 1840, a daughter of Nicolas Christian Neuhauser and Véronique Fongond.

Their son Christian Sommer was born at Raon-sur-Plaine Oct. 24, 1804. He married Marie Sommer. She was born at Neuviller-la-Roche Jan. 31, 1813, a daughter of Ulrich Sommer (a brother to Joseph born in 1775, whose story was told earlier) and Barbe Görg/Guérich. Ulrich was a brother to Joseph Sommer, whose story was told earlier; thus Marie Sommer was a cousin to Jean/John Sommer of Elm Grove.

The packet ship Frances DePau sailed from Le Havre, arriving at New York July 22, 1836 (for the ship's background see BECHLER/BECKLER). Its passenger list includes Christian Sommer, 32; Marie, 23; Salomé, 17; Barbe, 55; Joseph Baechler, 26; Catharina, 27; Marie, 5; Peter Baechler, 24; Joseph Sommer, 74; Barbe, 75; and Andreas Sommer, 18. They can be identified as:

- Christian Sommer, 32, and his wife Marie Sommer, 23, were the couple we have mentioned.
- Andreas Sommer, 18, was a younger brother to Marie.
- Salomé Sommer, 17, was a younger sister to Marie and the future wife of Christian Schlegel [Jr.].
- Barbe Sommer, 55, was Salome’s mother Barbe Görg/Guérich, now a widow.
- Relations Joseph Sommer, 74, and Barbe, 75, and the Baechlers can also be identified (see BECHLER/BECKLER).

The birthplaces of the children indicate that they settled at St. Louis, Missouri in 1836, and came to Illinois between 1845 and 1847.

Christian Sommer appears as ‘C. Summer’ on the 1840 census of St. Louis. The St. Louis census shows a male in the 30-39 age bracket (Christian); a male in the 20-29 age bracket (André?); a male under 5 (Joseph); a female in the 50-59 age bracket (Barbe Guengerich?); a female 20-29 (Marie); and a female under 5 (Mary). The household of a 'Joseph Summers' is shown on the same page.

In 1850 they appear on the census of District 56 (Woodford County) as John Klopfenstein and Nicholas Ramsayer as farmer Christian Sommer, 47, France; Mary, 37, France; Joseph, 14, Missouri; Mary, 11, Missouri; Christian, 8, Missouri; Elizabethe, 6, Missouri; Peter, 3, Illinois; and Magdalena, 6 months, Illinois.

In 1860 they are found at Montgomery Township as farmer Christian Sommer, 56, France; Mary, 45, France; laborer Joseph, 23, Missouri; Mary, 20, Missouri; Christian, 17, Missouri; Elizabeth, 16, Missouri; Peter, 12, Illinois; Magdalene, 10, Illinois; Barbara, 7, Illinois; Cath., 4, Illinois; and Benj., 7 months.
An 1865 federal tax assessment shows Christian Sommer at Farnisville, Montgomery Township. He paid $1 tax on a carriage.

It is thought that Christian and Marie died before 1870, and were buried in Slabtown Cemetery. Cattle were allowed to graze on the grounds. Many of the graves had wooden markers that no longer survive. Only 16 or so headstones can still be read.

Children of Christian Sommer and Marie/Mary Sommer were extremely difficult to identify. We hope to look in family histories in the Mennonite Heritage Center at Germantown Hills in the near future. They include:

1. Joseph Sommer was born at St. Louis, Missouri in 1836. On Sept. 11, 1864 in Woodford County he married Magdalena Ramseyer. She was born in Stark County, Ohio circa 1843, a daughter of Nicholas Ramseyer and Barbara Sommer. They were next door neighbors on the 1850 census of Montgomery.

2. Mary Sommer was born at St. Louis, Missouri circa 1839, and died in 1867. On Dec. 24, 1861 in Woodford County she married Isaac Zimmerman. He was born at Grenzach, Baden Jan. 17, 1838, and died Dec. 30, 1903, a son of Johannes/John Zimmerman and Anna 'Emma' Schneider. On Feb. 6, 1868 in Woodford County he remarried to Mary Stuckey. She was born in Baden Aug. 30, 1847, and died April 19, 1901. They can be found on the 1870 and 1880 censuses of Pike. Isaac and Mary are buried in Sterling Evangelical Mennonite Cemetery at Sterling, Kansas, which was established on land they donated.

3. Christian Sommer was born at St. Louis, Missouri circa 1842. Woodford County records say that on July 30, 1865 in Woodford County he married Anna Bimmermahn (Bimmerman or Zimmerman?).

4. Elizabeth Sommer was born at St. Louis, Missouri circa 1844.

5. Peter Sommer was born at Montgomery Township, Woodford County Aug. 13, 1847, and died at Union Township, Iowa Dec. 17, 1910. In November 1875 in Woodford County he married Susan Landis. She was born Feb. 19, 1854, and died at Union Township, Iowa June 12, 1901. Their household is found on the 1880 census of Montgomery as Peter Sommers, 32, born in Illinois to French parents; Susan, 26, born in Illinois to German parents; Jonathan, 3, Illinois; William, 1, Illinois; laborer Benjamin, 20, born in Illinois to French parents (Peter's brother); and Gottlieb Moser, 27, Switzerland. They appear on the 1900 census of Union Township, Iowa as farmer Peter Summers, 52, born in Illinois in August 1847 to French parents; Susan, 54, born in Illinois in February 1846 to French parents; and nine children born in Illinois, the youngest in September 1895. They are buried in North Pulaski Cemetery at Pulaski, Iowa.

6. Magdalena Sommer was born at Montgomery Township, Woodford County circa 1850.

7. Barbara Sommer was born at Montgomery Township, Woodford County circa 1853.

8. Catherine Sommer was born at Montgomery Township, Woodford County circa 1857.

9. Benjamin Sommer was born at Montgomery Township, Woodford County circa 1859. He is found on the 1880 census of Montgomery in the household of his older brother Peter. He is found on the 1900 census of Pamona, California as salesman Benj. F. Sommer, 40, born in Illinois in September 1859 to French parents; Katherine, 38, born in Switzerland in September 1861 to Swiss parents; and seven children, the first five born in Illinois up to 1889, the last two born in California in 1891 and 1893.
Rich of Ruederbach

The surname 'Richen' or 'Rychen' is associated with the village of Frutigen in the Oberland south of Lake Thun in Canton Bern. Spelling variations have included Riche, Reich, and Rychener.

Many Anabaptist families found havens with Duke Leopold Eberhard in Montbéliard after the expulsion from the Markirch valley in 1712. The principality was a detached enclave of Württemberg, located west of what later became Upper Alsace.

By 1740 Alsatian restrictions were relaxed. Many of Montbéliard's second generation migrated east into the French-speaking district of Belfort, where the lords of Florimont owned estates. Over the next decades some migrated farther east into the German-speaking Sundgau Region, drawn by its accessible farm land and proximity to Basel.

French genealogist Thierry Huckel has identified an early generation of this family. Cultivator Peter/Pierre Rich was born circa 1746. His Anabaptist Rychen/Richen family had migrated from Frutigen to Montebéliard and then to the area below Altkirch, Upper Alsace.

Before the French Revolution the Anabaptists living near Altkirch attended services at Neunich, a remote farm in the foothills of the Jura Mountains between Ligsdorf (14 miles south of Altkirch) and the Swiss border (two miles below Ligsdorf). The religious liberties promised by the revolution apparently encouraged Peter to lead a service on the Baumerthof estate at Riespach June 20, 1790. The occasion was the first documented open meeting of Anabaptists in the area. Later meetings were held at a number of locations including the Birkenhof farm at Ruederbach; Blochmont farm at Kiffis on the Swiss border; Haushof farm between Oltingue and the Swiss border; the grounds of Château de Liebenstein at Liebsdorf; Montigo farm at Levoncourt; and Schweighof farm at Altkirch.

Peter/Pierre served as elder on the Birkenhof farm at Ruederbach (Ruederbach is only three miles east of Largitzen, where Andreas Ropp farmed). Global Anabaptist Mennonite Encyclopedia Online on Peter at Birkenhof: "He served more than 30 years as elder. His influence was felt far beyond his own congregation. He had great prestige everywhere among the Mennonites."

In 1798 Peter/Pierre became involved in some sort of dispute involving business. His adversary was also named Peter Rich; he lived on the grounds of the Château de Liebenstein at Liebsdorf (seven miles south of Ruederbach). Outside elders unsuccessfully attempted to mediate the argument on the Birkenhof Oct. 28. The two Peters finally came to agreement at a second meeting on Baumerthof farm at Riespach April 5, 1801.

In 1802, simultaneous assemblies of Amish Mennonites took place at Pulversheim and Richwiller, both suburbs of Mulhouse. Military conscription for Napoleon's campaigns had become a function of local government, and this was undoubtedly a topic of discussion. Jean Pierre attended as an elder representing his congregation. Other elders included Jacob Hirschi of Sigolsheim and Bollwiller, Hans Roth of Dornach, and Benedict Tschantz of Bolwiller; family names likely included Amstutz, Bächer, Brechbühl, Conrad, Eicher, Frey, Frutiger, Goldschmidt/Goldschmitt, Görg/Gerig, Graber, Hochstetter, Hochstettler, Joder/Yoder, Kauffmann, Lehmann, Litwiller (found there as Lidviller), Lüginbühl, Maurer, Ropp, Schlegel, Schmitt, Schmucker, Schürch/Schirch, Schwartz, Schwart/Schwary, Sommer, Stucki/Stucky/Stocky, Ummel/Hummel, and Zimmermann.

Barbe Linder died at Ruederbach Jan. 14, 1809. Peter/Pierre Rich died at Ruederbach July 15, 1814. His civil death entry described him as a 68-year-old cultivator, and identified his deceased wife as Barbe Linder.

Their children include:

1. Johannes/Jean Rich was born circa 1788. He was described as a 26-year-old cultivator from Ruederbach when he signed the civil death entry of his father in 1814. He married Barbe Rich, and was living at Ruederbach when they had daughter Barbe there Sept. 9, 1818. The civil birth entry described the father as Jean Rich, a 35-year-old cultivator. He was described as a cultivator at Ensisheim on the 1830 marriage entry of his brother Pierre.

2. Jacob/Jacques Rich was born at Ruederbach Jan. 12, 1789. He died in the home of his son Joseph at Washington, Tazewell County in August 1876.

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252 Frutigen is about six miles south of Lake Thun. It was also home to large Kauffman and Stücki families. The Richen/Rychen family extended to Adelboden, which is higher up in the same valley as Frutigen.

253 The Peter Rich at Leibsdorf was married to Catherine Stauffer of Schwarzenegg, Canton Bern.

254 A cemetery was established on the Birkenhof Oct. 15, 1807. A minor dispute about who should pay community fees was resolved Nov. 26, 1808.
3. Anne Rich was born circa 1792, and died at Ruederbach Jan. 4, 1812. Her civil death entry gave her age as 19, and described her father Pierre as a 67-year-old cultivator.
4. Barbe Rich was born at Ruederbach Dec. 13, 1797.
5. Pierre Rich was born at Ruederbach circa 1799. On Nov. 9, 1830 at Heidwiller, Upper Alsace he married Catherine Eicher. Their civil marriage entry described the groom as Pierre Rich, 31, born at Ruederbach, a son of the deceased Pierre Rich and Barbe Linderin. The bride was described as Catherine Eicher, a son of Jaques Eicher, 43, and Catherine Kolopstim [Klopfenstein], 39, cultivators at Aspach. Witnesses included cultivator Chrétienn Lugnibiely [Luginbuhl], 73, a resident of Altkirch; cultivator Chrétienn Hirschy, 44, of Ruederbach; cultivator Jaques Stauffer, 63, of Altkirch; and brother-of-the-bride cultivator Jean Rich, 43, of Ensisheim.

Jacob/Jacques Rich was born at Ruederbach Jan. 12, 1789.

He was conscripted into the French Grand Army, presumably in a noncombatant role such as teamster or medical aide. He participated in the disastrous Russian Campaign.

On June 24, 1812, between 450,000 and 690,000 troops assembled on the Neman River and began a march to Moscow. The Battle of Borodino on Sept. 7 caused more casualties than any other day of the Napoleonic Wars. But the Russian armies retreated, and the French Grand Army impetuously advanced again. When they arrived at Moscow they found an empty city. Over the next few days it burned, depriving the French troops of shelter as winter set in. On the retreat many horses were either frozen or killed for food. Supply wagons were abandoned. Approximately 31,000 troops managed to return in formation, while another 35,000 returned as stragglers. The remainder were killed in battle, by disease or starvation, or froze to death after receiving wounds. 

On April 28, 1819 at Berrwiller, Upper Alsace veteran Jacob/Jacques married Catherine Zimmerman. The civil entry described the groom as 30-year-old Jacques Rich, born at Ruederbach Jan. 12, 1789, a son of the deceased Peter Rich (who had died July 15, 1814) and Barbe Linder (who had died Jan. 15, 1809) from 'Burgenhoff,' Ruederbach. The bride was identified as Catharine Zimmerman, 22, born at Ungersheim (above Mulhouse) April 2, 1797, a daughter of the deceased Chrétien Zimmerman and Elisabeth Röschli who was living at Weckenthal, Berrwiller, and was present and consenting. For background on earlier generations of her family see ZIMMERMAN.

Their son Joseph Rich emigrated from Europe circa 1840. The remainder of the family was processed for emigration at Illzach (a suburb above Mulhouse) in 1848. Father Jacob/Jacques stated that he was born at Ruederbach, was 60 years old, and would be accompanied to New York by his wife and three daughters. They sailed from Le Havre on the St. Nicolas, arriving at New York Jan. 22, 1849. The passenger list shows them as Jacques Rich, 62, France; Catherine, 54; Babette, 24; Elisab., 16; and Catherin, 7.

Catharine Zimmerman died before 1870, and was buried in Guth Cemetery at Washington. Jacob appears as an 83-year-old in the household of his son Joseph on the 1870 federal census of Morton. He died in the home of his son Joseph at Washington, Tazewell County in August 1876. The Morton and Washington cemetery book says that he is buried in Guth Cemetery at Washington, though no headstone is found there.

Children of Jacob/Jacques Rich and Catherine Zimmerman include:

1. Anna Rich died at age 21, before her family's emigration from Europe.
2. Joseph Rich was born Jan. 1, 1822, and died Nov. 30, 1894 (headstone dates); he is buried in Glendale Cemetery at Washington.
3. Barbara 'Babette' Rich was born at Hirsingue, Upper Alsace April 8, 1823, and died in Adams County, Indiana Aug. 23, 1905.
4. Pierre Rich was born at Hirsingue Jan. 19, 1825, and died there Nov. 12, 1825.
5. Pierre Rich was born at Hirsingue March 16, 1827, and died there March 23, 1827.
6. Elisabeth Rich was born at Bollwiller, Upper Alsace April 19, 1832. On Aug. 9, 1856 in Tazewell County she married Pierre Habecker (also known as Peter Hawbecker); the ceremony was performed by minister Michael Mosiman. See HABECKER for background on this couple.

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255Marriage was a grounds for exemption from military service. In 1811, the year before the Russian Campaign, 203,000 marriages were entered in état civil records. In 1813, the year following, the number leaped to 387,000.

In 1852 Napoleon's nephew became Napoleon III. In 1857 more than 80,000 awards of the Médaille de Sainte-Hélène were made to former soldiers of the Grande Armée who had served between 1792 and 1815 (it was estimated that 405,000 were still living in 1857). A French delegation visited graves in Central Illinois to hold commemoration ceremonies. One representative donated the headstone of Russian Campaign veteran Jean Pierre Mougeon (1781-1852) in Fagotte Cemetery at Groveland, also called the Old French Burial Ground.
7. Catherine Rich was born Sept. 21, 1841, and died at Wheatland, Missouri Dec. 3, 1931. On Feb. 20, 1862 in Tazewell County she married Daniel Schindler; the ceremony was performed by minister Andrew Ropp. He was born in Lorraine July 3, 1836, and died at Wheatland Nov 30, 1905, a son of Daniel Schindler and Marie Liechti. They are buried in Crutsinger Cemetery at Wheatland.

Joseph Rich was born Jan. 1, 1822, and died Nov. 30, 1894 (headstone dates); he is buried in Glendale Cemetery at Washington.

According to Chapman’s *History of Tazewell County*, he arrived at New York in 1840. He worked in New York for two years, then traveled to New Jersey, Philadelphia, and Pittsburgh before living in Butler County, Ohio for five years. In 1848 he settled on a farm at Washington, Tazewell County.

On Feb. 1, 1852 in Tazewell County Joseph married Catherine Rich; the ceremony was performed by minister Andrew Ropp. She was born at Kingersheim, Upper Alsace Sept. 29, 1827, a daughter of Pierre/Peter Rich and Barbara Schlatter. The Rich family had sailed from Le Havre on the *Cotton Planter*, arriving at New York May 31, 1843. They appear on the passenger list as Pierre Rich, 47; Barbara, 35; Catharina, 15; Barbara, 9; Anna, 6; Joseph, 5; and Veronika, 3. They settled in Ontario until the death of the father there in November 1850.

Children of Joseph Rich and his first wife Catherine Rich include:

- David Rich may have been adopted by the family. He was born in Warren County, Ohio Feb. 5, 1850, and died May 6, 1901; he is buried in Glendale Cemetery. On May 1, 1873 in Tazewell County he married Catherine Zook. She was born May 2, 1854, and died Dec. 22, 1909, a daughter of Michael Zook and Barbara Otto; she is buried in Evergreen Cemetery at Bloomington, McLean County. In 1900 they were living apart. The 1900 census of Deer Creek shows widowed carpenter David Rich, 50, born in Illinois to French parents in May 1850. The 1900 census of Nebraska, Livingston County shows widow Cathrine Rich, 46, born in Illinois to German parents in May 1854; Barbara, 25, born in Illinois in May 1875 to parents from Ohio and Illinois; George, 18, born in Illinois in August 1881 to parents from Ohio and Illinois; and Lena, 14, born in Illinois in September 1885 to parents from Ohio and Illinois.

1. Jacob Rich was born at Washington Feb. 15, 1853, and died Aug. 20, 1929. On Feb. 5, 1877 in Tazewell County he married Magdalena ‘Maggie’ Sommer. She was born in March 8, 1852, and died Nov. 4, 1928, a daughter of Jean/John Sommer and Barbara/Barbe Schertz of Elm Grove. They can be found on the 1880 census of Cruger, Woodford County. They are buried in Glendale Cemetery.

2. Mary Rich was born at Washington Sept. 10, 1854, died Jan. 6, 1881, and is buried in Hickory Point Cemetery at Metamora. On Dec. 29, 1874 in Tazewell County she married lumber and grain dealer Peter Schertz. He was born at Worth Aug. 8, 1848, and died at Metamora July 15, 1904, a son of Joseph Schertz and Anna Zehr. On May 26, 1881 at Metamora Peter remarried to Emma Dora Kuhl. She was born April 8, 1862, and died at Peoria June 20, 1935, a daughter of Johann Kuhl and Mary Ellen Forell. Peter, Mary, and Emma are buried in Oakwood Cemetery at Metamora.

3. Lydia Rich was born at Washington May 1, 1856, and died at Eureka Dec. 9, 1934. On Feb. 22, 1883 in Tazewell County she married Peter R. Lehman. He was born Dec. 3, 1860, and died Jan. 4, 1901; his parents appear on the 1880 census of Nebraska, Livingston County as Peter Lehmann, 36, France; and Magdalena, 44, Bavaria. Lydia and Peter R. lived at Flanagan. Lydia remarried to Christian King, a minister of the Goodfield Mennonite Church. He was born at Liberty, Butler County Oct. 13, 1840, and died at Deer Creek Nov. 2, 1924, a son of Michael King and Elizabeth Barnett (see KING for details of his three marriages). Lydia was an invalid from February 1931 until her death in 1934. She and her first husband are buried in Glendale Cemetery.

4. Daniel Rich was born at Washington Oct. 25, 1857, and died Aug. 19, 1947. On Feb. 20. 1883 at Nebraska, Livingston County he married Ella B. Lehman. She was born Aug. 12, 1865, and died Dec. 6, 1923, a younger sister to Peter R. Lehman. They are buried in Glendale Cemetery.

Catherine Rich died at Morton in 1859, and is buried in Hirstein Cemetery. On April 6, 1860 in Johnson County, Iowa Joseph remarried to Catharine Zimmerman. She was born at Froeningen, Upper Alsace May 22, 1824, died in Tazewell County April 12, 1891, and is also buried in Glendale Cemetery at Washington. She was a daughter of Jacob/Jacques Zimmerman and Catharina/Catherine Ropp of Froeningen, and a niece to Andreas Ropp.

Their farm can be seen in the northeast corner of Morton on the 1864 plat map. The 1870 census of Morton shows their household: Joseph Rich, 49, a farmer from France; Catharine [Zimmerman], 46, keeping house, from

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256 Father Pierre/Peter Rich was born at Montjoie, Doubs April 26, 1796, and died in Ontario in November 1850, a son of Nicolas Rich and Anne Marie Eicher. Mother Barbara Schlatter was born at Richwiller, Upper Alsace Aug. 10, 1805, and died at Jefferson or Burlington, Iowa April 20, 1885, a daughter of Christian Schlatter and Anne Marie Roth. They were married at Kingersheim, Upper Alsace Aug. 8, 1826.
Amish Mennonites in Tazewell County, Illinois

France; and children born in Illinois including Jacob, 17; Mary, 15; Lydia, 14; Daniel, 12; Joseph, 9; and Christian, 5. Jacob Rich, 83, is also listed. The 1880 census of Morton shows farmer Joseph Rich, 57, Alsace; Catherine, 55 Alsace; Lydia, 24; Daniel, 21; Joseph, 18; and Christian, 14; all children born in Illinois. Children of Joseph Rich and his second wife Catherine Zimmerman include:

5. Joseph Rich was born at Morton July 9, 1861, and died at Washington Dec. 10, 1933. On April 26, 1887 in Tazewell County he married Louisa Roth. She was born April 29, 1866, and died Jan. 7, 1940, a daughter of Daniel Roth and Catherine Ropp. They are buried in Glendale Cemetery.

6. Christian Rich was born at Morton March 8, 1865, died at Meadows Nov. 20, 1839, and is buried in Glendale Cemetery. On Dec. 30, 1890 in Tazewell County he married Magdalena 'Lena' Eicher. She was born at Elm Grove Jan. 10, 1874, died at Chicago June 7, 1957, and is buried in Irving Park Cemetery. She was a daughter of Pierre/Peter Eicher and Verène Stocki/Veronica 'Fannie' Stucky. They divorced, and she remarried to a Fischer before 1912.

Daniel Rich
Brother-in-law to Joseph Rich

Two or perhaps three Richen/Rychen family lines followed the same emigration route to end up in Upper Alsace. One line is better documented than the others.

Peter Rychen was born at Frutigen, Canton Bern Feb. 15, 1583. On June 12, 1615 he married Anna Wandfluh.

Their son Jacob Rychen was born at Frutigen March 8, 1635. On April 26, 1669 he married Marguerite Zurcher.

Their son Peter Rychen was born at Frutigen Oct. 20, 1681. On Feb. 2, 1706 he married [first name illegible] Rosti.

Their son Peter Rychen was born at Frutigen Aug. 21, 1707. On Dec. 8, 1733 he married Margreth Schmid.

Their son Peter Rychen was born at Frutigen June 6, 1741. On June 11, 1761 he married Elisabeth Furer. On Dec. 12, 1768 he remarried to Susanna Rychen, a daughter of Jacob Rychen and Susanna Gueman.

Peter Rychen/Peter Rich was a child of first wife Elisabeth Furer, born at Leibsdorf, Upper Alsace Feb. 14, 1768. On April 10, 1792 Peter married Anne Müller. She was born circa 1774, and died at Riespach, Upper Alsace (nine miles below Altkirch) Oct. 30, 1809, age 36. Their children born on Baumerthof farm at Riespach include:

1. Daniel Rich was born in 1793. His birth entry was the first in état civil records at Riespach. We had difficulty interpreting the German script, which appeared to say the date was January 22 in the second year of the French Republic.

2. Christian Rich was born July 11, 1802, and died at Riespach Dec. 1, 1807.

3. Catherine Rich was born April 23, 1803. When she died at Riespach Dec. 10, 1807, the civil entry incorrectly stated that she was only 2 years old.

4. Catherine Rich was born Jan. 22, 1808, and died on the Birkenhof farm at Ruederbach in 1859. Her civil birth entry described her parents as 43-year-old laborer Pierre Rich and Anna Müller. It was signed ‘Pierre Riche’—perhaps by a municipal clerk, since he usually signed ‘Petter Rich.’ In 1828 Catherine married Jean Hirschey, a son of elder Jacob Hirschi/Hirschey and Anne Marie Zimmerman of Bollwiller.

Cultivator Daniel Rich was born on Baumerthof farm at Riespach in 1793, and died at Waalheim, Upper Alsace Jan. 6, 1845. His civil death entry described him as a 51-year-old cultivator born on Baumerthof farm, the husband of Eve Rich, 50.

He married Eve Rich circa 1818. She was born circa 1795. (The birth entry of their son said that they had been married on Birkenhof farm at Ruederbach, but did not give a date; we could not locate a civil marriage entry at either Ruederbach or Riespach).

Daniel died at Waalheim, Upper Alsace Jan. 6, 1845. The civil death entry described him as a 51-year-old cultivator, and Eve as a 50-year-old.

Their son Daniel Rich was born at Riespach July 14, 1819. On March 12, 1848 at Dornach he married Barbara/Barbe Zimmerman. She was born at Froeningen March 9, 1815, an older sister to Catherine Zimmerman (mentioned earlier as the second wife of Joseph Rich). Mother-of-the-groom Eve Rich was present and consenting at the wedding.

Dominique Dreyer's Emigrants Haut-Rhinois en Amérique 1800-1870 states that 32-year-old cultivator Daniel Rich applied for a passport for himself and his family at Colmar April 23, 1851. He was from Riespach and
Dornach; his intended destination was New York. Daniel Rich and wife are listed as 1851 applicants bound for New York in the *Alsace Emigration Index*.

Daniel Rich appears as a resident of Washington, Tazewell County on the 1852 Illinois state census. He died in Johnson County, Iowa July 6, 1855 (minister Joseph Goldsmith established an Amish Mennonite congregation there that year).

As a widow, Barbara appears on the 1860 federal census of Morton as a 44-year-old born in France, in the household of her younger sister Catharine and brother-in-law Joseph Rich. In 1870 she appears as a 55-year-old born in France and living in Iowa City, Iowa. She died Jan. 24, 1899. They had no children.
Ulrich of Hirsingue

Under the Heimatrecht legal rights and benefits system created in Canton Bern in 1672, 'Üllrich' and 'Ulrich' are considered distinct families, and the spellings are standardized. The Üllrichs have Heimatsorte or legal points of origin for citizenship rights at Albligen, Guggisberg, Rüschegg, and Wählern - all northwest of Thun. The Ulrichs have points of legal origin at Huttwil, Trub, Ruegsau, and Sumiswald - all northeast of Thun.

However, before this the surnames had already devolved into Üllrich, Úlli, Úlhmann, and Utz. Alsatian administrators later created Oillery, Oulry, Ullery, Voilery, Voilrich, and Voile.

Mattheis Ulrich is found on a list of Anabaptists at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines in 1708. Too little is known about him to identify links.

Anabaptist Hans Ulrich was living at Badevel in 1723. Badevel is located in Doubs, Franche-Comté, less than two miles from the Swiss border. He may be the Hans Ulrich who married Rosina Bachler.

They were the parents of Pierre Ulrich (also found as 'Voilrich' and 'Oillery'). He was born at Mortzwiller (now in Upper Alsace, 25 miles north of Badevel) circa 1745, and died at 'Alcherique' Sept. 4, 1808 (according to the civil marriage entry of his daughter Barbe).

He married Marie Berse. She was born at Aubure (three miles below Ste. Marie-aux-Mines) Aug. 21, 1754, and died at 'Flachparique' Feb. 5, 1799 (according to the civil marriage entry of his daughter Barbe). She was a daughter of Abraham Berze and Catherine Cofechemette [Küpferschmidt].

Pierre found work at a lumber mill in the forest opening Bambois de Plaine at Plaine. This location was also a home to the Ropp family.

Children of Pierre Ulrich and Marie Berse include:

1. Pierre Ulrich was born at Plaine circa 1767, and died in 1831.
2. Barbe Ulrich was born June 6, 1768. She married Jacques Kreipiller [Jacob Krayenbühl]. He died at Saales Jan. 14, 1809. His civil death entry described him as Jacob Kraipierre, the 50-year-old husband of Barbe Voilrich. It was witnessed by 36-year-old brother-in-law and farm equipment operator Jacob Voilrich of Saulxures, and 47-year-old farmer Jacob Pacher of Labattue [L'Abbateux] farm at Saales. They signed Jacob Bächler and Jacob Ulrich. On Oct. 11, 1810 at La Broque Barbe remarried to Ulrich Fongond. Their civil marriage entry describes the groom as cultivator Ulric Fongond, 59, born at Salm Nov. 15, 1750, a son of Ulrich Fongond (who had died Aug. 23, 1757) and Barbe Mayer (who had died Sept. 9, 1751). He was the widower of Barbara Eimannn, who died at Salm Dec. 23, 1808. The bride was described as Barbe Ulric, 43, born at what looks like 'Slun Keustein' [Turquestein, Moselle?] June 6, 1768, a daughter of Pierre Ulrich (who had died at 'Alcherique' Sept. 4, 1808) and Marie Vagler (who had died at 'Flachparique' Feb. 5, 1799). It was witnessed by brother-in-law of the groom Christiane Neuhauser, 48, and cousin of the bride Joseph Fongond, 33, both cultivators at Salm. Ulrich Fongond died at La Broque Dec. 29, 1818.
3. Jean Ulrich was born circa 1770. He married Anne Huber. He appears on the 1794 civil marriage entry of his brother Pierre as Jean Voilrich, 24, a weaver at Lubine.
4. Jean Ulrich was born at Ste. Croix-aux-Mines circa 1772, and died at Saulxures Nov. 12, 1837. On Nov. 16, 1795 at La Broque he married Anne Brune. Their civil marriage entry described the groom as cultivator Jacob Voilrich, 22, a son of Pierre Voilrich and Marie Vagler, who were cultivators at Banbois, Plaine. He was also a resident of Banbois. The bride was described as Anne Brune, 30, a daughter of the deceased Jean Brune and Anne Mayer. She and her mother were described as cultivators at Aux Quelles. The bride was the widow of cultivator Rosina Bachler.

Their son Pierre Ulrich was born at Plaine circa 1767, and died in 1831.

On Aug. 24, 1794 at Bourg-Bruche, Lower Alsace he married Catherine Lauber. She was born at Mussig (now in Lower Alsace) circa 1775, and died in 1832, a daughter of Christian Lauber and Katharina Schwartz. In 1796 Pierre and Catherine moved south to the area of Altkirch, Upper Alsace. There Pierre worked as a weaver in the fabric industry. A number of family events were recorded in three adjacent villages below Altkirch: Heimersdorf, Hirtzbach, and Hirsingue.

The ship France departed from Le Havre, and arrived at New York July 12, 1833. On the passenger list as carpenter Peter Ulrich, 30, France. This was not their son Pierre; he had already sailed in 1831. It was actually their
son-in-law Jacob/Jacques Berse with their daughter Catherine Ulrich; he would be known in Illinois as Christian Wagler (see WAGLER).

THE FRANCE PASSENGER LIST

Page 2 lists Jacob Augspurger, 18, France. Farther down the page is a family that would be residents of Wayne County, Ohio: Christian Schantz, 46, France; Catharine [Roggi], 40; Magdelina, 19; Christian, 19; Christian, 16; Peter, 14; Peter, 14; Elizabeth, 11; Jacob, 8; and Barbara Summer [Sommer], 21.

On page 5 is a couple that would be residents of Spring Bay, Woodford County in 1850: Bendict Stucky, 25, France; Elizabeth [Elisabeth Liechti], 40; Peter [Pierre Kauffman, Elisabeth’s nephew], 10; and Joseph, 5 [a son from Elisabeth’s first marriage to Pierre Kauffmann].

Farther down that page is a family that would be residents of Butler County, Ohio, and Elm Grove: carpenter Peter Ulrich, 30, France [actually Jacob Berse, who would later be known as Isaac Wagler]; Catharine [Catherine Ulrich, his wife and cousin], 33; and Peter, 2 [Peter Jacob Berse]. One line later Catherine’s parents Peter Ulrich, 60, France, and Catharine Lowbers [Lauber], 55.

Children of Pierre Ulrich and Catherine Lauber include:

1. Christian Ulrich was born at Bambois de Plaine Feb. 10, 1796, and died at Hirsingue Jan. 29, 1854. His father Pierre signed his civil birth entry created at Plaine with an ‘x’, indicating he was illiterate. On Oct. 9, 1820 at Bourg-Bruche, Lower Alsace he married Anne Beller. She was born at La Broque Jan. 18, 1786, and died at Hirsingue Jan. 27, 1851, a daughter of Jacob Beller and Marie Anne Lehmann. The witnesses at their wedding included Joseph Kolchette [Goldschmidt], a 30-year-old cultivator from Le Hang basin near Bourg-Bruche who was a brother-in-law to the bride (he married Barbe Beller); and Jacob Petter Schmid, described as Jacob Pierre Chemette, a 21-year-old weaver from Bonnedof [Bendorf], Upper Alsace. Christian was described as a weaver at Hirsingue [Hirsingen], Upper Alsace.

2. Catherine Ulrich was born at Hirtzbach March 2, 1797, and died at Pekin May 21, 1887. On April 7, 1831 at Hirsingue she married Jacob/Jacques Berse. He was born at Chipal (or Le Chipal, Vosges) Nov. 30, 1803, and died as Christian Wagler at Pekin Dec. 22, 1877, a son of Isaac Berse and Anne Krahenbühl. The couple resettled at East Peoria in September 1838. There Peter purchased 80 acres and farmed for five years. In 1843 he sold the farm and leased another for five years.

3. Anne Marie Ulrich was born at Steinbrunn-le-Haut (Ger. Obersteinbrun, above Altkirch) Nov. 8, 1801, and died at Hirsingue Oct. 22, 1826. Her death entry created at Hirsingue Oct. 23 was witnessed by brother Christian. It stated that she was born at Obersteinbrun, and described her parents as weaver Pierre Ulrich and Catherine Lauber. Christian signed with an ‘x’, indicating he was illiterate.

4. Barbe/Barbara Ulrich was born at Walheim (above Altkirch) March 20, 1804, and died at Milford, Butler County, Ohio Dec. 29, 1847. On Sept. 19, 1829 at Hirsingue she married Joseph Litwiller. He was born at Diane-Capelle, Moselle March 29, 1799, and died at Dillon May 27, 1884, a son of Jean Litwiller and Freni/Françoise Zehr.

5. Madeleine Ulrich was born at Hirsingue June 22, 1807, and died there Nov. 11, 1808.

6. Pierre/Peter Ulrich was born at Hirsingue July 10, 1811, and died at Eureka Feb. 8, 1904.

Pierre/Peter Ulrich was born at Hirsingue [Ger. Hirsingen] below Altkirch, Upper Alsace July 10, 1811, and died at Eureka Feb. 8, 1904.

His civil birth entry described his parents as weaver Pierre Ulrich, born at la Croix, Vosges but a resident of Hinsinge, and Catherine Lauber. Pierre signed with an ‘x’, indicating he was illiterate.

Like his sister Catherine, Peter may have experienced adult baptism on the Birkenhof farm at Ruederbach, Upper Alsace. The farm was associated with the Rich and Hirschi families. Before 1826, Andreas Ropp had lived only three miles away at Largentzen.

The threat of renewed military conscription for the occupation of Algeria prompted an exodus from Alsace and Lorraine in the years 1830-34.

Peter, his older sister Barbe/Barbara, and her husband Joseph Litwiller sailed from Le Havre. They departed in May, and arrived in New York in July of 1831 after a 44-day voyage.

Past and Present of Woodford County says they remained in New York "...but a short time, as Mr. Ulrich had the experience of someone stealing his hat; they then went to Cincinnati, O. via canal, flat and steamboat; eight days from N.Y. to Cincinnati, O.; here he remained one year as a teamster; then in the country at farming for seven years."

In September of 1837 in Butler County, Ohio Peter married Anna 'Nancy' Oyer. She was born at Niderhoff, Moselle Nov. 29, 1811, and died at East Peoria Aug. 5, 1855, a daughter of Joseph Oyer and his first wife Catherine Schrag.

The couple resettled at East Peoria in September 1838. There Peter purchased 80 acres and farmed for five years. In 1843 he sold the farm and leased another for five years.
The 1850 census of unincorporated Tazewell County shows the household of Peter Ulrich next door to John O'Brien, suggesting that it was in present day Groveland: farmer Peter Ulrich, 40, Germany; Nancy, 35, Germany; Joseph, 11; Peter, 9; Catherine, 7; Christian, 5; John, 4; Anthony [Andreas/Andrew], 3; David, one month, all children born in Illinois; farmer Anthony Oyer [Anna's stepbrother André/Andrew], 24; Anna, 18; Madeline [Anna's stepmother, Joseph Oyer's second wife Magdalena Litwiller], 50; Jacob, 20; John, 22; all Oyers born in Germany.

Anna 'Nancy' Oyer died Aug. 5, 1855. On Nov. 5, 1858 in Tazewell County Peter remarried to Barbara Zimmerman; the ceremony was performed by minister Michael Mosiman. She was born in Baden circa 1812. We could point to someone who would fit the time, geography, and relationship/religious context: Barbara Zimmerman was born at Umkirch, Baden March 4, 1812, a daughter of Jacob Zimmerman and Barbara König; she was a second cousin to Michael King. But no information has been available that could verify this.

The 1860 census of Montgomery shows farmer Peter Ullrich, 48, France; Barbara [Zimmerman], 48, Baden; Joseph, 31; Peter, 19; Christian, 17; John, 15; Andrew, 12; David, 9; Samuel, 7; Catherine, 18; and Valentine Nauhauser, 40. Barbara Zimmerman died at Montgomery April 5, 1865.

Over the next six years Peter sold 200 acres. In 1867 he purchased 178 acres of improved land at Olio, and moved there the following year.

The 1880 census of Ohio, Woodford County shows farmer Peter Ulrich, 69, France; daughter Cathrine, 37, Illinois; son Christian, 36, Illinois; son David, 30, Illinois; son Samuel, 27, Illinois; Annie [Reeser, David's wife], 25, Indiana; Barbara, 5, Illinois; Annie, 3, Illinois; Christian, 2, Illinois; Fannie [Reeser, Samuel's wife], 19, France, parents born in France and Baden; Peter, 2, Illinois; and Christian, one month, Illinois.

*Herald of Truth*, February 1904: "Feb. 8, 1904, near Eureka, Ill., Bro. Peter Ulrich, aged 92 Ys., 6 M., 28 D. He was born in Alsace, Germany, July 18, 1811, came to America in May 1831 and located in Ohio. He was married to Sister Annie Oyer, Sept. 1837. This union was blessed with seven sons and one daughter. He went to Illinois in September 1838. His companion preceded him to the better world Aug. 5, 1855. In 1858 he was married to Sister Barbara Zimmerman, who died April 5, 1865. From that time until he died he lived with his children. The deceased was a faithful member of the Amish Mennonite church. He leaves six sons, one daughter, 51 grandchildren and 52 great-grandchildren. One son, ten grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren preceded him to the other world. Funeral was held at the Roanoke M. H. Feb. 10. Services by Chris. Reeser and Andrew Schrock in German and John Smith in English from 1 Peter 3:3-5."

Children of Peter Ulrich and his first wife Anna Oyer born at East Peoria include:

1. Joseph Ulrich was born Dec. 16, 1838, and died at Pioneer, Ohio Jan. 6, 1927. On Feb. 9, 1865 in Woodford County he married Fanny King. She was born at Liberty, Butler County, Ohio Aug. 17, 1842, and died at Flanagan, Livingston County in May 1872, a daughter of Michael King and Elizabeth Barnett. They are buried in Waldo Cemetery at Flanagan, Livingston County. *The Pontiac Leader*: "Joseph Ulerich. Flanagan, Ill. Jan. 11 - Funeral services for Joseph Ulerich were held at Salem Mennonite Church Sunday afternoon. Mr. Ulerich was born in Tazewell county, December 16, 1838. On February 9, 1865, he was married to Veronica King, to which union were born six children. For many years Mr. Ulerich cared for a friend, Daniel R. King, who resided two miles south of Flanagan and it was through Mr. King's benevolence that the Salem orphanage was established. After the death of Mr. King in 1902, Mr. Ulerich spent some time in Central Illinois and a few years later moved to the state of Missouri. Later, he located at Pioneer, O., where he continued to reside until his death on January 6. Surviving are four children: Peter J. of Flanagan, Elizabeth, Anna, and Samuel of Pioneer, O.; three brothers, Peter of Shelbyville, David of Eureka and Samuel of Idaho; 16 grandchildren and 13 great grandchildren. The services at the Salem Church on Sunday were conducted by Rev. Benjamin Rupp, of Bloomington. The Salem choir gave several selections. Pallbearers were grandsons or near relatives of Mr. Ulerich. Rev. Emanuel and William Ulerich, Elmer Schrock, Stephen and Valentine Zehr, Jr., and David Ulerich. Burial was in Waldo Cemetery."

2. Peter P. Ulrich was born March 24, 1840, and died at Okaw/Shelbyville, Shelby County, Indiana Sept. 6, 1928. On July 22, 1866 at Eureka he married Magdalena/Melinda/Martha King. She was born at Dry Grove, McLean County May 12, 1845, and died at Okaw/Shelbyville, Shelby County Dec. 17, 1915, a daughter of Michael King and Elizabeth Barnett. They are found on the 1870 census of Montgomery, Woodford County as farmer Peter Ulrick, 30, Illinois; Martha, 25, Illinois; and five children born in Illinois.

3. Catherine Ulrich was born Nov. 1, 1841 (headstone date; *Past and Present of Woodford County* gives Oct. 1, 1842), and died Jan. 17, 1905. She is buried in Roanoke Mennonite Cemetery.

4. Christian Ulrich was born May 26, 1843, and died at Eureka Dec. 17, 1898. He is buried in Roanoke Mennonite Cemetery. *Herald of Truth*, February 1899: "Christian Ulrich died at his home near Eureka, Ill., Dec. 17th, 1898, oflagrippe in connection with an old trouble. Bro. Ulrich was born in Tazewell Co., Ill., May 26, 1843, and had therefore attained the age of 55 years, 6 months and 21 days. At the age of sixteen he gave himself to his Master, uniting with the Amish Mennonite Church, of which he was a faithful and zealous member until death. He was never married, and lived on the home place with his father, Peter Ulrich, Sr., who survives him at the advanced age of
5. John Ulrich was born Aug. 18, 1845, and died July 15, 1912. On Jan. 31, 1869 in Woodford County he married Catherine Reidiger/Rediger. She was born at Ichenheim, Baden April 22, 1843, and died at Manson, Iowa Aug. 3, 1937, a daughter of Jacob Reidiger/Rediger and Magdalena Schrag. For background on their immigration in 1868 see REDIGER. Gospel Herald, July 1937: "Catherine, daughter of Lena and Jacob Rediger (deceased), was born near Freiburg, Germany, April 22, 1843; died Aug. 3, 1937, near Manson, Iowa. When she was a young woman she came with her parents to Woodford Co., Ill., where she was united in marriage to John Ulrich in 1867 [1869]. To this union were born 10 children, 2 passed away in infancy and Samuel in 1933. Her husband died in July, 1912. She is survived by 8 children (Lena Schertz and Peter Ulrich, of Manson; Lizzie Bachman, of Washington, Ill.; John of Estlin, Sask.; Katie Moery of Carlisle, Ark.; and Chris and Fannie). One sister (Elizabeth Wirkler of Los Angeles, Calif.), two brothers (Ben Rediger of Hoopersville, Ill., and Joe Rediger of Milford, Neb.), 33 grandchildren, 37 great-grandchildren survive. Four great-grandchildren, one grandchild, two sisters and three brothers preceded her in death. She lived with her children at Manson most of her married life. God blessed her with good health until she was old. She had been bedfast since February, 1934. She was cared for in the home of her son Peter for over a year, when she was taken to her granddaughter (Mrs. E. E. Zehr) where her daughter Lena, cared for her and where she passed away. She was always appreciative of all favors shown her. She was always patient and endured her affliction with Christian fortitude. She often expressed her eagerness to go to her eternal home, but was willing to wait until God called her. "While I lay here, I often wonder how beautiful heaven must be, and how glad we will be to meet those gone before," was typical of expressions she often made. She was a faithful member of the Mennonite Church for more than seventy years. Funeral services were held Aug. 6 at the Mennonite Church, conducted by Bro. Nick Stoltzfus. Burial in Rose Hill Cemetery."

6. Andreas/Andrew Ulrich was born June 5, 1848, and died at Deer Creek Feb. 13, 1919. On March 6, 1873 in McLean County he married Elizabeth Zehr. She was born at Deer Creek Sept. 28, 1854, and died Aug. 1, 1948, a daughter of Christian Zehr and his second wife Marie/Mary Schrag. They are buried in Stumbaugh Cemetery at Goodfield, Woodford County.

7. David Ulrich was born July 29, 1850, and died at Eureka July 7, 1934. 8. Samuel Ulrich was born Jan. 12, 1855, and died at Nampa, Idaho Dec. 20, 1936. In January 1878 in Woodford County he married Veronica 'Fannie' Reeser. She was born at Eureka April 25, 1861, and died March 29, 1937, a daughter of Christian Reeser and Barbara Zimmerman. They lived near Bloomington and later at Nampa, Idaho. They are found on the 1920 census of Canyon County, Idaho as farmer Samuel Ulrich, 67, born in Illinois to a father from Alsace-Lorraine and a mother from France; Fannie, 59, born in Illinois to parents from France and Germany; Vernie, 26, Illinois; Benjamin, 20, Illinois; and Mattie, 17, Illinois.

David Ulrich was born at East Peoria July 29, 1850, and died at Eureka July 7, 1934. On Oct. 22, 1874 in Woodford County he married Anne Marie/Anne Mary/Anna Reeser. She was born at Muncie, Indiana Dec. 17, 1855, and died at Eureka Oct. 12, 1941, a daughter of Christian Reeser and Barbara Zimmerman. They farmed Section 35 of Roanoke. They are buried in Roanoke Mennonite Cemetery. Gospel Herald, August 1934: "David, son of Peter and Anna Ulrich, was born near East Peoria, Ill., July 29, 1850; died at his home in Eureka, Ill., July 7, 1934; aged 83 y. 11 m. 9 d. His parents had come to America from Alsace Lorraine, and were among the early settlers in this part of Illinois, arriving in 1838. From East Peoria the family moved to Deer Creek, where his mother died, when he was five years old. In his early youth they moved to the vicinity of Eureka, where his father purchased the farm now occupied by his son, C. M. Ulrich, and which is spoken of as the old home place. Oct. 22, 1874, he was united in marriage to Anna, daughter of Christian Reeser, who lived to the age of 103 years. To this union were born 11 children, all of whom survive. They are: Barbara Schertz, Eureka; Anna, at home; Christian M., Eureka; Emma Schertz, Cazenovia; Peter N., Eureka; Elizabeth Schertz, Falfurrias, Texas; Fannie Schrock, David, Ella Schertz, Emanuel and Viola Harmish, all of Eureka. After marriage he farmed for thirty years in Woodford Co., living in the vicinity of Eureka and Metamora, from which latter place they moved to Garden City, Mo., in 1904, where he had purchased a farm. After living there for six years they returned to Woodford Co., locating south of Roanoke, remaining there until January, 1919, when he retired from the farm, moving to the home in Eureka where he passed away. In his youth he united with the Mennonite Church, in which he was a devoted and active member until his Lord called him home. For twenty-two years he served as a trustee of the Roanoke Mennonite congregation northeast of Eureka, of which he was one of the early members, and where he had his church home these many years... Saturday evening he was seized with a heart attack, peacefully passing away about two hours later. All his children were at his bedside, except Emma Schertz, who was visiting at Fisher, Ill., and Elizabeth Schertz of Falfurrias, Texas, who also was not able to come to the funeral because of ill health. He leaves his younger brother (Samuel Ulrich of Nampa, Idaho), the only one remaining of a family of eight; his wife (who was his faithful companion for almost sixty years); 11 children; 46 grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; and a host of other relatives and friends. Funeral services were held July 11,
at the home by Andrew Schrock and at the Roanoke Mennonite Church by Ezra Yordy. Burial in the church cemetery."
Brenneman of Baden-Durlach

In Canton Bern a Brenni was a clearing created by fire. A location that was once called Brenni and evolved into Brönni is located in the Aarwald forest about halfway between the city of Bern and Steffisburg, across the Aare River from Münsingen. The surname Brönniman is still common in Canton Bern.

In the interest of sorting out past genealogies, we will give two Brenneman histories. We believe the first is a ‘near miss,’ but have done our best to verify its information because it has persisted for so long. The second is not as complete, but provides more accurate information that leads to the Central Illinois family.

A Distraction: Gerberich’s History

A number of genealogies including Albert Gerberich’s imposing The Brenneman History (1938) have suggested a direct line between Melchior Brönniman of Diessbach and the known ancestors of the families that came to Central Illinois. Diessbach was only four miles southeast of Munsingen; in 1870 its name changed to Oberdiessbach.

Numerous sources say Melchior was born at Seftigen, Canton Bern circa 1631. We could not identify the original source. This location did not have a Protestant Reformed Church, and fell in the parish of Kirchdorf, but no Brönniman baptism entry was found there.

When Melchior’s oldest child was baptized entry identified the father as ‘Melchior Brönniman von Kisen.’ Kiesen is a hamlet five miles northwest of Steffisburg, and four miles from Seftigen, on the east bank of the Aare River. Kiesen did not have its own church, but fell in the parish of Wichtrach, the community above it. No Brönniman baptism entry was found there, or at Steffisburg.

Circa 1635 at Buchholterberg Melchior married Christina/Stini Rüsser.

On Oct. 28, 1659 Melchior was imprisoned in the castle at Thun. A Chorgericht entry reads: "The Mennonite Melchoir Brönnimann, a weaver from the district of Steffisburg, is held in prison in the castle at Thun. The bailiff and the pastor superior have been unable to bring him to forswear his Anabaptist convictions. He only promises to attend preaching services in the state church. The government decrees that he shall be given a period of probation; if he does not give up the Anabaptists in that time, the provisions of the recent law of August 9, 1659 shall be applied against him. According to these he shall be banished from the land, and if he should return unconverted he shall be beaten with rods and again driven away, while his property is to be confiscated." Melchior and Hans Bieri paid a fine, obtained their release, and resettled at Buchholterberg in the parish of Diessbach.

However, in 1671 Melchior had his property confiscated and given to the state church. He was banished from Canton Bern.

By Jan. 1, 1672 the family had arrived at Griesheim. This village was on the Pfrimm River, seven miles west of Worms (which stood on the west bank of the Rhine River). At the time Griesheim was also called Kresheim. In 1794 it would become Kriegsheim.

According to a letter sent by Mennonite residents of Griesheim to a minister/elder in Holland, the family consisted of a 40-year-old man, his 35-year-old wife, and seven children between the ages of 15 years and 18 months. Their possessions included a horse, a trundle bed, bedding, and 43 rix dollars – the equivalent of no more than $47.30.

A census of Fischbach (24 miles southwest of Griesheim) shows that the family had relocated there by April 6, 1672. It described Melchior as 40 and his wife nearly 40, with seven children. Christina/Stini’s mother lived with them, and was described as someone who had been released from prison.

Melchior later obtained a hereditary lease on a strip of land at the nearby Enckenbach Abbey. A hereditary lease enables a widow or oldest son to continue leasing after the death of her husband. It is generally found in situations where land has little likelihood of increasing in value over time.

Fischbach and Enkenbach were located seven miles east of Kaiserslautern, on either side of Alsenborn. Enkenbach, Alsenborn, and Sembach are now Enkenbach-Alsenborn.

Melchior is thought to have died there in 1678.

257 Delbert Gratz suggested that Brönnimann was derived from Bröndimann, a person who distills brandy from fruit.

258 In this instance a rix dollar was probably a silver thaler minted in Saxony. A rix dollar could also be a silver coin minted in Holland or the Scandinavian countries, ranging in value from 30 cents to $1.10. Thus Melchior had coins worth no more than $47.30.
It has been suggested that this family was influenced by William Penn when he visited the area in September of 1677. However, at the time Penn was only interested in Quaker concerns. Penn did not receive his charter for Pennsylvania until 1681, when he began to recruit non-Quakers as potential American settlers. But his fortunes were reversed by a change of governing family in England only seven years later. He was arrested for treason and had his estates seized, and was not pardoned until 1690. He hid for four years, and lost his Pennsylvania lands through sloppy business practices.

Children of Melchior Brönniman and Christina/Stini Rüsser include:

1. Christen Brönniman /Christian Brenneman was baptized at Steffisburg Dec. 7, 1656, and died at Towamencin, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania July 17, 1757. He married Susanna. They arrived at Philadelphia in 1709, initially settling near Germantown. In 1715 he purchased 60 acres between the Schuykill River and French Creek in Lancaster County for 90 pounds.

2. Hans Brönniman /John Brenneman was baptized at Steffisburg Oct. 10, 1658, and died in 1710. He married Anna Beutler.

3. Elsbeth Brönniman was baptized at Diessbach June 16, 1662.

4. Steffi Brönniman/Stephan Brenneman was baptized at Diessbach Aug. 23, 1663.

5. Anna Brönniman/Brenneman was baptized at Diessbach Oct. 29, 1665.

6. Melchior Brönniman /Brenneman (Jr.) was baptized at Diessbach Marcy 27, 1668, and died at New Danville, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania Jan. 20, 1737; he is buried in New Danville Mennonite Church Cemetery. He joined a group exodus from the Pfälz destined for William Penn’s lands in Pennsylvania. They assembled around Mannheim, and traveled together to Rotterdam. Three ships carrying 363 Mennonites landed at Philadelphia Aug. 24, 1717 (see YODER for background on the arrivals). On Nov. 30 Melchior obtained a warrant for 500 acres at Stumptown, Strasburg Township, Chester County (now New Danville, Conestoga Township, Lancaster County). The New Danville Mennonite meetinghouse was constructed on this land. In America Melchior became a farmer and weaver. On Dec. 3, 1728 he purchased another 700 acres on the Susquehanna River in Lancaster County, which was cultivated by a son. His first wife could not be identified; before 1718 he remarried to Elizabeth Stehman. She was born circa 1673, and died at New Danville after 1737. Melchior already had five children in Europe, and one named Melchior was born at New Danville in 1719. His will is on file at the Lancaster County Courthouse; his family Bible (1553) is now in the Allen County Museum at Lima, Ohio.

7. Barbara Brönniman/Brenneman was baptized at Diessbach May 8, 1670.

8. Adam Brönniman/Brenneman was born at Enckenbach in the Pfalz in 1673.

In 1932 Albert Gerberich corresponded with Rudolph Schäfer of Darmstadt, an officer of the Hessian Genealogy Union [Ger. Hessische Familienge schichtliche Vereinigung]. Schäfer held a number of original documents pertaining to the family. He arrived at the conclusion that Melchior’s youngest son Adam Brenneman was the next figure in our chain.

Adam Brenneman was born at Enckenbach in the Pfalz in 1673.

He married Katharina Würtz of adjacent Münchhof, and they farmed at Fischbach in the early 1700s.

Adam is found on a census of 19 Anabaptist heads of families in the district [Ger. Oberampr] of Lautern in 1717. According to Hermann Guth’s Palatine Mennonite Census Lists, 1664-1793, in 1724 Adam was described as, “A hereditary tenant of the Enckenbach abbey, has nothing of his own, but is also a weaver. He makes a miserable living from one year to the next with much difficulty.”

Circa 1732 Adam relocated to Friesenheim near Mannheim (31 miles east of Fischbach). Guth found him as a resident of Friesenheim on a 1738 report of Anabaptists obligated to pay a Kurpfalz protection fee (Ger. Schutzgeld) for Anabaptists. In 1743 his Freisenheim household was listed as a man, a woman, one daughter, one farmhand, and one maid. A 1752 report from Friesenheim listed “Adam Brenneman, got his treasury’s hereditary and temporary estate’s tenancy twenty years ago already, and also bought a house. Five persons.” He would have been 79 years of age.

Adam’s three sons were Johannes Brenneman, who married Anna Beutler and lived at Enkenbach; Abraham Brenneman, who “left Enkenbach and probably lived for some time at Friesenheim”; and Jakob, who was living at Enckenbach with a daughter in 1752 but may have later lived at Friedelsheim (17 miles east of Fischbach).

The Central Illinois families knew their line back to a Nikolaus Brenneman born circa 1736. Gerberich proposed that Nikolaus was a son of one of the three brothers mentioned above. However, his proposed link has not been found over the past 80 years.

Gerberich’s ‘near miss’ was finally refuted in the 1980s, when German genealogist Hermann Guth found that descendants in Europe also knew about the Nikolaus born circa 1736.
Amish Mennonites in Tazewell County, Illinois

The Wohra Family

Amish Mennonite Nicolaüs/Nikolaus/Cläüs Brönniman was born circa 1696. He was the forebearer of the Central Illinois families, as documented by leases and Kennel family material.

In Baden-Durlach he associated with a number of emigrants who came from the Oberdiessbach and Steffisburg parishes. This has led some to conclude that he came from there, though no baptism entry has been identified.259

Another possibility is that he was baptized in the town of Thun; recall from NAFZIGER that all Thun records before 1728 were lost in a fire Feb. 8, 1772. Fortunately someone had taken the trouble to hand copy baptisms for years 1578-1727, 1728-1803, and 1883. These fragile copies are kept in the archives of the town of Thun, but have not been scanned for the Staats Archiv online site.

It is also possible that he was born outside Canton Bern to emigrant parents.

Nicolaüs/Nikolaus/Cläüs married a widow whose first husband was named Kendel/Kennel, and she brought to the marriage a son Hans Kennel and a daughter Maria Kennel. Hans was a forebearer of the Kennel family that came to Central Illinois (see KENNEL).

Niclaüs joined with others to guarantee the lease on the Katharinentaler Hof above Pforzheim in Baden-Durlach (about 54 miles southeast of Friedelsheim; see background on this location in KING, König/Koenig/King Background KURTZ). On Feb. 8, 1750 he signed 'Cläüs Brn' (suggesting he was illiterate) alongside minister Peter Rothaker and the leading minister/elder of his day Johannes/Hans Nafziger, who represented Benedict 'Benz' Eyer and his son Rudolf Eyer. A facsimile of the document can be found in Hermann Guth's Amish Mennonites in Germany. The Katharinentaler Hof would be used as a common meeting place for Amish Mennonites.

The same year Niclaüs became leaseholder of the Karlshäuserhof estate at Dürrn, an adjunct farm to the Katharinentaler Hof. When the Margraviate of Baden-Durlach took over management of the two estates in 1763, Niclaüs was given permission to extend the lease for the remainder of his lifetime.

Nevertheless, he died in his son's home on the Braunshardt estate at Wieterstadt Feb. 12, 1785. He was reported to have been 88 years of age.

Nikolaüs Brenneman was born circa 1736, and died May 5, 1789.

On Dec. 1, 1756 he married Barbara Kurtz. She was born on the Katharinentaler Hof circa 1736. She was a daughter of deacon Jakob Kurtz. Jakob was a co-leaseholder of the Karlshäuserhof estate beginning in 1743.

Nikolaüs must have lived on the Karlshäuserhof at Dürrn for 10 years before he leased the Braunshardt estate at Weiterstadt in 1760. Weiterstadt was 80 miles to the north, on the northwest corner of the city of Darmstadt in Hesse. (This location has added an element of confusion for genealogists who notice that Weiterstadt is six miles northeast of Griesheim – but it is not the same as the town that Melchior Brenneman went to in 1671, which is now called Kreigsheim).

Barbara died on the Braunshardt estate in 1770.

Children of Nikolaus Brenneman and his first wife Barbara Kurtz include:

1. Jakobina Brenneman was born on the Karlshäuserhof estate at Dürrn Dec. 20, 1757. She married Jakob Gümgerich of the Albacherhof estate at Lich, Hesse. See GÜNGERICH for background on this couple.
2. Samuel Brenneman was born on the Karlshäuserhof estate at Dürrn Dec. 7, 1759, and died at Itzenhain July 20, 1834. On March 3, 1786 at Schaaken he married Marie Schwartzentraub. She was born at Ernsthauzen (11 miles west of Wohra) circa 1766, was living at Lichtenfels at the time of her marriage, and died at Itzenhain May 5, 1829. They leased the Bellnhausen estate at Itzenhain. According to Guth, they also leased the Fiddemühle at Wohra.
3. Jakob Brenneman was born on the Braunshardt estate at Weiterstadt Feb. 1, 1762, and died there in March 1763.
4. Jakob Brenneman was born on the Braunshardt estate at Weiterstadt April 7, 1764.
5. Johannes/John Brenneman was born on the Braunshardt estate at Weiterstadt March 30, 1766, and died at Wilmot, Ontario Oct. 21, 1848. He and his family immigrated via Baltimore in 1821, briefly settling in Pennsylvania. They either went to Ontario with the Jacob Kropf family in 1823, or with the Jacob Kropf family as well as Joseph Goldschmidt/Goldsmith and his new wife Elizabeth Schwartzentruber in the spring of 1824. The Brennemans settled on Lot 13, south of Bleam's Road at Wilmot. In 1824 elder John Stoltzfus of Pennsylvania organized the first

259 Although there were Brönnimans at Steffisburg, we could only find one family in the time frame around his ‘circa 1696’ birth. In the mid-1600s Peter Brönniman married Elsi Brunner. Their son Peter was baptized at Steffisburg Jan. 25, 1668. On June 28, 1689 at Steffisburg he married Verena Schiffman. Their children baptized at Steffisburg include: 1) Peter, March 16, 1690; 2) Christen, Oct. 30, 1692; and Jacob, March 12, 1699.

One source maintains that Nicolaüs/Nikolaus/Cläüs Brönniman was born at Munsingen, Canton Bern March 30, 1696. An entry created on that date is actually for Nicolaüs Baümann, a son of Nicolaüs Baümann and Maria Karli.
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Wilmot congregation and ordained Johannes/John Brenneman and Joseph Goldsmith as ministers. One source says his unidentified wife died Sept. 22, 1842.

6. Daniel Brenneman was born on the Braunshardt estate at Weiterstadt Sept. 10, 1769, and died at New Germany, Maryland May 16, 1842. On Feb. 20, 1803 he married Maria Bender of Bödenhausen (now in Lower Saxony). She was born at Bodenhausen in Waldeck in 1782, and died at New Germany, Maryland after 1860, a daughter of Jacob Bender. Seven of their children were born at Meiselheit 1809-21; then they lived on the Eichhof estate between Langendorf and Rosenthal, Hesse. They sailed from Rotterdam on the Brig William, arriving at Baltimore March 12, 1826 (see OHRENDOFF for more on this voyage). They appear on the passenger list as Daniel Brenneman, 50; Maria, 40; Jacob, 19; Maria, 17; Anna, 15; Caroline, 13; Elizabeth, 9; Helena, 7; Christian, 5; and Daniel, 2. They farmed 'at The Glades' near Elk Lick in Somerset County, Pennsylvania, and then at New Germany. New Germany is about eight miles south of Salisbury, Somerset County, Pennsylvania, where some of their children were married; it became part of Garrett County, Maryland in 1876. Their modern joint headstone in the Brenneman Family Cemetery at New Germany calls her 'Maria his wife, died 1856,' but she is listed as Mary Brenneman, 76, in the household of her son Jacob on the 1860 census of Allegany County (in a part that became Garrett County).

On Feb. 2, 1771 Nikolaus remarried to Magdalena Unzicker. She was born in Erzhausen (adjacent to Weiterstadt) circa 1750, and also had six children. Children of Nikolaus Brenneman and his second wife were all born either at Erzhausen or on the Braunshardt estate at Weiterstadt. They include:

7. Christian Brenneman was born Jan. 30, 1772, and died Jan. 12, 1828. In 1809 he married Barbara Jötter, who was born circa 1776. They farmed at Erzhausen until the death of his father Nikolaus in 1789, and then assumed the lease on the Braunshardt estate.

8. Barbara Brenneman was born Jan. 21, 1774.

9. Elisabeth Brenneman was born Dec. 9, 1776, and died on the Albacherhof at Lich, Hesse May 3, 1851. She became a much younger second wife to married Jakob Stähly. He was born at Enkenbach July 25, 1752, and died on the Obertraisa estate July 26, 1822. This is the same individual who became step-grandfather to 'Apostle Peter' Nafziger (see NAFZIGER, the story of the De Rham in KENNEL, and EHRESMAN, ERISSMAN OF BUREAU COUNTY).

10. Peter Brenneman was born Aug. 23, 1800. On March 10, 1806 he married Magdalena Güngerich. Their children immigrated to Canada; the parents may have emigrated as well.

11. Veltin/Valentine Brenneman was born Nov. 20, 1786. He hanged himself at Gross-Gerau (adjacent to Weiterstadt) in 1809.

12. Katharina Brenneman was born June 15, 1789. In 1809 at Tripstadt she married Johann August Imhof (found on the civil entry as 'Jean Rocke'). He was born in 1795, a son of elder Christian Imhof and Jakobine Kinzinger of the Wilensteinerhof. Their son Johannes Roggy (1828-1909) became mayor of Tripstadt.

Jakob Brenneman was born on the Braunshardt estate April 7, 1764.

On June 20, 1788 at Marburg, Waldeck (now in the Marburg-Biedenkopf district of Hesse) he married to Anna Güngericz. She was born at Marburg May 6, 1768, a daughter of Peter Güngericz. Immediately after their marriage they leased the Klosterhof estate at Wohra, Hesse.260 Anna died at Wohra Dec. 17, 1842, and Jakob died there May 17, 1848. Their children born at Wohra include:

1. Peter Brenneman was born May 11, 1789, and died in 1792.

2. Maria Brenneman was born Jan. 26, 1792, and died in Butler County, Ohio in the fall of 1836. On March 20, 1814 at Wohra she married Johannes Bender. He was born circa 1786 and died in Butler County in April 1833, a son of Jakob Bender and Helena Brenneman of Bödenhausen. They lived at Zweisten (15 miles northeast of Wohra) until 1822, then on the Schmitthof/Schmiedenhof between Kraftsmans and Kröffelbach, Hesse. They appear on the '100 Hessian Mennonites' passenger list of 1832 as Johann Bender, 46; Jacob, 11; Daniel, 9; Maria, 40; Maria, 13; Anna, 17; Helena, 16; Jacobine, 7; and Elise, 5. The story of the voyage is told in STAKER.

3. Peter Brenneman was born Feb. 19, 1794, and died in Butler County Oct. 31, 1850, only three months after arriving in America. On May 24, 1818 he married Jakobine Holly. She was born at Bellersheim April 10, 1797, and died in Putnam County Aug. 17, 1852, a daughter of estate manager Daniel Holly and Jakobine Eyer living at Langsdorf (adjacent to Bellersheim). They farmed in Vetzberg (six miles northwest of Giessen), then sailed from Le Havre on the Admiral, arriving at New York July 17, 1850. Their family appears on the passenger list as Peter Brenneman, 56,

260 The Wohra is a river. The exact location of the Klosterhof has caused some confusion. Part of what was once called Wohra is found on modern maps as the village of 'Gemünden (Wohra)', within the municipality of Gemünden, within the administrative district of Waldeck-Frankenberg. Adjacent to Gemünden is Wohra, a municipality in the community of Wohratal, in the district of Marburg-Biedenkopf, Hesse. The grounds of the Klosterhof may have fallen within either one, or between them.
Bavaria; Jacobine, 53; Eliza, 29; Jacob, 27; Helene, 26; Cathrina, 21; Jacobine, 19; Herrman, 17; Anna, 12; and Emelie, 10.  

4. Katharina Brenneman was born May 7, 1796, and died May 24, 1799.  

5. Michael Brenneman was born May 2, 1798, and died at Eden, LaSalle County Jan. 18, 1886. On Sept. 1, 1822 he married Elise Güngerich. She was born at Zwesten [16 miles northeast of Wohra] March 14, 1805. They lived at Wohra, then on the Eichhof near Rosenthal. They sailed from Bremen on the Copernicus with the family of younger brother Joseph, arriving at New York June 19, 1852. The passenger list has Michael Brenneman, 54, Wohra, destination Illinois; Elise, 47, Zwesten; then Marie, 24; Joseph, 22, and Christian, 18; all from Wohra. They appear on the 1860 census of Eden, LaSalle County as farmer Joseph Brenneman, 30, Germany; Michael Brenneman, 62, Germany; Eliza, 55, Germany; and Emily Brenneman, 18, Germany.  

6. Helene Brenneman was born April 26, 1800, and died July 5, 1831.  

7. Johannes Brenneman was born March 22, 1802, and died Feb. 28, 1820.  

8. Daniel Brenneman was born March 16, 1804, and died in Tazewell County March 14, 1884.  

9. Christian Brenneman was born in June 1806, and died Nov. 11, 1806.  

10. Joseph Brenneman was born Dec. 3, 1807, and died in Putnam County April 22, 1890. On Feb. 4, 1843 he married Elise Unzicker. She was born on the Offental estate at Sankt Goarshausen Aug. 14, 1816, and died in Putnam County Oct. 29, 1853, a daughter of Jacob Unzicker and Elisabeth Jordy. They lived in Rathenhausen near Kirchheim, Kassel. They sailed from Bremen on the Copernicus with the family of older brother Michael, arriving at New York June 19, 1852. The passenger list has economist Joseph Brenneman, 44, Radenhausen, destination Illinois; Elisabeth, 34; Elise, 5; Bertha, 4; Oskar, 2; Julius, six months; and Cath. Nafzier, 26, from Kameln, destination Illinois. Joseph appears as a widower on the 1860 census of Putnam County: farmer Joseph Brenneman, 52, Hessen; Eliza, 14; Burdy, 12; Oscar, 10; Julius, 8; with Catharine Schanbeck, 55, and Catharine Linker, 17. On the same page is found Jacob Brenneman, 36, and his family (Jacob was a nephew, the son of Joseph's older brother Peter).  

11. Jakob/Jacob Brenneman was born July 19, 1809, and died Feb. 16, 1895. On April 25, 1840 in Butler County he married Christine Güngerich. The ceremony was performed by minister 'Apostle Peter' Naffziger, and a civil entry was created July 6, 1840. She was born in Gemünden an der Wohra (adjacent to Wohra) March 29, 1809. He had immigrated in 1834, and she had immigrated in 1839. They may have been the first of the Brennemans to settle in Central Illinois. They appear on the 1850 census of Putnam County, listed between John Burkey and Peter Albright [Albrecht]: farmer Jacob Brenniman, 40, Germany; Christiana, 40, Germany; Jacob, 9, Illinois; Catharine, 7, Illinois; Mary, 3, Illinois; and Ellen, 1, Illinois. They appear on the 1880 census of Dry Grove, McLean County as boarder Jacob Brenneman, 70, and Christena, 71, both from 'Hessia,' living in the home of their 39-year-old son Jacob Brennenem.  

**Daniel Brenneman** was born on the Klosterhof estate at Wohra March 16, 1804, and died in Tazewell County March 14, 1885 (his headstone: 79 years, 11 months, 29 days).  

On Sept. 26, 1826 he married Elizabeth Jutzi. She was born at Altenburg (30 miles southwest of Wohra) Oct. 16, 1804, and died in Tazewell County July 26, 1879 (her headstone: 73 years, 9 months, 9 days), a daughter of Michael/Michel Jutzi and Marie Holly. Elizabeth's maternal grandfather was Langsdorf estate manager Daniel Holly. They are buried in Orndorff Cemetery at Hopedale.  

After their marriage Daniel and Elizabeth lived with Daniel's parents on the Klosterhof estate at Wohra. They made the decision to emigrate in 1831, and relocated to live with Elizabeth's parents at Altenburg until arrangements could be made. On May 16, 1832 they departed Bremen on the charter A Two-Masted Brig. Their family appears on the passenger list as Daniel Brenneman, 26; Elise or Elisabeth, 23; Jacob, 5; Marie, 3 (she later married Jacob Hauter); and Elise, 1.  

Augusta Jutzi Phillips in *A Brief History of the Daniel Brenneman Family*: "They left Bremen the 16th day of May and landed at Baltimore July 31. After a rest of several days, wagons of the prairie schooner type were engaged to convey the party to Wheeling, West Virginia. Their road lay over the Allegheny Mountains, and it took them 13 days to make their journey. At Wheeling they took passage on a steamboat on the Ohio River to Cincinnati, then up the Miami River, and landed at Hamilton, Ohio, their destination, arriving there on the 3rd day of September." At Hamilton the family shared a rented house with two other families.  

On Dec. 18, 1832, Daniel purchased 120 acres for $2,200. The parcel was located in Turtle Creek Township, Warren County, Ohio, which borders on Monroe, Butler County. The parcel was on the east side of Red Buck farm, 

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261 Other passengers in the same part of the Admiral list include Daniel Kennel, 30; Peter Gangerich, 26; Catherine Guengerich, 46, with children Peter, 20, Christian 17, Louis, 15, and Daniel, 13; and Valentin Nafzier, 19, with Elise Nafzier, 17.
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comprised of 188 acres. That farm straddled the border between the two counties. Red Buck farm were purchased by brothers Peter Jutzi and Jacob Jutzi four days later.

Turtle Creek was the location of a Shaker settlement called Union Village. The first Shakers to come to Ohio arrived there as missionaries from Mt. Lebanon, N.Y. in 1805.²⁶²

Although nine more children were born at Turtle Creek, the three youngest died in 1840, presumably from a cholera epidemic.

Daniel 'Bannam' appears on the 1840 census of Turtle Creek. The Brennemans appear on the 1850 census of Turtle Creek: farmer Daniel Brananman, 47; Elizabeth, 44; farmer Jacob Bramanan, 23; Maria, 21; Eliza, 19; Joseph, 17; Carolin [Helene], 15; Anna, 10; William, 7; Amelia, 4; Christian, 6 months; farmer Jacob Braman, 27; Helena, 26; and laborer Herman, 17; all of Germany. The last three individuals were children of Peter Brenneman, who died in Butler County Oct. 31. Their farm was appraised at $4,800.

Daniel's younger brother Jakob was living at Granville, Putnam County, Illinois after 1840. Other family members probably visited Illinois before the main body of the family resettled there. In 1854 the Turtle Creek farm was sold to George Jutzi/Iutzi, a son of Jakob/Jacob Jutzi/Iutzi and Maria Holly.

The journey of the parents from Ohio to Tazewell County in 1854 was recounted by Augusta Jutzi Phillips: “They came to Illinois making the trip by water from Cincinnati, Ohio on the Ohio River to Cairo, Illinois, from there to the mouth of the Illinois River, and up this river to Pekin. At this place they were met by friends with wagons and were taken to Danvers where they moved onto a farm belonging to a Mr. Naflzager, which they had rented for one year, and in the fall of that year they bought a farm of 320 acres in Boynton, Tazewell County, for which they paid $15 per acre for part and $20 for the balance...At this time there were no fences, roads, bridges or railroads on this vast prairie, one always taking the shortest route to their destination. A few houses were scattered about the prairie, and these and a huge tree or cluster of trees served as guides to the traveler. Streams were forded, and if a heavy rain came up while the traveler was across the stream, he had but to wait patiently until the swollen waters subsided ere he could return. This was sometimes a matter of several days. The nearest markets were Peoria, Pekin, and Atlanta [southeast of Tremont]. For their groceries, hardware, etc., they usually went to Tremont, where there was a general store and where they could obtain almost anything needed. Game at that time was abundant, such as wild geese, ducks, chickens, partridges, and deer.”

The parents appear on the 1860 census of Boynton living next door to sons Jacob and Joseph: farmer Dan. Brenneman, 56, Germany; Elizabeth, 54, Germany; Wm. [Wilhelm], 16, Ohio; Amelia, 14, Ohio; and Edward, 10, Ohio. In 1870 their Boynton household contained farmer Daniel Brennen[illegible], 66, Hesse-Darmstadt; Elizabeth, 64, Hesse; Wm., 23, Ohio; Edward, 21, Ohio; [son-in-law] Fred Jutzi, 28, Ohio; [daughter] Amelia, 24, Ohio; Jacob Erisman, 40, farm laborer, Hesse-Darmstadt; and Katharine Rosch, 23; domestic servant, Baden. Son Jacob Brenneman and his wife Jacobine Jutzi appear only one household removed.

In 1876 Daniel and Elizabeth celebrated their golden anniversary with a family reunion. In 1880 Daniel is found as a widower living in the Boynton household of youngest son Edward.

Children of Daniel Brenneman and Elizabeth Jutzi include:

1. Jakob/Jacob Brenneman was born at Wohra July 8, 1827, and died in Tazewell County April 6, 1887. On Nov. 20, 1853 he married Jakobine/Jacobine Jutzi. She was born on the Mittelhof estate at Felsberg (14 miles below Kassel, Hesse) March 12, 1829, and died May 5, 1926, a daughter of Christian Jutzi/Iutzi and Maria Sommer. Her family came on A Two-Masted Brig in 1832. They returned to Europe, then sailed from Bremen on the Agnes, returning to New York April 21, 1837. They are described as cabin passengers on the passenger list: farmer Jacob Brenneman, 31, and Jacobine, 27, U.S. residents with ultimate destination 'Peru, Ill.' They were accompanied by Christian Erisman (1835-1907), who became a 'German school' teacher in Woodford County. They appear on the 1860 census of Boynton as farmer Jacob Brenneman, 33, Germany; Jacobin, 31, Germany; Maria, 5, Illinois; Julia, 4, Illinois; and Albert, 2, Illinois. They are buried in Omdorf Cemetery at Hopedale.

2. Maria/Marie Brenneman was born at Wohra Feb. 24, 1829, and died at Boynton March 15, 1882. On March 3, 1853 in Butler County, Ohio she married Jacob Haoter.²⁶³ He was born in the city of Zweibrücken Nov. 9, 1823, and died

²⁶² The Shakers believed in “celibacy, self-denial, repression of passion, communal living and ownership of property, withdrawal from the secular world, and pacifism.” They were also called The United Society of Believers in Christ’s Second Appearing. The Protestant denomination was established in England in 1772, but met in New York State only two years later. After 1847 many Ohio Shakers left to join the Mormon exodus to Utah. The remaining members increased their number by adopting and converting orphans. The total national membership may have peaked at 6,000 in 1850.

²⁶³ Warren County, Ohio Marriage Records 1834-1854 Brides Index A-K lists them as Mary Brenneman and Jacob Hunters.
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3. Peter Brenneman was born at Wohra Nov. 4, 1830, and died there Dec. 25, 1830.

4. Elise/Eliza Brenneman was born at Wohra Oct. 13, 1831, and died at Stanford, McLean County June 7, 1919. On Nov. 13, 1856 in Tazewell County she married Peter D. Springer; the ceremony was performed by minister John Michael Kistler. He was born at Lorquin, Moselle Sept. 5, 1826, immigrated with his parents in 1830, and died at Stanford April 24, 1916, a son of Christian Springer and Magdalena/Madeleine Engel. The 1860 census of Mosquito Grove, McLean County calls her Eliza, 27, born in Ohio; but the 1870 census of Allin (the same community under a new name) describes the household as farmer Peter D. Springer, 43, France; Eliza, 39, Hesse; and four children born in Illinois. Springer became a justice of the peace in McLean County. They are buried in Mount Pleasant Cemetery at Stanford, McLean County. See SPRINGER, MCLEAN COUNTY SPRINGERS.

5. Joseph Brenneman was born at Turtle Creek May 7, 1833. On June 5, 1858 in McLean County he married Elisabeth/Elise/Eliza Ehrismann. She was born at Schrecksbach, Hesse (22 miles southeast of Wohra) Jan. 23, 1838, a daughter of Peter Erisman and Magdalena Stähly. They can be found on the 1860 census of Boynton living next door to his parents: Jos. Brenneman, 26, Ohio; Eliza, 22, Germany; and Adelia, 1, Illinois. They sold their farm in Tazewell County in 1883, and then farmed at Lincoln, Nebraska; Hubbell, Nebraska; and finally Republic County, Kansas.

6. Helene Brenneman (twin) (later known as Helen C. Brenneman) was born at Turtle Creek March 21, 1836, and died at Whiting, Iowa Feb. 2, 1915. On July 1, 1858 in Tazewell County she married Enoch Thomas Orendorff. He was born in Logan County, Kentucky Aug. 19, 1835, and died at Fergus Falls, Minnesota May 4, 1920, a son of Esau Orendorff and Mary Millikin. They are found on the 1860 census of Boynton as Thos. Orendorff, 25, Germany; Helen, 24, Germany; and Isabella, 5 months, Illinois; on the 1880 census of Hopedale; and on the 1900 census of Whiting, Iowa. In ORENDOFF we took this marriage as an indication that the Ohrendorf/Orendorf family of Spring Bay knew their distant relatives the Orendorff family of Hopedale.

7. Jacobine Brenneman (twin) was born at Turtle Creek March 21, 1836, and died there from cholera Feb. 3, 1840.

8. Christian Brenneman was born at Turtle Creek Nov. 27, 1837, and died there from cholera Feb. 9, 1840.

9. Johannes Brenneman was born at Turtle Creek in 1840, and died perhaps from cholera within a month.

10. Anna Brenneman was born at Turtle Creek Oct. 20, 1841, and died in 1914. On Sept. 20, 1859 she married Carl Philip Tomm. He was born at Salaska in Pomerania, Germany Jan. 22, 1829, immigrated in 1849, and died Jan. 13, 1876. She can be found on the 1880 census of Delavan as Anna Tomm, 38, born in Ohio to parents from Hesse-Cassel, with seven children. They are buried in Oak Grove Cemetery at Pekin.

11. Wilhelm/William Brenneman was born at Turtle Creek Oct. 22, 1843, and died at Kansas City, Missouri. On Dec. 24, 1878 in Tazewell County he married Emma Detmier. She was born in Logan County Sept. 15, 1858. They are found on the 1900 census of Albion, Kansas as W. Brenneman, born in Ohio to German parents in October 1843; Emma, born in Illinois to German parents in September 1858; and two daughters born in Illinois and Nebraska.

12. Amelia Brenneman was born at Turtle Creek Jan. 3, 1845, and died at Boynton Jan. 22, 1892. On Nov. 2, 1869 in Tazewell County she married Frederick 'Fritz' A. Iutzki; the ceremony was performed by minister Christian Gingerich. He was born in Butler County Dec. 26, 1841, and died at Boynton July 5, 1911, a son of Peter Iutzki/Iutzi/Yutzki and Barbara Augspurger. Their household can be found on the 1870 census of Boynton. In 1900 the Boynton census describes farmer Fred A. Iutzki, born in Ohio in December 1841 to German parents; seven children born in Illinois; and Fred's brother Christian Iutzki. They are buried in Orndorff Cemetery at Hopedale.

13. Edward Christian Brenneman was born at Turtle Creek Dec. 9, 1849, and died at Hopedale Jan. 6, 1932. On Dec. 28, 1876 he married Laura Amelia Bender. She was born in Putnam County Sept. 14, 1856, and died in 1923. Their household appears on the 1880 census of Boynton as farmer Edward Breimann, 30; Ohio; Laura, 23, Illinois; Bertha, 2, Illinois; Ella, 1, Illinois; and Daniel [Brenneman], 76, Hesse-Darmstadt. Edward and Laura are buried in Orendorff Cemetery at Hopedale.
Eigsti of Strasbourg

The Eigstis have a relatively new name and a colorful history. They are representative of the 'Forty-Eighters,' the second wave of families that came to the Dillon Creek meeting (later Pleasant Grove Amish Mennonite Church).

The earliest form of the surname that we found related to Amish Mennonites was Augster, describing a family that moved from Ste. Marie-aux-Mines to Strasbourg, Lower Alsace. Augster is a common Swiss surname found in Canton Appenzell Interrhoden, located below Lake Constance. It may be derived from the communities of Augst and Kaiseraugst, both built on Roman foundations along the Swiss side of the Rhine River between Basel, Switzerland and Rheinfelden, Baden.

The variation Augstein appeared about the time one family member - Nicolas - moved from Strasbourg to Bavaria. Variations on Augstein continued to be used by family members even decades after their arrival in Illinois, as shown on a number of census entries in Tazewell County (Eigstein) and Livingston County (Augstein, Augustin, and Augustine). Eigsti was a compromise - a standardization of the surname created in Central Illinois in the 1880s.

This portion of the text has presented the greatest difficulty to research. The genealogy of the Eigsti family should probably be considered 'unsolved' until documentation can be found that tells us more about Nicolas, who died in Europe (his widow Barbara Gassho brought their children to Tazewell County). Relevant documentation may no longer exist because of gaps in civil records for the area around Munich.

Christian/Chrétien Augsti was born about 1758. He married Elisabeth Eymann, who was also born about 1758. She was a daughter of Ulrich Eymann and Barbara Mosimann, and an aunt to the Elisabeth Eymann who married Andreas Ropp. The couple lived on the Pré du Chêne farm near Lubine, Vosges, then relocated onto Canardière [Ger. Entenfang], municipal park land that had been used as a duck-hunting preserve near Strasbourg in 1796-97, according to census ledgers identified by Neil Ann Stuckey Levine.

To understand their situation, it is necessary to know a little about the notorious smuggler-spy-general who became their employer and landlord at Canardière, Karl Ludwig Schulmeister.

Schulmeister was born at Neufreistett, Baden Aug. 5, 1770, the son of a Lutheran minister. The community of Neufreistett [now part of Freistett] is only 15 miles northeast of Strasbourg, on the German side of the Rhine River.

On Feb. 20, 1792, Schulmeister married Louisa Charlotte Unger, the only daughter of the mining director at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines. He set himself up as an iron merchant in Neufreistett, but soon found it more profitable to smuggle goods between Baden and Alsace. At the time smuggling along the Rhine River was inextricably linked with military activities. Troops of the Austrian 8th Hussar Regiment under Field Marshal Count Dagoldert-Sigismond de Wurmser were billeted in Schulmeister's home village between 1792 and 1795. Wurmser was constantly undermined by minor German princes who provided his Alsatian counterparts with arms, food, and carts.

All of France suffered during the French Revolution of 1789 and its aftermath. Before the revolution Strasbourg had been a prosperous royal free city. The city hall was looted only two days after the storming of the Bastille at Paris. But the rise of Napoleon and a new 1,300-foot bridge across the Rhine River brought prosperity back to Strasbourg.

When a rumor circulated that Schulmeister had killed a customs agent, he chose to conduct further smuggling activities from Strasbourg. The Ungers already owned a home in the Lower Alsace city. Schulmeister purchased his own small house there in 1798.

During his early years at Strasbourg, Schulmeister profited by increased demand for goods and confusion caused by the devaluation of assignat currency. It was later alleged that during this time he spied on political émigrés and cultivated friendships with general staff officers.

In September of 1805, Strasbourg authorities expressed disapproval of his shady activities, and expelled him from Alsace. It later became obvious that this was a charade arranged by General Savary, giving Schulmeister an

264 Another derivation may come from the communities of Augst and Kaiseraugst, both built on Roman foundations along the Swiss side of the Rhine River across from Rheinfelden, Baden.

To add a bit of confusion, it might also be noted that the Swiss Augspurger family name is presumed to have been taken from the city of Augsburg (now in Bavaria). From about 1260 to the late 15th century the city flag featured a cluster of a variety of grapes called Augster, apparently in the mistaken belief that grapes had something to do with the city's name. However, it was actually founded over a Roman settlement, Augusta Vindelicorum.
excuse to return to Baden. On the eve of his departure - Oct. 1, 1805 - Schulmeister met face to face with Napoleon to receive his assignment. Austrian troops were massing in Baden, and Napoleon was looking for a spy with the qualities of the smuggler: cold, logical, reckless, and greedy.

Within a few days a disguised Schulmeister managed to pass through the Austrian lines. After making a few financial arrangements with Austrian officers at the headquarters encampment, he appeared before chief of staff Karl von Mack posing as a spy for Austria. He personally provided von Mack with forged newspapers and letters that described a non-existent rebellion in Paris. Bribe officers reassured their chief of staff that the news was real, and von Mack became convinced that Napoleon was withdrawing to head west. Schulmeister was even given a liberal payment for his misinformation.

Napoleon displaced part of his troops to give the appearance of a withdrawal. When von Mack's troops took to the field on low ground for the Battle of Ulm, they found themselves surrounded by French artillery on high ground. Schulmeister's deception directly resulted in the surrender of 25,000 Austrian troops only 19 days after his meeting with Napoleon. Napoleon is supposed to have made a remark that Schulmeister "was worth 10,000 troops."

Schulmeister briefly served as commissioner-general of police in occupied Vienna before returning to Strasbourg in early 1806. There he purchased the municipal park land called Canardière at an exclusive low price. The arrangement was understood to be a gift from a grateful French nation. With the sale, 22-year-old day laborer Joseph Augster (also found as Eigst and Eigsty) became Schulmeister's employee and tenant.

Schulmeister was not content with the simple quarters at Canardière, and in 1809 he contracted an architect and a sculptor to create the elaborate Château Meinau on adjoining land. The château was named for Meinau, an island in Lake Constance on the border of Baden, Austria, and Switzerland. Meinau may have been incidental to his early smuggling activities. It is now the name of Strasbourg's soccer stadium.

Schulmeister took on a number of aliases, but at Meinau he was known as Charles Louis Schulmeister or 'Monsieur de Meinau.' The onetime smuggler became a millionaire celebrity. In Meinau's first year Schulmeister's wife received visits from the Empress Josephine, Queen Hortense of Westphalia, and the Grand Duchess of Baden. He spent lavishly to entertain diplomats and officers over the next four years.

According to Neil Ann Stuckey Levine, the Strasbourg population register shows more than 40 individuals with familiar Amish Mennonite surnames working at Canardière 1798-1811, including 'Eigst,' Augspurger, Egli, Eyer, Gerber, Lauber, Müller, Ummel, and Zimmerman.

The good life came to an end with the disastrous Russian Campaign of 1812. Baden went over to the allied coalition, and allied troops approached Strasbourg Jan. 5, 1814. A light force encircled the city for three months, while the majority moved on. Typhus broke out in the city, resulting in 600 civilian deaths. Paris surrendered March 31, and Napoleon abdicated unconditionally April 11. Strasbourg finally flew a white flag above its cathedral, and Meinau was sacked by Austrian troops. A warrant was issued for Schulmeister's arrest, and his brother in Baden was imprisoned.

On Dec. 23, 1814, the Parisian prefect of police suggested that Schulmeister should be exiled for the good of the French nation. The concern was ignored, but helped to fuel rumors that Schulmeister was visiting Napoleon in exile on Elba.

The failure of Napoleon's return from exile during the 'Hundred Days' tarnished Schulmeister's image even more. On March 1, 1815, Napoleon escaped from Elba and landed in southern France. The troops sent to arrest him instead pledged their allegiance and escorted him to Fontainebleau. Schulmeister's son Charles-Isidore, who was serving in the National Guard, rode from Paris to Fontainebleau to personally notify Napoleon that Louis XVIII had fled.

On March 20 it was reported that Karl Ludwig Schulmeister was in Vienna. It was suspected that he had engaged in an abortive plot to kidnap Napoleon's son from Austrian custody at Schönbrunn Palace.

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265 Schulmeister was employed at various times by General Anne Jean Marie René Savary, the head of military intelligence, and Joseph Fouché, head of internal security. Fouché played both sides - Bonapartists and Royalists - and survived the Napoleonic wars with his fortune intact. He has been described as a Jacobin fanatic with calculated cunning and no scruples.

266 The château was named for Meinau, an island in Lake Constance on the border of Baden, Austria, and Switzerland.

267 Schulmeister was employed at various times by General Anne Jean Marie René Savary, the head of military intelligence, and Joseph Fouché, head of internal security. Fouché played both sides - Bonapartists and Royalists - and survived the Napoleonic wars with his fortune intact. He has been described as a Jacobin fanatic with calculated cunning and no scruples. The château was named for Meinau, an island in Lake Constance on the border of Baden, Austria, and Switzerland. Schulmeister may have been incidental to his early smuggling activities. It is now the name of Strasbourg's soccer stadium.

268 The empress's luck was about to run out. On Jan. 10, 1810, Napoleon divorced Joséphine to remarry to Austrian duchess Marie Louise, for a child who could be a legitimate heir. Josephine retired to the Château de Malmaison near Paris and died four years later, in the same month that Napoleon abdicated unconditionally.
When Napoleon was defeated at Waterloo, the British exiled him to the island of St. Helena in the South Atlantic Ocean. Schulmeister was arrested in September 1815 and taken to a fortress at Wesel, Prussia, but was released after just two months. After being forced to make public apologies for his conduct during the wars, he wrote and published a pamphlet, *Fragments of the Life of Schulmeister of Meinau, Accused of Having Been the Favorite Spy of Napoleon*. It was meant to exonerate his actions.269

In 1817, Meinau estate manager Christian Augspurger made his first trans-Atlantic voyage. He took his family to Pennsylvania, then went on to scout for land in the Miami River Valley north of Cincinnati. The following year he returned to Europe.

By 1818, both Canardière and Meinau had fallen into disrepair. In 1819 former estate manager Christian Augspurger and his close relatives at Meinau sailed for America. Although more than 60 individuals made the voyage, no members of the Augspurger branch at Canardière were included in the party.

We have identified four children of Christian/Chrétien Augsti and Elisabeth Eymann:

1. Jean Augster, also known as Augstig, was born at Bevrault, St. Marie-aux-Mines, Upper Alsace June 26, 1783, and died at Guewenheim, Upper Alsace Dec. 15, 1825. On July 31, 1813 at Breitenbach, Lower Alsace he married Marie Sommer. She was born at Le Hohwald, Breitenbach Dec. 4, 1788, and died at Menoncourt, Belfort April 26, 1843, a daughter of Jean Sommer and Elisabeth Zendner. Their civil marriage entry described the groom as a cultivator, a son of Chrétien Augster and Elisabeth Eymann who were residents of Strasbourg who were present and consenting. The bride was described as a daughter of cultivator Jean Sommer, who had died at Le Hohwald June 23, 1797, and Elisabeth Zeuer, who was present and consenting. One witness was cultivator Pierre Brechbiehl, 50, stepfather of the bride. Their children include:
   a. Madeleine Augster was born at Bouxwiller Aug. 11, 1810. On June 19, 1845 at Menoncourt she married Joseph Geirig.
   b. Marie Augster was born at Breitenbach, Lower Alsace (adjacent to Le Hohwald) Dec. 18, 1815, and died at Menoncourt Feb. 20, 1866. On March 10, 1836 at Menoncourt she became the second wife of Christian Klopfenstein. He was born in 1786, and died in 1863, a son of Jean Klopfenstein and Catherine Richard.

2. Joseph Augster was born circa 1784, and died at Raon-sur-Plaine, Vosges (seven miles northwest of La Broque) June 11, 1832. He was a day laborer at Canardière. He also appears in Strasbourg documentation as Augstin, Eigs, and Eigsty. Some time before 1810, Joseph Augster married Barbara/Barbe Augspurger at Canardière. Barbara was born circa 1784, and died at Strasbourg May 22, 1832, one of four children of Noé Augspurger and Anna Müller. Joseph died in the home of his daughter Barbe at Raon-sur-Plaine, Vosges; Barbe and Joseph Dellenbach had been married there only five months earlier. The civil death entry created the following day stated that Augster was a 48-year-old operator from Strasbourg, married to ‘Barbe Augsburger.’ Joseph Augster's father-in-law Noé Augspurger remarried to Anna Maria Heiser in 1807 and left the area of Strasbourg to resettle at Hanfeld, Bavaria; he died there after 1831. Children of Joseph Augster and Barbara Augspurger born at Strasbourg include:
   a. Barbe Augster was born Aug. 13, 1810. On Jan. 21, 1832 at Raon-sur-Plaine, Vosges she married Joseph Dellenbach. He was born at Lagarde, Moselle Feb. 2, 1801 (this date should be verified because it conflicts with the stated birth date of a younger sister), and died at Turquestein-Blancrupt, Moselle July 24, 1844, a son of Christian Dellenbach and Barbe Schrensberg (her signature is found as ‘Trensberg’ and ‘Schvensberg’); for more on this couple see Dellenbach). The entry said that her parents, cultivator Joseph Augster and Barbe Augspurger, were present and consenting. On April 8, 1847 at Hermalange, Moselle she remarried to Jean Kempf, a son of André Kempf and Madeleine Abresol.
   b. Joseph Augster was born Feb. 8, 1812.
   c. Valentine Augstein/Augstin was born June 17, 1813, and died at Flanagan, Livingston County Nov. 5, 1872. He married three times. On Aug. 14, 1848 at Turquestein-Blancrupt he married Freni/Véronique Bacher. She was born at Ranrupt, Lower Alsace (near Saales) March 25, 1822 (her civil birth entry called her ‘Freni Pecheur’), and died at Turquestein-Blancrupt April 5, 1850, a daughter of Michel Bächler and Magdalena Neuhauser. On Dec. 18, 1850 at Turquestein-Blancrupt he remarried to Marie Lehmann. Marie was born at Sauley-sur-Meurthe, Vosges Oct. 19, 1824 and died at Turquestein-Blancrupt Oct. 27, 1851. On March 13, 1859 in McLean County he married third wife Anna König/King.

269 Schulmeister lived under police surveillance until 1827. Some biographies say that in later years he reverted to smuggling or ran a tobacconist's stand at Strasbourg. It is only certain that he was not impoverished. On Sept. 27, 1827 at Strasbourg his youngest daughter Joséphine Adèle Schulmeister married Pierre Joseph Charles Louis Garat. He was the son of Baron Martin Garat, who had been the director general of Napoleon's Bank of France. Pierre established a branch of the commercial Bank of France at Strasbourg, and served as its director 1846-71. In 1848, Schulmeister received a visit from the president of the Second Republic (and later emperor) Louis Napoleon that helped to restore his reputation. He was buried in Saint Urbain Cemetery at Strasbourg in 1853.
in McLean County. Anna was born Nov. 4, 1822, and died at Nebraska, Livingston County Aug. 20, 1903, a daughter of Johannes König and Jakobea Reidiger. They moved to Livingston County in 1868. *Herald of Truth*, December 1872: “Died on the 5th of November, in Livingston co., Ill., of inflammation of the nerves and bladder, Valentine Augenstein, aged 51 years and ten months. He was buried the 7th in the presence of many relatives and acquaintances. He was a faithful member of the Amish Mennonite church, and a co-laborer in the vineyard of the Lord, leaving a deeply grieved wife and five children to mourn their loss. We hope that he is now resting from his labors in heaven, where he frequently desired to be. Funeral services were delivered by Jacob Naffziger, of Woodford Co., Ill., at the house, from 2 Cor., 15 and a very impressive exhortation at the graveyard; by Christian Schloegel at the church from Ps. 116, and by the writer from 1 Thess. 4:13-18.” Anna King is found as 56-year-old widow Anna Augustin on the 1880 census of Nebraska, Livingston County, with children Daniel, 20; 'Pheby,' 18; and Christian, 16. Valentine and Anna are buried in Walden Cemetery at Flanagan as Valentin Augustin and Anna Augustine.

3. Chrétien Augusti was born at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines Feb. 7, 1788, and was living at Strasbourg in 1816. His marriage entry identifies him as a son of cultivator Christian Augusti and Elisabeth Eymann. On Jan. 3, 1816 he married Elisabeth Hürster at Strasbourg. She was born at Altenheim, Baden (13 miles southeast of Strasbourg) March 25, 1794. She was a daughter of miller David Hürster, who had died at Altenheim March 1, 1813, and Elisabeth Schlage, who had died at Altenheim April 3, 1815. Chrétien Augusti and Elisabeth Eymann were present at their wedding. Announcement bans had been posted two weeks before at Altenheim. The marriage entry acknowledged that the couple had a 3-month-old child, Elisabeth, born at Altenheim Sept. 18, 1815. It was signed 'Christian Augusti.' Their children born at Strasbourg include:
   a. Marie Augusti was born Aug. 4, 1823, and died Aug. 17, 1827.
   b. Barbe Augusti was born June 3, 1825.
   c. Louise Augusti was born April 26, 1837, and died Jan. 22, 1864.

4. In 1818 Nicolas Augustin left Strasbourg and moved with others to Bavaria.

In Bavaria Nicolas was known as Nicholas Augustin. Circa 1822 he married Barbara Gascho. She was born at Desseling, Moselle Nov. 10, 1800, and died at Macon, Bureau County Dec. 26, 1880, a daughter of Andreas/André Gascho and Anna Zwalter.

From circa 1829 to 1841 the couple farmed on the grounds of the castle estate of major general Maximilian Graf von Spreti at Arzbach bei Dachau, Bavaria (five miles north of Dachau, in the northwestern suburbs of Munich; see BIRKY/BIRKEY, THE BIG BIRKEYS for more on this location; its records are found at Pellheim). Nicholas served as a minister for the Mennonite congregation there.270

Herbert Holly has provided this list of Augustin children from the archives at Munich. It was found with Catholic education documents noting children in the area. "The castle tenant has the following children...": Marie Augustin in Unterweilbach; Katharina in Unterwielbach; Barbara in Unterwielbach; and at Pellheim Joseph, Christian, Jakob, Magdalena, Jakobina, Veronica, and Elisabetha.

After the death of their last child Elisabetha, they relocated 33 miles northeast. A note found by Herbert Holly in the Pellheim Death Register says, "This Nicolaus Augustin on Nov. 30, 1841 with his wife and children moved into the parish of the Lambach Church near Moosburg, where he has purchased the Schillerhof."

The weather throughout Europe was especially severe in the fall of 1847, causing the harvest to fail. Resulting food shortages sparked rioting. A chain of uprisings in Paris, Berlin, and Vienna culminated in the German Revolution of 1848-49. King Ludwig I of Bavaria was forced to abdicate. In September 1848 the army of Bavaria helped to suppress radical democrats. The revolution failed, and its reforms were reversed within a few years.

Many Bavarians who had quietly hoped for the success of the German Revolution left for political reasons or departed to avoid conscription. They were called 'Forty-Eighters.'271 They joined famine immigrants on
overcrowded ships leaving Bremen, Hamburg, and Le Havre. The Steerage Act of 1819 that required documentation of immigrants had also limited the number of passengers a ship could carry (two per five tons); this limitation was relaxed at the beginning of the year.272

The children of Nicholas Augustin and Barbara Gascho started their lives with the surname Augustin. Several of those who came to America saw their names spelled 'Augstein' and 'Eigstein' on census records. A few died as 'Eigst.' For the sake of simplicity, they are all given here as Eigsti. Children of Nicholas Augustin and Barbara Gascho born at Pellheim, Bavaria include:

1. Maria/Mary Eigsti was born Feb. 2, 1823, and died Jan. 17, 1904. She is buried in Willow Springs Mennonite Cemetery at Tiskilwa, Bureau County.


3. Barbara Eigsti was born Jan. 23, 1827, and died at Milford, Nebraska Aug. 6, 1911. She is buried at East Fairview Church Cemetery at Milford.273 On Aug. 22, 1847 she married Joseph Birkey/Birkey. He was born at Gern near Munich May 7, 1816, and died at Milford, Nebraska May 13, 1902, a son of Valentine Birky and Elizabeth Unzicker. From Roanoke Centennial History: "Joseph Birkey was born in Bavaria, Germany, in 1816. He came to the United States in 1844, and settled first in New Orleans, Louisiana. He then moved to Tazewell County for one year, then returned to Germany. He married Barbara Eikstein in Bavaria, then returned to the United States. Twenty years after returning from Germany, the Birkeys moved from Tazewell County and settled on a 260-acre farm in Roanoke Township and raised eight children." Actually, 20-year-old Barbara was not yet married to Joseph when they sailed on the brig Daniel Kilby. Gospel Herald, August 1917: "Barbara (Eigstein) Birkey was born Jan. 23, 1827; died Aug. 6, 1911; aged 84 y. 6 m. 12 d. She was united in marriage Aug. 22, 1847, with Joseph Birkey and lived in matrimony 55 y. 6 m. To this union were born four sons and six daughters. Her husband, two brothers, five sisters, two sons, one daughter, and 13 grandchildren preceded her to the spirit world. Two sons, five daughters, 44 grandchildren, 40 great-grandchildren, two brothers, two sisters and a host of relatives and friends mourn her departure. Sister Birkey was a faithful member in the A. M. Church from youth. She lost her eyesight 13 years ago. She suffered much in her last days, but bore all patiently to the end. She was laid to rest in the East Fairview Cemetery near Woodriver, Nebr. Services by the brethren, Christian Rediger and Jos. Whitaker."

4. Joseph Eigsti was born April 19, 1830, and died at Washburn, Woodford County Dec. 16, 1899. On March 27, 1856 in Tazewell County he married Susan Nafziger. She was born in Illinois Oct. 19, 1837, and died at Morton July 27, 1877, a daughter of Daniel Nafziger and Elizabeth Summer. She is buried in Landes Mennonite Cemetery at Elm Grove. The family appears on the 1860 census of Morton, where Joseph is listed as 'Joseph Ickstine' (however, this was the same year that the Stakers and others purposely misspelled their surnames to avoid conscription later). He and wife Susan, ages 28 and 22, gave their birthplaces as Germany. Their children include Elizabeth, four; Christian, two; and Barbara, one, all born in Illinois. They appear on the 1870 census of Morton as 'Joseph Eigstein,' 40, a farmer born at Berne'; Susan, 35, keeping house and born in Illinois; and nine children. The 1880 census of Morton shows Joseph as a 50-year-old widower named 'Eigstine' with seven children. Gospel Herald, April 1900: "Eigsti. - On the 16thof Dec. 1899, near Washburn, Woodford Co., Ill., Jos. Eigsti, aged 69 years, 7 months and 27 days. He died very suddenly. He had not been well however for several weeks and had expressed his willingness to depart whenever the messenger of death would come, having the living hope of a bright hereafter. . . On the day of his departure he had partaken of dinner as usual, after which he went to his room and sat down in his rocking chair. An hour afterwards his daughter, going to his room, found he was dead. He had evidently passed quietly away a few minutes before. He was the father of four sons and seven daughters. His wife and two daughters preceded him to the spirit world. The remains were laid to rest in the Roanoke Mennonite Cemetery."

5. Christian Eigsti was born Feb. 15, 1832 according to his gravestone at Landes Mennonite Cemetery. He died at Morton March 5, 1903.

6. Jakob/Jacob Eigsti was born Aug. 15 or 21, 1833, and died at Middlebury, Indiana March 5, 1914. His birth entry at Pellheim described his mother as 'aus Frankreich Dep. Saarboug.' On Oct. 29, 1863 he married Veronica 'Fannie' Albrecht. She was born at Hennepin Sept. 9, 1844, and died Sept. 26, 1903, a daughter of Peter Albrecht and Catherine Burkey. They farmed 160 acres at Macon, Bureau County. Gospel Herald, March 1914: "Jacob Eigsti

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272 The overcrowding of famine immigrants and subsequent rapid spread of disease aboard ships peaked in November 1853, when 28 packet ships reached New York. 13,762 immigrants disembarked, but another 1,141 were listed as fatalities.

273 In 1875 ministers from McLean County visited Amish Mennonites in Seward County, Nebraska to help them observe their first communion. The settlement drew many Alsatian latecomers from Central Illinois hoping to purchase inexpensive prairie land. At Milford they joined others from Iowa and Ontario to establish a church in 1878. Their migration dovetailed on the sale of railroad property and earlier settlement by Civil War veterans.
was born Aug. 15, 1833, in Bavaria, Germany; passed away at the home of his son, John, near Middlebury, Ind., Mar. 5, 1914; aged 80y. 6m. 20d. At the age of 19 he came to this country. Oct. 29, 1863, he was married to Fannie Albrecht of Bureau Co., Ill. To this union there were born three children. The daughter who was married to John Gingerich died in 1908, two sons, William of Bureau Co., Ill., and John of Middlebury, Ind., are still living. His wife preceded him to the eternal world 11 years ago. He is also survived by one sister, and one brother; also 16 grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. Bro. Eigsti accepted his Savior in his youth and united with the Mennonite Church of which he remained a faithful member until the end. Services at the home of his son near Middlebury, Ind., by the brethren, A.J. Hostetler and D.D. Miller, from II Cor. 5:1, after which the body was shipped to his former home near Tiskilwa, Ill., where services were conducted at the Willow Springs A.M. Church by Jacob Ringenberg and C.A. Hartzler from Phil. 4:5, last clause. Gospel Herald, October 1903: “On the 26th of Sept. 1903, near Lombardville, of cancer, Veronica, wife of Jacob Eigsti, aged 59 Y., 17 D. She suffered for many months and bore all patiently till the Lord finally called her away from all sorrow and suffering. She leaves a sorrowing husband, two sons, one daughter, 13 grandchildren, a brother and sister to mourn her death. She was a devoted Christian and member of the Mennonite church. Funeral services were held in the Mennonite M.H. near Willow Springs on the 29th, Bish. Jacob Burkey of this place officiating in German, and Bish. Jonathan Kurtz of Topeka, Ind., in English, from Heb. 9:27. “It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment.”

### 7. Magdalena 'Lena' Eigsti

Eigsti was born Oct. 23, 1835, and died at Pekin May 13, 1906. On April 30, 1854 in Tazewell County she married Henry Birky; the ceremony was performed by minister Andrew Birki. He was born at Gern near Munich Feb. 2, 1831, and died at Groveland Aug. 4, 1918, a son of Valentine Birky and Elizabeth Unzicker. They are buried in the Evangelical Mennonite Cemetery at Groveland. On the 1870 census of Morton they gave their birthplaces as ‘Berne.’ They can also be found on the same page of the 1880 census of Morton as brother Joseph Eigsti, where they listed their birthplaces as France (Henry) and Bavaria (Magdalena). On Sept. 3, 1883 their son Nicholas Birkey married Matilda ‘Tilly’ Staker, the youngest child of Joseph Staker and Frena Roth.

### 8. Jakobina/Jacobine 'Phoebe' Eigsti

Eigsti was born Aug. 7, 1838, and died at Tiskilwa, Bureau County Nov. 25, 1913. Her Pellheim birth entry described her mother as ‘aus Frankreich Saarbourg.’ On June 5, 1859 in Tazewell County she married Christian Zehr; the ceremony was performed by minister Andrew Ropp. He was born at Mannried (27 miles northwest of Munich) Aug. 1, 1831, and died at Providence, Bureau County Oct. 4, 1891, a son of Daniel Zehr and his first wife Barbara Ingold.

### 9. Veronica 'Fannie' Eigsti

Eigsti was born April 12, 1840 (the entry was created at Pellheim), and died at Milford, Nebraska Nov. 9, 1921. On Feb. 8, 1862 she married André/Andrew Hauter (also found as Andrew R. Hauter). He was born at Claven, France (we could not identify the present name of this location) Oct. 27, 1837, and died at Milford Feb. 24, 1929. He sailed from Le Havre with his family on the Confederation, and arrived at New York Nov. 21, 1854. They are found on the passenger list as Jean Hauter, 44; Françoise [misspelled as Francois], 43; André, 18; Joseph, 14; Jacobine, 20; Madelein, 6; and Lisa, 2. He relocated from Butler County, Ohio to Groveland before 1859. On Feb. 8, 1862 he married Fannie Eigsti. In 1866 they relocated to Indiantown/Tiskilwa, Bureau County, in 1882 to Wyanet, Bureau County; in 1887 to Elmerdaro, Kansas (now called Elmdaro), in 1907 to Beaver Crossing, Nebraska; and finally in 1919 to Milford. They are found on the 1900 census of Elmdaro has landlord Andrew Hauter, 61, born in France in November 1828 , immigrated in 1854; and Fannie, 60, born in Germany in April 1840, immigrated in 1854. Gospel Herald, March 1929: “Andrew Hauter was born Oct. 27, 1837 in Claven, France; died Feb. 24, 1929, at the home of his adopted daughter, Mrs. John Sutter, Milford, Nebr.; aged 91 y. 3 m. 27 d. When a young man he came to America, first to the state of Ohio, later to Illinois and Kansas, and in 1902 he moved to Milford, Nebr., where he lived the remainder of his life. On Feb. 8, 1862, he was married to Fannie Eigsti, who died Nov. 9, 1921. In his youth he accepted Christ as his Savior and united with the Amish Mennonite Church and remained faithful until death. Besides his adopted daughter and her husband, who tenderly cared for him the last months and seven years of his life, he leaves one brother, Joseph Hauter, Tiskilwa, Ill., five nephews, six nieces, besides many relatives and friends. Funeral services were held at the Milford A. M. Church on Feb. 27, 1929, conducted by L. O. Schlegel assisted by Warren Eicher. Burial in East Fairview Mennonite cemetery.”

### 10. Elisabetha Eigsti

Eigsti was born Aug. 14, 1841, and died eight days later on Aug. 21. Her death was recorded at Pellheim as Elisabeth Augustin.

### 11. John Eigsti

Eigsti was born in 1843, and died at Milford, Nebraska June 8, 1925. On March 20, 1879 in Tazewell County he married Barbara Miller. She was born Oct. 25, 1854, and died Nov. 20, 1926, a daughter of Elizabeth Sutter and her first husband Joseph Miller. They are found on the 1880 census of Macon, Bureau County. They later moved to Nebraska. They are buried in Blue Mound Cemetery at Milford, Nebraska.

In 1849, Nicholas's son 17-year-old Christian Eigsti left Europe. His party included the widower Valentine Birky of Gern (now part of Munich) with the youngest five of his 13 children; Jacob Stalter (found as 'Stalder') and his new wife Barbara Birkey, a niece of Valentine Birky; 67-year-old Daniel Zehr of Hanfeld (located 18 miles southwest of Munich near Lake Starnberg); Daniel's nephew David Springer (born at Struth like the Zehrs) and his

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274 The Illinois Statewide Marriage Index lists him as John Eigstein.
Amish Mennonites in Tazewell County, Illinois

wife Elizabeth Guth of Solln (a suburb on the southern edge of Munich), who later settled at Hopedale; George Ritthaler (found on the passenger list as George 'Riedthaler,' 30), who became a member of the Dillon Creek meeting; Andreas Oesch, 26, of Hanfeld (a son of Andreas Oesch and Catherine Augspurger/Katharina Augsburger); and Elizabeth Egli, 50, of Hanfeld. 275

They sailed from Bremen to Liverpool to New York, where they arrived on the Minnesota June 21. From there many in the group traveled directly to Central Illinois. Their fares from New York to Chicago would have been about $9.50. This would have been equivalent to about $250 in modern buying power.276

Nicholas Augustin died in Bavaria in 1850. The following year, widow Barbara Gascho followed the path of her son to America. She emigrated with the remaining children from Europe through New York and traveled directly to Illinois. The Augustin family was reunited at Morton.

Barbara Gascho can be found as 80-year-old 'Barbaray' on the 1880 census of Macon, Bureau County living in this household of her son John and his wife Barbara Miller. She died at Macon Dec. 26, 1880, and was buried in Willow Springs Mennonite Cemetery at Tiskilwa. Herald of Truth, April 1881: “Eigsti. - December 26th, in Bureau Co., Ill., Sister Barbara Eigsti, at the advanced age of 81 years. She was a faithful sister in the Amish Mennonite church. Services by A. Oesch and Joseph Buerky.”

At Morton Christian Eigsti farmed with his two brothers, Jacob and Joseph. The 1860 federal census of Morton describes only the family of Joseph, described as farmer Joseph Ickstine, 28, from Germany; Susan, 22, from Germany; and children born in Illinois Elizabeth, 4; Christian, 2; and Barbara, 1.

In 1863 the brothers divided their 240 acres (two miles south of Morton center) into three equal parts. Christian sold his third. The 1864 plat map shows only an 80-acre property remaining, owned by J. Eigston.' On March 1, 1865 Christian purchased 160 acres slightly closer to the center of Morton for $8,000.

Christian's brothers Jacob and John later resettled at Macon, Bureau County. They can be found on the same page of the 1880 census as 48-year-old farmer Jacob 'Eighsti,' 48, born in Bavaria with both parents born in Bavaria; 'Framica' [Veronica Albrecht], 34; with three children born in Illinois; and 36-year-old farmer John 'Eighsti,' born in Bavaria with both parents born in Bavaria; 'Barbaray' [Barbara Miller], 26. John's houseguests included his 80-year-old mother 'Barbaray' [Barbara Gascho], and 55-year-old sister Mary.

Christian was probably born 'Augustin,' but chose the spelling 'Eigstin' throughout most of his life. He worshipped with the Dillon Creek meeting, and in 1879 served on the committee that supervised construction of the Pleasant Grove Amish Mennonite Church. It is appropriate that he worshipped with the 'Ropp Church' - he had been a second cousin to Elisabeth Eymann, the wife of Andreas Ropp who had died in Ohio in 1834.277

In 1888 Christian was naturalized in Tazewell County as 'Christian Eigstin."

Christian Eigsti would have three more marriages.

On Feb. 5, 1863 at Eureka, Woodford County, Christian 'Eigstin' married Elizabeth 'Lizzie' Orendorff. She was born at Spring Bay, Woodford County July 21, 1844, and died of typhoid June 26, 1881, a daughter of Daniel Ohrendorf/Orendorf and Katharina Albrecht. They are listed on the 1870 census of Morton as 'Christian Eigstein,,' a 35-year-old farmer from Bern; Elizabeth, 26, born in Illinois; and four children. Elizabeth's 70-year-old father Daniel Ohrendorf/Orendorf of Hesse-Darmstadt and two younger brothers were living with them. They are listed on the 1880 census of Morton (at the same address) as 'Christ Eigstin,' 45, and Elizabeth, 36, with seven children. Elizabeth is buried at Landes Mennonite Cemetery, where her stone in the Eigsti grouping says, “Lizzie wife of C. died June 27, 1881 at 36 years, 11 months, nine days.” Her father is buried nearby.

Children of Christian Eigsti and Elizabeth Orendorff include:

1. Christian Eigsti was born Jan. 15, 1864, and died July 26, 1873 (also found as July 27). He is buried in Landes Mennonite Cemetery.

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275 George Ritthaler (1818-1908) is not included in Blendinger's lists of Munich-area emigrants from this time frame. A relative Michael Ritthaler came from 'Izenhausen' to Elm Grove in 1856. Taking this as a clue, George is likely to have come from the vicinity of Etzenhausen (next to Dachau above Munich) or Ichenhausen (32 miles west of Augsburg). In America he married Christina Liddeki (1825-1885). Their household is found on the 1870 census of Elm Grove as farmer George Ritthaler, 51, Bavaria; Christina, 45, Brunswick; and five children all born in Illinois: Frederick, 14; Elizabeth, 12; Henry, 8; Charles, 6; and Veronika [later called 'Fannie'], 4. In 1880 they are found as farmer Ritthallah, Geo., 61, Germany; Christiane, 54, Germany; Henry, 18, Illinois; and Fannie, 13, Illinois. They are buried in Mt. Hope Cemetery at Elm Grove.

276 Measured against the Consumer Price Index.

277 Christian Eigsti's paternal grandmother was Elisabeth Eymann (married to Christian Augsti), a younger sister to Johannes Eymann (married to Anna Goldschmidt), who was the father of Elisabeth Eymann (married to Andreas Ropp).
2. John Eigsti was born at Morton March 29, 1865, and died March 18, 1939. He is buried in Pleasant Grove Cemetery. On Nov. 1, 1892 he married Lena Springer. She was born at Hopedale Nov. 21, 1869, and died at Shickley, Nebraska June 17, 1948, a daughter of John Springer and his wife Elizabeth. Gospel Herald, July 1948: “Eigsti - Lena, daughter of John and Elizabeth Springer, was born on a farm near Hopedale, Ill., Nov. 21, 1869; passed away at the Proctor Hospital, Peoria, Ill., after a short illness, June 17, 1948; aged 78 y. 26 d. On Nov. 1, 1892, she was united in marriage to John Eigsti, of Morton, Ill., who passed away on March 24, 1939. They opened their home to two infant girls, rearing them as their own. In her youth she accepted Christ as her personal Saviour and united with the Mennonite Church... Surviving are two daughters (Mrs. Robert Yordy, Morton, Ill., with whom she made her home the last eight years; and Mrs. Carl Holloway, Hopedale, Ill.), 11 grandchildren, one sister (Mrs. Mary Naftiger, Foosland, Ill.), and one brother (David Springer, also of Foosland). Funeral services were conducted June 20 by N. N. Roeschley, Simon Litwiller, and L. A. Bachman. Burial was made in the Pleasant Grove Mennonite Cemetery.

3. Daniel Eigsti was born June 12, 1867, and died Nov. 16, 1898. He is buried in Pleasant Grove Mennonite Cemetery.

4. Catherine ‘Katie’ Eigsti was born April 5, 1869, and died Nov. 5, 1948. On Jan. 31, 1889 she married Jonas Litwiller. He was born June 13, 1865, and died May 7, 1944. Gospel Herald, November 1947: “Litwiller - Katie, daughter of Christian and Elisabeth (Orendorff) Eigsti, was born near Morton, Ill., April 5, 1869; passed away Nov. 5, 1947; aged 78 y. 7 m. On Jan. 31, 1889, she was united in marriage to Jonas Litwiller, who predeceased her three years ago. Surviving are five children (Elmer, Tremont, Ill.; Luella Staker, Groveland, Ill.; Albert, Morton, Ill.; Lester, Wooster, Ohio; Raymond, Camp Kilmer, N.J.), 14 grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, two brothers (Jacob and Joseph, of Morton), two stepbrothers (Christ Yordy, Morton, Ill.; and Alvin Smith, Tiskilwa, Ill.), one sister (Mrs. Joe Schrock, Flanagan, Ill.), and one half sister (Mrs. Alvin Bachman, Upland, Calif.), and one stepister (Mrs. Andrew Bachman, Roanoke, Ill.). One sister and two brothers preceded her in death. In her youth she confessed Christ as her Saviour and joined the Pleasant Grove Mennonite Church. She was quiet and unassuming, exemplifying her beliefs. Funeral services were held at the Morton Church, in charge of Simon Litwiller, Noah N. Roeschley and Paul Rupp. Interment was made in the Pleasant Grove Mennonite Cemetery, near Tremont, Ill.” On Feb. 2, 1921 their daughter Luella Litwiller married Harvey Staker, the youngest child of Christian Staker and Magdalena Ropp.

5. Barbara Eigsti was born Jan. 16, 1871, and died Aug. 15, 1927. She married Joseph Saltzman, who was born May 17, 1865, and died June 22, 1913.


7. Jacob Eigsti was born Feb. 15, 1876, and died July 23, 1949. He married Lydia Gerg. She was born March 2, 1873, and died Sept. 9, 1955. They are found living next to Jacob's father on the 1900 census of Morton. Jacob farmed the original Eigsti homestead until 1938, when he moved closer to the center of Morton. He served as vice president and director of the Morton State Bank, and on the Morton Township High School board of education. They are buried in Pleasant Grove Mennonite Cemetery at Elm Grove.

8. Joseph Eigsti was born April 24, 1879, and died Dec. 8, 1963. He married Lydia Kurtz. She was born Nov. 25, 1882, and died May 28, 1965. They are buried in Pleasant Grove Mennonite Cemetery at Elm Grove.

Christian remarried to second wife Barbara Beller at Indiantown, Bureau County March 5, 1882. She was born at Bambois de Plaine (above Plaine) March 22, 1847, a daughter of Jacob Beller and Elizabeth Chérique/Shirch.\(^{278}\) The clearing of Bambois between Les Quelles and Plaine was the site of a lumber mill and Anabaptist cemetery, and was home to Ropps before they migrated down from the Vosges Mountains. Barbara is buried at Landes Mennonite Cemetery, where her stone in the Eigsti grouping says, “Barbara wife of C. died May 25, 1887 at 40 years, two months, three days.” Christian Eigsti and Barbara Beller had only one child:

9. Mary Eigsti was born Sept. 12, 1886, and died Aug. 20, 1975. She married Alvin D. Bachman. He was born April 26, 1883, and died in November 1974.

Christian's third wife was Barbara Jordy/Yordy. She was born on the Grossprüfening estate (now a neighborhood on the west side of Regensburg) Dec. 14, 1853, a daughter of Jacob Jordy and Magdalena Schantz. She sailed from Hamburg aboard the steamship Hammonia in late May of 1884. Following a stopover at Le Havre, the ship continued on to New York, where it arrived June 27, 1884. The arrival passenger list names wife 'Babette Jordy', 28, as a native of 'Bavary' (Bavaria) with son 'Christ', 4.\(^{279}\) The pair disembarked at Castle Garden. The

\(^{278}\) Jacob Beller was born at Plaine Aug. 23, 1803, and died there in 1876; Elizabeth Chérique/Shirch was born at Bourg-Bruche June 9, 1815, and died at Plaine in 1871.

\(^{279}\) 'Babette Jordy' appeared in a bracketed group of 11 passengers from Bavaria. All but one are known to have been Mennonites. The group includes Joseph Ackermann, 38, and his wife Anna, 33, with three children. The Ackermanns can be found on the 1900 census of Waldo, Livingston County, where his birth date is given as March 1848 (making his correct age 36
immigrant processing station was located on a small island off the southwest tip of Manhattan, and was active 1855-1890. It is now called the Castle Clinton National Monument. (Ellis Island took on its functions in 1892; most immigration documents of the period were lost when the original wooden structure there was destroyed by fire in 1897).

In 1888, Christian Eigsti of Morton approached Barbara with an offer of marriage. Although he was many years her senior, his household held nine motherless children, ranging from 1 to 24 years of age. She agreed to become his third wife, provided that her son would be treated equally with the others and that he be given land in the future. They were married in the home of Peter Yordy at Roanoke, Woodford County Oct. 1, 1888. Minister Christian Ropp performed the ceremony. Gary L. Yordy located their marriage license at the Woodford County Registry. It states that Barbara Yordy was 37 at the time of marriage, which was her first marriage and his third; that Barbara lived at Roanoke; and that Christian lived at Morton. Barbara's parents were identified as Jacob Yordy [Jordy] and Magdalena Shants [Schantz], and Christian's were identified as Nicolas Eigsti and Barbara Gascho. (Gary L. Yordy proposes that Peter Yordy may have been Barbara's uncle, and that Barbara was living with his family, since it is Amish custom to marry in the home of the bride).

She lived only six more years, dying at Morton Sept. 20, 1894. She was buried in Pleasant Grove Mennonite Cemetery. Her headstone gives no birth date, but her age at death, 42.

Barbara's only known child Christian 'Chris H.' Yordy was born Feb. 20, 1880, and died at Morton Feb. 27, 1958. He inherited 80 acres at Flanagan, Livingston County in 1903. On Feb. 16, 1904 at Tremont he married Magdalena 'Lena' Staker. She was born at Tremont April 19, 1883, and died at Morton Feb. 3, 1964, a daughter of Nicholas Staker Jr. and Jakobina 'Bena' Roth.

Gospel Herald, March 1964: “Yordy, Lena, daughter of Nicholas and Bena (Roth) Staker, was born at Morton, Ill., April 19, 1883; passed away in her sleep at the home of her son, Russell, Morton, Feb. 3, 1964; aged 80 y. 9 m. 15 d. On Feb. 16, 1904, she was married to Chris H. Yordy, who died Feb. 27, 1958. Surviving are 3 sons (Clarence, Robert, and Russell), and 2 sisters (Viola - Mrs. Joe Kurtz and Mrs. Fannie Gerber). Three brothers and 3 sisters preceded her in death. She was a member of the First Mennonite Church, Morton, where funeral services were held Feb. 6, in charge of Clyde D. Fulmer; interment in Pleasant Grove Cemetery, Tremont, Ill.”

Children of Christian Yordy and Magdalena Staker include:

1) Gospel Herald, June 1983: “Yordy, Clarence Edward, son of Chris and Lena (Staker) Yordy, was born at Morton, Ill., June 28, 1907; died of a heart ailment at Carlisle, Pa., May 31, 1983; aged 75 y. On Dec. 14, 1927, he was married to Esther Ella Studer, who survives. Also surviving are 2 sons (Harold and James), one daughter (Marilyn, Mrs. Roger Harrington), 8 grandchildren, 6 great-grandchildren, and one brother (Russell). One brother preceded him in death. He was a member of First Mennonite Church, where funeral services were held on June 4, in charge of James Detweiler and Patrick Flaherty; interment in Pleasant Grove Cemetery.” Esther Ella Studer was born at Roanoke Oct. 8, 1905, and died at Morton May 21, 1994.

2) Robert Nicholas Yordy was born April 24, 1909, and died Jan. 29, 1982. On Feb. 18, 1931 he married Elsie Eigsti. She was born March 3, 1907 and adopted by the Eigsti family. She died Nov. 22, 1991. They farmed and raised turkeys.

3) Russell Yordy was born June 30, 1927. On Aug. 17, 1947 he married Annalee Smucker. She was born April 12, 1929.

Gary L. Yordy provided many of the details of Christian Eigsti's fourth marriage.

Veronika Catarina 'Fannie' Ringenberg was born in Bavaria in August 1841, a daughter of Christian Ringenberg (1799-1890) and Maria Burky (circa 1805-1871). Before emigrating she had three children: Peter Ringenberg, born 1857; Marie Ringenberg, born 1862; and Anna 'Nancy' Ringenberg, born 1864.

Veronika, her three children, her parents, and her 11-month-old nephew Valentine Ringenberg (a son of her sister Katharina) sailed from Bremen on the Union, arriving at New York March 16, 1867. They settled at Wheatland, Bureau County where on Nov. 11, 1869 Veronika gave birth to her fourth child, Mary.

The 1870 census of Wheatland shows Christian Ringbert, 65, France; Mary, 64, Bavaria; Frances Ringbert, 27, Bavaria; Peter, 12, Bavaria; Catherine, 9, Bavaria; Mary, 1, Illinois; and Jacob Ringberd, 21, Bavaria [Veronica's brother]. Mary was not listed.

On March 12, 1877 at Wheatland, Veronika married Anton Smith. They had four children. Anton died in 1893, and was buried in Willow Springs Cemetery.

in 1884) and hers as 1851 (matching the passenger list); other names on the same census page include Stalter and Good [Guth]; the page before includes Albrecht, Augsburger, Ingold, and Zehr.
On April 8, 1895 widow Veronika married three-time widower Christian Eigsti in her residence at Macon, Bureau County. The marriage certificate stated that her parents were Christian Ringenberger and Mary Burky, that she was born in Bavaria, was 53 years old, and this was her second marriage. She signed her name 'Veronika Eigsti.'

Christian Eigsti is described on the 1900 census of Morton as a farmer born in Germany in February 1832 [Alsace was occupied by Germany in 1871]. 'Fannie' stated that she was born in August 1841, and that she had borne 8 children, 7 still living. Both Christian and Veronika stated that they had been married (not necessarily to each other) for 37 years, or since 1862. Their household included son and farm laborer Christian Yordy, born in Germany in February 1880; Emma Smith, born in Illinois in May 1880; Alvin Smith, born in Illinois in December 1885; and Lydia Smith, born in Illinois in August 1886.

Christian Eigsti died at Morton March 5, 1863, and was buried next to his third wife Barbara Yordy in Pleasant Grove Mennonite Cemetery. (His first two wives died before the newer cemetery was established in 1885).

Following his death, Veronika lived at Tremont and Arispie. She died in the home of her daughter Lena Smith Ulrich and son-in-law Peter M. Ulrich June 1, 1929. She was buried next to her first husband in Willow Springs Cemetery.
The Bernese surnames 'Bürgi' and 'Bürki' describe a person who lives in or near a castle.

The Bürki families of Canton Bern were extremely prolific. In the 1500s the surnames Bürki and Bürcki could be found in a number of communities surrounding Steffisburg and Diessbach (since 1870 Oberdiessbach).

A significant branch of the family could be found in the mid-1700s at Muri bei Bern, a community four miles southeast of the city of Bern that is also associated with the Joders and Stückers. It is thought that a number of families relocated there to find work during the construction of a cathedral.

Genealogist Julius Billeter (1869-1957) spent decades in Canton Bern collecting family information. He created dozens of monographs by transcribing original parish records. In 1944 he published *Genealogy of the Bürki (Buerki) family of Trimstein, Konolfingen, Tagertschi, Häutligen, Niederhünigen, Kanton Bern, Switzerland, 1536-1938*. The communities where Billeter found Bürki records were all located in Konolfingen District, which comprises the area along the 15-mile route between Steffisburg and Muri bei Bern.

The Crooked Alsace Chain

Some time after 1687 Christian Bürki settled on the Bärbelsteinerhof, the grounds of ruined Bewartstein Castle at Erlenbach bei Dahn. A significant branch of the family could be found in the mid-1700s at Muri bei Bern, a community four miles southeast of the city of Bern that is also associated with the Joders and Stückers. It is thought that a number of families relocated there to find work during the construction of a cathedral.

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The Crooked Alsace Chain

Some time after 1687 Christian Bürki settled on the Bärbelsteinerhof, the grounds of ruined Bewartstein Castle at Erlenbach bei Dahn. The site is located in the parish of Niederschlettenbach, only six miles north of the border between the Pfalz and Lower Alsace. The Amish Mennonite connections to this location are too numerous and intricate to mention here; it was occupied by Swiss Anabaptists as early as 1687, and was a transition home for many families that migrated from Alsace into the Pfalz in the mid 1700s (see EHRESMAN for information on the families).

The death of 'Christian Bourquit vom Diessbach,' 81, was noted on an entry at Niederschlettenbach in 1729. (Diessbach may have been his *Heimat* rather than his actual birthplace). Only one son of Christian can be positively identified. It is probable that there were other sons born earlier, and they may have been the fathers or grandfathers of Bürkis who came to America in the mid-1700s.

Christian's son or grandson Johannes/Hans Bürki was born circa 1695, and died on the Bärbelsteinerhof in 1741. He married Barbara Güngerich. His death entry was placed on a special Anabaptist list in the Niederschlettenbach parish book by minister Christian Holli/Holly, who held the Bärbelsteinerhof lease 1718-1848. It described him as 'Johannes Bürcki, Anabaptist of Bärbelstein near Erlenbach.'

Johannes/Hans Bürki and Barbara Güngerich had five known children. All but one farmed in Lower Alsace. Three locations cluster around the castle estate Waderhof at Lorentzen in a four-mile square situated in 'Crooked Alsace' (Ger. *Krummes Elsass*), a hilly projection of Lower Alsace that is tucked beneath Lorraine. This region was relatively isolated for many centuries, sandwiched between the Catholic Duchy of Lorraine and the forests of the...
Amish Mennonites in Tazewell County, Illinois

Vosges Mountains. In 1793 'Crooked Alsace' was annexed into French territory. This was confirmed by the Treaty of Lunéville in 1801.

'CROOKED ALSACE' LOCATIONS
The Neumatte estate at Diemeringen is one mile south of Lorentzen.

After the 1300s the lordship of Diemeringen became an isolated German-speaking enclave that fell under the administration of the Palatine Electors. During the Thirty Years War (1618-48), in 1629, the Duchy of Lorraine seized possession of Crooked Alsace. Brutal conditions caused many families to abandon their villages and move to higher elevations. The Lutheran religion favored by German-speaking residents was suppressed.

By 1698 tensions had eased and the area had largely recovered from the Thirty Years War. The Lutheran religion was restored, and Crooked Alsace was recast as a religiously tolerant region.

From 1718 to 1789 the community was a Pfalz-Zweibrücken lordship belonging to the Wittelsbach family. Revenues were divided between the Prince of Salm-Salm (3/16ths), Prince of Salm-Kirburg (3/16ths), Count of Grumbach (5/16ths), and Count of Rheingrafenstein (5/16ths). French troops occupied the area in 1789, and it was absorbed into Alsace and the French Republic in 1793.

Bürki descendants were also associated with the Lutterbacherhof estate at Voellerdingen, a property that was subordinate to the Neumatte estate. It is one mile northwest of Lorentzen.

The *Encyclopaedia Germanica* says the Lutterbacherhof stands on the former site of the monastery Bürenthal, surrounded by the site of an ancient village called Heimeldingen. At present there is one manor house there, surrounded by the buried foundations of six smaller houses that probably date from the early 1700s.

In 1776 a lease agreement was signed by Johann Burcky of Diemeringen; and in 1793, by Hans Burcki of Diemeringen. Both instances may have been the husband of Freni/Vreni/Véronique Leyenberger (more on this to follow); this would have been appropriate, because he was also leaseholder of the Neumatte estate at Diemeringen.

The village of Dehlingen is one mile north of Lorentzen, and four miles north of Diemeringen.

The consequences of isolation and repression are recorded in the Catholic Parish Books of Diemeringen. On June 21, 1673, six women and one man from Dehlingen were condemned "to be burnt as witches and wizards after being beheaded by the sword." On Oct. 16, six women from Dehlingen were "beheaded by sword and burned for witchcraft near the gallows." These excesses continued until 1674, when the French troops of Vicomte de Turenne occupied the area.

The transition of Crooked Alsace into a religiously tolerant region brought many Protestants to Dehlingen in the 1700s. It was seen as a refuge because its politics, geography, and customs set it apart from the mainstream. In 1776 the population was 400; of these residents, 22 were Jewish and only 3 were Catholic.

Children of Johannes/Hans Bürki and Barbara Güngerich include:

1. **Christian Bürki** was born circa 1720.
2. Barbara Bürki was born circa 1724, and died at Nehwiller-près-Woerth Nov. 28, 1793 at age 69. In 1756 at Nehweiler-près-Woerth she married Jörg/Georg Holly. He was born on the Bärbelsteinerhof circa 1723, and died at Nehwiller-près-Woerth, Lower Alsace Jan. 20, 1794, a son of minister Christian Holli/Holly. See BECHLER/BECKLER for more on this couple.
3. Johannes/Jean Bürki/Birký was born circa 1732. He married Freni/Vreni/Véronique Leyenberger. They lived on the Neumatte estate at Diemeringen, Lower Alsace. Their children include:
   a. Andreas Bürki/André Bircky was born circa 1761, and died at Diemeringen Jan. 10, 1811. His civil death entry named his father as Jean Burki. He married Barbe Schantz. She was born circa 1768, and died at Sexey-aux-Forges, Meurthe-et-Moselle Dec. 27, 1835. Their children born at Diemeringen include:
      1) Georg Birky was born circa Jan. 10, 1786. When he died at Diemeringen July 10, 1795, his civil death entry said he was aged nine years, six months.
      2) Johannes/Jean Birky was born at Sarrebourg circa 1788, and died on the Schottenhof at Sarralbe May 14, 1825. On Oct. 29, 1807 at Lorentzen he married Magdalena/Madeleine Schertz. She was born at Sarrebourg circa 1790, and died at Gros-Réderching, Moselle June 21, 1836, a daughter of André Schertz and Barbe Bachmann. Their son André/Andrew Birky was born at Lorentzen, Lower Alsace Aug. 3, 1813, and died at Wellman, Iowa March 28, 1852.

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283 Some sources give the date of the marriage of Johannes/Jean Bürki/Birký and Freni/Vreni/Véronique Leyenberger as Dec. 5, 1798. There is no note of the place or the original source. If this is correct, his children were born to an earlier unidentified wife. However, we suspect their marriage actually took place circa 1758, and she was the mother of his children. Perhaps Freni/Vreni/Véronique was a daughter of minister Andreas Leyenberger. He was a co-leaseholder on the Kirschbacherhof estate in Zweibrücken in 1742. Andreas represented Zweibrücken at the assembly of ministers at Essingen in 1779. Johannes/Jean may have met her through the Dettweilers, who had come to Diemeringen from Zweibrücken - or visa versa, she was the reason the Dettweilers came to Diemeringen.
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1875. He married Anne Kempf. She was born at Imling, Moselle Oct. 18, 1818, and died at Wellman April 2, 1866. a daughter of Jean Kempf and Anne Schmitt. André/Andrew may have sailed ahead of his family; Anna sailed with her children from Le Havre on the Sarah Jane, arriving at New York Sept. 14, 1854. The passenger list gives Anna Birky, 34; Joseph, 17; Anna, 14; Jacob, 9; Madelene, 7; and Marie, 4. They settled at Tiskilwa, Putnam County, then moved on to Wellman, Iowa in 1861 where some took the surname 'Birkey.'

André/Andrew and Anna are buried in West Union Mennonite Cemetery at Parnell, Iowa.

3) André Birky was born at Diezermigen Aug. 24, 1789, and died at Dehlingen (four miles north of Diemeringen) Aug. 15, 1841. On Dec. 23, 1813 at Diemeringen he married Barbe Rouvenacht. She was born at Rhodes July 4, 1792, and died at Chassey, Meuse Jan. 30, 1872, a daughter of Magdalena/Madeleine Engel and her second husband Jean Rouvenacht of Rhodes. They resided on the Morauville farm at Rimling, Moselle.

4) Chrétien Birky was born circa Feb. 2, 1792. When he died at Diemeringen July 7, 1801, his civil death entry said he was aged nine years, five months, and five days.

5) Georg Birky was born at Diemeringen April 18, 1796. On Feb. 5, 1829 at Rimling, Moselle he married Madeleine Koch.

6) Catherine Birki was born at Diemeringen Sept. 1, 1798. On Feb. 23, 1822 at Rimling, Moselle she married Christian Gerber/Guerber. He was born on Wiesing farm at Blies-Ebersing, Moselle, a son of Christian Gerber/Guerber and Marie Güngerich/Guengerich.

7) Valentin Birky was born circa 1735, and died at Diemeringen Nov. 28, 1803. His civil death entry described him as Valantin Birkiÿ, 68, a son of Johannes Biirkÿ and Barbara Gingrihin, and leaseholder [Ger. Hofbeständer] of Neumatt estate; it was witnessed by his by Andreas Birkÿ and Chrétien Detweiller (Dettweiler, who signed as 'Christian Detweiler'). He married Catherine/Katharina Ehrismann (found on his death entry as Anna Kathrina Ehrismann). She was born circa 1740, and died on the Neumatte estate at Diemeringen Oct. 4, 1813, age 73. Her civil death entry describes her as Catherine Eriehman, 73. Their children include:

   a. Madeleine Birki/Birckÿ was born on Neumatte estate at Diemeringen circa 1773, and died at Diemeringen circa 1802. Her civil death entry said that she was age 56, noted that she was born on the Neumatt estate, and identified her parents.

   b. Catherine Birki was born on Neumatte estate at Diemeringen circa 1765, and died at Lorentzen, Lower Alsace May 27, 1845. She married Johannes/Jean Roggy. He was born at Lorentzen circa 1758, and died there on the Waderhof estate Dec. 31, 1815. Their son Pierre Rogy, 40, witnessed Catherine's civil death entry, which described Catherine as an 80-year-old daughter of the deceased Valentin Birkey, who in life had been a cultivator on the Neumatt estate. Johannes/Jean's civil death entry described him as Jean Rogy, 57, a cultivator born at Lorentzen; it was witnessed by cultivator Jean Birky, 28, who signed his name 'Johannes Birky.'

   c. Valentin Birki was born on Neumatte estate at Diemeringen circa 1770, and died at Ostheim, Upper Alsace April 30, 1803. On June 5, 1794 at Strasbourg he married Magdalena/Madeleine Roggy. She was born at Strasbourg in 1775, and died in 1817, a daughter of Christian Roggy and Sarah Detweiler. Their civil marriage entry described the groom as cultivator Valentin Birck, 25, born at Neumatte, Diemeringen, a son of cultivator Valentin Birki and Catherine Ehrismann. The bride was described as Madeleine Rocki, 18, born at Strasbourg, a daughter of cultivator Chrétien Rocki who was present and

284 Christian and Susanne farmed on Rauschenbourg estate near Ingwiller, 15 miles southwest of Nehwiller-près-Worth.
consenting and the deceased Sare Dettweiller. Signatures looked like Fellen Birki, Magdalena Rogi, and Rogi (her father). Valentin's civil death entry described him as Valentin Bürcky, 33, widower of Magdalena Rogi of Ostheim.

d. Anne Birki was born at Langatte in what became Moselle circa 1783. She married Jean Rogy. On March 31, 1813 at Diemeringen she remarried to André Kohler. Their civil marriage entry described the groom as André Kohler, born on the Neumatte estate at Diemeringen March 11, 1785, a son of the deceased day laborer Kohler and Feronique Kohler, who was present and consenting. The bride was described as Anne Bircky, 30, widow of the deceased Jean Rogge, a daughter of the deceased Valentine Bircky and Catherine Ehrismann, who was present and consenting. Witnesses included merchant-trader [Fr. négoceant] Chrétien Dettweiler, 50; Jean Roggy, 54, a cultivator at Lorentzen; and cultivator André Bircky, 28, brother of the bride

e. Andreas/André Birki was born on Neumatte estate at Diemeringen Nov. 25, 1784, and died there April 30, 1826. On Nov. 10, 1808 at Diemeringen he married Magdalena Dettweiler. Their civil marriage entry described the groom as Andreas Birki, 23, born Nov. 25, 1784, a son of Balantin Birckis burger und ackerman and Katharina Ehrismann. The bride was described as Magdalena Dettweiler, 19, born Aug. 5, 1789, a daughter of Christian Dettweiler and Anna Wagler. It was witnessed by Andreas Birki, 57 (he was the husband of Barbe Schantz), who was described as a cousin [Ger. der Vetter]. Magdalena Dettweiler was born at Diemeringen Aug. 5, 1789, a daughter of Christian/Chrétien Dettweiler and his second wife Anne Wagler. Andreas/André and Magdalena resided in Maison 121 at Diemeringen.

Widow Magdalena emigrated with her children in 1830. They are found on the passenger list of the De Rhum as it arrived at New York from Le Havre Dec. 21, 1830: Madeleine Bergui, 40; Jacob, 21; Christian, 19; Andreas, 15; Catharine, 12; Anna, 7; Valentin, 4; and Madeline, 3. She is found on the 1850 census of Berne, Fairfield County, Ohio in the household of her daughter Catherine and her husband Emanuel Stutzman as 'Matlena Barge, 66, Germany.' She appears on 1870 censuses of Wayne County, Ohio twice: once in the household of daughter Magdalena as an 80-year-old retiree, and once in the household of daughter Anna as an 83-year-old retiree. She died at Smithville, Wayne County Sept. 19, 1871, and is buried in Oak Grove Mennonite Cemetery. Children of Andreas/André Birki and Magdalena Dettweiler born at Diemeringen include:

1) Jacques/Jacob Birky was born Dec. 18, 1809. We could not follow him after his 1830 arrival.

2) Christian/Chrétien Birky/Christian Berkey was born Feb. 12, 1811, and died at Green Township, Wayne County, Ohio Jan. 26, 1903. Circa 1839 in Wayne County he married Sarah Stutzman. She was born in Mifflin County, Pennsylvania April 1, 1819, and died in Wayne County March 9, 1873, a daughter of Michael Stutzman and his first wife Hannah Yoder. Her family had come from Mifflin County to Wayne County in 1827. The 1840 census of Wayne Township, Wayne County shows the household of Christian Berkey, who may or may not be the same person: one male 20-29 years of age (Christian would have been 29), one male 15-19; one female 40-49 years of age; one female 30-39 (Sarah would have been 21); and one female 10-14. The 1850 census of Wayne Township, Wayne County shows Christian Berkey, 31 (Christian would have been 39), Germany; Sarah, 22; Pennsylvania; Christian, 1; Ohio; and Mary Miller, 7; Ohio. The 1880 census of Smithville, Wayne Township shows farmer Christian Berkey, 68; France; Sarah, 61; Pennsylvania; Lydia, 27; Ohio; Anna, 7; Ohio; and Elisabeth Dettweiler, 16, Ohio. *Herald of Truth*, April 1893: "On the 9th of March, 1893, in Wayne Co., Ohio, of asthma, Sarah, wife of Christian Berkey, aged 73 years, 11 months, and 8 days. She is buried in the Oakgrove Amish burying ground, where a large concourse of friends and relatives assembled to pay the last tribute of respect to the beloved sister. She was a faithful member of the Amish Mennonite church and leaves a husband and two daughters to mourn their loss. She was fully resigned to her heavenly father's will, and longed to go to her eternal home. Services by J.K. Yoder at the meeting house, from *Isa. 38:1* "Set thine house in order, for thou shalt die and not live." The 1900 census of Orrville Village, Green Township, Wayne County shows father-in-law (and widower) Christian Birky, born in France in February 1811 to French parents; he was living in the household of his daughter Emma, born in 1860, and her husband Daniel Leichty, born in 1855.

3) Andreas/André Birky/Andrew Berkey was born Nov. 22, 1813, and died at Smithville, Wayne Township, Wayne County May 8, 1889. He married Elizabeth Grady. She was born in Pennsylvania in 1819, and died in 1870. The 1870 census of Wayne Township shows farmer Andrew Berkey, 57, France; Elizabeth, 54, Pennsylvania; and six children born in Ohio, the oldest 27. The 1880 census there shows Andrew Berkie, 65, Pennsylvania; and five children born in Ohio. Andrew is buried in Oak Grove Mennonite Cemetery at Smithville, Wayne Township.
4) Catherine Birky/Berkey was born March 26, 1815, and died Feb. 22, 1888. She married Emanuel Stutzman. He was born in Mifflin County, Pennsylvania Feb. 29, 1816, and died at Haw Patch (now Topeka), Indiana Aug. 13, 1881, a son of Abraham Stutzman and Catherine Yoder. They are found on the 1860 census of Berne, Fairfield County, Ohio; and on the 1870 and 1880 censuses of Eden, LaGrange County, Indiana. Herald of Truth, March 1888: "Feb. 22nd, in Haw Patch church, LaGrange County, Ind., of a lingering illness, Sister Catherine Stutzman, widow of Emanuel Stutzman, aged 72 years, 10 months, and 28 days. She was born in France, and united with the Amish Mennonite church when about 20 years of age. She had put her faith in Jesus, and had an earnest desire to depart and rest with her dear Savior. She was buried on the 24th. Funeral services at the Haw Patch Amish Mennonite church by J.F. Funk, of Elkhart, assisted by J.S. Hatzler, text Rev. 14:13. May God bless this affliction to the welfare of her bereaved children and friends." Emanuel and Catherine are buried in Maple Grove Cemetery at Topeka, LaGrange County, Indiana.

5) Joseph Birky was born Oct. 24, 1817, and died at Diemeringen Jan. 26, 1821.

6) Anna/Anne Birky/Berkey was born Oct. 13, 1820, and died in 1897. She married Samuel Byler, who was born in Pennsylvania circa 1814, and died in 1902. They appear on the 1870 census of Chippewa, Wayne Township, Wayne County as farmer Samuel Biler, 56, Pennsylvania; Anna, 45, Prussia; Susan, 20, Ohio; Rebecca, 18, Ohio; and Magdalena [Dettweiler] Berky, 83, retired, Prussia (Alsace was occupied after the Franco-Prussian War of 1870). They are found on the 1880 census of Green Township, Wayne County as Samuel Byler, 66, born in Pennsylvania to parents born in Pennsylvania; Anna, 60, born in Alsace to a father born in Switzerland and a mother born in Alsace; and Susan, 28, born in Ohio to parents from Pennsylvania and Alsace. The 1900 census of Green Township, Wayne County shows father-in-law Samuel Pyler, 86, born in Pennsylvania in February 1814 to parents from Pennsylvania; in the household of Amandus Hooley, born in Ohio in October 1856; and Susan, born in Ohio in April 1952.

7) Valentin Birky was born Sept. 26, 1823, and died in Wayne County May 3, 1900. Circa 1849 he married Catherine Yoder. She was born in Centre County, Pennsylvania Aug. 1, 1824, and died in Wayne County Sept. 6, 1893, as daughter of Henry Yoder and his cousin Anna Yoder. Henry was the confessed baby murdterer whose story was told in KING.285 The 1870 census of Chippewa, Wayne Township shows them as farmer Valentine Berkey, 48, France; Catharine, 44, Pennsylvania; and Samuel, 19, Ohio. They lived next door to Christ Yoder, 24. They are found on the 1880 census of Green Township, Wayne County as farmer Valentine Berky, 56, Alsace; and Catharine, 56, Pennsylvania. They lived next door to the household of their son Samuel Berkey, 29, born in Ohio and his wife Sarah Speicher/Spichear.

8) Magdalena/Madeleine Birky was born July 25, 1825, and died between 1900 and 1910. She married Jacob Miller. He was born in Ohio in 1827, and died in 1910. The 1870 census of Wayne Township, Wayne County shows farmer Jacob Miller, 42, Ohio; Magdalena, 44 (the number is circled), France; Jeremiah, 17, Ohio; and Magdalena [Dettweiler] Berkey, 80, France. The 1880 census of Green Township, Wayne County shows farmer Jacob A. Miller, 52, born in Ohio to parents from France and Pennsylvania; and Lena, 54, born in Alsace to parents from Alsace. The 1900 census of Green Township shows Jacob Miller, 72, born in Ohio in July 1827, to parents born in Germany and Pennsylvania; and Lena, born in Ohio in July 1826 to German parents. The 1910 census of Green Township shows Jacob B. Miller, 82, born in Ohio to parents from Germany and Pennsylvania; and servant Nancy Berkey, 68, born in Ohio to parents from Germany and Pennsylvania (she was Jacob's niece, a daughter of Andrew Berkey and Elizabeth Grady).

Christian Bürki was born circa 1720. He married a daughter of Johannes/Hans Nafziger and Barbara Holly. In 1768 'Christian Bürcki' and 'Johannes Ehrißmann' [der junge Johannes/Hans Jakob Ehrißman] of the Mechtersheimerhof estate in the Pfalz appeared on a list of those who paid the six-guilder fee required from religious minorities for government protection. The Mechtersheimerhof estate is located south of Speyer in the Pfalz (36 miles northeast of the Bärbelsteinhor, and 55 miles northeast of his older sister's home at Nehwiller-Prés-

285 Henry Yoder was a son of Heinrich Yoder and Catherine Detweiler; Catherine was a daughter of Rudolph Detweiler; and Rudolph was a son of Melchior Detweiler, who was born at Wittwil, Canton Bern (in a part that is now Canton Aargau) April 2, 1699. Melchior and his son Rudolph were among the Detweilers who sailed from Amsterdam and arrived at Philadelphia on the Princess Augusta Sept. 15, 1736. There is a probable yet unproven connection between this early-immigrant branch and Magdalena's Diemeringen branch.
Amish Mennonites in Tazewell County, Illinois

Woerth; see EHRESMAN for more on Mechtersheimerhof residents). The location was not far from the leased estate of her parents at Essingen.

The 1773 census lists him as 'Christian Bürcki', a subtenant on the Mechtersheimerhof with a wife, one minor son, two minor daughters, seven farmhands, and three maids.

In 1787 Christian and his wife moved 22 miles to the southeast, across the Rhine River to the Stift Odenheim estate (Stifterhof or 'convent estate') at Tiefenbach in Baden-Durlach. According to Hermann Guth in Amish Mennonites in Germany, there are Bürki and Holly entries in the municipal register at Königsbach, a village 23 miles south of Tiefenbach. Anabaptist meetings were held on the Katharinentaler Hof estate above Pforzheim.

Amos Hoover translated this portion of a letter from Johannes/Hans Nafziger to Christian Schowalter in Pennsylvania, written in 1788 and now held by the Mifflin County Mennonite Historical Society: "...My son-in-law Christen Bercký also lived there [on the Mechtersheimerhof estate] about 18 years or more on the farm where Hans Höffly used to live; but last year he leased a farm from a clergyman from the cathedral at Speyer, three hours from Bruchsal. It is a large place; almost 1,000 head of sheep, but the Lord only knows how it will turn out for him. He now also has a son-in-law, the son of Jörg Holly from Nehwiller, living with him. Recently we have also ordained him as a minister of the book; he had to draw the lot with Jacob Friedauer and the lot fell on him." (The entirety of this letter can be found in Amish Mennonites in Germany).

Christian was 93 when he signed the civil death entry of a son-in-law at Speyer in 1819. His three known children were likely all born on the Mechtersheimerhof estate. They include:

1. Johannes Bürki or Burcky was born circa 1753.
2. Barbara Birky died Nov. 26, 1811. Before 1773 she married Christian Holly. He was born at Nehwiller, a son of Jörg/George Holly [Sr.] and Barbara Birki. They farmed at Stein, Baden-Durlach.
3. Magdalena Burky married Jörg/Georg Holly [Jr.]. He was born in 1765, and died at Speyer in 1819, a son of Jörg/George Holly [Sr.] and Barbara Birki. They resided on the Stift Odenheim estate in 1788. When Georg died, his 93-year-old father-in-law Christian Bürki signed his civil death entry.

Johannes Bürki/Burcky was likely born on the Mechtersheimerhof estate circa 1753, and died at Hennepin, Putnam County Aug. 23, 1838. He became a farmer and a physician. On March 6, 1790 he married Maria Schönbeck of Hesse-Darmstadt.

They joined Güngerich, Stähly, Brenneman, and Wagler families on the Albacherhof estate. The estate was located at Albach, seven miles southeast of the university town of Giessen in Hesse-Darmstadt; it is still an active farm. It is likely that the families on the Albacherhof followed Daniel Holly (1761-1824) to the area. After his own exemplary estate at Mühlhofen was ruined by French troops in the French Revolution of 1789, he was hired by Count Degenfeld-Schönburg. The count's family held numerous properties in Hesse, and Daniel became estate manager at Langsdorf, the village adjacent to Lich.

At least two of the children of Johannes and Maria were born at Gelnhausen, Hesse. The circular city built over medieval foundations is located 28 miles east of Frankfurt am Main, Hesse and 40 miles southwest of the Albacherhof. Johannes may have practiced medicine there.

Children of Johannes Bürki/Burcky and Maria Schönbeck include:

1. Christian Burcky was born in 1796. He married Anna Schmidt, who was born in 1817, and died in Butler County in March 1896. She is buried in the Augspurger Memorial Cemetery at Trenton, Butler County, as 'Anna Smith Burchy.' Christian Burcky appears on the 1840 census of Putnam County with a wife and one child. Their daughter Elizabeth 'Eliza' Burcky was born Jan. 28, 1842. On Feb. 13, 1862 she married Christian K. Augspurger; he was born at Trenton Jan. 9, 1839, and died Feb. 6, 1907. He was elected minister to the 'hook and eye' Augspurger congregation in 1867, and served until 1897. They are buried in the Augspurger Memorial Cemetery at Trenton. Their daughter Magdalena Ellen Burcky was born at Hennepin Nov. 28, 1847 and died in Butler County, Ohio March 7, 1889. On Oct. 31, 1867 she married John K. Augspurger. He was born at Trenton, Butler County Oct. 7, 1842 and died Jan. 6, 1914. The Augspurgers were sons of Joseph Augspurger and Magdalena Kennel, and grandchildren of Christian Augspurger. They are also buried in the Augspurger Memorial Cemetery at Trenton. Their marriage ceremonies were performed by minister Nicholas Augspurger, both appear in History of the Mennonites of Butler County, Ohio with the spelling 'Berke.'

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286 Since 1866 Hesse-Darmstadt has been known simply as Hesse. It is easy to confuse the location with Albach in the state of Bavaria.
287 Mühlhofen is located in the Pfälz, 11 miles northeast of the Lower Alsace border village Wissembourg.
2. Elizabeth Burcky was born Jan. 6, 1798, and died in Hesse in 1834. In 1818 she married Christian Fischer Hufschmidt.

3. Johannes/John Burcky was born on the Albachertorf March 2, 1800. He married Anna Conrad in Butler County Feb. 28, 1837; the ceremony was performed by minister 'Apostle Peter' Naffziger (the civil entry was created May 8, 1837). She was born circa 1813, a daughter of Pierre Kunrad/Peter Conrad and Barbara Ramseyer. 'John Burky' appears on the 1840 census of Putnam County checked in the 40-50 age range, with a wife checked in the 30-40 age range, two sons, and six daughters. Anna Conrad appears as a 67-year-old widow on the 1880 census of Ohio, Bureau County.

4. Jacob Burcky was born at Gelnhausen March 9, 1804. He died March 3, 1856.

5. Daniel Burcky was born Oct. 3, 1805, and died at Engelwood, Cook County Sept. 3, 1882. On July 24, 1838 in Butler County he married Elise Holly; the ceremony was performed by minister Benedict König/King. She was born at Blettersheim (next to Lich and Langdorf) Feb. 18, 1814, and died at Chicago Aug. 7, 1901, a daughter of Johannes Holly and his first wife Marie Jutzi. Elise and her entire extended family arrived on the Hessian Mennonite voyage of 1832. In 1836 Daniel opened a grocery store at Hennepin, Putnam County with his brother Friedrich. Following his marriage in Butler County, he returned to Putnam County to purchase farmland. 'Daniel Burky' is listed as the purchaser of two parcels at Granville Oct. 20, 1838: 20 acres for $8.25 per acre, and 20 acres at $5 per acre. They had four children in Putnam County, and four at Chicago. 'Daniel Burkey' appears on the 1840 census of Putnam County with a wife and four children. He returned to Butler County again in 1846 to participate in the establishment of the estate of his father-in-law Johannes Holly. Daniel's family appears on the 1880 census of E.D. 198 Lake, Cook County as Daniel Burky, 74; Eliza Burky, 65; and six children ranging in age 25-34. History of Chicago: "Daniel Burcky was for many years identified with the business interests of Chicago, and was devoted to the establishment of German educational institutions in this city." Elise appears on the 1900 census of Chicago Ward 34 as an 86-year-old born in February 1814, in the household of son Christian born in March 1844.

6. Barbara Burcky was born Nov. 1, 1807, and died in 1842.

7. Magdalena Burcky was born June 1, 1809, and died Sept. 7, 1882.

8. Friedrich/Frederick Burcky was born at Gelnhausen June 9, 1814, and died at Chicago Oct. 25, 1902. He operated a grocery store at Hennepin, Putnam County with his older brother Daniel in 1836. History of Chicago, published in 1878: "Mr. Burcky was married, on October 27, 1849, to Miss Susan Berdel, of Fachbach, Germany; she died on March 6, 1858. They had five children, only one of whom – Mary, wife of John Sheldon – is now living." Frederick moved to Chicago in 1840. The Directory of the City of Chicago for August-December 1843 lists a baker Frederick Burcky. Frederick appears on a Chicago census as a 30-year-old baker in 1860. He appears as a 55-year-old confectioner on the 1870 census of Chicago Ward 1, stating that his birthplace was Frankfurt-on-Main [Frankfurt-
Jacob Burcky came to America on the Hessian Mennonite voyage of 1832; the story of the journey was told in STAKER. The passenger list describes him as 'Jacob Birty, 25.' He accompanied two families that came from Langsdorf. They belonged to Johannes Holly and his wife Helena Jutzi, and Katharina Holly and her cousin-husband Peter Holly of nearby Bellersheim. Johannes and Katharina were children of Langsdorf estate manager Daniel Holly. Jacob's younger brother Daniel later married passenger Elise Holly, a daughter of Johannes Holly and an earlier wife (the first of two Jutzi sisters he married).

Jacob found employment in Butler County, where in 1834 he was joined by other family members including his father, who had traveled via New Orleans. The Burckys were participants in the congregational vote that divided conservative 'hooks and eyes' from progressive 'buttons' in Butler County in 1835. They chose to become part of the progressive Hessian congregation under elder 'Apostle Peter' Naffziger.

In Ohio, Jacob married Magdalena Grabiel [Krayenhübl, Ger. Krehbiel]. She was born in Bavaria in 1805. The family soon moved to Central Illinois. Past and Present of Bureau County: "Mennonite Church of Indiantown: The first family of this sect came to Putnam County in 1835 or 1836, from Ohio. In the family, whose name was Burcky, were four boys, Daniel, Christian, Frederick, and Jacob, the latter being a minister of the gospel, and thus was a nucleus formed for the Mennonite church, which has been maintained up to the present time." It might be noted that the 'boys' would have been roughly ages 40, 32, 31, and 22 in 1836.

Jacob Burcky became a minister and held meetings at Granville, Putnam County. Unfortunately, he was also known for his temper.

His household appears on the 1850 census of Putnam County. A single page includes these families, as written:

- Farmer John Burcky [Burcky] junior, 30, Germany; and Catharine [Zierlein], 19, Germany.
- Farmer Jacob Brenniman [Brenneman], 40, Germany; Christiana [Christine Güngerich], 40, Germany; Jacob junior, 9, Illinois; Catharina, 7, Illinois; Mary, 3, Illinois; and Ellen, 1, Illinois.
- Farmer Peter Albright [Albrecht], 40, Germany; Catharine [Burkey], 28, Germany; Farona, 5, Illinois; Catharine, 10 months, Illinois; and Jacob Burkey senior, 73, France.
- Jacob Burkey, 45, Germany; Magdalene [Grabiel], 33, Germany; Mary, 13, Illinois; Eliza, 11, Illinois; and John, 6, Illinois [another son died young; the two are shown on the 1840 census]; and farmer George Raitz, 31, Germany.
- Farmer Daniel Holly, 35, Germany; Leanna [Helena Bender], 33, Germany; Mary, 12, Ohio; John, 10, Ohio; William, 8, Ohio; Theodor, 6, Ohio; Gustavus, 4, Ohio; Daniel Gingrich, 23, Germany; John Holly, 28, Germany; and William Holly, 24, Germany. (See the footnote on the Johannes Holly family).

Jacob is buried in Mount Palatine Cemetery at McNabb, Putnam County as 'Jacob Burky.' His headstone says he died March 3, 1856 at age 51 years, 10 months, 25 days (yielding his estimated birth date March 8, 1804).

291 A biographical note on Frederick Burcky in the Alfred Theodore Andreas's History of Chicago, Volume Three (1886) tells an entirely different story. It says that the entire family - parents and eight children - arrived at New Orleans in the fall of 1830, and at Cincinnati in the spring of 1831.

292 It is possible that Jacob's future wife came to America on the De Rham in 1830. 'Magalena Crepie, 24,' appears on the passenger list immediately after the family of Jacob Naffziger and Barbara Krehbiel.
Magdalena can be found as a 75-year-old from Bavaria on the 1880 census of Eden, La Salle County, living in the household of her son John, 37, and his wife Mary, 26. She died April 11, 1886 at age 81, and shares a headstone with her husband.

The Little Red Birkys

In their lifetime the 'Little Red Birkys' specifically described the family of Valentine Birky (1793-1860) and Elizabeth Unzicker, who settled along Allentown Road on the Elm Grove-Tremont boundary line. Now the term is used to describe their entire family branch.

The father of the generation that came to Illinois was Johannes Birki or Bircki. He may have been born circa 1748 (an estimation derived only from the birth year of his second wife), and died before the marriage of a daughter June 27, 1802.

In ESCH/OESCH, we speculate that he may have had a younger sister Catherine/Katharina Birki. She was born on the Waderhof estate at Lorentzen in 'Crooked Alsace' in 1764. She married Christian Oesch; they settled at Hanfeld, a location identified with this branch.

In or before 1776 he married for the first time to Elisabeth Ruby. Their child was:

1. Johannes/Hans/John Birki/Burkey (he signed his own name 'Johannes Birki' and 'Hans Bircki') was born circa 1776, and likely died in Putnam County between 1850 and 1860. On March 5, 1798 at Gondrexange [Ger. Gunderchingen] in the Dieuze Ponds area of Moselle he married Frene Zwalter (also found as Swalter and Svalter). She was born circa 1777, a daughter of Christian Zwalter and Marie Risser (see the Appendix, ZWALTER for background on the family). The ban announcement announcing their intention to marry described them as Jean Perki, 22, and Freine Stavalter, 21. The couple farmed on La Canardiére ['the farm stock yard', Ger. Entenhof or Antehof] at Gondrexange. Freni's sister Catherine Zwalter (born circa 1768), worked there as well with her husband Joseph Gascho (born circa 1773). In 1802 Johannes signed a lease contract at Steingaden, Bavaria. The name Christian Bürcky also appears on that document; this individual could not be identified with certainty. Another document signed there in 1804 describes only Johannes of Buscherhof, the German name of his family's prior home in Lower Alsace. An additional document names Johannes Birki and 'cousin' Friedrich Hage. Johannes and Frene also lived at Obersanding (15 miles south of Regensburg), then purchased the Hellerhof estate there in 1826. It was put up for auction in 1836, the same year that Johannes and Frene emigrated from Europe, and sold in 1839. The packet ship Charles Carroll sailed from Le Havre, and arrived at New York May 12, 1836. Its passenger list shows farmer John Berki, 52; Fenica, 56; farmer Andrew, 30; Madeline, 17 [this may have been Magdalena Albrecht, who married Andrew in 1838; her name is marked with an 'x' and a note that she delivered a female child May 7]; John, 21; Catherine, 16; and Nicholas [actually Joseph], 20. They settled at Hennepin, Putnam County (adjacent to Granville), and hosted the Albrechts over their first year 1836-37. Past and Present of Bureau County: "Mennonite Church of Indiantown: The first family of this sect [that of Johannes Burcky and Marie Schoenbeck] came to Putnam County in 1835 or 1836, from Ohio. In the family, whose name was Burchey, were four boys, Daniel, Christian, Frederick, and Jacob, the latter being a minister of the gospel, and thus was a nucleus formed for the Mennonite church, which has been maintained up to the present time." This family came from Hesse. The youngest son held meetings at Granville. "About a year later came another family of the same name [that of Johannes and Frene] with four sturdy sons and one daughter (leaving four daughters in the mother country, Germany)." We cannot yet account for four daughters in Germany, though one may have been Barbe. Magdalena was the daughter who came to Putnam County, and the 'four sturdy sons' may have included her husband Peter Roggy. Frene died before the 1850 federal census. Her name was passed down in a local history as 'Solphonia,' and it is also possible that it was thought to be the more common 'Sophronia'; we think it very likely that this was someone's misreading of a handwritten 'Fronica,' a German version of Frene. The father is last found in the Putnam household of Peter Albrecht and his wife Catherine Burkey, on the 1850 federal census: farmer Peter Albright 40, Germany; Catharine, 26, Germany; Farona, 5, Illinois; Catharine, 10 months, Illinois; and John Burkey, 37, with her husband.”

293 She is found on various documents as Fréne (derived from the Swiss Freni), Ferene (derived from the equivalent Verena), Veronice, and Frenica. See MOSIMAN for a footnote on her family.

294 The signature of Christian Bürcky is a close match (with only slight differences) to those on contracts signed with the same spelling by the father of the 'Big Birkeys' of Tazewell County. But he would have been only 21 years of age in 1803, and co-signed a lease elsewhere in the same year (see THE BIG BIRKEYS).

295 Steingaden is in the Alpine foothills of Upper Bavaria [Ger. Oberbayern]. A Steingaden Abbey [Ger. Kloster Steingaden] was established there in 1147. A parish church [Ger. Welfenmunster] was constructed in 1176. Another pilgrimage church [Ger. Wieskirche] was constructed 1746-54. Until it was secularized in 1803, the entire district was the property of the abbey. The pilgrimage church is now recognized by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site.
Franz. John does not appear on the 1860 census. Children of Johannes/Hans/Jean/John Birki/Burkey and Freni Zwalter include:

a. André Birki was born at Gondrexange Dec. 28, 1798, and died there March 6, 1799. His civil birth entry describes his parents as Jean Perki, farmer at La Canardière, and Fréne Svaltert. It was witnessed by Jean's brother André Perki, 21, of Bouquenom [now called Sarre-Union, adjacent to Rimsdorf, Lower Alsace]. It was signed 'Johannes Birki' and Andreas Birki.'

b. Barbe Burkey was born at Gondrexange Jan. 29, 1800. Her civil birth entry described her parents as farmer Jean Perky and his wife Svalter. It was signed 'Johannes Birkt.'

The index to the civil records of Rimsdorf, Lower Alsace indicates an entry for the birth of Johannes Birki Sept. 17, 1801. Note that the next listed child Andreas/Andrew was born nine months later, substantially lessening the likelihood that Johannes belongs with this family. However, the actual entry is omitted from the online archives, so the parents cannot be identified with certainty.

c. Andreas/Andrew Burkey was born at Rimsdorf, Lower Alsace June 16, 1802, and died at Milford, Nebraska March 4, 1886, where he is buried in East Fairview Cemetery. His birth entry described his parents as field worker Johannes Birki, 26 [he signed Hans Birck], and Freni Zwalterin, 22. In 1838 in Illinois he married Magdalena 'Lena' Albrecht. She was born on the Büdenhof estate at Sesslach, Upper Franconia, Bavaria June 17, 1819, and died at Milford, Nebraska April 10, 1886, a daughter of Christian Albrecht and Elisabeth Engel. She is also buried in East Fairview Cemetery. Andrew is found as the purchaser of 20 acres of public land at Granville Feb. 12, 1839 for $5 per acre. 'Andrew Birkiy' on the 1840 federal census of Putnam County (living alongside Jacob, John, and Christian of the Crooked Alsace chain). They appear on the 1850 census of Eden, LaSalle County as farmer Andrew Burky, 48, Germany; Martellina, 30, Germany; Valentina, 10, Illinois; Florina, 7, Illinois; Andrew, 5, Illinois; and John, 1, Illinois. In 1880 they appear on the census of Crete, Saline County, Nebraska, where Andrew's and Lena's birthplaces were given as Bavaria. Herald of Truth, March 1886: "Burkey - On the 5th of March, near Milford, Seward County, Neb., of old age, Andrew Burky, aged 84 years, 2 months and 4 days. He was married forty-eight years and leaves five children. Services were held by Joseph Shlegel, Joseph Gascho and Pre. Shupp, from 2 Cor. 5:3-3." Herald of Truth, May 1886: "Burkey - On the 12th of Apr., near Milford, Seward Co., Neb., of consumption, Magdalena Burkey, aged 64 years, 5 months and 27 days. She leaves 5 children. She was a member of the Amish Mennonite Church and was buried in the graveyard. Funeral services were held by Joseph Gasho and Pre. Shupp from 2 Tim 4:7, 8."

d. Magdalena Burkey was born circa 1805, possibly at Obersanding, Bavaria, and died after 1860. Peter Roggy was born circa 1795, and died after 1860. In 1828 Peter Roggy stayed at a Regensburg hotel, where he signed the registry as the owner of the Arnstein estate. Two weeks later he applied for Bavarian citizenship at Arnsdorf (near Wasserburg, 40 miles east of Munich). On April 22, 1828 he married Magdalena. Their ceremony took place in her father's home, on the Hellerhof estate at Obersarding. Christian Gingerich, Jakob Ackermann, and Joseph Schantz were present. Centennial History of the Mennonites of Illinois 1829-1929 places the arrival of Peter Roggy in Illinois in 1837. On Nov. 1, 1839 the Register of Land Office at Springfield issued a deed to Peter Roggy. It stated that he had paid in full in cash (the going price was $1.25 per acre, though this is not mentioned) for 80 acres in the northeast quarter of the southeast quarter and the northwest quarter of the southeast quarter of Section 10, Township 30. It was signed by the recorder of the General Land Office on behalf of President Martin Van Buren and his son and secretary, Martin Van Buren Jr. The 1840 census of Putnam County has faded and is largely illegible. The July 3, 1845 state census of Putnam County shows the household of Peter Roggy: one adult male, and one infant son; one adult female, and 5 daughters the age of 10. The family appears on the 1850 census of Granville, Putnam County as farmer Peter Rakey, Fance; Magdalena, 45, Germany; Catharine Albright [their oldest daughter had married Christian Albrecht], 20, Germany; Magdalena Rakey, 16, Germany; Barbara, 14, Germany; Faronica, 10, Illinois; John, 9, Illinois; Mary, 6, Illinois; John Albrecht [Albrecht], seven months, Illinois; and farmer Henry Boffman, 35, Germany. They 1860 census there has farmer Peter Rogga, 65, Bavaria; Magdalena, 55, Bavaria; John, 19, Illinois; Mary, 15, Illinois; Christian, 8, Illinois; and farm laborer Joseph Stoley, 27, of Ungarden, Germany. No Roggys are found on the 1870 census of Granville. We could not find their places of death or burial. A Roggy Cemetery was established at Buda, Bureau County in 1855, but the grounds were ignored and many markers were lost. Because so little is known about this family, we have tried to provide background on their children:

1) Jacob Roggy was born at Obersanding March 29, 1829. He died young.

2) Catherine Roggy was born Dec. 15, 1830, likely at Obersanding, and died at Hennepin (adjacent to Granville) in 1909. On Sept. 17, 1848 at Arispie she married Christian Albrecht. He was born at Bamberg, Germany Feb. 10, 1821, and died at Tiskilwa Jan. 10, 1910, a son of Christian Albrecht and Elizabeth Engel. For more on this couple see the Appendix, ALBRECHT OF BUREAU COUNTY.

3) Magdalena Roggy was born at Obersanding Sept. 7, 1834, and died at Manson, Iowa March 15, 1920. In March 1869 she married David Musselman. He was born in Germany June 4,
1818, and died March 4, 1896. \textit{Gospel Herald}, September 1920: "Musselman - Lena Roggy was born in Germany, Sept. 7, 1834. She came to America in her youth and was united in marriage with David Musselman in March, 1869. This union was blessed with three children, two sons and one daughter. One son died in infancy. She united with the Amish Mennonite Church in her early youth and remained a faithful member until her death which occurred Mar. 15, 1920, at the age of 86 y. 7 m. 8 d. She leaves two children, nine grandchildren, and 12 great-grandchildren. The last three months of her life, she suffered greatly with a broken hip but bore her suffering patiently and expressed herself as ready to depart this life. Short funeral services were conducted at the home of her son near Manson, Ia., by Bro. J. C. Eigsti after which the body was shipped to Tiskilwa, Ill., where services were conducted in the Willow Springs Church by Brethren H. V. Albrecht and C. A. Hartzler. Burial in the adjoining cemetery."

4) Barbara Roggy was born Sept. 15, 1835. We could not follow her after the 1850 census of Granville, which said she was born in Germany.

5) Veronica Roggy was born at Granville Sept. 17, 1838, and died in Livingston County April 13, 1919. In 1860 she married Jacob Gingerich. He was born in Hesse Jan. 18, 1833, and died in Livingston County April 13, 1919.

6) John Roggy was born at Granville March 25, 1841. He appears on both the 1850 and 1860 censuses of Granville.

7) Mary Roggy was born at Granville circa 1844. She appears as a 6-year-old on the 1850 census of Granville, and as a 15-year-old on the 1860 census of Granville.

8) Christian Roggy was born near Granville, Ill., Feb. 29, 1852; died at Meadows, McLean County Nov. 21, 1919. On Feb. 8, 1874 in Bureau County he married his second cousin Helena Birkey. She was born in Bavaria June 19, 1850 (headstone date; we would expect the end of the year from her father's emigration application), and died Oct. 2, 1878, a daughter of Christian Birki and his second wife Elizabeth Stalder. He remarried to Barbara Stalder [Stalter] in Bureau County Feb. 23, 1880. \textit{Gospel Herald}, December 1919: "Christian Roggy was born near Granville, Ill., Feb. 29, 1852; died at his home in Meadows, Ill., Nov. 21, 1919: aged 67 y. 8 m. 22 d. Feb. 8, 1874, he was united in marriage to Helen Burkey of Tazewell Co., Ill., who died Oct. 2, 1878. One son (Joseph) and one daughter (Lydia) were born to them, who both preceded him in death. Feb. 2, 1880, he was married to Barbara Stalder. Two sons and two daughters were born to this union. One daughter (Ada L.) died at the age of 18 mo. He leaves his deeply bereaved wife, two sons (Edwin J. and Alvin P.) and one daughter (Katie King), six grandchildren, and many friends and relatives. He united with the A. M. Church at Tiskilwa, Ill., at the age of 23 years and remained faithful to the end. He loved to read God's Word and to have it read to him. In 1893 he be with his family moved to Decatur Co., Kans., for his health where they resided until 1904, when they removed to Cass. Co., Mo., remaining there until 1914, when they came to Illinois where they have since resided. Funeral services at the house by Bro. G. H. Summer and at the church by Bro. Joe Kinsinger in the German and Bro. D. W. Slagel in the English language. Interment in the Waldo Cemetery." \textit{Gospel Herald}, April 1847: "Roggy - Barbara, daughter of Jacob and Barbara Stalter, was born near Tremont, Ill., Feb. 2, 1857; died at the home of her daughter (Mrs. Joe King), Toluca, Ill., March 12, 1947; aged 90 y. 1 m. 10 d. On Feb. 23, 1880 she was united in marriage to Christian Roggy, who preceded her in death twenty-eight years ago. Surviving are two sons (Edwin J., Flanagan, Ill.; and Alvin P., Meadows, Ill.), one daughter (Mrs. Katie King, Toluca, Ill.), one brother (Chris Stalter, Pontiac, Ill.), two step-granddaughters, one step-grandson, nine grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren, and two foster grandchildren, and four foster great-grandchildren. One great-grandchild, one foster great-grandchild, four sisters, and three brothers preceded her in death. In her youth she united with the Mennonite Church. Funeral services were held at the Waldo Church, Flanagan, Ill., in charge of Ezra B. Yardy, assisted by George Gundy."

c. John Burkey Jr. was born June 24, 1812, possibly at Obersanding, Bavaria, and died in Bureau County Dec. 9, 1890. He married Catherine Zierlein. She was born July 30, 1830, and died in Bureau County March 1, 1854, a daughter of Casper Zierlein and Elizabeth Albrecht of Granville, Putnam County. Following her death, he remarried to Catherine Rediger. She was born circa 1821, and died at Tiskilwa Feb. 11, 1894. \textit{Herald of Truth}, January 1891: "Buerki. On the 9th of December, near Tiskilwa, Bureau Co., Ill., of the infirmities of old age, Bro. John Buerki, aged 78 years 5 months and 16 days. He was buried on the 11th in the Amish Mennonite graveyard in Indian town. Funeral services by Jos. Burcky and Chr. Zehr, and Peter Ropp, of Tazewell Co. Bro. Buerki leaves his companion, one daughter and two grandchildren, and many warm friends to mourn his departure. He was a faithful follower of Christ. His place at meeting was never empty so long as he was able to go. He departed in peace." \textit{Herald of Truth}, May 1894: "Bueyker. On the 11th of February 1894, near Tiskilwa, Bureau Co., Ill., of heart disease,
sister Catherine Rediger, relict of the late John Berky, aged 73 y. Buried on the 13th in Willow Spring graveyard. Funeral services by Jacob Ringenberg, Hy. V. Albrecht and A. Oesch of Nebraska and Pre. Kaufman of Tiskilwa. The deceased leaves a daughter and a step-daughter beside many friends to mourn their loss.”

f. Valentin Birky was born at Meierhofen, Bavaria June 20, 1815.
g. Joseph Burkey was born April 26, 1816, possibly at Obersanding, Bavaria, and died at Flanagan, Livingston County Dec. 12, 1887. On Oct. 25, 1846 in Tazewell County he married Anne Ringenberg/Anna Ringenberger; the ceremony was performed by minister Andrew Ropp. She was born on Hingsange farm at Linstroff, Moselle Nov. 6, 1819, and died at Alvin, Vermilion County July 17, 1871, a daughter of Pierre Ringenberg/Peter Ringenberger and Anna/Anne Schrag/Schrock. They are found on the 1850 census of Tazewell County as farmer Joseph Baigrie, 33; German; Anne, 30, Germany; Catherine, 4, Illinois; Mary, 3, Illinois; and Anne, 1, Illinois. Anne is buried in Rinkenberger Cemetery at Fon du Lac.
h. Catharina Birki (per birth entry)/Catherine Burkey was born at Obersanding, Bavaria Feb. 4, 1819, and died at Macon, Bureau County March 4, 1895. Her civil birth entry described her as a daughter of “Joannis Birki of the Mennonite sect, living at Obersanding Number 16, and Veronica, also an Anabaptist, whose father Joannis Zwaller [actually Christian Zwaller] is a bishop of that sect living at La genarich ex Lotharingia [Gondrexange in the region of Lorraine].” She married Peter Albrecht in Illinois. He was born Nov. 30, 1810, and died in Bureau County Jan. 23, 1888, a son of Christian Albrecht and Elizabeth Engel. For more on this couple see the Appendix, ALBRECHT OF BUREAU COUNTY.

In 1782 or earlier Elisabeth Ruby died, and Johannes remarried to Barbara Birki. She was born circa 1748, and died at Perlach, Bavaria Jan. 24, 1826 (the home of her second son Andreas/André/Andrew).

Either wife could have been the mother of this son:

2. Andreas/André/Andrew Burkey was born circa 1778. When he witnessed the birth of a nephew at Gondrexange, Moselle in 1798, his age was exaggerated as 31 and his place of residence given as Bouquenom [Ger. Bockenheim], now the east side of Sarre-Union, Lower Alsace. Circa 1801 he married Catherine/Katharina Ackermann. In 1802 he was a witness at the Rimsdorf marriage of his sister Barbara Birki and Heinrich Ackermann, where his age was given as 23. In June of 1803 Andreas/André/Andrew and Catherine/Katharina obtained a lease for a property at Englmannsberg (10 miles south of the Amish Mennonite settlements at Karlskron and Probfeld). Before 1807 they resettled in House No. 26, Flügelsberg, Bavaria (eight miles south of Amish Mennonite settlers at Breitenbrunn); they sold the property in 1813. In 1818 Andreas purchased the Perlach castle [Ger. Perlachsoed] outlying Munich on its southeastern side. The castle had been leased by Johannes Pechler (father of Elm Grove settler Christian Beckler) and Christian Eichelberger (see BECHLER/BECKLER for more on this location). According to a document held by Herbert Holly, Andreas sold it in 1830 with the intention of emigrating to York, Upper Canada (now Toronto, Ontario, but also the name of the county surrounding it) to join his oldest son Johannes/John.296 Whether or not he

296 A letter to the Royal Government, Chamber of the Interior Sept. 11, 1830, found by Herbert Holly and translated by Helmut Gingerich: "Family circumstances, specifically the fact that I have a son who for 10 years has been a resident of York in Upper Canada in America, inclines me to follow that son and emigrate to America myself. Since I am a French citizen, and never gained naturalization in Bavaria, nor any other rights of a citizen, it is not necessary to seek approval for emigration, and I would not bother the Royal Highest Administration without a very special issue pending. I was trained in agricultural management, and through hard labor, and after terms as leaseholder at several locations, finally obtained ownership of an estate at Perlach. Since I would have no joy in remaining in Bavaria, it was natural to sell my estate, which resulted in the purchaser's money being deposited at court. My capital is still held there. The Royal Court instructed me to report my emigration to the Royal Government, and to apply there for my funds, and no obstacles would oppose my emigration. And so I respectfully tender that application and trust in a speedy positive decision. My admission at York in Upper Canada has been approved by Vice Governor P. Maitland under Royal English guarantee, as shown on the attached document. With this plea I ask a second favor: not to prolong the process, since the ship's passage is booked for myself and my companions, and it is bound to leave soon. Delay would cause difficulty and extra expense. In any event, under the circumstances, emigration taxes should not be an issue. In deepest respect, submitted by most obedient Pirk of Perlach." Enclosed with this letter was a copy of the Sept. 9, 1822 letter addressed from Upper Canada Vice Governor Peregrine Maitland to Christian Nafiger, mentioned in ROPP, WILMOT TOWNSHIP. Andreas likely knew Christian; Nafiger's last European address was Ebersberg, 20 miles east of Munich. Andreas owned Lindach castle at Munich, and Lindach estate was located at Ebersberg.

York was located on the north shore of Lake Ontario, 75 miles east of Wilmot Township in Waterloo County. The area was settled by Loyalist British soldier veterans of the Revolutionary War (or their surviving families), starting in 1783. The
actually made that trip is an open question. If he did, he returned to Europe. They are thought to have lived at Söcking, Bavaria before emigrating (this location is often found as ‘Seeking’; it is now part of Hanfeld, about 12 miles below Munich, adjacent to Starnberg at the head of Lake Starnberg). On June 7, 1835 (only a month before his emigration) Andreas/André/Andrew Burkey had a Kaiserslautern notary draw up an authorization for his son Andreas/Anrew to operate or sell the estate at Söcking. They sailed from Le Havre on the William J. John, arriving at New York Aug. 6, 1835. The passenger list shows farmer Andrie Burky, 57; Catherine, 57; brewer Joseph Burky, 24; and Marie Burky, 22. They settled at Worth, Woodford County. Their children include:

a. Johannes/John Burcky was born April 28, 1804, and died Sept. 27, 1863; he is buried in Hickory Point Cemetery at Metamora. He may have sailed to York in Upper Canada as a 16-year-old in 1820, then returned to Europe. He sailed from Hamburg with his younger brother Joseph on the brig Montana, arriving at New York Sept. 5, 1833. The passenger list identified the brothers as distillers; gave his age as 29 years, 2 months; said they were coming from ‘Seeking’ in Bavaria and were bound for Kentucky; and that John was already a citizen of the United States. Donna Schrock Birkey suggests that one or both brothers were part of what author Doris Page described as “the unmarried young men and women who stopped there [Butler Co.] as early as 1831, and that they worked for or with the Augspurger distilleries. On May 31, 1841 John married the much younger Magdalena/Madeleine Roggy in Illinois. She was born at Volmunster May 15, 1823, a daughter of Christian Roggy and Catherine Engel. ROGGY shows that she was a granddaughter of Johannes/Jeannes Rogy and Catherine Birki (1765-1845, also found as Birchý and Birecký). The 1850 census of District 56 (Woodford County) shows a combined household: John Berkey, 46; Madalene [Roggy], 27; Catharine, 8; Elizabeth, 6; John, 4; Barbary, six months; Christian Bonner, 25; and Catharine [Roggy], 18. Magdalena is found on the 1880 census of Washington as 57-year-old widow Magdalena Burky, living in the household of her son John. She stated that she was born in France to parents from France. Magdalena/Madeleine Roggy is buried with the Taylor family in Glendale Cemetery at Washington, identified as ‘Magdalena Burky, Grandmother.’ Her headstone gives the dates May 13, 1823-Oct. 9, 1918. Her daughter Barbara married a Taylor.

b. Barbara Burcky was born March 12, 1805, and died at Perlach Dec. 26, 1825.

c. Katharina/Catherine Burcky was born at Flügelsberg May 5, 1807 (per the civil entry found by Herbert Holly), and died at Perlach castle Dec. 24, 1825.

d. Andreas/Andrew Burcky was born at Flügelsberg Dec. 3, 1808 (per the civil entry found by Herbert Holly; the majority of sources say he was born Dec. 4, 1809; however, his headstone gives his date of death as May 21, 1881; his age count as 72 years, four months, and 26 days; and his date of birth as Dec. 4, and a barely legible 1808 or 1809. He married Barbara in Bavaria circa 1830. She was born circa 1808, and died at Tiskilwa Nov. 22, 1894. Barbara was thought to have been an Eyer or Oyer, but this is contradicted by the birth entry of their son Joseph created at Söcking May 29, 1836. It names the father as Andreas Burka and the mother as Barbara Grounis [or something similar], both Anabaptists, residing at No. 2. When Andreas/Andrew sold the estate at Söcking prior to emigration, he was obliged to pay a 10 percent tax, and to pay for a military training exemption for a brother who had already emigrated. They sailed with Joseph Heiser and Peter Yordy from Le Havre on the packet ship Charles Carroll, arriving at New York Sept. 17, 1838. That passenger lists describes A[illegible] Burkey, 29; Barbara Burkey, 29; and Joseph Burkey, 2; Joseph Heser, 20 [Joseph Heiser]; and Peter Jodte, 23 [Peter Yordy], who would become their next door neighbors. The obituary of a son states that they arrived in America in 1839, spent a year in Butler County and five years in Woodford County, then relocated to Tazewell County. They are found on the 1860 census of Elm Grove as farmer Andrew Bergy, 50, Bavaria;
Barbara, 59 [should have been 51 or 52], Bavaria; Andrew, 21, Illinois; and laborer Christian 'Hastetter,' 19, Bavaria, all on the same page as Joseph Heiser and Peter Yordy. They are found on the 1880 census of Indiantown, where both give their birthplaces as Germany, but the birthplaces of their parents as Lorraine. In their household is one 39-year-old son, Andrew Burcky, whose birthplace is given as Illinois, and the birthplace of his parents as Bavaria. *Herald of Truth,* July 1881: "Burcky. May 31st, in Bureau Co., Ill., Andrew Burcky, aged 72 years, 5 months and 26 days. He leaves an aged widow, 2 children, 9 grand-children, and one great-grand-child. Words of comfort were spoken on the funeral occasion by Jacob Unzicker, Andrew Ropp, and Peter P. Stuckey." *Herald of Truth,* December 1894: "Buercky. On the 22d of November 1894, at Tiskilwa, Ill., of the infirmities of old age, sister Barbara, widow of Bro. Andrew Buercky, aged 86 y., 5 m. She leaves 2 sons, 8 grandchildren, 7 great-grandchildren and many friends to mourn her death. Her remains were laid to rest on the 24th in the Willow Spring graveyard Indiantown, Bureau Co., Ill. Funeral services by Jac. Ringenberg and Hy. V. Albrecht in German from Phil. 2:21 and Rev. 14:13, and Val. Strubhar of Washington, Ill., in English from 2 Tim. 4:7, 8. J. Buercky."

e. Joseph Burcky was born at Flägelsberg Sept. 8, 1810 (per the civil entry found by Herbert Holly). He sailed from Hamburg with his older brother John on the brig *Montano,* arriving at New York Sept. 5, 1833. The passenger list identified the brothers as distillers; gave his age as 23 years, 3 months, 29 years, 2 months; and said they were coming from 'Seking' in Bavaria and bound for Kentucky. He then returned to Europe, and sailed again with his parents and younger sister in 1835. In the same year Joseph married Catherine 'Katie' Schlegel, either in New York or Illinois. She was born Sept. 9, 1816, and died in 1894, a daughter of Christian Schlegel and Catherine Ernst. The household of Joseph and Katie appears on the 1850 census of District 56 (Woodford County) as farmer Joseph Berkey, 40, Germany; Catharine, 34, France; and Joseph, 13, Illinois. They appear on the 1870 census of Roanoke as farmer Joseph Burkle, 60; Catharine, 54; Theodor, 26; John, 19; Andrew, 16; and Peter, 12; all stated to be born in Bavaria.

f. Marie Burcky was born at Meierhofen Jan. 18, 1813 (per the civil entry found by Herbert Holly), and died circa 1844. On May 1, 1836 in Tazewell County she married Charles Molitor. He may have been born at Metz Sept. 29, 1809 (no civil birth entry is found there), and died at Metamora June 2, 1891, a son of Charles Molitor and Verena Conrad. *Past and Present of Woodford County* lists him as an 1835 early settler of Worth (when it was still Germantown); in 1875 he was elected a vice president of the Old Settler's Association. "Chas. Molitor, though born in France, lived in Germany from the time he was six years old until he came to America, in 1835, and two years after settled in Worth Township, where he still lives. His father-in-law, Andrew Burcky, came the year before and settled near where Mr. Molitor now resides." Perhaps this is more reliable than the early events in an online history of Worth sponsored by St. Mary's of Lourdes Church saying he was "...born in Canada of German and French parents; sojourned in Russia as a young man; came to New York City, worked as a cabin maker, and then moved to Worth Township; fathered children by 2 wives; enlisted in the cavalry in the Civil War (wounded and taken prisoner); was a Justice of the Peace in Worth Town for 40 years and lived to the age of 81." They had a daughter Catherine (born circa 1840) and a son Peter (born circa 1842) in Woodford County. Charles remarried to Mary Ann Phillips in Woodford County Sept. 10, 1844. They appear on the 1850 census of Woodford County. During the Civil War he served as a sergeant in the 14th Regiment, Illinois Cavalry. They can be found on censuses of Worth in 1860, 1870 (as Charles 'Molodore'), and 1880, where they had six more children. Son Peter Molitor married Elizabeth Rengisen in Woodford County March 1, 1866. Their household can be found on the 1870 census of Chatsworth, Livingston County as miller Peter Molitor, 28, born in Illinois; Elizabeth, 23, born in Germany; Charles, 3, born in Illinois; and Rudolph, 1, born in Illinois.

Toward the end of the 19th century Johanneis and Barbara were living on the Bouchert farm [Ger. *Buscherhof*] in the adjacent villages of Rimsdorf and Sarrewerden in 'Crooked Alsace.' We found Buscherhof administered as their father in death. Six (Elizabeth, Simon, Benjamin, Edward, Amos, and Joseph) survive their father. He was ordained as a minister of the Gospel in 1863 and moved to Bureau Co., in 1869, from which time he has served the Willow Springs Church as minister, and as bishop since 1878, until old age and failing health made it necessary for him to lay down his charge. August 1, 1920, at the People's Hospital in Peru, Ill., he passed away at the ripe old age of 84 y. 2 m. 3 d. In his departure he leaves six children, 20 grandchildren and five great grandchildren, besides the many relatives and friends to whom he has endeared himself by the 50 years of service for the community of the Willow Springs Mennonite Church. Funeral services were conducted at him home by Eugene Augsburger and C. A. Hartzier of Tiskilwa, Ill., after which his body was laid away in the adjoining cemetery to await the call of his Lord." A note on Joseph's wife Jacobina Zimmerman is given in ZIMMERMAN; she was a daughter of Michael Zimmerman and his second wife Magdalena Erb. ROPP notes that John Alexander Dowie addressed Tazewell County Mennonites in a meeting at the Railroad Schoolhouse May 14, 1897; the text, mentioning Peter W. Ropp and Joseph Buercky, can be found at zionhealingrooms.com/iwill.pdf
part of a parish that included Bouquenom, Harskirchen, Mittersheim, Neusarrewerden, Rimsdorf, Sarrewerden, Vibersviller, Willer, and Zollingen in the early 1700s. The Cassini map created in the late 1700s shows a Bouchert farm on the east side of Sarrewerden. Rimsdorf and Sarrewerden are within a day's walking distance of the Neumatt estate at Diermeringen and its subordinate farm, the Lutterbacherhof estate at Dehlingen.

In 1802 the Stalter family received property from elector Maximilian IV Joseph, the future king of Bavaria, and other families accompanied or followed them. Those families often leased confiscated cloister properties on generous terms. The Birki/Birckis were among the families that migrated north to Bavaria.

Children of Johannes Birki and his second wife Barbara Birki include:

3. Barbara Birki was born circa 1782. On June 28, 1802 at Rimsdorf, Lower Alsace she married Heinrich Ackermann. Their civil marriage entry describe the groom as Heinrich Ackermann, 28, of Wartenberg; he was a son of Johannes Ackermann, 62, and Barbara Albrecht, residents of Wartenberg. The bride was described as Barbara Birki, daughter of the late Johannes Birki and his still-living wife Barbara Birki (born a Birki), 50, of Buscherhof, community of Rimsdorf. Johannes Birki, 26, and Andreas Birki, 23, attested that the bride was 20 years of age. It was signed 'Johannes Birki.' See ACKERMANN for background on the groom's family and Wartenberg-Rohrbach (adjacent to Sembach, 10 miles northeast of Kaiserslautern)

4. Christian Birki was born March 14, 1789, and died at Groveland Jan. 14, 1866. Circa 1815 he married Marie Anne/Maria Anna Gascho. They purchased House No. 11 at Arzsbach bei Dachau, Bavaria May 5, 1818. 'Christian Birgi' was described as a Mennonit and a partial leaseholder on the grounds of the estate of major general Maximilian Graf von Spreti at Arzbach bei Dachau 1818-24. Christian, his younger brother Valentin, and elder Daniel Zeh were carpenter/builders on the von Spreti estates Arzbach and Unterweilbach in 1831. The Birki's later lived at Odenstockach, southeast of Munich. His surname appears as 'Birky' on most Bavarian records, but historical notes call him 'Birki' because that is how he signed it and how it appears on his headstone. However, 'C. Birkey' labels his farm on the 1864 plat map of Groveland, and that was the spelling chosen by most of his children. For more on Marie Anne/Maria Anna Gascho, see GASCHO. Their children include:

a. Maria Birki/Mary Birkey was born April 8, 1816, and died at Roanoke, Woodford County May 13, 1903. She sailed from Le Havre to New York on the ship Baltimore, arriving June 17, 1844. Gary L. Yordy found the passenger list of group traveling from Bavaria: Peter Zerr, age illegible; Catharina Kernder [Kettner?], 27; Maria Burge, 28; and Johann Horn, 5. 300 Johann Horn was her son by a first marriage, later known as John. On Feb. 9, 1847 in Tazewell County she remarried to Pierre Jordi/Peter Jordy/Peter Yordy; the ceremony was performed by minister Andrew Ropp. Peter was born at Windstein, Lower Alsace June 12, 1815, and died at Roanoke July 2, 1897, a son of Jacob/Jaques Jordi and Catherine Schantz. See YORDY for background on this couple.

b. Josef Birki/ Joseph Birkey was born at Arzbach bei Dachau, Bavaria Feb. 24, 1818, and died at Flanagan Dec. 12, 1887. He sailed from Le Havre to New York on the ship Baltimore, arriving June 17, 1844. On Oct. 25, 1846 in Tazewell County he married Anne/Anna Ringenberg; the ceremony was performed by minister Andrew Ropp. She was born on Hingsange farm at Linstroff, Moselle Nov. 6, 1819, and died at Alvin, Vermillion County July 17, 1871, a daughter of Pierre Ringenberg/Peter Ringenberger and Anna Schrag/Schrock. Joseph purchased 40 acres at Tremont Oct. 11, 1849. They can be found on the 1850 census of Tazewell County as farmer Joseph Burgie, 32; Anne, 30; Catherine, 9 or 4; Mary, 3; and Anne, 1; they were living on Allentown Road at Tremont, next door to Jacob Stalter and Barbara Birkey. Joseph was listed as a son and heir to Christian's estate on a legal petition filed by Christian's second wife Elizabeth Stalter in 1866. Gary L. Yordy found that Joseph co-signed a guardianship bond with Elizabeth Stalter for his half-siblings Jacob, 'Hellen,' and John Birkey April 18, 1868. Joseph and Anne can be found on the 1870 census of Nebraska, Livingston County as farmer Joseph Berkee, 52, Bavaria; Anne, 50, France; Anne, 20, Illinois; Barbara, 14, Illinois; Christian, 17, Illinois; Solomon, 12, Illinois; and Joseph, 10, Illinois; and on the 1880 census of Nebraska, Livingston County as farmer Joseph Birkey, 62, born in Germany to French parents; Anni, France, 60; Solomon, 23, Illinois; Mary, 22, Illinois; Joseph, 21, Illinois; and F. Schwartzentuber, 18, Iowa.

c. Christian Birki/Birky (twin) was born at Arzbach bei Dachau, House No. 10 April 21, 1820. His birth entry was created at Pellheim.

d. Magdalena Birki/Madeleine Birkey (twin) was born at Arzbach bei Dachau House No. 10 April 21, 1820, and died before 1871. Magdalena married Johann Ackermann/John Ackerman in Bavaria July 13, 1843. He was born at Köfering, Bavaria May 24, 1817, and died at Groveland Oct. 28, 1891, where he is buried.

300 Gary L. Yordy has identified the Baltimore passengers as Peter Zehr, a son of Daniel Zehr II and Magdalena Unzicker (he married Elizabeth Oyer); Josef Birki/Joseph Birkey, the oldest son of Christian Birki and Marie Anne/Maria Anna Gascho; possibly Catharina Kettner, a daughter of George Kettner and Maria Birky; Maria/Mary Birkey, a daughter of Christian Birki and Marie Anne/Maria Anna Gascho; and her son later called 'John.' 13-year-old Daniel Steinmann/Steinman is thought to have traveled with them, but is not found on the passenger list.
in the Evangelical Mennonite Cemetery with his second wife. See ACKERMAN for more on this couple.

c. Barbara Birki/Birky was born at Arzbach bei Dachau Feb. 26, 1822, and died at Hopedale March 31, 1885. She is buried in Mennonite Cemetery at Hopedale. On April 30, 1849 she married Jacob Stalter. He was born on the Hemerten estate at Münster on the Lech River Sept. 12, 1823, a son of Jacob Stalter of the Hemerten estate and Katharina Stalter of Germ, and died in Livingston County June 8, 1898; he is buried in Waldo Cemetery. See STALTER, THE STALTERS OF HEMERTEN for more on this couple.

d. Katharina Birki/Birky was born at Pellheim House No. 20 Nov. 21, 1825.

e. Barbara Birki/Birky was born at Pellheim House No. 20 Feb. 29, 1828, and died Feb. 26, 1889. On Sept. 18, 1853 in Tazewell County she married André/Andrew Oyer; the ceremony was performed by minister Andrew Ropp. He was born at Niderhoff Feb. 27, 1826, and died at Sterling, Kansas June 27, 1913, a son of Joseph Oyer and his second wife Magdalena Litwiller. For background on this couple see OYER.

f. Anna Birky was born Jan. 20, 1832, and died Dec. 4, 1901. On March 15, 1853 in Tazewell County she married Daniel Steinmann; the ceremony was performed by minister Andrew Ropp. He was born at Breitenbrunn, Bavaria March 1, 1831, and died at Nebraska, Livingston County March 17, 1916, a son of Jakob Steinmann/Jacob Steinman and Barbara Nafziger.

g. Elisabeth/Elizabeth Birkey was born at Pellheim House No. 20 Feb. 29, 1828, and died Feb. 26, 1889. On Sept. 18, 1853 in Tazewell County she married André/Andrew Oyer; the ceremony was performed by minister Andrew Ropp. He was born at Niderhoff Feb. 27, 1826, and died at Sterling, Kansas June 27, 1913, a son of Joseph Oyer and his second wife Magdalena Litwiller. For background on this couple see OYER.

h. Andreas/Andrew Birky was born March 3, 1830, and died at Fisher, Champaign County Sept. 11, 1895. On March 25, 1858 in Tazewell County he married Veronica 'Fannie' Sutter [found in Germany as Sutor]; the ceremony was performed by minister Andrew Ropp. She was born in Baden Nov. 28, 1828, and died March 13, 1882, a son of Benjamin Rediger and Barbara Ehresman. They can be found on the 1880 census of Waldo, Livingston County as farmer John Rediger, 51, born in Baden to a father from France and a mother from Württemberg; Anna Rediger, 46, born in Bavaria to parents from France; and 10 children born in Illinois.

i. Anna Birky was born Jan. 20, 1832, and died Dec. 4, 1901. On March 15, 1853 in Tazewell County she married Johannes/John Rediger; the ceremony was performed by minister Andrew Ropp. He was born in Baden Nov. 28, 1828, and died March 13, 1882, a son of Benjamin Rediger and Barbara Ehresman. They can be found on the 1880 census of Waldo, Livingston County as farmer John Rediger, 51, born in Baden to a father from France and a mother from Württemberg; Anna Rediger, 46, born in Bavaria to parents from France; and 10 children born in Illinois.

j. Katharina/Catherine Birky was born in November 1834, and died Feb. 8, 1874. On Nov. 12, 1854 in Tazewell County she married Daniel Steinman; the ceremony was performed by minister Andrew Ropp. He was born at Breitenbrunn, Bavaria March 1, 1831, and died at Nebraska, Livingston County March 17, 1916, a son of Jakob Steinmann/Jacob Steinman and Barbara Nafziger.

k. Veronica/Veronica Birgy was born Jan. 16, 1837, and died Feb. 12, 1916. On Aug. 10, 1854, Christian Birki petitioned to be named legal guardian of his 17-year-old daughter 'Fronica' until she reached the age of 18. Gary L. Yordy discovered the document signed by 'Christian Birki': "This suggests that Mary [Christian Birki's first wife] received a bequest (most likely from her father at the time of his death). Since she had apparently pre-deceased the benefactor, her bequest was divided among her natural children (Mary, Joseph, Magdalena, Barbara, Elizabeth, Andrew, Anna, Catharina, and Veronica). All save Veronica were of the age of majority in 1854. In order for her to collect her property, she needed a legal guardian, and that became her father. The person leaving the bequest may have been of some means since Mary's share was $1,602, and an equal amount may well have been left to any of Mary's siblings or their issue. The entire process suggests that Mary Birki's father may have died intestate in Illinois in 1853 or 1854, and it thus may be possible to identify him through probate or other guardian records." On Aug. 17, 1856 in Tazewell County Veronica married Peter Guth/Good; the ceremony was performed by minister Andrew Ropp. He was born at Burgwalden near Augsburg, Bavaria March 25, 1832, and died Aug. 8, 1916, a son of Christian Guth and Barbara Christner. They are found on the 1880 census of Groveland as farmer Peter Goot, 48, born in Altbayern or Oberbayern, the governmental district of Bavaria where Munich and Augsburg are located] to a father from France and a mother from Altbayern; and Fronia, 43, born in Altbayern to parents from France. See GOOD for background on this couple.

Christian remarried to the much younger Elizabeth Stalter in 1844. She was born April 15 or 18, 1813 (24 years younger than Christian), and died at Groveland Sept. 29, 1872. She was a daughter of Heinrich Stalter (junior) and Jakobina Stalter, the owners of the Germ estate. Farmer 'Christian Birky of Oedenstockach' applied to emigrate March 13, 1851. Mary and Magdalena were already in America. The names and ages of their accompanying
children appear on their application to emigrate: Andreas, 29; Anna, 28; Elizabeth, 23; Katharina, 17; Veronika, 15; Jakobine, 5; Heinrich, 4; Jakob, 3; and Helena, 6 months. They took 10,000 florins; Friedrich Blendinger wrote in *Die Auswanderung nach Nordamerika aus dem Regierungsbezirk Oberbayern in den Jahren 1846-1852* that of the 79 Mennonites who emigrated from the Munich area, he was by far the wealthiest.301 Gary L. Yordy found the passenger list of the bark *Adhemar*, which sailed from Le Havre and arrived at New York June 7, 1851: Christian Birki, 62; Elizabeth, 37; Elisabeth, 23; Andrew, 20; Anna, 19; Catharina, 18; Veronika, 15; Jacobina, 5; Heinrich, 4; Jakob, 3; Helena, 6 months. Christian's brother-in-law Georg Kettner also brought his family on this ship. Christian's household is found on the 1860 census of Groveland as farmer Christian Berky, 72; Elizabeth, 48; Henry, 13; Jacob, 11; John, 8; Hellen, 10; and Jacobina, 14; all born in Bavaria except John, who was born in Illinois. Christian and Elizabeth are buried in Birki Cemetery at Groveland, which was carved out of an 80-acre farm they owned just above the center of Groveland (this farm was sold out of the family in 1875, three years after Elizabeth's death). Several members of this family may be buried in unidentified graves in this cemetery. The county cemetery book notes a pile of loose flagstones that may once have held up markers. The 1870 census of Groveland describes the household as Elizabeth Burky, 54; Bavaria; Jacobine, 24; Bavaria; farmer Henry, 23; Bavaria; Jacob, 21; Bavaria; Helena, 20; Bavaria; and John, 18; Illinois; and carpenter John Gerber, 28, born in Canada. Children of Christian Birki and his second wife Elizabeth Stalter include:

i. Jakobina/Jacobine 'Phoebe' Birkey was born in Bavaria circa 1846.

ii. Heinrich/Henry Birkey was born in Bavaria circa 1847.

iii. Jakob/Jacob Birkey was born in Bavaria circa 1848.

iv. Helena Birkey was born in Bavaria June 19, 1850 (headstone date; we would expect the end of the year from her father's emigration application), and died Oct. 2, 1878. On Feb. 8, 1874 in Tazewell County she married Christian Roggy. He was born at Granville, Putnam County Feb. 29, 1852, and died at Meadows, McLean County Nov. 21, 1919, a son of Peter Roggy and Magdalena Burkey. He remarried to Barbara Stalter Feb. 2, 1880. See STALTER for more on this couple.

v. John Birkey was born at Groveland circa 1852.

In August 2007 Gary L. Yordy located a petition filed after Christian Birki's death by his widow Elizabeth Stalter and oldest son Joseph. On March 5, 1866 they stated that Christian died intestate Feb. 14, 1866, and that he left property valued at $1,400. Joseph requested to be named administrator of the estate. The children of the family were listed in order of birth. The list above follows this list, given here with spellings as found: Mary Yorde [Yordy], Joseph Valerio, 39; Susanna, 37; Elizabeth, 35; Georg, 34; Catharine, 33; Veronica Kettner, 31; Jacobina, 29; Elizabeth, 23; Catharina, 22; Anna, 21; Hans, 20; Jacob, 19; and Helena, 18. Their children include:

a. Magdalena Kettner was born circa 1812.

b. Susanna Kettner was born circa 1814. 'Susannah Kitner' married Jacob Zitler in Tazewell County June 23, 1851.

c. Elisabeth Kettner was born circa 1816. 'Elizabeth Kitner' married Casper Overmire in Tazewell County Dec. 27, 1851.

d. Georg Kettner Jr. was born circa 1817. George Kettner was naturalized in Tazewell County Sept. 20, 1855. According to Gary L. Yordy, he stated that he was born in 'Byrone' [Bayern], Germany. He was living with Anna Elizabeth Haas at Pekin in 1860; the census describes the household of laborer George Kidner, 43; Bavaria; Anna, 37; Bavaria; John Bohn, 4, Illinois; Frederic Smelzer, 24, Bavaria; and Cartroon, 23, Prussia. Anna had apparently brought a 2-year-old son John to her marriage with John Bohn Sr. in Tazewell County June 25, 1858, and John Sr. had died before 1860. The 1870 census of Pekin's Third Ward describes laborer George Keltner, 54, Bavaria; Anna, 46, Bavaria; and John Bohn, 14, Illinois.302

e. Catharina Kettner was born circa 1818.

f. Veronica Kettner was born circa 1820. 'Saphrona Kitner' married Joseph 'Kaughman' in Tazewell County Aug. 17, 1851.

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301 *Auswanderung* also indicates that from 1848 to 1852, 67 persons left the administrative district of Munich to emigrate to Illinois.

302 John Bohn Jr. was married to Eliza Schwarzt in Tazewell County Sept. 30, 1880.
Valentine Birky was the father of a family that came to be called the 'Little Red Birkys' of the Dillon Creek meeting. He was born in France in 1793.

Valentine married Elizabeth Unzicker at Pellheim, Bavaria circa 1815, the year he turned 21 and their first child was born. Pellheim was three miles north of Dachau in the northwest suburbs of Munich; it was administratively incorporated into Dachau in 1972. She may have been a daughter of Daniel Unzicker and his first wife Jakobea Holly, and a half-sister to Daniel Unzicker who married Magdalena Kahn (he was a son of Daniel Unzicker and his second wife Elisabeth Hauter).

The political landscape of Europe changed significantly after the Congress of Vienna. Maximilian I struck up an alliance with the Vatican. The Catholic Church was reinstated in Bavaria in October of 1817, but the monarch reserved the right to restrict activities and approve appointments. A Catholic priest was chosen to tutor the king's son.

In 1831 Valentine, his older brother Christian, and elder Daniel Zehre were carpenter-builders on the von Spreti castle estates at Arzbach bei Dachau and Unterweilbach. Valentine and Elizabeth later raised cattle on the Gern estate owned by Heinrich Stalter (junior) and his wife Jakobina Stalter.

Elizabeth Unzicker died in 1848, leaving five younger children living with their father in Bavaria. The political circumstances that might have prompted the 'Forty-Eighters' to emigrate from Bavaria were noted in EIGSTI. Friedrich Blendinger in *Die Auswanderung nach Nordamerika aus dem Regierungsbezirk Oberbayern in den Jahren 1846-1852*: "Emigration from the urban area of Munich peaked in the period 1846-1852, with 177 total emigrants, including 47 in 1846 and 45 in 1852. About one-quarter of these were Mennonite or Evangelical, among them...the Mennonite family Birki of Gern..." Valentine elected to emigrate with the younger children in 1849, leaving only oldest son Jacob in Bavaria. According to his emigration application he carried 10,000 florins.

His voyage from Le Havre to New York was described in EIGSTI. The family appears on the passenger list filed June 21, 1849 as Valentin Burke, 56; Henri [Heinrich and later Henry]; Marie, 14; Johann, 12; Jacobina, 11; and Barbara, 9. After Heinrich's name his age is heavily overwritten 'infant' – although he was 18 years old. We can speculate that the trip saved him from military conscription.

Upon arrival at New York, Valentine traveled directly to Tremont. Land on the north side of Allentown Road was jointly held by three of his sons, awaiting his arrival. The 1860 census of Morton shows the household of Joseph Birky and Barbara Eigsti with Valentine Birky, 67. Son Jacob finally emigrated from Europe in 1860, arriving at New York only 27 days before the death of his father Valentine Sept. 12. Valentine is buried in Landes Mennonite Cemetery at Elm Grove.

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Presumably the first eight children of Valentine Birky and Elizabeth Unzicker were born at Gern. Their children include:

1. Jakob/Jacob Birky was born circa 1815, and died in Woodford County March 1, 1887. In 1845 he married Veronica 'Fannie' Gingerich, who was born Aug. 10, 1819, and died at Milford, Nebraska Feb. 24, 1901; she is buried in East Fairview Cemetery as 'Veronika Birky.' Jacob/Jakob was the last of the children to leave Europe. They sailed from Bremen on the bark Tuisco, arriving at New York Aug. 15, 1860; the passenger list included Jacob Birki, 46; Veronika, 37; Jacob, 16; Joseph, 14; Magdalena, 12; Christian, 7 years 6 months; and John, 4. They can be found on the 1870 census of Linn, where their household is described as farmer Jacob Burkie, 56, Bavaria; Frances, 51, Bavaria; Jacob, 25, Bavaria; Joseph, 24, Bavaria; Christian, 18, Bavaria; John, 15, Bavaria (the sons were all farm hands); Lena, 23, Bavaria; Mary, 12, Bavaria; and Annie, 7, Bavaria. The 1880 census of Linn describes Jacob

303 An online transcript of the *Heiratsregister Pfarrei Pellheim* says that Valentin Birky and Elisabeth Unzinger were married there before 1830.

304 The 1850 census shows three couples family clustered next to Christian Beckler's property on the north side of Allentown Road (just west of what is now Pleasant Grove Mennonite Cemetery): Walter Burkie, 26, Germany, and Elizabeth, 20; Andrew Burkie, 22, and Catherine, 18; Joseph Burkie, 28, Barbara, 25, and laborer Christian Springer, 15. In retrospect they appear to be Valentine Birky and Elizabeth Springer; Andrew Birky and Catherine Litwiller; and Joseph Birky and Barbara Eigsti; their incorrect ages may have been taken from travel documents prepared in Europe.
Amish Mennonites in Tazewell County, Illinois

Birkey, 66; Fannie, 55; Jacob, 35; Joseph, 34; and John, 26, all from Baden. *Herald of Truth*, April 1887: "On the 1st of March, in Woodford county, Ill., of cancer in the stomach and lung fever, Bro. Jacob Burkey, aged about 72 years. He was buried on the 3d. Services by Chr. Risser, John P. Schmidt and Peter Hockstetter, from 1 Cor. 15 and John 5:24. The deceased suffered much pain for several years, but he bore it all patiently." *Herald of Truth*, March 1901: "Veronica Berkey was born Aug. 10, 1819, died near Milford, Neb., Feb. 24, 1901, aged 81 years, 6 months and 14 days. She was the widow of Jacob Berkey and leaves three sons and one daughter, thirty grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren to mourn her departure. She was a beloved sister in the Amish Mennonite Church, and an affectionate mother. She lived with her youngest son, John, and was tenderly cared for during her illness of over four weeks. Buried in the Fairview cemetery. Funeral services by Joseph Schlegel in German, from 2 Cor. 5:1 and in English by N.E. Roth, from John 11:25. A large concourse of people gathered on this occasion, in token of the respect and esteem in which she was held. Peace to her ashes. D.B."  

2. Joseph Birky was born May 17, 1816, and died at Milford, Nebraska March 13, 1902 (where his East Fairview Cemetery headstone says 'Joseph Burkey'). He emigrated from Europe in 1844, but returned for Barbara Eigsti. *From Roanoke Centennial History:* "Joseph Birkey was born in Bavaria, Germany, in 1816. He came to the United States in 1844, and settled first in New Orleans, Louisiana. He then moved to Tazewell County for one year, then returned to Germany. He married Barbara Eikstein in Bavaria, then returned to the United States." Joseph, his bride-to-be Barbara Augustine (later 'Eigsti'), her sister Catherine, his younger brother Valentine, his sisters Magdalena and Elizabeth, and the couple Christian Beckler and Jacobine Holly sailed from Le Havre on the brig *Daniel Kilby*, arriving at New Orleans Nov. 22, 1846. One page of the passenger shows Bürk Magdaline, 19; Elisabeth, 18; Bircky Joseph, 29; Cath. Augustin, 21; Barbara, 20; Valentin Birky, 26; Behler [Becker] Christian, 38; and Jacobine [Holly], 36. They married in America Aug. 22, 1847. She was born at Pelleheim, Bavaria Jan. 23, 1827, died at Milford Aug. 6, 1911, and is buried near Joseph in East Fairview Cemetery at Milford. They are found on the 1860 census of Morton as farmer Joseph Birky, 43, Germany; Barbaraay, 33, Germany; Valentin, 11; Mary, 9; Nancy, 6; Jacobin, 2; and Susan, 1; all children born in Illinois; Valentin Birky, 67, Germany; and laborer Louis Stegely, 27, Germany.  

3. Christian 'Harry' Burkey was born Sept. 4, 1819, and died at Milford, Nebraska Nov. 6, 1890, where he is buried in East Fairview Cemetery. *The Past and Present of Woodford County, Illinois* says he married Maria/Marie/Mary Stalter in Germany in 1839. She was born at Munich May 5, 1820, and died at Raymond, Lancaster County, Nebraska Jan. 3, 1916, a daughter of Gern estate owners Heinrich Stalter (junior) and Jakobina Stalter. She is also buried in East Fairview Cemetery as 'Mary Burkey.' *The Past and Present of Woodford County, Illinois* says that son Christian "...was raised a farmer, and came to this country in 1842, landing at New Orleans, and proceeding up the Mississippi and Illinois Rivers to Peoria, where he remained a couple of weeks and then came to Woodford County; at the end of one year, however, he removed to Tazewell County, and resided there until 1875, when he returned to Woodford County." When 'Christian Burky' was naturalized at Pekin May 10, 1855, his application stated that he was 37, had come from Bavaria, and arrived at New Orleans in 1842. At Hanover/Metamora they owned 80 acres of Section 15 valued at $4,800, where Christian was a farmer and stock raiser. His household is found on the 1880 census of Metamora as farmer Christian Burkey, 60, born in Bavaria to a father from France and a mother from Bavaria; Maria, 59, born in Bavaria to Bavarian parents; and daughter Katharina, 22, born in Illinois to Bavarian parents. The 1880 state census of Precinct O, Seward County, Nebraska shows farmer Christian Burkey, 65, born in Bavaria to parents from France and Bavaria; Mary, 61, Bavaria; and Barbara, 24, born in Illinois to parents from Bavaria. *Herald of Truth*, December 1890: "On the 6th of Nov. 1890, near Milford, Seward Co., Neb., Christian Burkey, aged 71 Y., 2M., 2 D. He lived in matrimony 51 years and leaves a wife, 11 children, 46 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren to mourn their loss. He was a member of the A. Mennonite church. Services were conducted by Jos. Schlegel from John 11:25, 26, and Jos. Gasho from 2 Cor. 5:1." *Gospel Herald*, January 1916: "Mary Burkey (nee Stalter) was born Mar. 5, 1820, at Munich, Bavaria, Germany; died Jan. 3, 1916, at the home of her son at Raymond, Neb.; aged 95 y. 9 m. 29 d. Married to Christian Burkey in 1838, came with him to America in 1843. To them were born 12 children, 1 died at birth, 1 in later years and 10 remain to mourn her departure. She also leaves 49 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren. She has always lived a beautiful Christian life and has enjoyed good health until the last 10 days when she was taken with agrippe."  

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305 John W. Burkey, a son of Christian 'Harry' Burkey (son of Valentine Birky and Elizabeth Unzicker) and Maria/Marie/Mary Stalter (daughter of Heinrich Stalter junior and Jakobina Stalter) may have been the only Bürki descendant from Central Illinois to serve in the Civil War. He was born Aug. 24, 1847. *The Historical Encyclopaedia of Tazewell County* says he enlisted May 4, 1864. Military records describe him as "John Burky, private, Tremont, enlisted June 1, 1864; mustered out Oct. 28, 1864; Company C, 139th Illinois Infantry." The 139th Illinois Infantry was composed of 100-day volunteers from Tazewell and Woodford Counties. It stood guard duty at Cairo. Just after the 100 days of enlistment had passed, before the soldiers could be mustered out, a Confederate force under Major Gen. Sterling Price began marching toward St. Louis. President Lincoln sent a dispatch directly to the regiment commanding officer, Col. Peter Davidson of Peoria, asking him to defend the city. The 139th used the railroad to reach the city first, and Major Gen. Price retreated. President Lincoln wrote a letter to the regiment expressing his gratitude. On Sept. 25, 1882 at Milford, Nebraska John married Veronica 'Fannie' Kuhns. She was born
4. Valentine Birky was born Oct. 12, 1821, and died at Tiskilwa, Bureau County June 28, 1901. In 1846 he was a Daniel Kilby passenger. On Feb. 4, 1850 in Tazewell County he married Elizabeth Springer; the ceremony was performed by minister Andrew Ropp. She was born at Solln near Munich July 24, 1830, and died Aug. 30, 1921, a daughter of David Springer and Elisabeth Guth. Her parents sailed with the Birkys on the Minnesota. Valentine is listed as 38-year-old farmer Valentine 'Buckey' on the 1860 census of Tremont. The Civil War Draft Registration list for Tremont created in July 1863 showed him as farmer Valentine Birky, 38. The 1880 census of Tremont lists their household as farmer Valentine Burkey, 59; Elisabeth Burkey, 48; and seven children. Every member of the household is erroneously listed as a native of Berne with parents from Berne. Herald of Truth, July 1901: "Valentine Birky was born on Oct. 12, 1821, and died June 28, 1901, aged 79 years, 8 months and 16 days. He came to America in 1846 and settled in Tazewell Co., Ill. In 1850 he was married to Elizabeth Springer. To this union were born thirteen children, three of whom preceded him to the spirit world. The deceased leaves ten children, twenty-four grandchildren, one great grandchild, three brothers, and three sisters to mourn his death. The funeral services were conducted by Jacob Ringenberg from Tiskilwa, and Peter Hochsetter, Groveland, Ill." 5. Andreas/André/Andrew Birky was born Oct. 10, 1822, and died at Morton Nov. 7, 1893. He is buried in the Evangelical Mennonite Cemetery at Groveland as 'A. L. Birky.' In Auswanderung German genealogist Hermann Hage found the date of his emigration application as March 8, 1845. He arrived at New York on the packet ship Emerald Sept. 23, 1845, listed as 'André Burki' and accompanied by his cousin Magdalena/Madeleine Birkey, her husband Johann/Ackermann/John Ackerman, their son Joseph, and George Eichelberger. On June 20, 1848 in Tazewell County he married Catherine/Christine, 25. In 1850 they were living at Philadelphia, where Herman was employed as a lamp maker. They also lived in Missouri, and later at Peoria. Herman appears on the 1850 census he is listed as 'Andrew Birkie'; he is also shown as 42-year-old farmer Andrew 'Buckey' on the 1860 census of Tremont, and the 1870 census of Morton as 'Andrew Burky.' The Civil War Draft Registration list for Tremont created in July 1863 showed him as farmer Andrew Birky, 41. In 1880 Andrew is found as a widower on the census of Morton. 6. Magdalena Birky was born Nov. 12, 1824, and died Feb. 18, 1897. She appears on a Munich emigration list from 1848, which states that she carried 500 florins. In about 1850 she married Herman Simermacher, who was born in Hesse circa 1818. We found him completely elusive until Gary L. Yordy pointed out the correct spelling of his surname and provided a wealth of information. Herman arrived at New York on the Burgundy June 21, 1843, appearing on the passenger list as 'Herrman Simermacher,' 25. In 1850 they were living at Philadelphia, where Herman was employed as a lamp maker. They also lived in Missouri, and later at Peoria. Herman appears on the 1860 census of Peoria as a 42-year-old brass worker; Magdalena, 36; with fours sons Charles, John, Henry, and William. Herman enlisted at Peoria Sept. 26, 1862, served as a private with Company E of the 82nd Illinois Volunteer Infantry Regiment (some related sources call him 'Adam Simmenmacher'), and was discharged at Washington, D.C. for disabilities Jan. 9, 1863. The family is listed without Herman on the 1870 census of Peoria County’s 7th Ward. On the 1880 census of Peoria Magdalena is listed as 'Mary Simermacher' in the household of son Theodore Herman Simermacher. [The standardized German spelling of this surname is 'Simermacher']. 7. Elisabethe/Elizabeth Birky was born in 1826, and died in Tazewell County in October 1866. On Jan. 7, 1847 in Tazewell County she married Johannes/John Birkey ('Big Birkeys'); the ceremony was performed by minister Andrew Ropp. Johannes/John was born Jan. 25, 1815, and died in Tazewell County Nov. 9, 1896. His household is found on the 1880 census of Elm Grove as retired farmer John Birkey, 65, born in Bavaria to a father from France and a mother from Hesse; and three children born in Illinois to a father from Bavaria and a mother from Hesse: Christian, 25; Elizabeth, 19; and Catherine, 17. 8. Catharine Birky was born Jan. 29, 1829, and died March 18, 1870. She is buried in Landes Mennonite Cemetery. On Feb. 3, 1850 in Tazewell County she married Joseph Ropp. The next day her older brother Valentine married Elizabeth Springer. Joseph was born at Largitzen, Upper Alsace July 6, 1823, died March 3, 1885, and is buried in Glendale Cemetery at Washington, a son of Andreas Ropp and Elisabeth Eymann. 9. Heinrich 'Henry' Birky was born at Arzbach bei Dachau, Bavaria Dec. 31, 1830 (per Pelheim birth register) or Feb. 2, 1831, and died at Groveland Aug. 4, 1918. On April 30, 1854 he married Magdalena 'Lena' Eigsti. She was born Oct. 24, 1836, and died at Pekin May 13, 1906, a daughter of Nicholas Augstein and Barbara Gascho. They can be in Holmes County, Ohio Nov. 24, 1862, and died May 21, 1940, a daughter of Joseph Kahns and Catherine 'Katie' Garber; their family had come to Seward County from Ohio in 1873. John is found on lists of veterans created in Nebraska in 1891 and 1893, while he was living at Ulysses, Butler County, Nebraska. He may have taken advantage of Nebraska homesteading requirement waivers awarded to federal veterans. He belonged to Post 73 of the Grand Army of the Republic, an organization of Civil War veterans meeting at Ulysses. They appear on the 1930 census of Seward, Milford County as John W. Burkey, 75 [he was actually 82], born in Illinois to German parents; and Fannie, 67, born in Ohio to parents from Ohio. One sources says he died as a centenarian Feb. 11, 1948. 306 Guide to the Manuscript Materials relating to American History in the German State Archives (1913) collected by Marion Dexter Learned, describes item 1245/143 as Andreas Birki Guts bestizers Sohn von Gern Gesuch, etc. nach Illinois. 1845. This may be the actual application.
und on the same page of the 1880 census of Morton on the same page as her brother Joseph Eigsti, where they listed their birthplaces as France (Henry) and Bavaria (Magdalena), with 10 children. On Sept. 3, 1883 their son Nicholas Birkey married Matilda 'Tilly' Staker, the youngest child of Joseph Staker and Frena Roth. Henry is found as 80-year-old widower Henry Birkey on the 1910 census of Groveland, where he stated that he had immigrated in 1849. Henry and Magdalena are buried in the Evangelical Mennonite Cemetery at Groveland.

10. Mary Birky was born March 19, 1833, and died at Schickley, Nebraska Oct. 28, 1908. On Jan. 7, 1851 in Tazewell County she married Joseph Birkey ('Big Birkeys'); the ceremony was performed by minister Andrew Ropp. He was born March 19, 1828, and died at Schickley Dec. 6, 1906 (background follows).

11. Johann/John Birky was born Jan. 1, 1835, and died at Peoria March 28, 1925. On March 15, 1858 at Pekin he married Jakobina Hochstettler. She was born at Meringerau near Augsburg, Bavaria Nov. 7, 1835, and died at Tremont in 1896, a daughter of Joseph Hochstettler and Jacobine 'Phoebe' Gingerich. They are buried in the Evangelical Mennonite Cemetery at Groveland. On June 18, 1855 he applied for naturalization with the county clerk as 'Johann Birky.' He stated that he arrived at New York June 20, 1849 (the Minnesota passenger list was turned in June 21, 1849).

12. Jacobene 'Phoebe' Birky was born Jan. 15, 1838, and died at Milford, Nebraska Sept. 5, 1914. On Nov. 17, 1857 in Tazewell County she married shoemaker and farmer Daniel Unzicker; the ceremony was performed by minister Andrew Ropp. He was born at Wilmot, Ontario Feb. 11, 1829, a son of Daniel Unzicker and Magdalena Kahn. Perhaps she met Daniel Unzicker through his sister Magdalena, who married David Augspurger. Or perhaps Daniel Unzicker (senior) was a half-brother to Valentine's first wife, Elizabeth Unzicker. For more on this couple see UNZICKER.

13. Barbara Birky was born Jan. 9, 1840, and died July 28, 1934. On March 14, 1858 in Tazewell County she married future minister Peter Hochstettler; the ceremony was performed by minister Andrew Ropp. He was born Feb. 28, 1834, and died Jan. 20, 1824, a son of Joseph Hochstettler and Jacobine 'Phoebe' Gingerich. See HOCHSTETTLER for background on this couple.

The Big Birkeys

The 'Big Birkeys' migrated via Butler County, Ohio to arrive in Tazewell County in 1840.

Christian 'Christel' Bürcky/Bircki (senior) was somewhat of a mystery. One family story said that he was a Swiss émigré named Christian Burchi who was born circa 1760. He died after jumping or falling off a wall to avoid a duel circa 1800. He had a son and a daughter.

Then Herbert Holly found a lease contract where his son named his own birth place as 'Bitsch, Lorraine', Moselle. This led us to the civil death entry of Christian (senior). We now know that Christian (senior) died at La Rosselle, Bitche, Moselle at 7 a.m. on Aug. 13, 1797. His death entry described him as Christian Bircki, the 38-year-old husband of Barbara Koch (thus he was born circa 1759). It was witnessed and signed by his father-in-law Christian Koch, 65, anabaptiste de Gendersberg.

BITCHE

Bitche [Ger. Bitsch] is located near the German border in the northeast corner of Moselle, on the river Horn.

It is the site of an historic fortress [Fr. Citadelle de Bitche], standing 250 feet over the town. It was constructed in 1624. Beginning in 1744 army officer Louis de Cormontaigne rebuilt it to be self-sustaining with its own water supply. On Nov. 17, 1793 a 739-man garrison held off an assault by 1,200 Prussian troops. The siege is found in military histories as an engagement in the First Battle of Wimsembourg.

During the Napoleonic wars the citadel was used to confine prisoners of war. It was common to see them marched to the citadel in chain gangs. Officer prisoners under guard were routinely permitted to leave the citadel and purchase food at the town's markets. Accounts of imprisonment there can be found online in Edward Fraser's Napoleon the Gaoler; Personal Experiences and Adventures of British Sailors and Soldiers during theGreat Captivity (1914). During Napoleon's 100 days in 1815, the French commander repulsed a siege by Austrian troops.

The present population of the village is less than 5,500. The surrounding area is known as le Pays de Bitche [Ger. Bitscherland].

THE GENTERSBERG ESTATE AT HANVILLER

The garrison at Bitche purchased fruit, vegetables, and dairy products from nearby farms. The jurisdiction of Bitche encompassed adjacent Hanviller [Ger. Hanweiler]. The Gентersberg estate [Ger. Gendersbergerhof] at Hanviller had belonged to the dukes of Lorraine. A château stood there 1445-1661, and was reconstructed in 1723. But its farm house dates from the 16th century.

307 The name of this community has only recently changed spelling to 'Shickley.'
The first Amish Mennonite lease holders at Gentersberg were Joseph Oesch/Esch and Magdalena Schertz. They took up residence in 1779, and farmed for the customary nine-year term. In 1778 the lease was extended by their daughter Barbara and son-on-law George/Georg Unzicker. Barbara and George remained there until 1804, when they relocated to the Horterhof estate at Heligenmoschel (five miles north of Otterberg and Kaiserslautern) in the Pfälz.308

Like Christian Bürcky, two of the Unzicker children migrated to the vicinity of Munich:
- Magdalena Unzicker was born at Nehweiler-près-Woerth, Lower Alsace in 1786. On April 18, 1804 at Hanviller she married Jakob Holly. He was born at Reichshoffen, Lower Alsace (adjacent to Nehweiler-près-Woerth) April 3, 1780. Recall from BECHLER/BECKLER that they were the parents of Jacobine Holly, who married Christian Beckler; they sailed to America in 1846 with 'Little Red Birkys.' Jacobine Holly and Christian Beckler settled on Allentown Road at Elm Grove.
- Daniel Unzicker was born at Kaiserslautern (per his marriage entry) April 4, 1795. On May 4, 1815 at Riedseltz, Lower Alsace he married Anne Marie Roggi. She was born at Riedseltz March 3, 1795, a daughter of Johannes/Jan Rogi/Roggi and Elisabetha Eyer. In 1826 Daniel purchased the Hertleshof estate at Heinzenhof. It had become available because of the bankruptcy of Noé Augspurger/Noah Augsburger and Elisabeth Eyer a year earlier (see AUGSPURGER). The Horterhof estate was sold in 1828. In 1836 they relocated to the Stoffersbergerhof estate at nearby Stoffersberg (adjacent to Landsberg am Lech). According to Hermann Guth, Daniel was later at Bierdorf am Ammersee, and died at Sendling near Munich in 1865.

Christian 'Christel' Bürcky/Bircki married Barbara/Barbe Koch circa 1781. She was was born in 1763, a daughter of Christian Koch and Madeleine Martin.

THE KOCH FAMILY

A Nicolas Koch was living on a property of the Ribeauvierre family near Ste. Marie-aux-Mines in 1732. He may have been the father of Nikolaus Koch, who settled on the Rauschenbourg estate [Ger. Rauschenburg] at Ingwiller, Lower Alsace (17 miles south of Bitche) in 1742. There he became a minister and elder.

Amsterdam publisher Mattheus Schooneveld placed a listing of Amish Mennonite ministers in Naamlyst der Remonstrantsche Professoren en Predikanten (1789). It noted, "In't Graafschap Leewen, Graefschap, Rousenberg: Nikolaus Koch, Oudste; Abraham Oesch" (In the domain of Count Löwenhaupt, Rauschenbourg estate: Nikolaus Koch, elder; Abraham Oesch, minister).

His children include:
1. Christian Koch was born circa 1731, and died at Bitche Feb. 3, 1798.309 He married Madeleine Martin. She was born at Zilling (28 miles southwest of Bitche) in 1733, and died at Hanviller April 11, 1805. They farmed on the Gentersberg estate at Hanviller (adjacent on the north side, and downriver from Bitche). Their daughter Barbara/Barbe Koch was born in 1763, and became the wife of Christian 'Christel' Bürcky/Bircki circa 1781.
2. Anna/Anne Koch died before Aug. 14, 1836. She married Abraham Oesch. He was born circa 1730; settled at Hagenaun, Lower Alsace (14 miles east of Ingwiller) in 1755; became a minister under his father-in-law Nikolaus Koch; and died before Aug. 14, 1836. In Amish Mennonites in Germany author Hermann Guth described Abraham as "from an unknown branch of Oeschs." See OESCH, CHRISTIAN OESCH (ELM GROVE) for more on this family.

Barbe Koch may belong to this family. She was born circa 1750, and died at Zilling Dec. 30, 1822, age 72. She married Christian Martin. He was born circa 1737, and died at Imling, Moselle June 8, 1837, age 100. See MARTIN for their descendant Christian Martin of Hopedale.

Christian ‘Christel’ Bürcky/Bircki and Barbara/Barbe Koch were residents of a 297-acre farm called Freydenberg in the neighborhood/parish of La Rosselle within Bitche [Fr. la cense de la Rosselle dit Freydenberg].310 Up until the early 20th century potatoes were raised there and processed through a distillery.

308 Magdalena Oesch was a daughter of Joseph Oesch/Esch and Magdalena Schertz. She was born on the Gentersberg estate in 1784; went but to live on the nearby Dorsterhof estate with her parents at age four. She and her second husband Johannes Nafiger of Steinseltz came back to the Gentersberg estate in 1813. Johannes became deacon for the local congregation. Hence the property is often recalled as a Nafiger residence.
309 We found a civil death entry from Bitche dated Feb. 3, 1798, calling him Christine Koch, and giving his age at death as 68. Some sources say he died at Hanviller May 26, 1806. The name of a Christian Koch does appear on that date in the index to Hanviller entries; we have not seen the actual entry.
310 One hectare is 100 meters-by-100 meters. The measurement 120 hectares (296.526 acres) may have been considered the optimum manageable size for an estate. It was employed by early Pennsylvania surveyors. Christian Reeser accumulated parcels of land at Eureka, Woodford County until he owned that total.
Barbara/Barbe Koch died at Heimberg, Germany (14 miles southwest of Augsburg) Dec 28, 1834. She had likely lived there on an estate leased by her son Christian. An Augsburg church death entry identified by Herbert Holly described her as a 71-year-old widowed farmer who had died of pneumonia.

Children of Christian Bürcky/Bircki and Barbara/Barbe Koch include:

1. **Christian Bürcky** (junior) was born at Bitche circa 1782. He was described on a German lease contract as a native of *Bitsch, Lorraine; and we assume that he was 21 years of age in 1803, when he co-leased an estate.

2. Fröny Bürcky/Veronica Burkey was born at Bitche Oct. 3, 1796, and died in Tazewell County in 1855. Her civil birth entry calling her Fröny Bürcky described her parents as Christel Bürcky, 38, an Anabaptist from *la cense de la Rosselle* at Bitche, and Barbe Koch. She married Christian Nafziger. He was born on the Illlbacherhof estate at Reineheim, Hesse April 3, 1794, a son of Johannes Nafziger and Katharina Spring. He became a tenant farmer on the castle estate at Unterweilbach. Nafziger sons Christian and John traveled to Tazewell County in 1846. Father Christian and mother Veronica brought their two daughters in 1848. Veronica died in 1855, and became the first person to be buried in what is now the Mennonite Cemetery at Hopedale. Christian died at Little Mackinaw March 29, 1873, and was buried beside Veronica. See NAFZIGER for background on Christian Nafziger.

**Christian Bürcky** (junior) was born at Bitche circa 1782. After examining lease contracts, Helmut Gingerich has identified his wife as Katharina Nafziger.

According to *A Brief Account of the History, Ancestry & Descendants of the John C. Birky Family*, Christian left Alsace during the Napoleonic Wars, and went north to avoid military conscription.

In 1803 with Joseph/Josef Stalter he leased the Waal estate near Unterdiessen, below Landsberg am Lech, 42 miles west-southwest of Munich. 311 Recall from STALTER that Joseph/Josef Stalter was a son of Heinrich Stalter and his second wife Katharina Imhof, and the husband of Magdalena Egli.

The Waal estate was a *Schwaige*. Helmut Gingerich points out that a *Schwaige* differed substantially from a simple dairy farm. It provided foodstuffs for a castle or monastery, and required business acumen to keep a number of employees with a variety of skills, such as distilling and cattle raising.

In 1811 the Waal estate was the birthplace of Christian Beckler. See BECHLER/BECKLER to see how he was associated with the 'Little Red Birks' as an immigration companion and later as a neighbor on Allentown Road at Elm Grove. His parents were named Johannes/Johann Pechler and Magdalena Birky.

Herbert Holly has found documents in the archives at Augsburg that show Christian purchased the Heimberg estate near Daniel Unzicker's Abstried *Schwaige* in 1830. Abstried was one of the properties of the Benedictine abbey Wessobrunn [Ger. *Kloster Wessobrunn*]. It was secularized in 1803.

When their sons reached the age of eligibility for military training, Christian considered emigration. His sons Christian and Johannes/John were sent ahead to scout the new country, sailing on the *Burgundy* from Le Havre to New York, arriving Oct. 12, 1839. 312 The passenger list shows J. Burky, 24, and C. Burky, 31. *A Brief Account of the History, Ancestry & Descendants of the John C. Birky Family* Family says, "The two older sons, Christian and John, went to America alone first and settled in Butler County, Ohio." On March 9, 1840 Christian signed an agreement to sell his estate at Heimberg, presumably planning to emigrate.

Christian died at Meringerau, Bavaria April 26, 1840 while visiting parents or relatives. Services at his funeral were conducted by minister Peter Hochstettler (1814-1884), a resident of Meringerau.

Recall from HOCHSTETTLER that Meringerau was an open area below the city of Augsburg that was home to Hochstettlers. ‘Meringer Au’ was a meadow surrounding the village of Meringer. The village was later torn down to protect the water supply of the nearby city. In 1910 the entire area was incorporated into the city of Augsburg and divided into two parts: Haunstetten, a populated strip, and Siebenbrunn, a strip of open fields (also called ‘Siebenbrunnenfeld,’ or ‘seven spring field’). It is now the city district of Haunstetten-Siebenbrunn.

The sons who had remained in Europe now joined Christian and John in Ohio. All six went west and located along Dillon Creek in Tazewell County, Illinois. *Centennial History of the Mennonites of Illinois 1829-1929* places the arrival of the Big Birkeys in 1840. *A Brief Account of the History, Ancestry & Descendants of the John C. Birky Family* also mentions the Birkeys who remained in Europe: "The sister Elizabeth, who had married Jacob Eichelberger, came to America with her family [in 1860] and settled in the vicinity of her brothers. The mother and older sister, who married a man by the

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311 In 1803 a Christian Burcky signed a lease document at Steingaden, Bavaria with Johannes/Hans/Jean/John Bircki/Burkey (husband of Freni Zwalter) of the 'Little Red Birky' chain.

312 Coincidentally, the passenger list of the *Burgundy* as it arrived in New York June 3, 1840 included Daniel Burkey, 49; Maria Burkey, 51; Maria Burkey, 20; and Barbara, 17, of Bavaria. We could not identify them further.
name of Jacob Rogie, remained in Germany."

The Heimberg estate was patented to a new owner Jan. 22, 1841, "Since Christian Bürcky had died, and his relicts had emigrated to North America..."

The 1850 census of Tazewell County shows the households of Valentine, Andrew, John (with Jacob and Joseph), and Christian in consecutive order on one page.

In Tazewell County the family worshipped with the Dillon Creek meeting, where they were known as the 'Big Birkeys' for their physical stature. Two of them married children of Valentine Birky (whose children and grandchildren were called the 'Little Red Birkys'), who arrived in 1849.

Children of Christian Bürcky (junior) and Katharina Nafziger include:

1. Christian Birkey was born Sept. 29, 1810, and died in Tazewell County Sept. 26, 1885. On Aug. 30, 1841 he married Catherine Mosiman, whose family was living in Butler County at the time. Catherine was born at Azoudange circa 1820, and died at Boynton Feb. 13, 1909, a daughter of Joseph Mosimann and Anne Marie Zwalter. The Mosiman family were superior passengers in 1830. Catherine was a cousin to minister Michael Mosiman. Their household appears on the 1850 census of Tazewell County as Christian Burkie, 38, Germany; Christian, 27, Germany [marked as a female, almost certainly meant to be Catherine]; Catharine, 6, Illinois; Fanny, 4, Illinois; Christian, 2, Illinois; and John, 1 Illinois. They are described on the 1880 census of Little Mackinaw as Christon Birky, 70, farmer from Bavaria; Katherine, 60, from France; and four children ranging in ages 22-15. They are buried in the Mennonite Cemetery at Hopedale.

2. Katharina Birkey was born Aug. 12, 1812. She married Jakob Roggie/Roggy and did not emigrate from Europe. He was born at Neidenfels (16 miles southeast of Kaiserslautern) in 1805, and died at Schaffhausen (37 miles above Augsburg, 75 miles northwest of Munich) in 1881, a son of Christian Roggy and Catherine Nafziger. Schaffhausen is next to Kaisheim, where an estate was managed by the Roggy family.

3. Johannes/John Birkey was born Jan. 25, 1815, and died in Tazewell County Nov. 9, 1896. On Jan. 7, 1847 in Tazewell County he married Elizabeth Birky ('Little Red Birky'); the ceremony was performed by minister Andrew Ropp. She was born in 1826, and died in Tazewell County in October of 1866, a daughter of Valentine Birky and Elizabeth Unzicker. Their household appears on the 1850 census of Tazewell County as farmer John Burkie, 35, Germany; Elizabeth, 25, Germany; Elizabeth, 2, Illinois; John, 1, Illinois; laborer Jacob, 25, Germany; and laborer Joseph, 22, Germany. John is found as a 65-year-old retired farmer on the 1880 census of Elm Grove, living with three children. He stated that his father was born in France, his mother in Hesse.

4. Andreas/Andrew Birkey was born circa 1816, and died in Tazewell County Jan. 27, 1892. On Oct. 27, 1843 in Tazewell County he married Magdalena Gerber. She was born Dec. 22, 1823, and died at Dewey June 12, 1912, a daughter of Christian Gerber and his wife Magdalena. The household appears on the 1850 census of Tazewell County as farmer Andrew Burkie, 33, Germany; Madeline, 26, Germany; Caroline, 5, Illinois; Christian, 3, Illinois; and Andrew, 6 months, Illinois. They are found on the 1860 census of Morton as farmer Andrew Birkey, 44, Bavaria; Madaline, 33, Bavaria; Christian, 13; Andrew, 10; John, 7; Valentin, 4; Magdalene, 1; and Pheobe, 12, all children born in Illinois. They appear on the 1880 census of Boynton as farmer Andrew Berky, 63, born in Bavaria to parent from France and Hesse; Magdalene, 54, born in France to French parents; and two children born in Illinois. On Jan. 25 and 28, 1856, Andrew applied for naturalization at the county clerk's office. He declared that he was born at Willbach, Bavaria (perhaps this was Wollbach, 18 miles west of Augsburg) and had entered the county at New York in 1846. Herald of Truth, February 1892. "On the 27th of January, 1892, in Tazewell Co., Ill., Pre. Andrew Bukey, aged 75 years and 3 months. Funeral services were conducted by Pre. Egli and Noah Augspurger from 1 Cor. 15." Gospel Herald, July 1912: "Magdalena Birkey, nee Gerber, was born in Germany, Dec. 22, 1823; died at her home near Dewey, Ill., of infirmities of old age, June 12, 1912; aged 88 y. 5 m. 20 d. Mother Birkey united with the A. M. Church in her younger years and remained a faithful member to the end. She united in marriage with Andrew Birkey. This union was blessed with six children. She lived in matrimony with her husband 48 years and lived a widow about 20 years. She leaves five children, 30 grandchildren, 36 great-grandchildren and many friends to mourn her departure. Her husband and one daughter preceded her to the world beyond. Funeral services at the home by Peter Zehr in German and at the church by Daniel Greiser and J. C. Birkey in German and Peter Zehr in English. Texts, Psa. 90, Deut. 31:14, II Cor. 5:1, and II Tim. 4:6-8. Buried in cemetery nearby." Their son Andrew James Birkey married Magdalena 'Leni' Staker, a daughter of Nicholas Stecker/Staker and Maria Magdalena Eimer.

5. Valentine Birkey was born circa 1821, and died Nov. 30, 1856. On March 14, 1847 in Woodford County he married Magdalena Naffziger; minister John Nafziger performed the ceremony. Magdalena was born Aug. 24, 1827, and died April 2, 1908, a daughter of Jacob Naffziger and Barbara Krebbielt and niece of 'Apostle Peter' Naffziger. She came to America with her parents in 1833. Valentine was ordained as a minister of the Dillon Creek meeting in 1847. The 1850 census of Tazewell County shows his household as Valentine Burkie, 29, Germany; Madeline, 24, Germany [she was born in 1827, and would have been 22]; Phoebe Burkie, 2, Illinois; and Barbara, 1, Illinois. In 1869 Magdalena remarried to minister Christian Ropp, a son of Andreas Ropp and Elisabeth Eymann.

6. Jacob Birkey was born May 4, 1826, and died at Garden City, Missouri July 4, 1883. On Dec. 10, 1850 in Tazewell County he married Magdalena 'Mary' Hochstetter. She was born at Meringerau, Bavaria Feb. 7, 1829, and died at Garden City May 28, 1888, a daughter of Joseph Hochstetter and Jacobine 'Phoebe' Gingerich. The Civil War Draft
Joseph Birkey was born March 19, 1828 (some sources say he was born at Augsburg), and died at Schickley, Nebraska Dec. 6, 1906. According to Harry F. Weber in *Centennial History of the Mennonites of Illinois*, "Joseph was the youngest of the six sons and the smallest, and he was a man of over 6 feet in height and weighed over 200 pounds." On Jan. 7, 1851 in Tazewell County he married Mary Birky; the ceremony was performed by minister Andrew Ropp. Mary was born March 19, 1833, and died at Schickley Oct. 28, 1908, a daughter of Valentine Birky and Elizabeth Unzicker (Little Red Birky's). They appear on the 1860 census of Morton as farmer Joseph Burket, 32, Bavaria; Mary, 27, Bavaria; Catharine, 8; Elizabeth, 6; Jacob, 4; Valentine, 2; and Mary, 3 months, all children born in Illinois. On Feb. 22, 1865, Joseph was naturalized with his older brother Valentine at the Tazewell County Clerk's Office, citing his birthplace as Bavaria. They are found on the 1880 census of Boynton as farmer Joseph Berk, 52, born in Bavaria to a father from France and a mother from France-Darmstadt; Mary, 47, born in France to parents from France; and six children. The 1900 census of Cook, Decatur County, Kansas shows Joseph Birky, 73, born in Germany in May 1827, immigrated in 1839; and Mary, 67, born in Germany in March 1833. Gospel Witness, December 1906: "Joseph Birkey was born in Germany, Mar. 19, 1828, and died near Shickley, Neb., Dec. 6, 1906; aged 78y. 8m. 17d. On January 7, 1851, he was married to Mary Birkey. They lived in this relation for over fifty-five years. To this union were born nine children, three of whom have preceded him to the spirit world. Three sons, three daughters, fifty-three grandchildren, twenty great-grandchildren are left to mourn their loss, but they mourn not as those who have no hope. Bro. Birkey was a deacon in the Mennonite church for twenty-nine years and was faithful to the trust placed upon him. He was laid to rest on the 8th of December in the Salem cemetery. Funeral services were conducted by Christian Beller of this place and Jacob Stauffer and Joseph Rediger, of Milford, Neb. A great many people assembled to show their love and esteem to one who had lived in their midst and also to show their sympathy to the bereaved ones. As his body now rests in the grave we believe his soul is sweetly resting on the shores of eternal deliverance. Peace to his ashes." They are buried in Salem Mennonite Cemetery at Schickley.

Elizabeth Birkey was born Nov. 25, 1829, and died June 27, 1899. She is buried in the Mennonite Cemetery at Hopedale. In 1854 in Bavaria she married Jacob Eichelberger. The 1880 census reported that he was born at Ellwangen, Württemberg Dec. 25, 1825. 313 He died at Pontiac, Livingston County July 10, 1897. They sailed from Hopedale. In 1854 in Bavaria she married Jacob Eichelberger. The 1880 census of Owego, Livingston County describes their household as farmer Jacob Eichelberger, 54, from Ellwangen with parents from France; Elizabeth, 50, from Oberbayern [the governmental district of Bavaria where Munich and Augsburg are located], with her father born in France and her mother born in Hesse; son George, 22, farming, born at Leuttershausen to parents from Ellwangen and Oberbayern; son Henry, 11, born in Illinois to parents from Ellwangen and Oberbayern; and farmhand Jacob Roth, 51, from Rheinbayern with parents from Rheinbayern. Son George's obituary says he was born at Bamberg, Bavaria. Herald of Truth, April 1899: "Eichelberger. - Elizabeth Birky, widow of the late Jacob Eichelberger, departed this life on the 27th of January 1899, aged 72 years. She leaves three sons and 11 grandchildren to mourn their loss. She was a faithful sister in the Amish congregation, a true pattern of Christian patience. She greatly desired to depart and be with Christ. Buried on the 28th. Funeral services by Christian Naftziger and J. C. Birky. C."

**DID THE LITTLE RED BIRKYS AND BIG BIRKYES KNOW EACH OTHER IN EUROPE?**

A 'modern' family bond was created by the 1847 marriage of Elizabeth Birky and Johannes/John Birkey in Tazewell County. But over the years any pre-immigration relationships between the two branches have been obscured. We could only determine with certainty two adjacent estates where they would have known each other. They were owned by the von Spreti family.

Maximilian Graf (count) von Spreti was born at Straubing, Bavaria July 16, 1766, and died at Munich Sept. 29, 1819. His family had come to Bavaria from Italy as mercenary soldiers in the early 18th century. He fought the French in a number of battles, and was seriously wounded at the Battle of Trefens in 1809. However, he returned to command of his regiment only five months later. He was promoted to major general Sept. 4, 1813, and fought to the conclusion of the Napoleonic wars. After his death he was succeeded by Eduard Sigmund Franz Sales Graf von Spreti. He was born at Schloss Unterweilbach Jan. 7, 1805, and died there Nov. 30, 1877.

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313 Descendants have had little luck locating records of Jacob Eichelberger in either of the two communities called Ellwangen, Württemberg. The locations 'Ellwangen' and 'Leuterhausen' were reported by a census taker in 1880. We suspect Erlangen (24 miles south of Bamberg), and Leutenbach (12 miles south of Bamberg), villages located above Nuremberg. There is a Leuterhausen, but it is located 40 miles southwest of Nuremberg. These locations are in Bavaria.
Arzbach bei Dachau was an area around their castle estate outlying the village of Pellheim, which is four miles northwest of Dachau, a suburb of Munich. Arzbach is now a community about 1.7 miles north of the center of Pellheim. *Schloss* Pellheim, the count's house or palace, is now a restaurant at Arzbach. Pellheim was administratively incorporated into Dachau in 1972. Both communities are in Pellheim parish.

Amish Mennonite residents on the von Spreti properties included medical assistant Jacob Heisser and Katharina Oesch, the parents of future Elm Grove settler Joseph Heiser, 1815-18; Christian Gascho and Maria Madalena Güngerich; Christian Birki (of the 'Little Red Birky' chain) and Marie Anne/Maria Anna Gascho 1824-28; and Nicholas Augustin (the surname that was later Eigsti in America) and Barbara Gascho circa 1829-41.314 Christian Birki and his younger brother Valentine Birky were employed with elder Daniel Zehr as carpenter-builders on the adjacent Arzbach bei Dachau and Unterweilbach estates in 1831, though they may no longer have been living on the grounds. The marriage of Valentin Birky and Elisabeth Unzinger is mentioned in the Pellheim marriage register.

Fröny Bürcky/Veronica Burkey was a sister to the father of the 'Big Birkeys' who came to Tazewell County in 1840. She and her husband Christian Nafziger were tenant farmers on the von Spreti estate at Unterweilbach.315

For more on these families see Donna Schrock Birkey's website: http://www.birkey.org/articles/Johannes-Schrock.php

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314 An additional Amish Mennonite resident was Jakob Stalter. He was a day laborer at Unterweilbach. He was born at Gräfinthal, Thuringia in March 1801, a son of Jakob Stalter and Magdalena Hauter. In 1832 at Gern he married his cousin Anna Stalter. She was born at Weissach (20 miles northeast of Stuttgart) in 1798, and died at Sturzelbronn, Moselle in 1838, a daughter of Joseph/Josef Stalter and Magdalena Egli. Jakob also worked at Hellmannsberg and Gern.

315 In addition to lands at Arzbach and Unterweilbach, the von Spretis owned property at Schönbrunn (six miles northeast of Dachau).
Sutter of Bergen

The information in quotation marks that runs throughout this portion was collected in 1963 by Robert E. Birkey of Bloomington. It can be found online in A Brief History of the John and Barbara Sutter Family.

A Suter is a shoemaker.

The early history of this family is fragmentary. In *Die Soziale Herkunft der Schweizer Täufer in der Reformationzeit*, Paul Peachey lists Suters among Anabaptists active at Zurich 1520-50. However, it is generally agreed that the Anabaptist Suter family came from the Aargau region. In 1712 Gaspar Sutter appears as a Mennonite emigrant at Jebenheim (now in Upper Alsace). Hans Peter Sutter of Canton Bern is reported at Altwiller and Sarrewerden (now in Lower Alsace) in 1735.

Ingolstadt native Heinrich Suttor has written that this family likely came from the Old Swiss Confederacy into Alsace after 1653, to the Pfalz about 1790, and into Bavaria when Catholic properties were secularized by the ruling Wittelsbach family in 1802.

**Johannes Suttor** was born circa 1764. A document written by a municipal clerk at Karlskron, seven miles south of Ingolstadt, stated that he was born on the 'Lindenbrunnerhof bei Annweiler.' This was the Lindelbrunnerhof farm between Darstein and Münchweiler am Klingbach, about four miles from Annweiler. An Ingold family that lived there also lived with them in other locations, intermarried with the Sutters, and now has descendants in Tazewell County.

Annweiler is only 15 miles above the German-French border station at Wissembourg, Lower Alsace; it is five miles northeast of Bewarstein castle at Erlenbach bei Dahn. In the second half of the 18th century the Lindelbrunnerhof farm was part of an 'enclave' or island of land belonging to Darmstadt, centered on Pirmasens. Ludwig IX became the Landgrave of Darmstadt in 1768. While he was away training troops at Pirmasens, his wife Henriette Karoline ran his administration from the town of Darmstadt. According to Hermann Guth in *Amish Mennonites in Germany*, she issued a decree in 1771 that permitted Mennonites to lease their estates. Ludwig IX was a Wittelsbach, the family of Christian III of the house of Birkenfeld-Bischweiler-Pfalz-Zweibrücken (the administrator of St. Marie-aux-Mines who helped Anabaptists when they were expelled in 1712) and Maximilian Joseph, the elector of the Pfalz who became the first king of Bavaria (he leased or gave confiscated Catholic properties to Anabaptists). Johannes married Magdalena Stähli/Stahley of Fränkisch Crumbach, Hesse-Darmstadt. The Stähli/Stahley family of Fränkisch Crumbach was associated with the Nafziger family.316

Johannes managed a number of properties in the vicinity of Ingolstadt. After the occupation of the Pfalz by French troops, a number of Anabaptist families move eastward onto Bavarian soil. A migration from the Pfalz to Bavarian territory would certainly have described the family's relocation from the area of Pirmasens eastward toward Ingolstadt. Johannes may have been drawn to the area to minister to the new arrivals.

The Sutters lived on an estate at Kaisheim from 1804 to 1811 (35 miles west of Ingolstadt). This estate had belonged to a Catholic abbey before it was secularized in 1803. During the time the Sutters lived there the grounds were used to grow food for the Bavarian army. After 1811 it was used to house displaced Franciscans, then converted into a prison.

Around this time about 50 Mennonite families were given formerly Catholic properties in the 16 miles between Neuburg an der Donau and Ingolstadt, as the government encouraged cultivation of the Danube Marsh. (Neuburg an der Donau means 'New Town on the Danube River', though the Wittelsbach family built a castle there in the 12th century and the town's walls date from the 14th century). This may also have been seen as a way to create gainful employment for pacifist French emigrants, who were offered draft deferments in exchange for participation in the project.

Some Anabaptist refugees established a village at Maxweiler just east of Neuburg an der Donau and set to work building small dikes and draining land in the *Donaumoos* (Danube marsh).317 In 1811 Johannes Sutter and

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316 The location Sankt Goarshausen has become vaguely associated with Sutter genealogy, though no source seems to be able to pinpoint exactly what meaning it had to the family. A Stähli/Stahley from Fränkisch Crumbach, a descendant of Magdalena, leased the Offental estate at Sankt Goarshausen in the 1860s.

317 At Maxweiler (halfway between Neuburg an der Donau and Karlskron), the Bavarian government granted 270 acres of wooded land per family. New arrivals stayed in the Wittelsbach's Grünnau hunting lodge-castle until homes could be built. A church was constructed in 1832. The village dwindled to less than 80 residents by 1855.
Friedrich Hage signed a 12-year lease on the Forsthof estate at Bergen, 4 miles northwest of Neuburg an der Donau. Several Sutter children were born there (see STEINMAN for more on Hage).

In 1819 daughter Catharina married Christian Oesch, and the new son-in-law came to work on the Forsthof estate. This freed Johannes to take up another lease on the Hellmannsberg estate (nine miles northeast of Ingolstadt on drier ground) with his own son Christian in 1819. The grounds had belonged to a monastery before 1802. A year later he also leased the Oberhaunstadt Castle estate (now a neighborhood of Ingolstadt) in partnership with son-in-law Christian Ingold.

The *Global Anabaptist Mennonite Encyclopedia Online* states: "Of the Swiss Mennonites living in the Pfalz at the time of the Amish schism only a small number followed Amman, chiefly in the region of Kaiserslautern...The Amish did not expand in the Pfalz but did send out emigrants in three directions (largely supplemented by families from Alsace and Lorraine). The first of these was to middle Germany in the Hesse-Cassel...All the European Hessian Amish congregations died out by 1900. The second Amish movement from the Pfalz (and from Alsace-Lorraine) was to Bavaria (Ingolstadt, Regensburg, and Munich). The Ingolstadt and Munich groups ultimately became extinct by emigration to Ontario and Illinois."

Johannes died June 1, 1844, and was buried on the Hellmannsberg estate. His wife Magdalena is also buried there in a Mennonite cemetery. Their children include:

1. Christian Sutter was born at Münchweiler (probably Münchweiler an der Rodalbe) in 1788, and died at Hellmannsberg March 12, 1863. He married Elizabeth Nafziger. She was born in 1789 and lived at Runkel (near Limburg an der Lahn), Hesse-Nassau; she died on the Forsthof estate Jan. 30, 1869. Her parents are assumed to be Valentine Nafziger from the ruined castle estate Froensbourg at Lembach, Lower Alsace and his wife Elizabeth. Their Sutter and Suttor descendants can still be found in the area of Ingolstadt.
2. Elizabeth Sutter was born circa 1791, and died at Niedersöhrenfeld (between Kaisheim and Neuburg an der Donau) July 25, 1861. In 1816 on the Forsthof estate she married Jakob Hage. He was born circa 1787, and died on the Forsthof estate Jan. 29, 1939.
4. Johannes/John Sutter was born on the Lindenbrunnerhof estate at Annweiler Dec. 26, 1796. He brought his family to Central Illinois.

Johannes/John Sutter was born on the Lindenbrunnerhof estate at Annweiler Dec. 26, 1796, and died at Morton Aug. 2, 1887. The *Karlskron Familienbuch* calls him Johan Sutor, *Mennonit*, but gives his correct birth date and place, and correct information on his marriage.

On Oct. 31, 1819 at Hanfeld near Lake Starnberg, below Munich, he married Barbara Oesch. She was born at Sarre-Union [Ger. Saarbrücken] in the part of Lower Alsace known as 'Crooked Alsace' June 24, 1799, and died at Morton Sept. 10, 1884, a daughter of Christian Oesch and Katharina/Catherine Bürki. Her parents had come from 'Crooked Alsace' to live at Hanfeld. Hanfeld was home to Heisers and Zehrs who later came to Tazewell County. It was adjacent to Söcking, the home of a Birkey family.

Johannes/John was a minister and estate manager. "The farm work was done by hired help. Daily, John Sutter inspected his estate from the back seat of a carriage, driven by one of the hired men, and drawn by a team of fine black horses."

The birthdates of the first four children of Johannes/John Sutter and Barbara Oesch were found by Joe Springer in records kept at Karlskron. The children were born at Probfeld, where several Mennonite families lived, including Ingolds; Karlskron was a parish seat and administrative center. Their children include:

1. Magdalena Sutter was born on the Forsthof estate at Bergen, Bavaria July 22, 1821, and died at Milford, Nebraska Feb. 24, 1909. She is buried as Magdalena Kaufman in East Fairview Cemetery at Milford. On Nov. 6, 1843 she married Jakob August Ingold. He presumably died before she emigrated with three children in 1851. On Sept. 11, 1855 in Tazewell County she married John Bachman; the ceremony was performed by minister Andrew Ropp, who recorded her name as Laney Sutor in the county marriage register. On Feb. 8, 1860 in Tazewell County she remarried to Joseph Kauffman; the ceremony was performed by minister Michael Mosiman, who recorded her name as Magdalena Bachman in the county marriage register. They can be found on the 1870 census of Groveland as farmer Joseph Kaufmann, 48, France; Magdalena, 48, Bavaria; with eight children ages 4-19, all born in Illinois; and

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318 Jakob Suter was a minister at Ingolstadt 1854-81. A letter of reconciliation sent from European Mennonite spokesmen to Pope John Paul II in April 2000 was signed by minister Gerhard Suttor, representing the Ingolstadt Mennonite congregation.
Amish Mennonites in Tazewell County, Illinois

Joseph Sutter was born Oct. 10, 1829, and died Sept. 26, 1860. On April 8, 1856 in Woodford County he married Barbara Sutter.

Barbara Sutter was born at Probfeld Feb. 1, 1827, and died at Fisher, Champaign County Jan. 10, 1903. On Nov. 4, 1855 in Tazewell County she married Johann Bachmann/John Bachman; the ceremony was performed by minister Andrew Ropp. He was born in 1818, died in Tazewell County Oct. 12, 1888, and is buried in Pleasant Grove Mennonite Cemetery. They are found on the 1870 census of Morton as farmer John Bachman, 52, France; Barbara, 43; Bern; and four children born in Illinois. (In this context 'Bern' may have been confused with Brunnen, a village four miles southwest of Probfeld, or with Bayern/Bavaria.)

Joseph Sutter was born Oct. 10, 1829, and died Sept. 26, 1860. On April 8, 1856 in Woodford County he married Magdalena Zehr. She was born July 20, 1834 (headstone July 27, 1834), and died in Goodfield, Woodford County May 19, 1919, a daughter of Daniel Zehr and his second wife Magdalena Müller. Joseph's status as a deserter from Bavarian military training may explain why they do not appear on the federal census. On Aug. 2, 1868 in Woodford County Magdalena remarried to widower Magnus Helderle. He was born Sept. 6, 1840, and died May 11, 1909; his first wife was Elizabeth Sommer. Magdalena and Magnus are buried in the Apostolic Christian Cemetery at Congerville.

Katharina/Catherine Sutter was born Aug. 23, 1831 (her headstone calls her Catharina Bachman and says 1833), and died in 1888. On April 20, 1857 in Tazewell County she married Andreas Bachmann/Andrew Bachman; the ceremony was performed by minister Andrew Ropp. He was born at Arnstadt, Thuringia (next to Hesse) June 2, 1828, and died at Roanoke, Woodford County Jan. 10, 1881; for background on his family see BACHMAN.

Jacob Sutter was born Nov. 27, 1833, and died at Milford, Nebraska Feb. 26, 1923. He is buried in East Fairview Cemetery at Milford, Nebraska. On Feb. 18, 1858 in Tazewell County he married Catherine Wagler. She was born at Marckolsheim, Lower Alsace March 23, 1838, and died at Milford, Nebraska July 30, 1908, a daughter of Jacob Wagler and Magdalena Reschly. They are found on the 1860 census of Morton as farmer Jacob Suter, 26, Germany; Catharine, 22, Germany; Jacob, 1, Illinois; and Barbara, 4 months, Illinois. On May 31, 1869 Jacob purchased 80 acres of public land for $1,200 in what is now Rook's Creek (adjacent to Waldo). The 1900 census of Milford, Nebraska shows them as farmer Jacob Sutter, 66, born in Germany in November 1833, immigrated in 1854; Catherine, 63, born in Germany in March 1837, immigrated in 1856 [actually 1854]; and three sons born in Illinois. Gospel Herald, July 1908: "Catherine Sutter, nee Wagler, was born in Alsace, Germany, March 23, 1838; died at Milford, Nebr., July 30, 1908; aged 70 y. 4 m. 7 d. She lived in marriage with Jacob Sutter 50 y. 4 m. To them were born 15 children, eight sons and seven daughters; five children preceded her to the spirit world. She leaves to mourn, her husband, 10 children and many relatives and friends, but not as those that have no hope, for Sister Sutter was a faithful member in the A. M. Church from her youth; her desire was to depart and be with Christ, which is far better. Funeral services were held at the Fairview Church near Milford, July 31, by Jos. Schlegel. Text, II Tim. 4:1, and N. E. Roth, Rev. 21:7." Following her death he remarried Feb. 14, 1909 to Magdalena 'Martha' King Yordy. She was born at Sand Prairie Dec. 13, 1842, and died at Harper, Kansas Feb. 11, 1927, a daughter of Samuel King and his first wife Magdalena Kurtz; she was the widow of John Birkey Yordy (1838-1906), a son of Peter Yordy and Mary

Barbara Sutter was born at Probfeld Feb. 1, 1827, and died at Fisher, Champaign County Jan. 10, 1903. On Nov. 4, 1855 in Tazewell County she married Johann Bachmann/John Bachman; the ceremony was performed by minister Andrew Ropp. He was born in 1818, died in Tazewell County Oct. 12, 1888, and is buried in Pleasant Grove Mennonite Cemetery. They are found on the 1870 census of Morton as farmer John Bachman, 52, France; Barbara, 43; Bern; and four children born in Illinois. (In this context 'Bern' may have been confused with Brunnen, a village four miles southwest of Probfeld, or with Bayern/Bavaria.)

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Christian Sutter was born on the Forshof estate April 21, 1823, and died at Hopedale May 11, 1899. He was inducted into the 1st Royal Bavarian Field Artillery Regiment [Ger. Feldartillerie-Regiment Prinz-Regent Luitpold] of the 1st Royal Bavarian Artillery Brigade of the Royal Bavarian Army March 26, 1845. The regiment was garrisoned at Munich. It is probable that his service was going to be extended because of the country's political turmoil when "...It was decided that he [Christian] should hire a replacement and should go to America."

The discharge certificate of 'Christian Sütör' from the Royal Bavarian Army signed March 12, 1848 is now in the Mennonite Heritage Center at Germantown Hills.

Christian may be the 'C. Sutr, 22, Germany' found on the passenger list of the ship Severn. It sailed from Le Havre, and arrived at New York July 23, 1849.

"Landing in America, Christian Sutter came inland to Tazewell County, Illinois where he worked on a farm for about a year. He then married Magdalena Nafziger and started farming for himself."

On March 17, 1850 at Tremont Christian Sutter married Magdalene Nafziger. She was born at Unterweilbach, Bavaria May 6, 1819, and died May 25, 1871, a daughter of Christian Nafziger and Fröny Bürcky/Veronica Burkey.

"Being very poor and unaccustomed to such a crude mode of living, he [Christian] became very homesick. Wishing to have the rest of the family join him in America, he wrote interesting letters back to Germany telling of the beautiful, progressive country that he was now living in. These letters, together with his disapproval of his younger son to enter the military service, were a great inducement to his father, John Sutter, to come to America."

With the Bavarian government threatening compulsory military training, the Mennonites of the Danube Marsh began to disappear in 1851. Many migrated to Lee County, Iowa and Summerfield, St. Clair County, Illinois; the exodus was all but complete by 1855.

In 1851 father Johannes/John "...sold his estate and made the journey to America with the rest of his family, with the exception of one son Joseph, who was now in the service and was supposed to remain for one more year. Thus the father, John Sutter, and his wife Barbara; their three sons John, Jacob and Andrew; and five daughters Magdalena, Katherine, Barbara, Elizabeth, and Veronica secured their passes and made their way to a French port [Le Havre]."

319 Christian Sutter's discharge certificate was signed by 'Prinz Luitpold.' Luitpold was a Wittelsbach, born at Würzburg, Bavaria March 12, 1821, the third son of King Louis I of Bavaria. He chose a military career with the 1st Royal Bavarian Army Corps. Luitpold became de facto ruler of Bavaria June 10, 1886, ruling as prince regent in place of his incompetent nephews Louis II and Otto I. When he died at Munich Dec. 12, 1912, his son succeeded him as regent.
"While waiting there for their boat, they were joined by Joseph who had deserted the army and followed them. When the time came to embark, the shipmaster found one too many persons for the passes they had given him and would not let Joseph go without a pass. His father, John, asked if he could pay for it. John Sutter was not worried about a shortage of money and he said that if it were a question of money, he could fix it. The shipmaster secured a pass and John Sutter produced the money. It was a happy day for Joseph when the ship left the shore out of the reach of the army officials."

The Samuel M. Fox sailed from Le Havre approximately Oct. 5, 1851, and arrived at New York Nov. 11, 1851. "It was a long, stormy, and weary voyage. Mrs. John Sutter became so ill that it was feared at one time that she would not live to see America. After thirty-six days at sea they reached New York."

The passenger list describes the family as: Sutor Johann, 56, farmer, Bavaria; Barbara, 53; Johann, 25; Barbara, 22; Balthasar, 20 [an error; this should have been Catherine, 20]; Jacob, 18; Elisabeth, 15; Veronica, 13; Andreas, 11; Inquet [Ingold], Magdalena, 30; Jacob, 7; Johann, 3; August, 3/4 [nine months]; [separation of six lines for one family's entry before another Sutor entry] Sutor, Joseph, 21, shoemaker, Bavaria. 320

From New York the family "...traveled to Buffalo, and via the Great Lakes to the little town called Chicago, Illinois; then by the Chicago and Illinois rivers to Peoria, Illinois. Upon their arrival at Christian's home, the family was sorely disappointed and wanted to turn back. Being very angry with Christian, the brothers went out into the woods and discussed the matter and it was decided to seek revenge on him by giving him a beating. When they returned to do so, Christian's wife locked the door and would not let them in, so they again went out into the woods and spent the night there."

"John Sutter immediately bought a section of land in Morton for $2 per acre. In a few years it became quite settled around there. Forgetting their old home in Germany, the Sutters became contented to live here. Other Amish Mennonites settled near them in four districts – Morton, Roanoke, Pekin, and Metamora."

Johannes/John, who was ordained as a minister by 1824, would serve the Dillon Creek congregation from 1850 until his death. “John Sutter preached in each district every fourth Sunday. As there were no church buildings, services were held in the homes.”

Their household can be found on the 1860 census of Morton as farmer John Sutter, 65, Germany; Barbara, 61; Andrew, 19; Andrew Buky [son-in-law Andrew Birkey], 29; Fanny [Veronica], 22; and Barbara, 1, born in Illinois. Johannes/John attended an assembly of ministers in 1871, and hosted one in 1875. It convened in his barn at Hittle. The barn was later dismantled and reconstructed behind the Mennonite Heritage Center at Germantown Hills.

Barbara Oesch died at Morton Sept. 10, 1884. Her headstone in Landes Mennonite Cemetery says she was age 85-2-0. Johannes/John Sutter died at Morton Aug. 2, 1887, and was buried beside her. His headstone gives his age as 91-2-9.

The household of their son Christian Sutter and Magdalena Nafziger is described on the 1860 census of Hittle as farmer Christian Suter, 37, Germany; Magdaline, 35, Germany; and four children born in Illinois. Magdalena died in Tazewell County May 25, 1871, and was buried in the Mennonite Cemetery at Hopedale.

On April 15, 1873 in Tazewell County, Christian remarried to Barbara Steinman. She was born in Bavaria June 16, 1829, possibly a daughter of Jacob Steinman, and the widow of Jacob Augsburger. Their household can be found on the 1880 census of Little Mackinaw as farmer Christian Suter, 57, Bavaria; Barbara, 50, Bavaria; Annie Augsberger, 17, stepdaughter born in Illinois; Daniel, 13, stepson born in Illinois; and Fannie, 10, stepdaughter born in Illinois.

Christian died at Hopedale May 11, 1899, and was buried next to his first wife in the Mennonite Cemetery there. Herald of Truth, August 1899: "On May 11, 1899, Christian Sutter, aged 76 years and 20 days. He leaves a widow, two children, twenty-seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. He was one of the first Amish Mennonites to settle in this neighborhood, and he could see how the small membership grew to a large congregation, and how many a one, who came after him, was called away before him. He was married twice. With his first wife, Magdalena Nafziger, he lived in matrimony twenty-one years; with his second wife, Barbara Augsburger, twenty-six years. He was a member of the Amish Mennonite Church since his youth, and died in Hopedale, Tazewell Co., Ill., trusting in the mercy of the Lord. Buried on the 14th. Funeral services by Samuel Gerber and J. C. Birky."

Barbara died March 21, 1911, and was buried in Landes Mennonite Cemetery with her first husband Jacob Augsburger, Jacob Steinman, and Sutter in-laws.

320 At least one genealogist looking at the passenger list has interpreted a squiggle after 'Sutor' as an 'n' and given Joseph the name 'Sutorn.' In this instance, the extra flourish probably cleared the ink from a quill pen.
Heiser of Hanfeld

The Heisers who came to Tazewell County were descendants of a family from Richterswil, Canton Zurich. Richterswil is a village on the southwestern shore of the Zürichsee. Other Anabaptist families from that congregation were Bachmann/Bachman, Bär (North America Behr and Bear), Egli [Fr. Egley], Goldschmidt [Fr. Goldschmitt, Ger. Goldschmidt], Hiesset, and Landis (later Landes).

We found Hüscher, Hüsser, and Hüsler in older records, all describing the same family in one congregation. The spelling is now standardized in Canton Zurich as 'Heusser' and pronounced 'Hoyzer.' French and German records show Hauser, Hauser, Häser, Hüscher, Husser, Hissert, Hisser, and Heiser. Illinois descendant families chose 'Heiser' and 'Hieser.' We have used 'Heiser' to describe almost all of the children of later generations, though some in the family might disagree.

Drawing on the memories of Joseph Heiser's children, History of Illinois and Her People misidentified the father of the Central Illinois family as Nicholas Hieser. It described Nicholas "moving from Switzerland to Lorraine, France; and later to Bavaria where he died." The story has a basis in truth, but may have taken place over three generations. The family actually migrated from Richterswil to Mannheim to Ste. Marie-aux-Mines to Hanfeld, Bavaria before emigrating from Europe.

Rudolf Hüsser (found as 'Hüßer') and Verena Billeter were the parents of Rudolf Hüsser. He was baptized at Richterswil Sept. 15, 1661.

Sometime before 1691 the younger Rudolf migrated to Mannheim. In that time frame Mannheim was a city in the Pfalz [Ger. Kurpfalz or Pfalzgrafschaft bei Rhein]. Mannheim became the capital of the Pfalz 1720-1778, and did not become a city of Baden-Württemberg until 1803. The decade of the 1690s was a period of high anxiety for Mennonites in the Pfalz. An elector who had extended their rights died in 1690. His successor Johann Wilhelm was a strict Catholic. He delayed renewing their rights for eight years.

On May 16, 1694 a fire destroyed numerous homes in the village of Rheydt in the Pfalz (now in North Rhine-Westphalia). Catholic residents blamed Mennonite residents and appealed to the elector. On July 16, 1694 the Mennonites were forcibly removed from their homes. The men were put into chains. In confinement they were given the choice of conversion or death. They were only permitted to buy their freedom for 8,000 Talers after the intercession William of Orange. When they were released Aug. 29, many chose to immigrate to the Netherlands.

In June of 1697 a substantial fire damaged homes at Mannheim. This was the subject of a letter sent Dec. 13, 1697 from the congregation at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines to the Swiss Brethren/Reist faction congregation of Mennonites at Mannheim. It was addressed to Rudolph Husser, Hans Rudy Nagele (Rudolf Nägele was later in Lancaster County), Christian Pleam [Bliehm], Peter Leemann (later in Lancaster County as 'Leman'), and Christophel Dohltan. Apparently this letter was hand carried 127 miles northeast to Mannheim, because there was a reply from Peter Lemann and Rudy Husser dated Dec. 23, 1697.

Rudolf Hüsser/Rudolph Husser was also the recipient of a letter dated Oct. 19, 1699. It was sent by Jakob Gut [Guth] on behalf of the congregation of the Upper Pfalz to Reist-faction Mennonites in the Lower Pfalz. Gut had been banished from Canton Bern (a part that is now Canton Aargau) in 1660.

In 1705 a petition was introduced before the Pennsylvania Assembly to permit German Palatines to be naturalized and to own land. It was finally approved Sept. 29, 1709. In the meantime the first log structure for indoor worship was constructed by Mennonites at Germantown, Pennsylvania. These events encouraged emigration from the area of Mannheim. The 'Pennsylvania Dutch' spoken today closely resembles the dialects spoken there.

The loss of emigrating acquaintances and congregants may have prompted Rudolph 'Rudy' Husser to resettle at Fertrupt between 1708 and 1712. 'Rudolf Hauser' is found as a head of household on a record created at Fertrupt Oct. 10, 1712.

We can identify two probable children of Rudolf 'Rudy' Hüscher:

1. Barbara Hüscher/Hauser was born circa 1691. She died at age 51 years 6 months, and was buried at Fertrupt Feb. 19, 1743. Circa 1732 she married Heinrich Goldschmidt. He was baptized at Richterswil Jan. 18, 1691, and died at Ste.

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321 The Dordrecht Confession of Faith, a statement of religious beliefs, was created in the Netherlands April 21, 1632. It was accepted and signed by an assembly of ministers at Ohnenheim (20 miles east of Ste. Marie-aux-Mines) Feb. 4, 1660. They included representatives from Heidolsheim, Eisenheim, Mackenheim, Baldenheim, Kunheim, Ste. Marie-aux-Mines, Jemsheim, and Dürenzenten. Ulrich Husser signed as deacon from Ohnenheim.

322 Jacob Amman had a companion from Richterswil. Minister Hans Bachmann attended the meeting of ministers at Ohnenheim (20 miles east of Ste. Marie-aux-Mines) in March 1693, and was living at Heidolsheim in 1712.
Marie-aux-Mines Feb. 17, 1755, a son of Jacob Goldschmid and Barbara Haab. He was a blacksmith 'in the meadow' [Ger. *auf der Matten*] at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines. He had married first wife Elizabeth Schmitt in 1717; she died before 1732. Heinrich and Elizabeth were the great-grandparents of minister Joseph Goldsmith, mentioned in ROPP and STAKER.

2. **Heinrich/Henry Hüsser/Hausser/Hyser.**

Heinrich/Henri Hüsser /Hausser/ Hyser was married to Verena Blank. She was born circa 1693, and was buried at Fertrupt March 27, 1743. They lived on the Ziegelhof at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines. Repeating a footnote from the ROPP Background: *Ziegel* means 'brick.' A *Hof* can be a farm or estate, but the literal translation is yard, describing an enclosed courtyard surrounded by house, barns, and stable on most estates. Thus Ziegelhof could be the name of an estate, or a brick yard. This address is also found as *Ziegelhaus.*

Also recall from the ROPP Background the letter of recommendation [Fr. *certificat de attestation*] signed by a representative of Christian III and the mayor of Echery Nov. 8, 1715 for 'honest Niclaus Blank' [Fr. original *honneste Nicola Blanc*], his brothers Michel and Pierre, their brother-in-law Henry Hyser, brothers Christe and Anthony Kropf, David Chertzer [later Schertz], and Michel Mourer [Maurer]. He was still at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines in 1732, when his household had five members.

Heinrich/Henri and Verena were the parents of three children we can identify:

1. 'Heinrich the younger' Hauser is mentioned on the 1761 death entry of a 2-year-old daughter Verena. He was described as a resident of the Ziegelhof. He was likely born in the decade 1714-24. His wife was named Staub, and was likely born at Richterswil to parents Rudolf/Rudolph Staub and Anna Walti.323

2. **Nicholas Hüser/Hyser.** He was likely born in the decade 1714-24.

3. Michel Husser was born in 1728, and was buried at Fertrupt May 30, 1752. He did not marry.

Nicholas Hüser/Hyser was likely born in the decade 1714-24. He married Anna Schmucker of Grindelwald. They had a son Nicholas Hyser who was born at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines circa 1745, and died there Dec. 22, 1805. He married his second cousin Marie Goldschmidt. She was born at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines May 16, 1750, and died on the Streicherhof at Uffing, Bavaria (30 miles south of Hanfeld) Sept. 26, 1831, a daughter of Hans Heinrich Goldschmid and Anne Neuhauser (see GOLDSMITH for background on this family).

Nicolas’s civil death entry indicated that he was a 60-year-old native of Ste. Marie-aux-Mines, and named his parents and widow (his mother Anna Schmucker was written as 'Schumacher'). It was witnessed by brother-in-law Henri Goldschmid, 55.

In Oct. 24, 1807 at Strasbourg Marie remarried to Noé Augspurger/Noah Augspurger of Canardiègre. He was born at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines Oct. 8, 1755, and died in Bavaria after 1831, a son of Noé Augspurger and Julienne Doebler/ Diebler. His first wife had been Anna Müller, who died at Canardiègre estate near Strasbourg May 6, 1806; a daughter from that first marriage was married to an Oesch from Hanfeld, Bavaria, and this became the home of Noé/Noah and Anna Maria.

Other families at Hanfeld included Egli (from Baden), Rupp (from Baden), Schott, and possibly Jordy.324 Widower Daniel Zehr (1782-1856) lived on the Mang estate at Hanfeld from 1828 to 1849 before leaving for Woodford County. Hanfeld is located 18 miles southwest of Munich, adjacent to Söcking, a village already mentioned as the home of André/Andrew Burchi/Burkey before he came to America. The two villages fall in the administrative district of Starnberg on Lake Starnberg. The Mennonites at Hanfeld and Söcking may have lived on properties belonging to the royal Wittelsbach family. Starnberg on Lake Starnberg was the site of the Wittelsbach’s Castle Berg.325

323 Rudolf/Rudolph Staub was baptized at Richterswil April 4, 1681, and Anna Walti was baptized there April 26, 1693. Anna was buried at Fertrupt Sept. 8, 1759. Rudolf/Rudolph died in the home of 'Heinrich the younger' Hauser and was buried at Fertrupt April 27, 1761.

324 The Egli family at Hanfeld did not emigrate. Abraham Egli was born circa 1763, a son of Martin Egli and his second wife Elisabeth Kaufmann. He married Susanna Hunzicker. According to Herbert Holly, they purchased one-quarter acre at Bachhausen (seven miles southeast of Hanfeld) April 17, 1804; the contract said they came from Steinach, Baden. They sold a farm May 30, 1806, and purchased a farm at Hanfeld Sept. 25, 1806. Both died at Hanfeld in 1834.

325 King Ludwig Wittelsbach II was also known as ‘Mad King Ludwig.’ He sponsored Wagner and built fairy tale castles. His administrative duties were removed June 10, 1886. After being declared insane by a government-appointed doctor, he was confined to Castle Berg on Lake Starnberg June 12, 1886. The following evening he and the doctor were both found drowned. The murders were probably political conveniences arranged by cabinet ministers to curb spending. His successor was Prince Luitpold, the same man who signed the Royal Bavarian Army discharge papers of Christian Sutter in 1845.
At this point there is a minor mystery. The next figure in our chain may have been either a son or grandson of Nicolas Hyser and Marie Goldschmitt. He also lived at Hanfeld.

Medical assistant [Ger. arbeiten beim Pfleger] Jacob Heisser married Katharina Esch. We can speculate that they were married in Lorraine circa 1813, or she came from Lorraine, accounting for the mention in the family story. She died from birth complications at Arzbach bei Dachau, Bavaria May 14, 1816, three months after the delivery of son Jacob.

Jacob lived on the grounds of the castle estate of major general Maximilian Graf von Spreti at Arzbach bei Dachau from 1815 to May 4, 1818. He is found as 'Jacob Hiesser' on records there. See BIRKY/BIRKEY, THE BIG BIRKEYS for background on this location.

Children of Jacob Heisser and his first wife Katharina Esch include:

1. Katharina/Catherine Heiser was born at Hanfeld, Bavaria Jan. 6, 1814, and died at Madison, Butler County Oct. 31, 1891.
2. Barbara Heiser (found in Hanfeld records as 'Heisser') was born at Hanfeld Dec. 17, 1814, and died Jan. 10, 1815.
3. Jacob Heiser was born at Arzbach bei Dachau Feb. 20, 1816 according to an entry created at nearby Pellheim, and died at Dillon Dec. 24, 1877.

On Nov. 25, 1816 at Arzbach bei Dachau father Jacob Heisser remarried to Magdalena Eyer (the entry was created at Pellheim). Their marriage entry was identified in Pellheim records by Herbert Holly. It described the groom as Bauer Jakob Hiser, living in House No. 10, born in 1788, a son of Nicolaus Hiser and Katharina Hiser. Magdalena Eyer was a resident of Mergenthau LG Friedberg, born in 1789, a daughter of Jakob Eyer and Magdalena Bircky. Witnesses included Christian Miller and Jakob Güngerich.

Magdalena’s father Jakob Eyer may have been a son of Christian Eyer and Anna Brenneman, and a grandson of Benedikt Eyer. He farmed in Zweibrücken, then leased the Prullhof of the cloister Scheiern (now Scheyern abbey, 40 miles north of Munich), and was elder of a congregation at Mergenthau (on the southeast corner of Augsburg). In 1807 he was farming the Stadelhof estate at Heinzenhof, and later leased the Stillerhof near Wessobrunn (about 14 miles southwest of Hanfeld).

The daughters of Jakob Eyer and Magdalena Birki are thought to include Magdalena, who married Jacob Heiser; Elizabeth, who married Noé Augspurger/Noah Augsburger; and Veronika, who married Christian Steinmann and settled at Wilmot, Ontario.

Children of Jacob Heisser and his second wife Magdalena Eyer include:

4. Joseph Heiser was born in Bavaria March 1, 1818. His headstone at Pleasant Grove Mennonite Cemetery says he died Nov. 9, 1892 at 71 years, 8 months, 8 days.

Katharina/Catherine Heiser

Katharina/Catherine Heiser was born at Hanfeld, Bavaria Jan. 6, 1814, and died at Madison, Butler County Oct. 31, 1891.

According to Bavarian records identified by Helmut Gingerich, she married George Müller in 1834. They farmed on the Ottendichl estate at Feldkirchen (six miles east of the center of Munich), where they had a daughter Maria born Dec. 23, 1834. George died the following year.

Herbert Holly has also identified a marriage contract from Feldkirchen dated August 1836. It names Paul Popp as the groom. The match must have ended abruptly, because Katharina/Catherine and Maria emigrated from Europe the following year.

They departed from Bremen on the bark Elizabeth, and arrived at New York July 24, 1837. The last page of the passenger list shows 15 passengers from Bayern [Bavaria] bracketed together. They apparently boarded together, because a notation was made about the numbering of their baggage: "Twenty-four boxes, 21 of them from one to twenty-one." All but one of the group had their ultimate destination listed as Illinois. Only the last passenger intended to travel to Canada.

The list gave their ages in years and months: "Catharina Muller, 23-4, farmer, Illinois" and "her child Maria, 2-6." Two names later (and last on the list) was "Joseph Schrag, 32-6, brewer, Canada." 326

326 Joseph Schrag was born on the Kaplaneihof estate at Zweibrücken, and died at East Zorra, Ontario March 11, 1880, a son of Jacob Schrag and Magdalena Holly. He later married Catherine Schwartzentruber and Elisabeth Diener. Most sources give his birth date as Jan. 12, 1804. However, he is buried in the Amish Mennonite Cemetery at East Zorra-Tavistock, where his headstone gives the age count 77 years, one month, 22 days, yielding circa Jan. 18, 1803.
Upon arrival the mother and child traveled via Lancaster County to Butler County.
On July 29, 1838 in Butler County Katharina/Catherine remarried to Jacob J. Augspurger. He was born June 13, 1813, and died Nov. 2, 1867, a son of elder Jacob Augspurger and his second wife Maria Schlabach.
Herbert Holly and Helmut Gingerich located a legal document from Munich dated March 3, 1840. Minister Andreas Oesch of Hanfield, who identified himself as Katharina/Catherine Heiser's cousin, requested return of a 120-florin deposit she had made earlier. As part of her passport process she had applied for officially designated Heimatrecht (citizenship rights associated with legal place of origin in Germany, in this case Feldkirchen) for herself and her daughter, under the names Katharina Müller and Marie Muller. Oesch stated that they were in America, and presumably declared that they did not intend to return.
The 1850 census of Madison shows farmer Jacob Augsberger, 34, Germany; Catherine, 34, Germany; Mary, 15; Catherine, 11; Jacob, 7; Magdalena, 9; Nancy, 6; Jena [Josephine], 4; and Joseph, 2; all children including Mary (who was actually born in Germany) described as born in Ohio. They can be found on the 1860 census of Madison on the same page as Katharina/Catherine's daughter Maria as farmer Jacob Augsberger, 47, Germany; Catharine, 46, Germany; and seven children. The 1870 census of Madison shows Catharine [Heiser] Augsparger, 56, born in Prussia; Anna, 24; Phebe, 23; Joseph, 21; Christian, 18; and Henry, 17; all children born in Ohio.

Herald of Truth, December 1891: "On the 31st of October, 1891, near Trenton, Butler Co., Ohio, Catharine J. Augspurger, maiden name Hieser, widow of Jacob Augspurger, aged 71 years, 9 months and 25 days. She had not been able to leave her room for two years, having lost the use of her limbs. She was a member of the Mennonite church for about 63 years, and during the time she adorned her profession with her quiet, pious life, by which she won the esteem of all who were about her. She was the mother of nine children, of which two preceded her. Seven children, 16 grand children, and five great grandchildren and one brother remain to mourn her departure. Buried on the 3d of November. Funeral services by J. Augspurger and B. Zelner in German from 2 Cor. 5: 1."

The child of Katharina/Catherine Heiser and her first husband George Müller was:

1. Maria Müller/Mary A. Heiser was born at Meininger, Bavaria (now a neighborhood of Munich) Dec. 23, 1834, and died at Danvers April 12, 1911. On May 23, 1856 at Trenton she married Peter G. Schertz; the ceremony was performed by minister Nicholas Augspurger. Peter was born March 25, 1826, and died at Danvers March 6, 1891. They can be found on the 1860 census of Madison (listed on the same page as Maria's mother) as farmer Peter Schertz, 34, France; Mary, 25, Germany; and Joseph, 1, Ohio. They moved from Butler County to Danvers in 1869. The 1870 census of Danvers has them as farmer Peter Shirtz, 44, France; Mary, 36, France; Joseph, 12, Ohio; Katy, 11, Ohio; Magdalena, 8, Ohio; Henry, 6, Ohio; Anna, 4, Ohio; and Peter, 1, Illinois. The 1880 census of Danvers shows Peter G. Schertz, 53, France; Mary, 44, France; Magdalena, 15, Ohio; Henry, 14, Ohio; Anna, 12, Ohio; Peter, 10, Illinois; Otto, 4, Illinois; Mary, 2, Illinois; and Edward, 6, Illinois. Herald of Truth, May 1891: "On the 6th of March 1891, near Congerville, Woodford Co., Ill., of grippe and lung fever Peter G. Schertz, aged 59 years. His wife and eight children mourn their loss. Buried on the 18th in the Imhoff graveyard. Services in the Congerville church by Peter Schantz and Solomon Yoder." The 1900 census of Danvers shows Mary Schertz, 63, living with son Otto and daughter Mary. It reported that she was born in Germany in December 1836, and did not give a year of immigration. In 1910 she was living at the same location with friend Rosa Everhardt. She was described as age 75, born in Germany, and the mother of 10 children of which eight were still living. Once again her year of immigration was omitted. Maria/Mary and Peter are buried in Imhoff Cemetery, where their joint headstone gives Peter the erroneous date of death 1892.

Children of Katharine/Catherine Heiser and her third husband Jacob J. Augspurger born at Madison, Butler County, Ohio include:

2. Catherine Augspurger was born July 21, 1839, and died at Madison Oct. 2, 1856. She is buried next to her father in the Mennonite Cemetery at Trenton.
3. Jacob C. Augspurger was born April 4, 1843, and died at Danvers Oct. 13, 1890. On Nov. 2, 1865 in Butler County he married Veronica 'Fannie' Bachman, born about 1842; she was a daughter of John Bachman and Anna Stecker/Staker. For more background including his obituary see BACHMAN.
4. Magdalena Augspurger was born March 20, 1844, and died at Seven Mile, Butler County Nov. 6, 1911. On July 3, 1864 in Butler County she married Peter Young. He was born in Ohio Dec. 28, 1840, and died at Trenton, Butler County Dec. 21, 1923. They can be found on the 1880 census of Madison, then on the 1900 census of Trenton, Butler County as farmer Peter Young, 59, born in Ohio in December 1840 to German parents; Magdalena, 59, born in Ohio in March 1841 to German parents; and one daughter born in Ohio. They are buried in Miltonville Cemetery.
5. Anna/Nancy Augspurger was born Feb. 25, 1845. We could not follow her after the 1870 census of Madison.
6. Josephine 'Phebe' Augspurger was born Aug. 4, 1846. She is found on the 1900 census of Trenton, Butler County as a 46-year-old born in Ohio in August 1853, living with her brother Joseph. They were still living together at Madison in 1910.
Jacob Heiser

Jacob Heiser was born at Arzbach bei Dachau, Bavaria Feb. 20, 1816, according to a birth entry recorded at nearby Pellheim. The entry described his parents as Jakob Hisser, Arzbach, House 11, Mennonite, and Katharina Esch, Hanfeld near Starnberg, Mennonite.

He departed from Le Havre on the packet ship Rhone, and arrived at New York July 2, 1842. He appears on the passenger list as Jacob 'Heisser,' a 27-year-old from Bavaria, accompanied by 26-year-old Margaretha, who has not been identified and may have been a hitherto unknown first wife.

The 1850 census of Tazewell County shows Jacob as a 34-year-old farmer, living with his stepmother Madaline [Eyer], 62, in the home of his younger stepbrother 'Joseph Hiser,' 30.

Despite a 17-year discrepancy in their ages, 33-year-old Jacob married 16-year-old Catherine Wagler in Tazewell County Oct. 8, 1850. The ceremony was performed by minister Andrew Ropp. Catherine was born in Butler County, Ohio June 8, 1834, and died Sept. 2, 1910, a daughter of Christian Wagler and Catherine Ulrich. The family of Jacob 'Hisor' can be found on the 1855 Illinois State Census. It described them as one male, 40-50 years old; one male, 20-30 years old; one male, under 10; one female, 20-30 years old; and one female, under 10 years of age. Their family can also be found on the 1860 census of Dillon as 'Jacob Hiser,' 40; Catherine, 26; Christian, 7; Jacob, 6; Barbara, 4; and Joseph, eight months.

Jacob was naturalized at Pekin Nov. 6, 1876. He died at Dillon Dec. 24, 1877, and is buried in Landes Mennonite Cemetery. His obelisk headstone is partially illegible.

Catherine is buried in Buckeye Cemetery at Morton. 

1. Christian W. Heiser was born at Allentown, Tazewell County April 30 or May 5, 1853, died at Goodfield Dec. 12, 1938, and is buried in Mt. Zion Cemetery at Deer Creek. On Feb. 25, 1877 at Goodfield he married Elizabeth Zehr. She was born at Mackinaw Feb. 2, 1855, and died at Goodfield Jan. 29, 1933, a daughter of Peter Zehr and Elizabeth Oyer. They are buried in Mt. Zion Cemetery.

2. Katharina Heiser was born at Pekin May 1, 1854, and died at Deer Creek May 15, 1911. On Jan. 13, 1874 she married minister Daniel Zehr. He was born at East Peoria March 9, 1849, and died at Morton June 5, 1942, a son of Peter Zehr and Elisabeth Oyer. For background on this couple see ZEHR.

3. Jacob Heiser was born April 22, 1856, and died at Fisher Feb. 19, 1923. On Feb. 20, 1883 he married Elizabeth Bachman. She was born at Groveland June 15, 1862, and died at Jacksonville, Ill. Dec. 26, 1923, a daughter of John Bachman and Barbara Sutter of Elm Grove. 

Gospel Herald, March 1923: "Jacob Heiser, son of Jacob and Kathrine Heiser, was born in Tazewell Co., Ill., on April 22, 1856; died at his home in Fisher, Ill., on Feb. 19, 1923; aged 66 y. 10 m. 28 d. He was married to Elizabeth Bachman on Feb. 20, 1883. To this union were born 12 children, of whom the following survive: Manuel, Alvin, Samuel, Katie, Jake, Mrs. Alvin L. Burkey, Roy, Jesse, and Esther. Barbara preceded him in death about six years ago, and two died in infancy. He leaves to mourn his departure his beloved wife, nine children, 12 grandchildren, five brothers, and two sisters. He was a member of the Amish Mennonite Church since his youth, and was one of the first Mennonite settlers in the East Bend congregation and worked

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faithfully unto the end. He expressed his readiness to go home and called the family to his bedside. He bade farewell leaving words of warming and comfort which will long be remembered. It was indeed hard to say goodbye to one we all loved so well, one who meant all a father could mean to us. But we feel assured that our loss is his eternal gain. Therefore we humbly say, "Lord, thy will be done." Funeral services were conducted on Feb. 21 by Samuel Zehr from Psalm 39 and Samuel Gerber of Pekin, Ill., from Col. 2:8-10." Gospel Herald, February 1924. "Elizabeth Bachman) Heiser died at Norbury Sanitarium, Jacksonville, Ill., Dec. 26, 1923; aged 62 y. 6 m. 4 d. She was the daughter of John and Barbara Bachman and was born near Groveland, Ill., June 15, 1861. On Feb. 20, 1883, she was united in marriage to Jacob Heiser, who preceded her to the spirit world Feb. 19, 1923. To this union were born 12 children, namely: Manuel, Alvin, Samuel, Katie, Jake, Lizzie, Roy, Jesse, and Esther. One daughter, Barbara, and two infants preceded her in death. She united with the Mennonite Church in her youth and remained a faithful member until her death. She leaves to mourn her departure six sons, three daughters, 13 grandchildren, two brothers, one sister, one aunt, and a host of relatives and friends. She was a faithful and devout mother who was especially concerned about the spiritual welfare of her family and will long be remembered by her gentle disposition and kindness shown to all with whom she came in contact. Funeral services were held at the East Bend Church near Fisher, Ill., conducted by Samuel Gerber of Tremont. Text, II Cor. 5:1-10. Burial in the East Bend cemetery."

Barbara Heiser was born Nov. 1, 1857, and died at Foosland Nov. 16, 1934. On June 8, 1876 she married minister/elder Peter Zehr (see ZEHR for his obituary). He was born in Tazewell County Aug. 24, 1851, and died at Foosland March 14, 1922, a younger brother of Daniel Zehr. For background on this couple see ZEHR.

Joseph A. Heiser was born Nov. 14, 1859, and died at Fisher March 27, 1889. On Dec. 11, 1881 in Tazewell County he married Barbara Bachman. She was born June 15, 1862, and died at Fisher March 24, 1926, the older sister of Elizabeth Bachman.

Mary Heiser was born Oct. 19, 1860, and died in 1862.

Peter Heiser was born at Morton April 21, 1863, and died at Foosland, Champaign County May 11, 1940. On Jan. 31, 1888 in Tazewell County he married Adina King. She was born at Elm Grove May 23, 1868, and died at Fisher/Foosland Jan. 30, 1930, a daughter of Samuel King and his second wife Mary Garber.

Fannie Heiser was born April 6, 1866, and died at Fisher Jan. 12, 1950. On Dec. 19, 1893 at Deer Creek she married minister Joseph King. He was born in Tazewell County Nov. 22, 1871, and died at Fisher Oct. 17, 1951, a son of minister Christian King and his first wife Phoebe Zehr.

Phoebe 'Bena' Heiser was born Nov. 12, 1867, and died at Fisher May 16, 1908. On Feb. 26, 1889 in Tazewell County she married Samuel Studer. He was born in the city of Bern, Canton Bern Aug. 14, 1864, and died in Champaign County June 11, 1944. Gospel Herald, May 1908: "Bena Studer, (nee Heiser) was born Nov. 12, 1867; died of consumption near Fisher, Ill., May 16, 1906; aged 40 y. 6 m. 14 d." Gospel Herald, August 1944: "Samuel Studer was born in Berne, Switzerland, Aug. 14, 1864; died at the Burnham City Hospital, Champaign, Ill., June 11, 1944; aged 79 y. 9 m. 27 d. His health failed him about a year and half ago, and on Oct. 27, 1943, he entered the Burnham City Hospital where he was a patient until departure. At the age of 19 he immigrated to America, locating near Olney, Ill. Later he moved to Morton, and then to Fisher, where he lived the remainder of his life. Early in life he accepted Christ as his Saviour and united with the Mennonite Church. In February 1889, he was united in marriage with Phoebe Heiser. To this union three children were born. His wife passed away May 16, 1908. On Sept. 9, 1909, he was married to Anna Sommer, who preceded him in death Nov. 7, 1943...."

Isaac Heiser was born at Morton Feb. 23, 1869, and died at Fisher June 15, 1953. On March 22, 1892 in Tazewell County he married Mary A. King. She was born at Deer Creek Oct. 9, 1869, and died May 29, 1962, an older sister of Joseph King.


Daniel Heiser was born at Morton Nov. 16, 1874, and died at Peoria April 11, 1958. On Nov. 23, 1899 at Deer Creek he married Phoebe King, another daughter of Christian King and his first wife Phoebe Zehr. She was born Oct. 5, 1879, and died Aug. 10, 1929.

Joseph Heiser

Joseph Heiser was born in Bavaria March 1, 1818. His headstone at Pleasant Grove Mennonite Cemetery says he died Nov. 9, 1892 at 71 years, 8 months, 8 days.

He departed from Le Havre on the packet ship Charles Carroll, and arrived at New York Sept. 17, 1838. The passenger list shows a Joseph 'Heser,' 20. One name removed from his entry are three entries for A[illegible] Burkey, 29; Barbara Burkey, 29; and Joseph, 2. The father was Andrew Burcylk, a son of André/Andrew Burkey and Catherine Ackerman. He was born Dec. 5, 1809; his wife Barbara Oyer (or Eyer) was born circa 1808; and their son Joseph was born May 29, 1836. Joseph had lived at Hanfeld, and Andrew had lived at Söcking; the two villages are adjacent and the town squares only two miles apart. Immediately after Joseph's is a name on a crease appearing to be 'Peter Jodte', 23; Peter Yordy was born in 1815, and is known to have immigrated that year. (Andrew Burcky, Joseph Heiser, and Peter Yordy are all listed on the same page of the 1860 census of
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The Charles Carroll passengers all had France listed as "The country to which they severally belong." This suggests that Joseph used French travel documents obtained at Le Havre, though he would have been a citizen of Bavaria.

History of Illinois and Her People says that "...Joseph Hieser, born in Germany... came to the United States at an early day, and after stopping in Ohio, where he was in the employ of a Butler County farmer, he came to Illinois and located in Elm Grove Township."

Joseph went to Dillon in 1848 to work laying railroad tracks. He labored on the rails to Peoria until 1850, but came away with little savings.327

In 1850 he was joined in Illinois by his widowed mother Magdalena Eyer and stepbrother Jacob. Their household can be found on the 1850 census of Dillon as 'Joseph Hiser', 30; 'Madaline', 62, and Jacob, 34. History of Illinois and her People: "Until his marriage the home of Joseph Hieser was cared for by his mother, who had subsequently joined her son. She is now deceased and lies in the cemetery of Elm Grove Township." Magdalena died Oct. 19, 1851. She is thought to be buried in one of the unmarked graves at Railroad Cemetery or Landes Mennonite Cemetery.

Joseph married Barbara Schrag/Schrock Feb. 4, 1851. She was born at Kösching, a suburb of Ingolstadt Aug. 17, 1828, a daughter of Christian Schrag and Elizabeth Bürki (see SCHROCK, THE SCHRAGS OF KÖSCHING for background on her family). Her father Christian Schrag had died in Bavaria in 1831, and she likely arrived at New Orleans in 1848. She arrived at Pekin in 1850.

'Joseph Hizer' and Barbara purchased 40 acres at Elm Grove Sept. 6, 1852. They worshipped with the Dillon Creek meeting (after 1876 the Pleasant Grove Amish Mennonite Church), and their children were educated at Railroad Schoolhouse.

At first it seems odd that the Heisers should come to Elm Grove relatively late, when land prices had already risen. But an odd coincidence may also have been a factor. Magdalena Eyer's sister Veronika lived at Wilmot, Ontario, where she was married Christian Steinman. The Steinmans had purchased Andreas Ropp's improved lot before his move to Butler County, Ohio. Were the Ropps assisting the Heisers in the same way that the Steinmans had assisted Ropps? The arrival of the Heisers in turn brought the Oesches and others.

Their Allentown Road household appears on the 1860 census of Elm Grove sandwiched between Peter Yordy and Joseph Ropp; it is described as farmer Joseph Hoser, 40, Bavaria; Barbara, 30, Bavaria; Christian, 9; Joseph, 6; Andrew, 3; Barbara, 3; Madalen, one month (all the children born in Illinois); and laborer Jonas B., 32, from Hesse-Darmstadt. They appear on the 1870 census of Elm Grove as Joseph Heiser, 50, farmer; Barbara, 40; Christian, 19, farm laborer; Joseph, 17; Andrew, 14; Barbara, 14; Magdalena, 10, Elizabeth, 8; and Maria, 5. The 1880 census of Elm Grove shows 'Jos. Hiser', 62, farmer; Barbara, 52, keeping house; Andrew, 23; Barbara, 23; Mary, 15; and Elisabeth [Barbara's mother], 67. Joseph stated that he was born in Germany, his father was born in Switzerland, and his mother in France; Barbara stated that she was born in Germany, but both parents were born in France.

History of Illinois and Her People on Joseph Heiser: "He was one of the most highly respected men of his locality, a very conscientious member of the Amish congregation, and a close attendant on church services."

Joseph Heiser died Nov. 9, 1892 at 74 years, 8 months, 8 days. Herald of Truth obituary, Jan. 1, 1893: "On the 8th of November, 1892, near Pekin, Tazewell Co., Ill., of the infirmities of old age and other complaints, Bro. Joseph Hieser, aged 74 years, 8 months and 8 days. He leaves an aged widow, three sons and four daughters to mourn his death. He begged his family not to weep for him, for he said he was going home to Jesus. His remains were laid to rest at Pleasant Grove on the 10th. Funeral services by David Augsburger of Washington, Pre. King of Mackinaw, P. Ropp of Pekin, and J. Burckey of Tiskilwa."

Barbara Schrag/Schrock died at Elm Grove Oct. 30, 1911. She and Joseph are buried in Pleasant Grove Mennonite Cemetery with several of their children.

Children of Joseph Heiser and Barbara Schrag/Schrock include:

1. Christian Heiser was born Oct. 19, 1851, and died at Minier Feb. 12, 1938. At 24, he moved to Little Mackinaw. On Feb. 9, 1876 in Tazewell County he married Magdalena Sutter. She was born Oct. 7, 1858, and died at Minier June 18, 1948, a daughter of Christian Sutter and Magdalena Nafliger. They later lived in Kansas for a year, but returned to Illinois to live in Minier in 1896. A biography of Christian published in George Smith's History of Illinois and Her People in 1927 yielded much of the information on his father. Gospel Herald, August 1948: "Hieser. – Magdalena,

327 The first Peoria and Bureau Valley Railroad passenger train did not enter Peoria until Nov. 9, 1854.
daughter of the late Christian and Magdalena (Nafziger) Sutter, was born Oct. 7, 1858; passed away at her home at Minier, Ill., June 18, 1948; aged 89 y. 8 m. 11 d. On Feb. 6, 1876, she was married to Christian Hieser, who preceded her in death Feb. 17, 1938. They were the first couple to be married in the church at Hopedale, then known as the Amish Church, but now the Hopedale Mennonite Church. She was a member of this church until death. Surviving are 11 children (John and Mary - Mrs. Chris Birky, Hopedale, Ill.; Clara - Mrs. Ben Springer, William, Alma - Mrs. E. R. Holmes, Estella - Mrs. William Glaser, all of Minier, Ill.; Harry and Roy, Bloomington, Ill.; Anna - Mrs. J. B. Quigg, Ocean Park, Calif.; Emma - Mrs. J. B. Lippitt, and Mena, Denver, Colo.), 23 grandchildren, 15 great-grandchildren, and 2 great-great-grandchildren. Two daughters (Leah and Barbara - Mrs. David P. Springer) preceded her in death. Funeral services were held at the Hopedale Mennonite Church June 21 in charge of Simon Litwiller and A. H. Leaman. Text: Luke 11:2. Interment was made in the Hopedale Mennonite Cemetery.

2. Joseph S. Hieser was born Jan. 4, 1854, and died at Elm Grove Aug. 8, 1932. On Jan. 28, 1877 in Tazewell County he married Veronica 'Fannie' Roth. She was born at Morton Feb. 14, 1856, and died at Tremont Dec. 17, 1946, a daughter of Daniel Roth and Catherine Ropp. They lived in Tremont and Pekin and had five children. They are buried in Pleasant Grove Mennonite Cemetery. Gospel Herald, January 1947: "Hieser – Fannie, daughter of the late Daniel and Catherine (Ropp) Roth, was born north of Morton, Ill., Feb. 14, 1856; passed away Dec. 17, 1946; aged 90 y. 10 m. 3 d. On Jan. 28, 1877, she was united in marriage to Joseph S. Hieser. They lived on a farm at Elm Grove and later retired and moved to Tremont, Ill. Her husband, two daughters (Bena and Ella), two granddaughters, one great-granddaughter, three sisters (Bena Staker, Louisa Rich, and Kate Rediger), and two brothers (Jacob and Amos) preceded her in death. Surviving are three children (Albert, Pekin, Ill.; Louisa, of Tremont; and Edward, also of Pekin), three brothers (Joseph, of Morton; Daniel, Gibson City, Ill.; and Samuel, also of Morton), two sisters (Mary Teuscher, Fisher, Ill.; and Amelia, of Morton), eight grandchildren, and 10 great-grandchildren. In early youth she accepted Christ as her personal Saviour and united with the Mennonite Church, remaining faithful until death. She was active in church work, being the president of the first organized sewing circle in the Pleasant Grove community. Funeral services were held at the home and at the Morton Mennonite Church, Dec. 20, in charge of J. W. Davis and Leland Bachman. Texts: II Cor. 5:1, Heb. 13:14. Interment was made in the Pleasant Grove Cemetery."

3. Andrew Hieser (twin) was born Oct. 27, 1856, and died at Elm Grove May 16, 1916. On Jan. 14, 1886 in Tazewell County he married Emma C. Naffziger. She was born Jan. 5, 1862, and died Feb. 28, 1929, a daughter of Valentine F. Naffziger and Elizabeth Steiger. They are buried in Pleasant Grove Mennonite Cemetery.

4. Barbara Hieser (twin) was born Oct. 27, 1856, and died at Elm Grove March 29, 1916. She is buried in Pleasant Grove Cemetery.

5. Magdalena Heiser was born May 22, 1860, and died at Tremont Dec. 28, 1938. On Feb. 15, 1881 in Tazewell County she married Jacob Andrew Naffziger. He was born at El Paso Feb. 16, 1856, and died at Tremont Jan. 1, 1939, a son of Peter J. Naffziger and Magdalena Naffziger. They are buried in Pleasant Grove Mennonite Cemetery. Gospel Herald, January 1939: "Naffziger - Jacob A., son of Peter and Magdalena Naffziger, was born Feb. 16, 1856, at El Paso, Ill.; died at his home at Tremont, Ill., Jan. 1, 1939; aged 82 y. 10 m. 14 d. "just four days following the passing of his wife. On Feb. 15, 1881, he was united in marriage with Magdalena Heiser, to which union were born 5 children. Joseph, the eldest, preceded him in death. Those surviving are: Oscar, of Ithaca, Mich.; William E. of Pekin; Mrs. Carl Oswald, Morton; and Mrs. Oliver Miller, Barrington, Ill. Three brothers (John of Foosland, Ill., and Henry and Thomas of Ithaca, Mich.), and 2 sisters (Mrs. Katie Kaufman and Mrs. Amos Litwiller of Hopedale) also survive him, together with 17 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren. At the time of his passing he was a faithful member of the Pleasant Grove Mennonite Church, although he had not been able to attend for a number of years because of the infirmities of old age. Funeral services were in charge of Leland A. Bachman, Jonas Litwiler, and Simon Litwiler. Text, Heb. 11:16. Interment in the cemetery near the church."

6. Elizabeth Heiser was born Dec. 15, 1862, and died June 20, 1911.

7. Maria/Mary Heiser was born Feb. 24, 1865, and died April 20, 1941. She is buried in Pleasant Grove Cemetery.

8. Veronica Heiser was born Dec. 17, 1872, and died Nov. 11, 1876.
Augspurger of Munsingen

Augspurger and Augsburger males are Y-DNA haplogroup R-M269, subgroup U106, indicating descent from the Franks. See STAKER, BARBARIANS for background on this genetic identification. They have origins in Munsingen, Canton Bern.

Bendicht Augspurger and Verena Gfeller were the parents of Niclaüs Augspurger. He was born at Konolfingen, and baptized at Munsingen Feb. 25, 1644. He married Margreth Luginbühl. She was born at Aeschi bei Spiez, and baptized at Reichenbach im Kandertal April 18, 1652, a daughter of Hans Luginbühl and Anna Spieler. They were in Ste. Marie-aux-Mines by 1688.

In 1692-93 Jacob Amman returned to Canton Bern from exile at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines. He made a tour of Bernese villages to evaluate support for his advocacy of strict practices. He was accompanied by Niklaüs éAugspurger, Christen Blank, and his brother Üli Amman acting as scribe. After 1713 Niclaüs briefly practiced medicine on humans and animals from the home of his daughter Magdalena and her husband Anthon Bächer at Saales (12 miles northwest of Ste. Marie-aux-Mines).

His son Jacob Augspurger was born at Gemaingoutte, Voges or Ste. Marie-aux-Mines, Upper Alsace circa 1688 (the two communities are almost adjacent). Circa 1708 he married Elisabeth Ummel. They are thought to have been the parents of at least 10 children. Three sons are particularly relevant:

- Nicolas Augspurger was born on the ferme de la Cude at Gemaingoutte, Voges circa 1735, and died there before 1796. Circa 1755 he married Barbe Fongond [von Gunten]. One of their sons was Christian/Chrétien, who was born at Gemaingoutte circa 1757, and died at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines Sept. 3, 1808. He married Marie Madeleine Kropf. Two of their sons established large families in Butler County: Christian Augspurger, who married Catherine Hauter; and Joseph Augspurger, who married Elizabeth Schlabach.
- Jacob/Jacques Augspurger, the progenitor of another Butler County branch of this family.
- Noé Augspurger (#1), the progenitor of the Bavarian branch called Augsburger.

Augspurger and Schick

Descendants of Jacob/Jacques Augspurger

Jacob/Jacques Augspurger may have been born circa 1735, and died before 1792. Circa 1735 he married Anne Goerig/Gerig/Gerich, who also died before 1792.

Their children include:

1. Nicholas ‘Nigi’ Augspurger was born at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines April 14, 1760, and died at Boissy-St. Léger, Val-du-Marne, Val-du-Marne March 26, 1836.
2. Jacques Augspurger was born at Gemaingoutte, Voges circa 1766. On Dec. 27, 1802 at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines he married Margueritte Goldschmit. Their civil marriage entry described the groom as cultivator Jacob Augsburger, 36, born at Gemaingoutte, Voges, and a resident of Ste. Marie-aux-Mines. His parents were the deceased Jacob Augsburger and Anne Goerig, who had been residents of La Cude at Gemaingoutte. The bride was described as Margueritte Goldschmitt, 18, born at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines Aug. 18, 1784. She was a daughter of cultivator Jacob Goldschmitt and Barbe Eymann. Witnesses included father-of-the-bride Jacob Goldschmitt, 62; brother-of-the-groom and cultivator Nicolas Augsburger, 42; and Joseph Baecher [he signed Bacher], 43.
3. Marguerite Augspurger was born at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines circa 1767, and died there Jan. 21, 1813. She married David Reck. He was born at Saales circa 1768, and died at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines Jan. 6, 1830, a son of Henri Reck and Anne Formwald. Her civil death entry described her as Marguerite Augsbourger, 46, the husband of weaver David Reck. Her parents were the deceased Jacques Augsbourger and Anne Gerig. The child of Nicholas ‘Nigi’ Augspurger and his first wife Madeleine Goldschmitt was:
1. Jacques/Jacob Augspurger was born at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines June 6, 1786. On May 16, 1807 at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines he married Catherine Fritz. She died at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines April 30, 1808. On July 11, 1810 at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines he remarried to Marie Schlabach. She was born at Saales, Vosges Oct. 9, 1780, a daughter of cultivator Ulrich Schlachbach and the deceased Marie Adam. Witnesses included father-of-the-bride Ulrich Schlabach, 72, a resident of Lubiné; and cousin-of-the-groom Catherine Goldschmitt, 38. The signature of the groom looked like Elisabeth Schlabach, 28, born at Les Quelles, Vosges Sept. 14, 1782. She was a daughter of cultivator Jacques Augsbourger and Anne Gerich. The bride was described as Elisabeth Schlabach, 28, born at Les Quelles, Vosges Sept. 14, 1782. She was a daughter of cultivator Ulrich Schlachbach and the deceased Marie Adam. Witnesses included father-of-the-bride Ulrich Schlachbach, 72, a resident of Lubiné; and cousin-of-the-groom Catherine Goldschmitt, 38. The signature of the groom looked like Jean-Augspurger.

Children of Jacques ‘Nigi’ Augspurger and his second wife Elisabeth Schlabach include:

2. Nicolas Augspurger was born at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines May 25, 1812. One witness on his civil birth entry was his uncle cultivator Jacques Augsbourger, 26.

3. Elisabeth Augspurger was born at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines Feb. 3, 1814. Her civil birth entry called her Elisabeth Ausbourg. She married Nicolas Goldschmitt.


5. Madeleine/Magdalena Augspurger was born at Bitschwiller-lès-Than, Upper Alsace May 13, 1823, and died at Washington, Tazewell County April 11, 1893.

6. Barbe/Barbara Augspurger was born at Bitschwiller-lès-Than March 20, 1825, and died in 1902. She married Joseph Roth. He was born in 1821, and died in 1906.

7. Christian Augspurger was born at Boissy-St. Leger, Val-du-Marne (below Sucy-en-Brie) Feb. 3, 1831, and died at Kankakee, Kankakee County May 21, 1888. His civil birth entry called him Chrétien Ausbourg. It said that his parents were residents of Boissy-St. Léger, and noted in the lefthand margin that the father was 68 years old. On Nov. 15, 1857 he married Anna Mosiman. She was born in Butler County, Ohio July 16, 1835, and died Dec. 27, 1923, a daughter of Christian Mosiman and Barbara Smith. Herald of Truth, June 1888: “On the 21st of May, in Kankakee, Ill., of pulmonary fever, Bro. Christian Augspurger, aged 57 years, 3 months and 21 days. He was buried on the 24th. He leaves his wife and five children. The deceased suffered since 1861 at which time he fell into despondency, but was able most of the time to support his family until the year 1877, when he became worse and had to be removed to the asylum, where he remained until his death. He united with the Church in his youth and lived happily with his companion up to the time that his mind was affected. Services were held in the North Danvers Mennonite meeting-house on the 27th by Joseph Stuckey from Ps. 103.” They are buried in North Danvers Mennonite Church Cemetery.

Madeleine/Magdalena Augspurger was born at Bitschwiller-lès-Than, Upper Alsace May 23, 1823, and died at Washington, Tazewell County April 11, 1893. Her civil birth entry called her Magdeleine, and described her parents as cultivator Nicolas Aubsbourger, 61, and Elisabeth Schabach, 36. The father signed Nigi Augspurger.

Only older brother Jacques/Jacob Augspurger had immigrated in 1819; Madeleine/Magdalena chose to wait until after the death of her father in 1836.

On March 3, 1844 in Butler County, Ohio she married Joseph Schick. 329

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328 Boissy-St. Léger is in the Val-de-Marne department. It is a suburb about 10 miles southeast of the center of Paris. From 1812 to 1819 it was the site of a lavish residence of the notorious smuggler-spy-general Karl Ludwig Schulmeister. Schulmeister, who had already employed Augspurgers on Canardière at Strasbourg, brought Joseph Augspurger there to be estate manager.

329 In German something that is schick is fancy or ornate.
Joseph was born in Bavaria Dec. 26, 1818, and died at Washington, Tazewell County June 6, 1898. He had departed from Le Havre on the packet ship *Talma*, and arrived at New Orleans May 12, 1840. The passenger list shows him as farmer Joseph Schick, 22, Bavaria.

In 1852 Joseph and Magdalena left Ohio and resettled at Washington. They appear on the 1860 census of Washington as farmer Joseph Schick, 42, Germany; Madaline, 36, Germany; Elizabeth, 15, Ohio; Barbaray, 13, Ohio; Madaline, 11, Ohio; Catharine, 9, Ohio; Joseph, 7, Illinois; Mary, 5, Illinois; Ann, 3, Illinois; and Frances, 2, Illinois. The households listed immediately before them was that of ‘farmer Anna Schrock, 45, France’ with six children; this was Anna/Anne Oyer, the widow of Andreas/André/Andrew Schrock who had died of cholera in 1855.

The 1870 census has farmer Joseph Schick, 52, Germany; Matline, 47, France; Elizabeth, 24, Ohio; Barbaray, 22, Ohio; Mary, 15, Illinois; farm laborer Joseph, 18, Illinois; Anna, 13, Illinois; Francis, 11, Illinois; Liddy, 8, Illinois; Fanny, 7, Illinois; and Rosa, 4, Illinois. The 1880 census shows farmer Joseph Schick, 61, Germany; Lena, 57, born in Alsace to parents from Switzerland and Alsace; Lizzie, 34, Ohio; Rosa, 13, Illinois; and Fannie, 16, Illinois.

*Herald of Truth*, May 1893: “On the 11th of April, 1893, Magdalena Shick, maiden name Augsperger, of near Washington, Tazewell Co., Ill., aged 69 years 10 months and 28 days. Her sickness was inflammation of the bowels. She leaves an aged companion, 10 children, 34 grandchildren and four great grandchildren, one sister and many friends. Sister Shick was a faithful mother in Israel, and a member of the A.M. church since her youth. Accompanied by many friends her remains were conveyed to their last resting place on the 14th. Funeral services by Emanuel Hartman and Michael Kinsinger from Rev. 14:13.”

They are buried in Holland’s Grove Cemetery at Sunnyland. Joseph’s headstone says he was “Joseph Schick, geb. zu Rheinpfalz Baiern Dec. 26, 1818, gest Jan. 6, 1896.” Magdalena’s says she was “Magdalena, Ehefrau des Emanuel Hartman and Michael Kinsinger from...”

*Schick Family Photographic Essay*, compiled by Aldine Zimmerman Combs and the late Steve Estes, can be found in the Winter 2000 issue of *Illinois Mennonite Heritage*.

Children of Joseph Schick and Magdalena Augspurger include:

1. Elizabeth ‘Lizzie’ Schick was born in Ohio Aug. 1, 1845, and died in the Mennonite Home at Eureka, Woodford County July 9, 1925.
2. Barbara Schick was born in Ohio April 19, 1847, and died Dec. 8, 1908. On Jan. 5, 1875 in Tazewell County she married Christian Beck. He was born June 8, 1848, and died at Carlock, McLean County April 17, 1916, a son of Peter Beck and Katharina Güngerich/Catharine Gingery. See BECK for background on this couple.
3. Magdalena Schick was born in Ohio Jan. 10, 1849, and died at Holdredge, Nebraska July 10, 1919. On Oct. 5, 1866 in Tazewell County she married Andrew Schrock; the ceremony was performed by minister Nicholas Roth. He was born at Washington Dec. 9, 1842, and died at Sacramento, California Feb. 7, 1925, a son of Andreas/André/Andrew Schrock and Anna/Anne Oyer. Andrew was her next door neighbor on the 1860 census. In 1868 they relocated to Lamar, Missouri. They separated in 1889, and Magdalena took her children to live at Holdredge, Nebraska. Andrew stayed behind at Lamar, later living in Nebraska, Oregon, and California. Magdalena is buried in Prairie Home Cemetery at Holdredge.
4. Katharine Schick was born in Ohio Oct. 8, 1850, and died at Farmington, Fulton County, Illinois Aug. 11, 1925. On Dec. 30, 1869 in Peoria County she married Jacob Ingold. He was born in Bavaria Nov. 5, 1844, and died at Farmington Aug. 26, 1931, a son of Jacob Ingold and Magdalena Kaufman. They are buried in Glendale Cemetery at Washington.
5. Joseph Theodore Schick was born at Washington Nov. 9, 1852, and died at Eureka, Woodford County July 11, 1938. On March 9, 1876 in Butler County, Ohio he married Magdalena Imhoff. She was born at Trenton, Butler County, Ohio Jan. 1, 1855, and died at Deer Creek July 24, 1930, a daughter of Peter Imhoff and Catherine Augspurger. They are buried in Glendale Cemetery at Washington.
6. Mary A. Schick was born at Washington Oct. 22, 1854, and died at Jasper, Missouri Aug. 24, 1882. On March 11, 1875 in Tazewell County she married Daniel O. Kinsinger. He was born March 5, 1842, and died Dec. 15, 1922, a son of Michael Kinsinger and Magdalena Naffziger. On Nov. 4, 1884 in Tazewell County Daniel remarried to Mary Plank, a daughter of John Plank and Catharina Plank; the ceremony was performed by minister Peter Stuckey.
7. Anna Schick was born at Washington June 17, 1856. On Feb. 4, 1879 in Tazewell County she married Henry Tomford; the ceremony was performed by minister Peter Stuckey.
8. Frances Schick was born at Washington Oct. 1, 1858, and died at Tulare, California June 13, 1919. On Jan. 25, 1880 in Tazewell County she married Phillip Herman Bracht. He was born May 29, 1857, and died June 28, 1960, a son of Herman Bracht and Margaretta Steigner. They lived in Butler County, Kansas and in Tulare County, California.
9. Lydia Schick was born at Washington Aug. 14, 1861, and died there March 29, 1940. She is buried in Glendale Cemetery.
10. Fannie Schick was born at Washington Jan. 18, 1864, and died Dec. 21, 1943. On Jan. 29, 1885 in Tazewell County she married Louis Schantz; the ceremony was performed by minister Peter Stuckey. He was born at Congerville, Woodford County Jan. 20, 1863, and died at Washington April 23, 1925, a son of Jacob Schantz and Catherine Deis. They are buried in Glendale Cemetery.

11. Rosina 'Rose' Schick was born at Washington July 13, 1866, and died Dec. 6, 1942. On Jan. 27, 1887 in Tazewell County she married John Wenger. He was born in Germany Dec. 26, 1862, and died July 25, 1940, a son of John Wenger and Anna Marie Stauffer; the ceremony was performed by minister Peter Stuckey. They're buried in Glendale Cemetery.

**Augsburger**

_A Bavarian Branch of the Augspurger Family_

_Descendants of Noé Augspurger (#1)_

Recall that **Jacob Augspurger** was born at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines circa 1688. Circa 1708 he married Elisabeth Ummel. They were the parents of Jacob/Jacques, the progenitor of the Butler County, Ohio branch of this family; as well as **Noé Augspurger (#1)**.

Noé was born in 1730. Circa 1754 he married Julienne Dobler. They went from the area of Ste. Marie-aux-Mines to Canardière near Strasbourg in 1786 (see EIGSTI for more on this estate). Both died there before October 1796.

Children of Noé Augspurger and Julienne Dobler born at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines include:

1. **Noé Augspurger/Noah Augsburger (#2)** was born Oct. 8, 1755, and died in Bavaria after 1831. See THE HANFELD/HEINZENHOF FAMILY.

2. Catherine Augspurger/Augsburger was born March 4, 1772, and died at Strasbourg, Lower Alsace Dec. 27, 1810. On Oct. 3, 1796 at Strasbourg she married Jean Rothacker. He was born at Beblenheim, Upper Alsace May 9, 1772, and died at Strasbourg Dec. 23, 1827. Their civil marriage entry described the groom as cultivator Jean Rothacker, 24, living at Strasbourg for the last five years but a native of Beblenheim, and a son of cultivator David Rothacker and the deceased Barbe Wittner. The bride was described as cultivator Catherine Augspurger, 24, a resident of Strasbourg for the past seven years, a native of Ste. Marie-aux-Mines, and a daughter of the deceased cultivator Noé Augspurger and the deceased Julienne Doebler. The entry was witnessed by 38-year-old cultivator Noé Augspurger, brother of the bride. The groom signed 'Johannes Rothacker' and the bride signed 'Aŭgsbŭrgnr Cat.'

3. **Christian/Chrétien Augspurger/Augsburger** was born circa 1773, and died at Strasbourg April 17, 1818.

Christian/Chrétien Augspurger/Augsburger was born circa 1773, and died at Strasbourg April 17, 1818. He married Katharina/Catherine Stalter. She was born in the Duchy of Palatiante-Zweibrücken circa 1782, and died at Gern, Bavaria (now a neighborhood of Munich) April 12, 1824. Christian's Strasbourg civil death entry described him as cultivator Chrétien Augsburger, 44, born at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines to the deceased cultivator Noé Augsburger and the deceased Julienne Dobler, and the husband of Catherine Stalter. It was witnessed by brother-in-law Jean Rothacker, 44; and Michel Zehr, 52.

Although 'Augsburger' is found on many French records to describe Augspurgers, it may not be appropriate here. This Augspurger family had their surname spelled 'Augsburger' even on records created at Strasbourg, then kept the Germanicized spelling as they moved north into Bavaria.

In the year of his death Katharina/Catherine took her nine children to Gern. The owners there were Heinrich Stalter (junior) and his wife Jakobina Stalter; she may have been a sister to Jakobina.

In the year of his death Katharina/Catherine took her nine children to Gern. The owners there were Heinrich Stalter (junior) and his wife Jakobina Stalter; she may have been a sister to Jakobina.

Their son **Joseph Augsburger/Augsburger** was born at Strasbourg Feb. 5, 1810, and died in 1851. His civil birth entry called him Joseph Augsburger, and named his parents as 37-year-old cultivator Chrétien Augsburger living at la porte en Bouchers in Strasbourg, and Catherine Gestalter [Stalter]; it was witnessed by 60-year-old gardener André Dieble.

At about age 20, Joseph had a relationship with Elizabeth Holly. She was born on the Horterhof estate at Heiligenmoschel in the Pfalz Jan. 27, 1809, and died on the Templehof estate at Eichstätt, Bavaria June 20, 1888. She was a daughter of Jakob Holly and Magdalena Unzicker, and a niece of local land owner Daniel Unzicker.330

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330 For more on her sister Jacobine Holly see BECHLER/BECKLER. Their brother Joseph Holly was born April 11, 1824. He married Barbara Oesch, the sister of Maria/Mary Oesch; they were the great-great-grandparents of contributor Herbert Holly. For more on Daniel Unzicker see BIRKY/BIRKEY, THE BIG BIRKEYS.
Her father left his family on the Horterhof estate and worked in Bavaria for several years before purchasing the 110-acre Stadelhof estate in Heinzendorf/Mindelheim in 1818. Elizabeth went to live there with the remainder of her family.

In 1833 Elizabeth's father purchased the 145-acre Sellmairhof farm at Lindach near Ebersberg (25 miles east of Munich), and Elizabeth moved there. In 1834 and 1835 Joseph Augspurger/Augsburger was employed there as a servant.

**Daniel Augsburger** was born at Lindach July 7, 1835. According to Mary Ann Augsburger Eng, "Birth records indicate that Daniel suffered a difficult birth, and was administered emergency baptism by the country doctor who delivered him. His parents, Elizabeth Holly and Joseph Augsburger, were not married and both were about 26 years of age. Joseph was a Mennonite and was listed as being from Strassburg, Alsace at the time. Daniel was given the surname of Augsburger because (his birth record stated) his father Joseph Augsburger insisted that he carry that name. Joseph left Lindach, and Elizabeth and son Daniel stayed on the family farm."

Elizabeth Holly later had a relationship with Adam Kandler of Lindach. A son was born Oct. 8, 1841. Kandler had the boy baptized, and insisted that he be raised as a Catholic. But Elizabeth and her father Jakob Holly took the matter to court, where the baptism was rescinded. The child was then renamed Johann Baptist Holly. Elizabeth moved from Lindach to the Templehof farm with her two sons in 1848.

Daniel emigrated in 1853. According to Herbert Holly, Daniel explained his reasons for departing on his travel application: "A sister of my mother Elizabeth Holly (Jakobea Holly born on the Horterhof/Pfalz in 1807) lives married and in good conditions in Pirot/Illinois [Peoria?]. But the marriage is childless. Therefore I intend to emigrate to her (in America) which offers me the best prospects of a good future." See BECHLER/BECKLER for background on Jacobine Holly and Christian Bechler/Beckler.

When Daniel was naturalized at Pekin July 19, 1858, he was described as a 23-year-old from Germany. One witnesses were Christian Springer. His application gave the date of his arrival in the United States as May 7, 1853.

In 1858 Daniel's half-brother Johann was accused of poaching deer on a neighboring estate. Elizabeth and 16-year-old Johann applied for permission to join Daniel in the United States: "Ebersberg, Sept. 20, 1858. Here present, the non-married 47-year-old Elizabeth Holly of Lindach, with assistance of her brother Joseph Holly, estate owner at Lindach, declares she intends to take her non-married son on a journey to North America, to the city of Pirot [Peoria] in the state of Illinois, and applies for a traveling document valid for one year." The one-year joint travel plan may or may not have been implemented. Johann would immigrate alone in 1870.331

At about this time Daniel returned to Europe from America. On Nov. 14, 1858 on the Sutter family's Forsthof estate at Bergen, Bavaria he married Marie/Mary Oesch. She was born on the Forsthof estate April 25, 1837, a daughter of estate foreman Christian Oesch and Katharina Sutter (see SUTTER to understand why this is a link to Hanfeld). After the death of her father in 1844, she had been appointed a ward of Joseph Ringenberg of Ingolstadt. On June 17, 1858 a 'protocol of majority' document had stated that she was of legal age to marry.

On Sept. 27, 1859 Daniel and Maria/Mary took part in a legal procedure at Bergen. Maria/Mary's mother Katharina wanted to transfer the entire property to her son Christian Oesch (junior). This required the consent of the son, another son Joseph, daughter Maria/Mary (married to Daniel Augustsburger), daughter Barbara (married to a Holly), and daughter Veronika (married to a Gascho). All five signatures appear on the document.

Daniel and Marie/Mary sailed from Le Havre to Northampton to New York on the *Ocean Queen*, arriving at New York Oct. 25, 1859. They appear on the passenger list as farmer Daed [the handwriting is unclear] Augustsburger, 24; and Mina, 23.332

Their first child was born at Tremont in January. They must have purchased property there at about the same time. The 1860 census of Tremont shows the household of Daniel Ausberg, 25, Germany; Marian, 24, Germany;

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331 Johann Baptist Holly or John B. Holly sailed from Le Havre on the *Bremen*, arriving at New York July 7, 1870. He appears on the passenger list as Bavarian farmer Johann Holly, 29. On Jan. 16, 1877 in McLean County he married Anna Graber. She was born in West Galicia, Russia July 26, 1858, a daughter of Peter Graber and Katharina Krehbiel. They farmed at Sparta, Kansas, then Weatherford, Oklahoma. John died at Weatherford June 8, 1823, and Anna died there June 23, 1924; they are buried in Bergtal Cemetery.

332 The *Ocean Queen* was a side-paddled wooden ship build in 1857. Though it was steam-powered (it had two funnels), it had two masts as backup. It carried 350 first- and second-class passengers, indicating that the couple was financially well-off at this time. Perhaps Daniel was returning to purchase land with 2,500 marks from his mother, mentioned later in her will. The next time the *Ocean Queen* went out from New York, on Nov. 23, 1859, it made its last Atlantic crossing before the commencement of the Civil War. In 1861 it was chartered by the War Department.
and Elizabeth, 5 [this should have been five months], Illinois. They are found next door to 'Nicholas Soker' (actually Nicholas Stecker/Staker), who lived on the south side of Allentown Road. On the same census page were the households of Jacob Steinman and his nephew Daniel; Jacob Stalter and Barbara Birkey; and Valentine and Andrew Birky.

Daniel died in Tazewell County July 15, 1861. He is buried in Landes Mennonite Cemetery at Elm Grove. At last sighting his headstone was broken into two pieces. A reading for the cemetery book in 1980 interpreted his headstone as Daniel Augsburger, died July 15, 1861 at 25 years, 11 months, and 20 days.

The widowed Maria/Mary gave birth to her second child two months later. On Sept. 7, 1862 in Tazewell County she remarried to Daniel Steinman's older brother Jacob Steinman. He was born in Bavaria June 1, 1825, and died March 3, 1908, a son of Johannes Steinmann and Barbara Nafziger. Apparently there was no hurry to amend the land title, because because the property was still designated 'D. Augusberger' on the 1864 plat map.

Maria/Mary died at Flanagan, Livingston County Feb. 22, 1892. She and her second husband Jacob Steinman are buried in Waldo Cemetery at Flanagan. See STEINMAN for her obituary.

Daniel Augsburger and Maria/Mary Oesch had two children, and Jacob Steinman's 1908 obituary stated that he left two stepchildren:

1. Elizabeth 'Lizzie' Augsburger was born at Tremont in January 1860, and died in Iowa in 1950. She was listed on the 1870 census of Allin, McLean County as a 9-year-old in the household of her mother and stepfather Jacob Steinman, while her younger brother Daniel was listed as an 8-year-old. In 1880 she appears in Allin as a 19-year-old born in Illinois to German parents, a servant in the Leitfritz household. On Jan. 3, 1884 in McLean County she married Theodore Miller. He is found on the 1880 census of Allin as a 30-year-old German laborer in the Imick household. They appear on the 1900 census of Pomeroy Town, Sherman Township, Iowa as Theodore Miller, 46, born in Germany to German parents in November 1853; Lizzie, born in Illinois to German parents in January 1860; farm laborer William Miller, born in Illinois to a German father and mother from Illinois in October 1884; and niece Emma Greiser, 7, born in Minnesota in February 1893 to a German father and mother from Illinois. The 1930 census of Lincoln, Iowa shows Theodore Miller, 76, born in Germany to German parents; Elizabeth, 70, born in Illinois to German parents; and niece Emma Miller, 35, born in Minnesota to a German father and mother from Illinois. Theodore and Elizabeth are buried under a joint headstone in Rose Hill Cemetery at Manson, Iowa, with the dates 1853-1931 and 1860-1950.

2. Daniel Augsburger was born at Tremont Sept. 25, 1861, and died of cancer at Milford, Indiana in 1923. In addition to the 1870 census, he appears on the 1880 census as an 18-year-old in the household of his mother and stepfather. Daniel moved to Gridley in 1883. He worked as a clerk in a hardware store at Flanagan, then returned to Gridley to clerk in a general store. He later formed a partnership with J.H. Andrews to sell dry goods, and eventually bought him out. On Nov. 28, 1893 at Chenoa, McLean County he married Mary King. She was born circa 1867, and died May 13, 1899, a daughter of John King and Lydia Troyer. She is buried in Waldo Cemetery. On May 15, 1902 in McLean County Daniel remarried to Leah Susan Gurtner. She was born at Carlock, McLean County in 1866, and died in 1958, a daughter of Christian Gurtner and Rosina Stähly. They appear on the 1910 census of Gridley, McLean County as Daniel Augsburger, 48, born in Illinois to German parents; Leah S., 42, born in Illinois to Swiss parents; Martha, 7; John F., 4; and E.E., 1; all children born in Illinois. The 1920 census of Elkhart, Indiana shows them as Daniel Augsburger, 58, Illinois; Leah S., 53, Illinois; Martha, 16, Illinois; and John F., 14, Illinois. Daniel is buried near Mary King in Waldo Cemetery. Leah is buried in Milford Cemetery at Milford, Indiana.

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333 Elizabeth Holly later lived on the Templehof estate, where she was employed as a cook. She died there June 20, 1888. Her will has been translated by Anneliese Maschke-Kammermayr: “I the undersigned Elizabeth Holly, single major landowner’s daughter from Hergolding near Munich, since 1848 living on the Tempelhof near Eichstätt, have voluntarily decided to make my will as follows: I am 76 years old, unmarried and not engaged by any contract. Therefore, I am able to do with my means as I want. My means consist of 80,000 marks which my brother Joseph Holly, landowner in Hergolding, owes me together with interest. I have two illegitimate children: 1) Daniel Augsburger (so named by his extramarital father), who lived and died in Illinois, America. He has left two legitimate children: a) Elizabeth, who is married (I don’t know more about the husband), and b) Daniel Holly (Augsburger). 2) Johann Holly, who lives in America and is married there. Johann Holly and the deceased Daniel Augsburger have each received 2,500 marks from me. As heir of my estate, no matter how much it will be at the time of my death, I name the before mentioned Johann Holly who has already received his 2,500 marks inheritance, his legitimate children existing at the time of my death. They are to inherit half of my estate. The other half of my estate is to be divided equally between Daniel Augsburger and his sister Elizabetha, the children of my deceased son Daniel Augsburger. This is my last will which has to be fulfilled in the case of my death. Eichstätt, Oct. 4, 1886. I want to mention that the deceased Daniel Augsburger and Johann Holly are American citizens. On the left are addresses of the children respectfully grandchildren in America.”
The Hanfeld/Heinzenhof Family

Earlier we noted that Noé Augspurger/Noah Augsburger (#2) was born at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines Oct. 8, 1755.

Noé was employed at Canardière. Circa 1785 he married Anna Müller there. She was born at Sexau, Baden, and died on the Canardière estate near Strasbourg May 6, 1806, a daughter of Jacob Müller and Anna Litwiller.

Her civil death entry was witnessed by cultivator Jean Rothacker, 36.

On Oct. 24, 1807 at Strasbourg Noé/Noah remarried to widow Marie Goldschmitt. Their civil marriage entry described the groom as cultivator Noé Augsburger, 52, born at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines Oct. 8, 1755, a son of the deceased cultivator Noé Augsburger and the deceased Julie Diebler, widower of Anne Müller who had died on the Canardière estate at la porte de boucher, Strasbourg May 6, 1806. It described the bride as Marie Goldschmit, 57, born at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines May 16, 1750, a daughter of the deceased Jean Henri Goldschmit [Goldschmid] and Marie Neuhaussers [Anne Neuhauser], widow of cultivator Nicolas Hyser, who had died at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines Dec. 22, 1800. Witnesses included cultivator Jean Rothacker, 36, brother-in-law of the groom; and cultivator Michel Müller, 45, brother-in-law of the groom (the brother of his first wife). Noé's Swiss-style writing made his script signature look like 'non aŭgsbŭrgnr.'

Noé's daughter Katharina was living with her husband at Hanfeld, Bavaria, and this became the home of Noé and Marie. Noé/Noah and Marie held a lease on the Pflegangerhof ('grazing meadow farm') from June 5, 1810 to Jan. 11, 1820, where they lived in House No. 7.

Noé/Noah died on the Hertleshof estate at Heinzenhof (60 miles west of Hanfeld) Sept. 30, 1828. His civil death entry said that he had been injured by a bull.

Marie died on the Streicherhof at Uffing, Bavaria (30 miles south of Hanfeld) Sept. 26, 1831.334 Her civil death entry said that she had come from the Hertleshof estate, but had been living on the Streicherhof for a year and one-half.

Children of Noé Augspurger/Noah Augsburger and his first wife Anna Müller born on the Canardière estate near Strasbourg include:

1. Barbe Augsburger/Augsburger was born circa 1783, and died at Strasbourg May 22, 1832. She married day laborer Joseph Augster. He was born at Raon-sur-Plaine in 1784, and died there June 11, 1832, a son of Christian/Chrétien Augster and Elisabeth Eymann. He also appears in Strasbourg documentation as Augstin, Eigst, and Eigsty. Barbe's civil death entry said that she was 49, born at Strasbourg, a daughter of the deceased cultivator Noé Augsburger and the deceased Susanna Müller; that she had been the wife of cultivator Joseph Augster, 49; and they had resided at Maison No. 39 Le Hohwarth [Le Hohwald?].

2. Noé Augsburger/Noah Augsburger (#3) was born circa 1791.

3. Catherine Augsburger/Katharina Augsburger was born April 4, 1793, and died in House No. 5 at Hanfeld Oct. 15, 1850. Her civil birth entry created April 7 called her Catherine Augsburger, and described her parents as cultivator Noé Augsburger, living on the Canardière estate near Strasbourg, and Anne Müller. It was witnessed by 29-year-old cultivator Michel Müller living at Neuhof (a district in the south part of Strasbourg), and 60-year-old day laborer Jean Müller of the Canardière estate. It was signed Noé Augsburger, Michael Müller, and Hans Müller. She married minister Andreas Oesch/Esch. He was born at Sarre-Union, Lower Alsace in 1791, and died at Hanfeld April 30, 1869, a son of Christian Oesch and Katharina/Catherine Bürki. Their son Christian Oesch came to Tazewell County in 1848.

4. Anne Augsburger/Augsburger was born Sept. 22, 1795, and died on the Canardière estate May 29, 1799. Her civil birth entry created Sept. 23 described her parents as cultivator Noé Augsburger, living on the Canardière estate near Strasbourg, and Anne Müller. Witnesses included cultivator Michel Müller, 34, and Michel Gautsché, 36. It was signed Noé Augsburger, Michael Müller, and Michael Gaütische. Her civil death entry created May 30 called her Anne Augsburger, gave her age as three, and was witnessed by father and cultivator Noé Augsburger, 43, and uncle and cultivator Jean Rothacker, 36. It was signed Aŭgsbŭrger and Johannes Rothacker.

Noé Augsburger/Noah Augsburger (#3) was born circa 1791.335 He married Elisabeth Eyer, a daughter of Jakob Eyer and Magdalena Birki (see the footnote in HEISER). She may have been born on the Stadelhof estate at Heinzenhof/Mindelheim, where her parents were living in 1807. Eyers later lived on the Stillerhof estate above Wessobrunn (14 miles southwest of Hanfeld). Elizabeth was a sister of Magdalena Eyer, the second wife of Jacob

334 The Streicherhof is still an active horse-breeding farm.
335 His birth date is often found as 'circa 1792.' We did not find an entry in the Stasbourg civil registers, which begin in 1792, though we did find his sisters. Noé in French; Noah in German and English.
Heiser and mother of Joseph Heiser (Magdalena came to Tazewell County, is found on the 1850 census of Dillon, died Oct. 19, 1851, and is buried in Railroad Cemetery or Landes Mennonite Cemetery; see HEISER); and a sister of Veronika Eyer, the wife of Christian Steinman of Wilmot.

A sales document for a parcel of land at Hanfeld [Ger. Verkauf des halben Hofes, 'sale of half a yard'] is dated Sept. 30, 1818. This may have provided part of 7,000 florins to purchase the Hertleshof estate at Heinzendorf Oct. 31, 1818.

Recall that Elizabeth Holly, who had an illegitimate child with Joseph Augsburger in 1835, had lived with her parents on the Stadelhof estate at Heinzendorf/Mindelheim from 1818 to 1833.

Herbert Holly found a record of a foreclosure auction on the Hertleshof estate Dec. 7, 1825. Creditors who were paid 15 guilders included 'Noe Augsburger Jr.' When the estate was sold by someone else Feb 19, 1826, one document said that a court settlement in December 1825 had awarded the property to the seller. It had previously belonged to Noah Augsburger, described as 'the person who went bankrupt' [Ger. Gantier].

The Augsburgers may have felt the impact on all European markets made by the Panic of 1825. It began with a London stock market crash caused by massive over speculation in Latin America. When the bubble burst, many investors were surprised to find that their stocks were worthless - including those of the Government of Poyais, which did not exist. This caused bank runs. The concept of central banking was created when the Bank of England stepped in with 400,000 pounds in actual bank notes to stem the panic. This was equivalent to four billion dollars in modern buying power. Nevertheless the English economy receded by 10 percent that year. With the temporary loss of England as a trading partner, overproduction caused layoffs of workers in France and Germany.

1825 was also the year of the death of Maximilian I Joseph, the Wittelsbach king of Bavaria who was extremely favorable to Amish Mennonite leaseholders. He was succeeded by his son Ludwig I.

The Hertleshof was sold to Daniel Unzicker Feb 19, 1826 for only 3,900 florins, or 56 percent of its value in 1818. The Augsburgers may have remained to work the property, and Noe/Noah (#2) died there in 1828.

By the mid-1830s the Augsburgers were living in House No. 57 at Penzing (15 miles west of Hanfeld, on the northeast corner of Landsberg am Lech). As a minister Noe/Noah (#3) administered several baptisms there.

Elisabeth Eyer died at Penzing March 30, 1837. A civil entry stated that the cause of death was apoplexy. Her husband Noe/Noah Noel (#3) died there one week later, on April 5, 1837. His entry stated that the cause was tuberculosis. Services at his burial April 8 were provided by his brother-in-law, minister Andreas Eyer of the Stillerhof estate.

Children of Noe Augsburger/Noah Augsburger (#3) and Elisabeth Eyer include:

1. Noe/Noah Augsburger was born at Hanfeld Feb. 24, 1817, and died there July 5, 1817.
2. Christian Augsburger was born at Hanfeld April 29, 1818.
3. Noah Augsburger was born in Bavaria Nov. 30, 1819, and died at Boynton July 17, 1903. Hanfeld and Heinzendorf records do not contain a relevant matching birth entry. However, a set of coincidences seemed to prove a match. He was born in Bavarian; once reported that he was born in Germany to a French father and German mother; was born and emigrated from Europe in the right time frame; his birthdate does not conflict with other children; the family had a 'Noah' naming tradition; and Noah came to Tazewell County. This does not preclude the possibility that his birth was entered elsewhere - it would have taken place just after the move from Hanfeld to Heinzendorf - or that he was taken into the family while Noah (#3) was ministering at Penzing.
4. Johannes Augsburger was likely born on the Hertleshof estate at Heinzendorf Nov. 11, 1820, died after one hour, and was buried there. According to Mary Ann Augsburger Eng, "This odd entry was inserted at a later date, in between the regular lines of the previous entries. The father's name was given as Noe Augsburger senior, with no name given for the mother. This is mysterious, since Noah II or at least his wife, would have been too old to be his parents [Noe/Noah #2 would have been 66 years of age]; and Noah III was referred to as junior in the 1821 and 1823 birth records of his children."
5. Joseph Augsburger was born on the Hertleshof estate Nov. 1, 1821. His birth record indicates that he was "child number four." This actually supports the inclusion of Noah as child 3, since the birth and almost immediate death of Johannes was written in at a later date, and thus was not known to the clerk who made this entry.
6. Jacob Augsburger was born on the Hertleshof estate July 29, 1823. His birth record also says "child number four." We presume that the clerk was only counting living children.
7. Andreas Augsburger was born on the Hertleshof estate Jan. 3, 1825 (the birth entry says "child number five"), and died Jan. 8, 1825.
8. Johannes/John Augsburger was born in January 1826 (according to the 1900 census), and died in Arkansas after the 1900 federal census.
9. Daniel Augsburger was born at Penzing March 22, 1830.
10. Elise Augsburger was born at Penzing May 27, 1834, and died at Burgweinting Aug. 6, 1921. In 1868 she was working as a maid on the farm of Christian Gangerich at Possing, near Penzing; a newspaper article described an award she received for 20 years of service there. She was living at Arnstorf in 1900.
11. Magdalena Augsburger was born at Penzing Feb. 17, 1837.

Noah Augsburger

**Noah Augsburger** (#4) was born in Bavaria Nov. 30, 1819, and died at Boynton July 17, 1903. The 1860 census gives his age as 40; the 1880 census gives his age as 60; he self-reported a birth date of November 1819 on the 1900 census; and his headstone says that he died July 17, 1903, aged 83 years, 7 months, and 17 days, yielding the birth date Nov. 30, 1819.

Noah sailed from Le Havre on the *Gallia*, and arrived at New York Sept. 4, 1851. He appears on the passenger list as Noh Augsburger, 31; the names before his are Henri Roggi, 30, and Jacob Hochstatter, 45. He passed through Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Galena, Illinois; and Fremont, Illinois before settling at Hopedale in 1852.

On July 8, 1855 in Tazewell County he married Magdalena Schrag/Schrock; the ceremony was performed by minister Andrew Ropp. She was born in Bavaria March 24, 1824, and died at Boynton Nov. 9, 1914, a daughter of Christian Schrag and Elizabeth Bürki. See SCHROCK, THE SCHRAGS OF KÖSCHING for background on her family.

The 1860 census of Hopedale shows Neal Auxberger, 40, Germany; Magdaline Auxberger, 35, Germany; Christian, 7; Jacob, 4; and Jos. Auxberger, 2; all children born in Illinois. They appear on the 1880 census of Boynton as 'Noe Augsburger,' 60, a farmer born in Baden, with both parents from Bavaria; and Magdalena, 55, born in Baden, with both parents from Baden; Jacob; Joseph, 21; Barbaray, 18; and John, 14. The 1900 census of Boynton shows them as Noah Augsburger, 80, born in Germany in November 1819 to a French father and a German mother, immigrated 1851; Lena, 76, born in Germany in March 1824 to German parents; immigrated 1853.

Noah served as minister and elder of the Hopedale Amish Mennonite Church 1862-76, while running a 160-acre farm in Section 23 at Boynton.

He died at Boynton July 17, 1903. *Herald of Truth*, August 1903: "Pre. Noah Augsburger was born in Bavaria, Germany, Nov. 30, 1817; died near Hopedale, Tazewell Co., Ill., July 17, 1903, aged 85 Y., 8 M., 17 D. He was afflicted for some time with kidney trouble and other complications, incidental, in part, to old age. He labored in the ministry for many years, and after a well-spent life the Master called him to rest. He leaves his aged companion, three sons and one daughter to mourn their loss. Funeral services on the 19th at the Hopedale Amish Mennonite M.H. by Daniel Grieser and Daniel Roth in German and by Samuel Gerber in English. May God comfort the bereaved family and congregation in the loss they have sustained."

*Gospel Herald*, December 1914: "Magdalena (Schrock) Augsburger was born in Germany, Mar. 24, 1824; died at her home near Hopedale, Ill., Nov. 9, 1914; aged 90 y. 7 m. 15 d. She was married to Noah Augsburger, who preceded her in death July 17, 1903. She leaves to mourn her departure two sons, one daughter, 17 grandchildren, 16 great-grandchildren, and one brother. Funeral services were conducted at the Hopedale A. M. Church of which she was a member, by Bros. John Birkey of that place, E. S. Hallman, Goshen, Ind., and Samuel Gerber, Tremont, Ill."

They are buried in the Mennonite Cemetery at Hopedale.

Children of Noé/Noah Augsburger and Magdalena Schrag born at Hopedale include:

1. Christian Augsburger was born July 15, 1853, and died July 26, 1910. On Feb. 3, 1878 in Tazewell County he married Barbara Sutter. She was born Sept. 31, 1858, and died Sept. 1, 1886, a daughter of Johann/John Sutter and Magdalena Guth/Good. Christian is found on the 1900 census of Boynton as Christian Augsburger, 46, born in Illinois in July 1853 to German parents; with children and a grandchild. They are buried in the Mennonite Cemetery at Hopedale.

2. Jacob Augsburger was born April 25, 1856, and died Jan. 17, 1886. He is buried in the Mennonite Cemetery at Hopedale.

3. Joseph Augsburger was born Aug. 3, 1858, and died at Bloomington, McLean County Aug. 17, 1941. On Feb. 12, 1900 at Bloomington he married to Ella B. Naffziger. She was born at Delavan Dec. 30, 1867, and died April 7, 1941, a daughter of Valentine F. Naffziger and Elizabeth Steiger. Joseph was a hardware merchant at Hopedale. They are buried in the Mennonite Cemetery at Hopedale.

4. Barbara Augsburger was born Oct. 17, 1861, and died at Groveland Feb. 6, 1917. She married Amos Roth. He was born at Morton Sept. 11, 1860, and died Jan. 5, 1945, a son of Daniel Roth and Catherine Ropp. They are buried in Pleasant Grove Mennonite Cemetery.

5. John Augsburger was born Jan. 1, 1866. On Dec. 13, 1893 in Tazewell County he married Lizzie Litwiller. She was born Jan. 13, 1867, and died Feb. 11, 1899, a daughter of Joseph Litwiller and Mary Ropp. She is buried in Pleasant Grove Cemetery. On Nov. 27, 1904 at Wayland, Iowa John remarried to Fannie Wyse. She was born in 1870, a daughter of Christian Wyse and Fanny Roth. John died at Boynton March 25, 1917, a victim of the influenza pandemic. He is buried in the Mennonite Cemetery at Hopedale.
Amish Mennonites in Tazewell County, Illinois

Jacob Augsburger

**Jacob Augsburger** was born on the Hertleshof estate at Heinzenhof, Bavaria July 29, 1823.³³⁶

THE THIRD WAVE OF IMMIGRATION in ROPP told the story of the German '48ers. A failed harvest in 1847 led to food shortages, rioting, and eventually a failed revolution. Jacob immigrated in 1847 or 1848.

On Aug. 7, 1848 at Lancaster, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania he married Barbara Steinman, and she gave birth to their first child Oct. 2. Barbara was born in Bavaria June 16, 1829, and died at Morton March 21, 1911, a daughter of Jacob Steinman and Barbara Naflziger (see STEINMAN for the details of another two marriages). The 1900 census said that she immigrated in 1847.

They are found on the 1850 census of Paradise, Lancaster County as laborer Jacob Augusburges, 27, Germany; Barbara, 21, Germany; Magdaline, 1, Pennsylvania; and Noah, 6 months, Pennsylvania.

The family relocated to Groveland circa 1855. The 1860 census of Groveland shows them as Jacob Oxenberg, 35, Bavaria; Barbara, 30; Madaline, 12, Pennsylvania; Noah, 10, Pennsylvania; Christian, 8, Pennsylvania; Elizabeth, 6, Maryland; Catharine, 4, Illinois; and Andrew, 1, Illinois.

Jacob died in Tazewell County Feb. 21, 1869. He is buried in Landes Mennonite Cemetery at Elm Grove, where his headstone says he was born July 25, 1824 (according to a reading for the cemetery book in 1980).

Widow Barbara and her children are found on the 1870 census of Elm Grove living next door to Peter Eiman: Barbara Alsberger, 38, Bavaria; farmer Joseph [Noah], 21; laborer Christian, 19; Elizabeth, 17; Catharine, 14; Andrew, 12; Anna, 7; Daniel, 4; and Veronica, 1; all children born in Illinois.

On April 15, 1873 in Tazewell County Barbara remarried to widower Christian Sutter. He was born on the Forsthof estate at Bergen, Bavaria April 21, 1823, and died at Hopedale May 11, 1899. His first wife Magdalena Naflziger had died May 25, 1871. That household can be found on the 1880 census of Little Mackinaw as farmer Christian Suter, 57, Bavaria; Barbara, 50, Bavaria; Annie Augsburger, 17, stepdaughter born in Illinois; Daniel, 13, stepson born in Illinois; and Fannie, 10, stepdaughter born in Illinois. Christian Sutter died at Hopedale May 11, 1899, and was buried next to his first wife in the Mennonite Cemetery there.

Widow Barbara is found on the 1900 census of Hopedale as Barbara Sutter, 71, born in Germany in June 1829; mother of nine children, seven still living.

Barbara died March 21, 1911. She was buried in Landes Mennonite Cemetery next to her first husband Jacob Augsburger, son Christian, Daniel, and her Sutter in-laws.

Children of Jacob Augsburger and Barbara Steinman include:

1. Magdalena/Madeleine Augsburger was born at Paradise, Lancaster County Oct. 2, 1848, and died Jan. 5, 1925. On Nov. 6, 1864 in Tazewell County she married Christian Zook; the ceremony was performed by minister Christian Gingerth. He was born in Lancaster County Aug. 28, 1835, and died at Groveland May 19, 1911, a son of Bartholomew Zook Sr. and his second wife Barbara Neuhauser. See ZOOK for more on this couple.

2. Noah Augsburger was born at Paradise Feb. 18, 1850, died in Tazewell County Nov. 27, 1892, and is buried in Railroad Cemetery at Elm Grove. On Oct. 27, 1889 he became the second husband of Catherine 'Katie' Ringenberger. She was born at Elm Grove Dec. 29, 1851, and died at Limestone, Peoria County Jan. 6, 1836, a daughter of Peter Ringenberger and Sybilla Garber. For an account of her three marriages see RINGENBERG.

3. Christian B. Augsburger was born in Maryland Feb. 17 (per family Bible) or 20, 1852, died at Elm Grove March 28 (per family Bible) or 31, 1872, and is buried with his parents in Landes Mennonite Cemetery. He appears on the 1870 census of Elm Grove as a farmhand for Christian Gerber and Barbara Roth.

4. Elizabeth Augsburger was born at Minier May 20, 1854, and died at Gridley, McLean County Jan. 4, 1936. On March 7, 1871 in Tazewell County she married Civil War veteran Christian Rinkenberger. He was born at Mackinaw Dells Sept. 28, 1846, and died at Gridley, McLean County March 28, 1924, a son of Jean Ringenberger/John Rinkenberger and Anna Garber. He had enlisted March 31, 1864 at Henry, Marshall County, and served as a private in Company C of the 65th Illinois Infantry. They are buried in Gridley Cemetery.

5. Catherine 'Katie' Augsburger was born at Minier in Sept. 10, 1856, and died at Pekin June 29, 1932. On Nov. 23, 1885 in Tazewell County she married Peter J. Ropp. He was born at Elm Grove July 31, 1854, and died in California Jan. 25, 1926, a son of Peter Ropp and Mary Ruh. They are found on the 1900 census of Tremont as Peter Ropp, 45, born in Illinois to German parents in July 1844; and Catherine, 42, born in Illinois to German parents in September 1857. In 1910 they were living at Pekin Ward 5. They are buried in Lakeside Cemetery at Pekin, where their headstone calls her Katharina Augsburger.

6. Andrew Augsburger was born at Minier July 28, 1859, and died at Tremont Sept. 3, 1929. On Aug. 17, 1879 in Tazewell County he married Susanna Wittrig. She was born at Noble, Iowa Nov. 5, 1862, and died at Chenoa, Illinois.

³³⁶ A family Bible said he was born in Bavaria July 25, 1824.
Amish Mennonites in Tazewell County, Illinois

McLean County July 3, 1947, a daughter of Joseph Wittrig and Anna Gascho. They are buried in Mt. Hope Cemetery at Tremont.

7. Anna Maria/Anna Mary Augsburger was born at Tremont Feb. 23, 1863, and died at Deer Creek May 21, 1928. On Oct. 12, 1880 in Tazewell County she married widower Christian Zehr. He was born at Hopedale June 16, 1857, and died at Deer Creek Aug. 10, 1922, a son of George Zehr and Barbara Litwiller. His first wife was Anna Kauffman, who was born in 1856 and died Dec. 4, 1879. See AUGSPURGER for background on Anna Maria and Christian.

8. Daniel Jacob Augsburger was born at Tremont Nov. 9, 1866, and died at Bloomington, McLean County April 25, 1947. On Dec. 6, 1888 in Tazewell County he married Magdalena Guth. She was born at Little Mackinaw Aug. 16, 1867, and died at Flanagan July 18, 1945, a daughter of Christian Guth/Good and Jacobine Ehresman. They lived at Waldo in 1910 and 1920, where he served on the building committee and as a trustee of the Waldo Mennonite Church. Gospel Herald, May 1947: "Augsburger. - Daniel Jacob, son of Jacob and Barbara (Steinman) Augsburger, was born in Tazewell Co., Ill., Nov. 9, 1866; died at the St. Joseph's Hospital, Bloomington, Ill., April 25, 1947; aged 80 y. 5 m. 16 d. He moved to the community of Flanagan, Ill., as a young man. His wife (Magdalena Good) preceded him in death on July 18, 1945. He was a member of the Waldo Mennonite Church. Surviving are four children (Elmer, and Mrs. Ida King, of Flanagan; Arthur, Middlebury, Ind.; and Mrs. George Cumrine, Morton, Ill), 21 grandchildren, six great-grandchildren, one sister (Mrs. Fannie Egli, Kouts, Ind.), and a large number of other relatives and friends. Funeral services were held at the Waldo Church, in charge of A. H. Leaman and J. D. Hartzler."

9. Veronica 'Fannie B.' Augsburger was born at Groveland Oct. 8, 1869, and died at Kouts, Indiana Dec. 7, 1947. On Feb. 19, 1888 in McLean County she married Christian Egli. He was born at Zurich, Ontario March 3, 1860, and died at Kouts, Indiana Aug. 22, 1944, a son of Johannes/Jean/John Egli and Magdalena Gascho. His parents brought him to Minier in 1867. Christian and Fannie are found on the 1900 census of Hittle as farmer Chris Egli, born in Canada in January 1860 to German parents, immigrated in 1870; Fannie B., born in Illinois in October 1869 to German parents; and two children born in Illinois. The 1920 census of Porter County, Indiana shows their household as Chris Egli, 59, Canada; Fannie Egli, 50; and Andrew Egli, 63. They are buried in Hopewell Mennonite Cemetery at Kouts, Indiana as 'Chris Egli' and 'Fannie Egli.'

Johannes/John Augsburger

Johannes/John Augsburger was born in Bavaria to French parents in January 1826 (according to the 1900 census), and died in Arkansas after June 1900. No birth entry has been identified. We initially resisted placing him in this family, only conceding the point when we saw the names of Augsburgers described as relatives in his son's obituary.

According to the Karlskron Familienbuch, he married Katharina 'Katie' Ingold in 1860. She was born at Probfeld, Bavaria Oct. 17, 1826, and died after June 1900, a daughter of Christian Ingold and Maria Oesch. Her mother was a sister to Christian Oesch, the foreman of the Sutter family's Forsthof estate who married Katharina Sutter. Thus she was a cousin to Maria Oesch (1837-1892) who married Daniel Augsburger and Jacob Steinman. They sailed from Hamburg on the Teutonia, arriving at New York Aug. 29, 1861. The passenger list shows farmer Joh. Augsburger, 34; Catha., 35, his wife; Chr., 5; Elisabeth, 3; Maria, 1; and farmer Jos. Ingold, 34.

They appear on the 1870 census of Rook's Creek, Livingston County as farmer John Auxburger, 43, Bayen, Ger.; Katrina, 42; Christian, 14; and Elizabeth, 12. In 1880 they are found on the census of Indian Grove, Livingston County as farmer John Augsburg, 54, Germany, born in Bavaria to French parents; Catharine, 50, born in Bavaria to French parents; Christ, 25, born in Bavaria to Bavarian parents; and Lizzie, 21, born in Bavaria to Bavarian parents.

The 1900 census of Goldman Village, Morris Township, Arkansas (below Stuttgart) shows them as John Ausburger, 74, born in Germany in January 1826 to German parents, married 45 years; Katie Ausburger, 72, born in Germany in November 1827 to German parents, married 45 years; Christ, 43, born in Germany in September 1856 to German parents; and Lizzie E., 41, born in Germany in May 1858 to German parents; the entire family immigrated in 1861.

John served as a Mennonite minister at Stuttgart, Arkansas.

Children of Johannes/John Augsburger and Katharina 'Katie' Ingold include:

337 In Immigrant America on the Eve of the Civil War, Patrick Young estimates that in 1860, 19% of the population of Illinois had been born in the German states.

338 Joseph Ingold was born in Bavaria Jan. 24, 1826, and died at Flanagan, Livingston County Nov. 5, 1909, a son of Barbara Ingold. Joseph was brought to Barbara's marriage with Daniel Zehr (1803-1855). Barbara died in Bavaria; Daniel remarried and immigrated without stepson Joseph. In Illinois Joseph married Barbara Unzicker and Barbara Ernst. For information on his stepfather Daniel Zehr see ZEHR and SMITH.
1. Christian Augsburger was born in Germany Sept. 26, 1856, and died at Olio Township, Woodford County July 5, 1944. He is found on the 1930 census of Stuttgart, Arkansas as Christ Augsburger, 72, single, immigrated in 1861. Chris Augsburger, 84, is found on the 1940 census of the Mennonite Home for the Aged at Eureka. He is buried in Olio Township Cemetery at Eureka under a headstone that lists two other residents of the retirement home. Gospel Herald, July 1944: "Augsburger. Christian, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Augsburger, was born in Germany, Sept. 16, 1856; died at the Mennonite Home, Eureka, Ill., July 5, 1944; aged 87 y. 9 m. 9 d. He emigrated to this country with his parents and located near Flanagan, Ill. Later, the family moved to Arkansas, where they lived for a number of years. After his parents' death, he retired from farm work and entered the Home on May 16, 1932. He was never married and leaves only a few relatives to mourn his departure, among whom are Dan Augsburger [Daniel Jacob Augsburger, a son of Jacob Augsburger and Barbara Steinman] and Christian Ringenberg [married to Elizabeth Augsburger, daughter of Jacob Augsburger and Barbara Steinman], Flanagan, Ill.; Mrs. Dan King, Morton, Ill. [Laura Ringenberg, daughter of John Ringenberg and Lena Albrecht]; and Mrs. Joe Kennel, Roanoke, Ill. [Emma Ringenberg, daughter of Christian Ringenberg and Mary Ingold.] Death was due to hardening of the arteries and general debility. Funeral services were held on July 8 at the Mennonite Home, in charge of Ezra Yordy. Burial was made in the nearby cemetery."

2. Elizabeth E. 'Lizzie' Augsburger was born in Bavaria in May 1858. We could not follow her after the June 1900 census.

3. Maria Augsburger is found as a 1-year-old on the 1861 passenger list, but is not found on the 1870 census, suggesting she died young.
Stalter of Pfalz-Zweibrücken

There is no clear picture of the early history of this family. In early records we noticed a significant number of Stallders at Rüdiswil. But a number of villages called Stalden were located throughout the Swiss Confederation (the largest became part of Münsingen in 1933). In general, after looking at Amish Mennonite marriages, we tend to place the most weight on families named Stalder, generally found at Sumiswald and around the village of Spiez on the west shore of Lake Thun.

This story of the Stalters does not represent original research at this point, and might be thought of as a project under construction. No FHL microfilms of original documents were viewed. It is only meant to give background on Pfalz-Zweibrücken (also called Palatinate-Zweibrücken), and provide enough information to clarify dates and relationships with other families.

We were initially reluctant to take this on. We had seen dozens of online sites that ran the same error-ridden sets of Stalter information, put together from guesswork in the pre-computer era.

The French état civil system of record keeping was instituted by occupiers in Pfalz-Zweibrücken in 1797. Municipal clerks were required to fully document births, marriages, and deaths. This benefited Swiss Amish Mennonites, who had to prove three generations on French soil before they could claim citizenship. However, there was a flaw in the administration of the system. When someone died, the clerk was supposed to request proof of the place of birth of the deceased. If the deceased was not a citizen, or there was no church document available, the system paused. More often than not clerks simply wrote 'here' as the place of birth, bypassing the problem of verification.

This caused obvious problems for genealogists looking at the Stalter family. On paper it often looked like someone was born in one place, lived at two or three others, then returned to the place of birth to die. And the error-ridden sets of information show this.

We also found emigration years that were guessed without really looking for the passenger lists. Thus the problem was not what to put in - but recognizing the questionable information that should be left out.

We have concentrated on the lines descending to Illinois settlers. A more extensive genealogy of the family in Europe can be found in Hermann Guth's *Amish Mennonites in Germany*.

Descendants of Hans Stalter

A 1672 census of Griesheim (four miles west of Darmstadt) shows a Mennonite Babe Stalte, 70 years and nine months of age. In *History of the Bernese Anabaptists* (1895) Ernst Müller suggested that her surname was Stalder. Thus some sources cite her as the first Anabaptist émigré from the Stalder/Stalter family.

The surname identified with Palatinate-Zweibrücken was spelled 'Stalter.' From 1483 to 1808 Pfalz-Zweibrücken was comprised of not only the area around the city of Zweibrücken, but also a number of extensive land holdings that were isolated as islands within other political entities (also described as enclaves).

The population of Pfalz-Zweibrücken was decimated by the Thirty Years War (1618-48). To rebuild its villages and increase their tax base, the Swedish dukes of Pfalz-Zweibrücken invited Austrian and Swiss immigrants to settle on abandoned properties. In 1680 the Duchy of Pfalz-Zweibrücken was incorporated as a territory of the centralist French state (following its dictates, but outside its toll systems). On Oct. 17, 1680, the French government promised new settlers incentives that included cattle, goods, and money, in addition to a tax-free period of 10 years. Amish Mennonites first settled in the Duchy of Pfalz-Zweibrücken after the expulsion from Alsace in 1712.

Recall from ROPP:

In many instances departing families accepted certificates of good character from Christian III of the house of Birkenfeld-Bischweiler-Pfalz-Zweibrücken. He was a member of the same Wittelsbach family that later ruled Bavaria, a count of Rappolstein, and a captain in the French army. He was responsible for the administration of Ste. Marie-aux-Mines, and was obliged to follow the dictates of the French king. The majority of Anabaptists who left Alsace chose locations that had been specifically allowed to them under older agreements and recommended by the count.

Though it may seem like a violation of principle, many refugees chose employment on the estates of military officers. This was seen as honest work in a safe environment. They simply had no world political views or knowledge that might lead them to judge their employers. Employers and landlords often preferred them as tenants because they were politically neutral and socially stable. They committed as mutual guarantors on leases, and were likely to suggest their own replacements before moving on.
In 1731 Pfalz-Zweibrücken passed through inheritance from the Swedish to the Pfalz-Birkenfeld-Zweibrücken branch of the counts palatine, a branch of the House of Wittelsbach. Christian III, who had been Count Palatine of Zweibrücken-Birkenfeld, became the new Duke of the Duchy of Pfalz-Zweibrücken.

Our first firm links are Stalters found on the Gersbergerhof estate, one mile northeast of the city of Zweibrücken. In 1742 it was the property of Duke Christian IV.

Leaseholders that year were Christian Stalter and a son, and Hans Stalter. Christian and Hans may have been brothers, and there may have been a third brother Josef as well. A second Hans Stalter was also present as a day laborer with two daughters.

The leaseholder Hans Stalter was married to Elisabeth Weiss. They are known to have had two sons and four daughters. Descendants of both sons came to Tazewell County in the 1840s and '50s.

**Older son Johannes Stalter**

Older son Johannes Stalter was born Dec. 25, 1712, and died on the Offweilerhof estate at Contwig April 4, 1806. He married Maria Weiss.

One of their sons was Heinrich Stalter. He was born on the Gersbergerhof estate in 1767. He married Katharina Roggy. She was born at Neidenfels in the Pfalz, a daughter of Christian Roggy and one of his two wives (Magdalena or Veronika).

In 1804 they leased the Bergstettern estate at Donauwörth (30 miles north of Augsburg), Bavaria. After accumulating savings they purchased the Hemerten estate. It was located below the village of Münster, on the Lech River 13 miles south of Donauwörth.

Their oldest son Jakob Stalter was born on the Gersbergerhof estate May 23, 1798. Three or possibly four of his children came to Central Illinois. See THE STALTERS OF HEMERTEN.

**Younger son Heinrich Stalter**

Younger son Heinrich Stalter was born circa 1725.

His first wife could not be identified. They are known to have had one son together. He is thought to have been born in 1750 on the Tensch farm [Ger. *Tenscherhof*] between Linstroff [Ger. *Linsdorf*] and Francaltroff [Ger. *Altdorf*]. That area is now the French department of Moselle, but was then simply part of the region of Lorraine [Ger. *Lothringen*]. Heinrich may have leased or labored on one of the large parcels of land in the region that were owned by the royal family of Pfalz-Zweibrücken.

According to historian Annette Marquard-Mois, from 1757 to 1760 Heinrich lived on the Kirschbacherhof estate near Hornbach with minister-and-later-elder Andreas Leyenberger.

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339 The Gersbergerhof is still an active farm where sheep are raised.

340 Some sources say that Johannes was a deacon of the Zweibrücken congregation. The impression may spring from a letter translated by Ezra Kanagy. In it elder Johannes/Hans Naflziger wrote that, "...In the Zweibrücken congregation there is no full minister of the book, but Hans Stalter is confirmed as deacon, and there are many people there." However, this was expressing the state of the congregation in 1787 or 1788, when Johannes Stalter would have been 74 or 75 years old. This was an advanced old age in the 1700s. (Naflziger, who considered himself unusually fit and was born in 1713, would die 2-3 years after writing the letter). It seems more likely that the deacon was his son Johannes Stalter, who was born circa 1750. Very little is known about him. Following the usual custom of Amish Mennonites, a deacon would have been a married man. Perhaps we can further assume that he died within a few years, before the advent of the *état civil* system of record keeping of life events initiated by French occupiers.

341 The Tensch farm was the residence of Joseph Salzman and Barbe Litwiller 1807-12. Today Étang de Tensch [Tensch Pond] and the Parc de la Tensch [Tensch Park] are located between Linstroff and Francaltroff. Some sources give the location as Grotzenquin; Linstroff is considered a hamlet of this village.

342 Andreas Leyenberger (circa 1721-1799) had first come to the estate as leaseholder in 1742 with his brother-in-law Daniel Oesch. Leyenberger represented the Zweibrücken congregation at the assembly of ministers at Essingen in 1779. Oesch (1704-circa 1765), born at Oberlangenegg, Canton Bern, later farmed on the grounds of the castle estate Gutenbrunnen, about five miles northwest of the city of Zweibrücken. His Oesch descendants came to Tazewell County (see ESCH/OESCH).
Heinrich remarried to Katharina Imhof before 1770. She was born circa 1744. In 1770 they had a child on the Lingenhof farm at Sarralbe [Ger. Saaralben], 15 miles east of the Tensch farm in what is now Moselle. Some time in the 1770s Heinrich left Sarralbe to once again lease the Kirschbacherhof estate near Hornbach from the royal family.

**THE KIRCHBACHERHOF ESTATE**

This 420-acre estate was initially purchased by the widowed Countess Palatine Caroline in 1737. She was acting as regent for her son Duke Christian IV, who did not come of age until 1742.

In 1762 the duke took over the estate from his mother. He entrusted it to his two sons. Because his wife had been a commoner, the sons could not succeed him, and had no hereditary right to the property. With his death in 1775 the new duke Karl II August von Pfalz-Birkenfeld-Zweibrücken took possession. He in turn presented it to his wife Maria Amalia/Marie Amalie, a daughter of the Elector of Saxony.

During the French Revolution the property was a target for anti-royalist vandals. Maria Amalia/Marie Amalie was a cousin to King Louis XVI of France.

Karl II August died childless in 1795. He was succeeded as the last Duke of Pfalz-Zweibrücken by his brother Maximilian Joseph. In 1797 all of the territory absorbed by France was formally organized into four new departments: Roer, Rhine-et-Moselle, Sarre, and Mont-Tonnère. The former Duchy of Pfalz-Zweibrücken became part of Mont-Tonnère. The estate was nationalized. However, in February of 1799 Maximilian Joseph became Elector Maximilian IV Joseph of Bavaria. He interceded to have ownership returned to his sister-in-law Maria Amalia.

In 1809 Maria Amalia/Marie Amalie sold the property to the Böhmer family. After a 32-year absence, the property was restored to the Stalters when the Böhmers offered a lease to minister Josef Stalter [Sr.] in 1822 (see THE STALTERS OF HOTVILLER).

According to Marquard-Mois, livestock and clothing on the estate were confiscated, sequestered, and stolen by French, Prussian, and Austrian troops. Heinrich and Katharina moved their family north to live with their oldest son on the Bickenaschbacherhof estate.

Heinrich died on the Tensch farm in 1800. The story of widow Katharina's appeal for new properties in Bavaria is told in THE STALTERS OF GERN.

The child of Heinrich Stalter and his unidentified first wife was:

1. Christian Stalter was born on the Tensch farm in 1750, leased the Bickenaschbacherhof estate (below Hengstbach, southwest of the city of Zweibrücken) before 1786, and remained there until his death April 12, 1831. He married Magdalena Haurter. She was born at Ixheim (above the city of Zweibrücken) in 1759, a daughter of Johannes Haurter and Magdalena Schrag. Their children include:
   a. Christian Stalter was born March 27, 1781, and died on the Wahlerhof estate at Mittelbach-Hengstbach (southwest of the city of Zweibrücken) June 16, 1868. On Nov. 18, 1804 at Mittelbach-Hengstbach he married Elisabeth Ringenberg/Rinkenberger. She was born June 2, 1783, and died Jan. 16, 1847, a daughter of Joseph Ringenberg and Marie Leyenberger, and the widow of Valentin Wagler. Christian became elder of the Zweibrücken congregation.
   b. Josef Stalter [Sr.] was born on the Bickenaschbacherhof estate March 27, 1786, and died on the Monbijou estate Jan. 25, 1853. Two of his sons, a daughter, and a grandson came to Central Illinois. See THE STALTERS OF MONBIJOU.
   c. Jakob Stalter was born on the Bickenaschbacherhof estate in 1790. He married Barbara Dettweiler, a daughter of Josef Dettweiler and Katharina Meyer. They lived at the Bickenaschbachermühle and on the Heidelhingerhof estate (above the Monbijou estate). Barbara was not Amish Mennonite, causing Jakob's exclusion from his family's congregation.

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343 In 1717 an area around Sarralbe had been set aside by Duke Leopold of Lorraine for horse breeding. For a century it continued to be a place where horses were bought and sold, and young men were sent there to learn animal husbandry. (Heinrich's son-in-law Johannes Haurter leased the largest breeding farm, Le Haras, from 1799 to 1817).

344 Local land records were destroyed or transported to Sweden when French troops threatened in 1797.

345 The two sons of Duke Christian IV were the Counts Christian and Philip Guillaume (later called Philip Wilhelm) von Forbach. Their father had made a commitment to the French king to provide soldiers when needed. After Duke Christian IV died, they took the 'Royal Deux-Ponts' infantry regiment to America. As part of Count De Rochambeau's 7,000-man expeditionary corps they supported General George Washington against the British in the American Revolutionary War (De Rochambeau actually commanded more troops than Washington). They contributed to the victory in the battle of Yorktown Oct. 4, 1781. Ironically, after returning to Europe both brothers became generals and led campaigns against France from 1794 until 1815.

346 We have not searched for his civil death entry, which may have been created at Francaltroff or Grostenquin.
d. Magdalena Stalter was born on the Bickenaschbacherhof estate in 1793. She married widower Johannes Hauer. He was born at Lembach, Lower Alsace Oct. 25, 1771, and died on the Bruchhof estate at Hombourg in the Saarland March 20, 1848. His first wife was Barbara Oesch. Johannes was a prosperous horse breeder. He held a lease at Asswiller, Lower Alsace beginning in 1789; then Le Haras estate at Sarralbe, Moselle 1799-1817; then purchased the Königreicherhof estate in 1817 (at Sankt Wendel, now in Saarland). In 1843 they relocated onto the relatively small Bruchhof estate.

e. Johannes Stalter as born on the Bickenaschbacherhof estate in 1794, and died in 1828. On Jan. 29, 1813 on the Ottenweierhof estate at Ichenheim, Baden he married Magdalena Reidiger (the marriage was recorded at the Evangelische church Feb. 7). She was born on the Ottenweierhof estate in 1793, a daughter of Sebastian Reitiger and Magdalena Güengerich. They farmed on the Bickenaschbacherhof estate.

f. Heinrich Stalter was born on the Bickenaschbacherhof estate May 24, 1800, and died there in 1872.

g. Daniel Stalter was born on the Bickenaschbacherhof estate Dec. 5, 1805. At Kutzenhausen, Lower Alsace Jan. 22, 1831 he married Catherine Gingerich. She was born at Kutzenhausen March 8, 1815, a daughter of Peter/Pierre Gingerich and Magdalena/Madeleine Gerber. Their civil marriage entry described two of the witnesses as 45-year-old laborer Joseph Stalter, brother of the groom; and 43-year-old laborer Jacques Stalter, living at Heidelbing, brother of the groom. Daniel and Catherine farmed on the Karlsburgerhof estate at Homburg in the Saarland.

Children of Heinrich Stalter and his second wife Katharina Imhof include:

2. Joseph/Josef Stalter was born on the Lingenhof estate near Sarralbe (in what later became the French department of Moselle) Aug. 10, 1770, and died at Munich in 1842. On June 3, 1800 he married Magdalena Egli. The ceremony was entered into records at Hengstbach and Kleinsteinhausen. Magdalena was born on the Obermönshheimerhof estate at Pförzheim, Baden in 1778, and died at Munich in 1852, a daughter of Martin Egli and Elisabetha Kaufmann. In 1814 they were on the dairy farm Wahl near Wolfratshausen, Bavaria; in 1831 they were living at Gern near Munich.

3. Catherine Stalter was born circa 1771, and died at Sarralbe, Moselle Jan. 14, 1794.

4. Jacob/Jakob Stalter was born circa 1776, and died on the Karlsbergerhof estate at Homburg in the Saarland in 1851. He married Magdalena Hauer. She was born on the Gersbergerhof estate in 1776, and died at Homburg in 1839. They farmed in Bavaria, then in 1819 on the Herrenhof estate at Niederbronn, Lower Alsace.

5. Heinrich Stalter [Jr.] was born circa 1776, and died in Tazewell County between 1852 and 1860. He brought his children to Central Illinois. See THE STALTERS OF GERN.

6. Elisabeth Stalter was born circa 1777, and died before Mary 17, 1831. On April 28, 1796 at Imling, Moselle she married André Ringenberg. The groom was described as a 26-year-old resident of Juling, Meurthe, a son of cultivator-miller Joseph Ringenberg, 48, and Anne Letvieler, 42. The bride was described as Elisabeth Stalter, 19, a daughter of cultivator Henry Stalter, 70, and Catherine Imhoff, 52, of the Tensthoff at Sarralbe, Moselle. They became millers at Rimling.

7. Johannes Stalter. Very little is known about him. In 1803 he was an applicant with Daniel Unzicker for leases on land at the Polling cloister in Bavaria. He may have been a very early settler at Peoria. See OTHER STALTERS, JOHN STALTER OF PEORIA.


9. Maria Stalter was born circa 1781, and died at Wilmot, Ontario in 1832. In 1810 she married Christian Nafziger. He was born in 1776 (obituary), a son of Christian Nafziger and Magdalena Güengerich. According to an unaccredited article in the Summer 1979 issue of the Nafzger Heritage News, Christian Nafziger “had gone after 1803 with the Stalter family to Bavaria, where he applied in vain to King Max I Josef, to whom the Stalters maintained good relations, for a tenement of a larger farm. Mr. [Hermann] Guth states that the letter can be found in the Staatsarchive in Munich...” Christian and Maria were managing the estate of Count von Gohren at Ebersberg east of Munich when Christian left for Canada (via Amsterdam and New Orleans) in 1821. Christian made the arrangement that procured the German Block of Wilmot Township, Ontario, and returned for Maria in 1823. She emigrated with him on the Nimrod in 1826. The passenger list shows her husband age 50, and she was age 45. Christian's obituary was published at Berlin (now Kitchener), Ontario May 5, 1836 and is reprinted in Guth's Amish Mennonites in Germany. See ROPP for the story of their journey to Canada, and the Appendix, CHILDREN OF CHRISTIAN NAFZIGER AND MARIA STALTER.

347 Nafziger's obituary should not be taken literally. It is written as a Christian pilgrimage story to demonstrate the rewards of an upright life, a style that was popular at the time. The parable of the sower from Matthew 13:18-23: "As for what was sown on good soil, this is he who hears the word and understands it; he indeed bears fruit, and yields, in one case as hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."
The next few sections follow the descendants of Stalters who have already been mentioned in bold face.

The Stalters of Hemerten

Jakob Stalter was born on the Gersbergerhof estate May 23, 1798, farmed on the Hemerten estate, and died at Fürstenreid in Bavaria March 3, 1864.

On April 17 or 27, 1816 he married Katharina Stalter, who is thought to have been living at Gern. Thus she was a daughter of one of the brothers of 1842 immigrant Heinrich Stalter [Jr.], who owned the grounds of the St. Theresa cloister at Gern. Her parents were either Joseph Stalter (1770-1842) and Magdalena Egli, or Jakob Stalter (1776-1851) and Magdalena Hauter, who each lived at Gern for a few years. Jakob and Magdalena seem more likely because they remained in the area longer.

Jakob and Katharina farmed on the Hemerten estate located at Münster on the Lech River, 13 miles south of Donauwörth and 18 miles upriver from Augsburg.


Their son Jakob/Jacob Stalter sailed with the Minnesota group in 1849 (more information about the voyage is given in EIGSTI). He appears on the passenger list as 24-year-old Jacob Stalder.

The story of the drowning of Otto's older brother King Ludwig II ('Mad King Ludwig') in Lake Starnberg on June 13, 1886 was told in HEISER. Suspicion fell on his cabinet ministers. Otto became king of Bavaria by rightful succession. However, when the proclamation was formally read to him, he did not understand it. The cabinet ministers appointed his uncle Luitpold as prince regent to rule in his place. Otto died in confinement at the palace in 1916.

Fürstenried is now a Catholic retreat.

Children of Jakob Stalter and his first wife Katharina Stalter include:

1. Magdalena Stalter was born on the Gersbergerhof estate in 1818, and died at Burgwalden near Augsburg in 1874. On June 29, 1847 on the Fuggerhof estate at Burgwalden she married Jacob/Jacques Nafziger. He was born at Gumbrechtshofen, Lower Alsace Jan. 30, 1812, and died at Falkenberg, Germany Dec. 26, 1889, a son of Christian Nafziger and Catherine Hochstettler.

2. Jakob/Jacob Stalter (also found as Jacob N. Stalter) was born Sept. 12, 1823. His headstone says he was born in Koenigreich [the king's kingdom]. This could describe a variety of locations, including the kingdom of Bavaria. Barbara Birki/Birky was born at Arzsbach bei Dachau, Bavaria Feb. 17, 1824 (though her headstone count actually comes out to Feb. 19). Jacob may have met her while she was planning to emigrate. According to Hermann Guth, her emigration application described her as an unmarried resident of Kirchstockach who would travel with an infant son, Jacob, whose father was named as Thomas Luiderer of Putzbrunn. (These three locations are all located in the vicinity of Munich). Jacob and Barbara married April 30, 1849. They sailed from Le Havre on the Minnesota with her uncle Valentine Birky, arriving at New York Jan. 21, 1849. Because their emigration documents were prepared before their marriage, they appear separately on the passenger list (Barbara and her son Jacob, labeled 'Inf.' rather than given an age, are the very first names, on another page Jacob Stalder, 24).
They are found on the 1850 census of Tazewell County as farmer Jacob Stalter, 27, Germany; Barbara, 26, Illinois [Bavaria]; Jacob, 6, Illinois; and Mary, 2 months, Illinois. They appear on the 1860 census of Tremont as farmer Jacob Stalter, 38; Barbara Stalter, 38; and six children including oldest son Jacob, 16.

She died near Hopedale March 31, 1885. *Herald of Truth*, April 1885: "On the 31st of March, near Hopedale, Tazewell Co., Ill., of a lingering illness, Sister Barbara (Burkey), wife of Jacob N. Stalter, aged 61 years, 1 month and 12 days. The deceased was a faithful member of the Amish Mennonite Church. She died in the full assurance of faith and was buried on the 1st of April, leaving a sorrowing husband, nine children and twenty-nine grandchildren. Three of the children died before her. Funeral services by Noah Augspurger, Daniel Grieser and Joseph Springer." She is buried in Mennonite Cemetery at Hopedale.

Jacob died in Livingston County June 8, 1898. He is buried in Waldo Cemetery at Flanagan, Livingston County. *Herald of Truth*, July 1898: "On the 8th of June, 1898, in Livingston Co., Ill., of dropsy, Jacob Stalter, aged 74 years, 9 months and 20 days. Deceased was born in Bavaria, Germany, in 1823, was married to Barbara Birky on the 30th of April, 1849; lived in matrimony 35 years. To this union were born six sons and six daughters; his wife, three sons and one daughter preceded him. Buried on the 10th of June, when a large concourse assembled to pay their last respects to a loved one. Funeral services by Chr. Zimmerman at the house, and by Stephen Stahly, Chr. Zimmerman and John P. Schmitt at the meeting house. Text: Isa. 38 :1-3. Other ministers who were present also assisted, Joseph Kinsinger speaking from J Thess. 4 :13. Deceased was a member of the Amish Mennonite Cong., and was highly respected. Besides his eight children he leaves 50 grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, one brother and two sisters." (The one brother and two sisters could be Katharina/Catherine of Boynton, Maria in Germany, and the half-brother Georg in Germany).

Children of Jacob Stalter and Barbara Birki/Birky include:

- Jacob, the son of Thomas Luiterer and Barbara Birki/Birky, emigrated with Barbara. He was brought up as a Stalter, but initially he seemed to disappear after the 1860 census. This is all the more odd because there are no contemporary notes saying he went away. Some sources have guessed that he returned to Bavaria as an adult. However, we suspect he moved no farther than Bureau County. He may be buried in Willow Springs Cemetery as Jacob Stalter, who was born Oct. 8, 1846 (headstone), and died July 10, 1912. He married Catherine Albrecht. She was born Nov. 8, 1845, and died Nov. 15, 1898, a daughter of John Albrecht and Mary Ackerman. There are clues for and against the idea. Joseph Stalter (born 1861) from this family is inexplicably buried in the same cemetery. Jacob raised prize hogs bred by Christian N. Sutter, who would have been his brother-in-law - an odd coincidence, since Jacob lived at Tiskilwa, and Christian lived at Minier. An item against: the 1900 census of Tiskilwa says Jacob immigrated in 1860, though this information may have been erroneously provided by one of his family members and no record of a passenger with this name can be found in that time frame. *Herald of Truth*, January 1899: "On the 15th of November, 1898, near Tiskilwa, Bureau Co., Ill., Sister Catharine, wife of Jacob Stalter, aged 53 years and 8 days. Buried on the 17th in the Willow Springs graveyard. Funeral services by Joseph Buercky in German and by Pre. McCormick in English. The deceased leaves four sons and two daughters, beside many relatives and friends to mourn her death. Joseph Buercky."

- Mary Stalter was born in Tazewell County July 22, 1850, and died at Gridley, McLean County Dec. 11, 1917. On March 5, 1871 in Livingston County she married Joseph Stalter. He was born on Nassenwald farm at Hottviller, Moselle March 31, 1840, and died at Waldo, Livingston County June 3, 1925, a son of

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348 The question of a son named Christian Stalter is somewhat of a mystery. He is supposed to have been born Feb. 9, 1834, and died at Hopedale Oct. 18, 1899. Some sources say he belonged to this family, but we could not verify this. Nor could we identify him on a census, find a record of his immigration, or find a headstone. If he truly was related and came to Illinois, he may have arrived after the 1880 federal census. 

349 The question of a son named Christian Stalter is somewhat of a mystery. He is supposed to have been born Feb. 9, 1834, and died at Hopedale Oct. 18, 1899. Some sources say he belonged to this family, but we could not verify this. Nor could we identify him on a census, find a record of his immigration, or find a headstone. If he truly was related and came to Illinois, he may have arrived after the 1880 federal census. 

350 The Poland-China hog breed was originally developed in Butler County, Ohio. *American Poland-China Record, Volume 31* for 1902 names two prize hogs: Chief's Pride and Big Chief were both bred by Christian N. Sutter of Minier, but raised by J. Stalter of Tiskilwa. 

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Johannes/John Stalter and his first wife Elizabeth Reidiger. For more on this couple including her obituary see THE STALTERS OF MONBIJOU.

b. Elizabeth Stalter was born in Tazewell County Aug. 13, 1853, and died June 9, 1916. On Feb. 24, 1874 in McLean County she married Valentine Augstin [Eigsti]. He was born March 30, 1850, and died Jan. 17, 1936, a son of Valentine Augstin and his first wife Véronique Bächer. They are found on the 1880 census of Nebraska Township, Livingston County as farmer Valentin Augstin, 30, France; Elizabeth, 26, Illinois; Christian, 5; Jacob, 4; Annie, 3; Simon, 2; and infant Barbra; all children born in Illinois. They are buried in Reedeley Cemetery at Reedeley, California.

c. Katharina/Catherine Stalter was born in Tazewell County March 20, 1855, and died at Pontiac, Livingston County Dec. 20, 1918. On March 2, 1873 at Pike Township, Livingston County she married Daniel Stalter. He was born on Nassenwald farm July 14, 1843, and died at Flanagan, Livingston County April 2, 1930, a son of Johannes John Stalter and his first wife Elizabeth Reidiger. See THE STALTERS OF MONBIJOU for more on this couple including her obituary.

d. Barbara Stalter was born at Tremont Feb. 2, 1857, and died at Toluca, Marshall County March 12, 1947. On Feb. 23, 1880 in Bureau County she married Christian Roggy. He was born at Granville, Putnam County Feb. 29, 1852, and died at Meadows, McLean County Nov. 21, 1919, a son of Peter Roggy and Magdalena Burkey. They are buried in Waldo Cemetery at Flanagan, Livingston County. See BIRKY/BIRKEY for their obituaries.

e. Fannie Stalter was born at Morton April 17, 1858, and died at Hopedale March 25, 1943. On Feb. 28, 1876 at Flanagan, Livingston County she married Christian N. Sutter. He was born at Morton Aug. 3, 1853, and died at Hopedale July 22, 1932, a son of Christian Sutter and Magdalena Nafziger. Gospel Herald, April 1943: "Sutter - Fanny, daughter of Jacob and Barbara Stalter, was born near Morton, Ill., April 17, 1858; died at her home in Hopedale, Ill., March 25, 1943; aged 84 y. 11 m. 8 d. While she was a small child her parents moved to the vicinity of Flanagan where she grew to womanhood. She was married to Christian N. Sutter, Feb. 28, 1876, and came to Hopedale, Ill., to make her home. Her husband preceded her in death ten years ago and one son Amos, eight years ago. To this union 13 children were born, twelve of whom survive (Christ, Kouts, Ind.; Sophia Dietz, Chenou, Ill.; Louisa Zehr, Mackinaw; Julius J., Elwyn, Pa.; Cyrenius and Aaron, Manson, Ia.; Harvey, Peoria, Ill.; Edward, Eureka, Ill.; Barbara Zehr. Levi, Elmer, and Matilda, Hopedale, Ill.). She also leaves one sister, Barbara Roggy, Meadows; one brother Chris, Pontiac; 49 grandchildren, and 50 great-grandchildren. She united with the Mennonite Church in her youth and remained faithful to the end. Besides bringing up her large family, she spent many a night at the home of some sick friend or neighbor. Funeral services were held March 27 in charge of Bro. Simon Littler assisted by Bro. Ben Springer."

f. Joseph Stalter was born at Hopedale Feb. 7, 1861, and died in January 1889. He is buried in Willow Springs Cemetery at Tiskilwa, Bureau County, where his headstone gives his age as '28 y. 11 m.'

g. Andrew Stalter (also found as Andrew C. Stalter) was born in Tazewell County Dec. 17, 1865, and died at Waldo, Livingston County Sept. 6, 1931. On Sept. 30, 1888 in Bureau County he married Martha Zierlein. She was born in Wheatland, Bureau County circa 1867, a daughter of Christian N. Zierlein and Anna Burkey. Andrew is buried in Earl Cemetery at Earlville, LaSalle County.

h. Christian Stalter (also found as Christian B. Stalter) was born in Tazewell County Aug. 14, 1868, and died at Meadows Feb. 8, 1953. On Feb. 20, 1896 in Bureau County he married Magdalena Birky. She was born Nov. 29, 1871, and died at Pontiac, Livingston County June 12, 1948. They are found on the 1930 census of Waldo. They are buried in Memorial Park Cemetery at Pontiac, Livingston County. In addition, three children or grandchildren who died are mentioned in Barbara's 1885 obituary.

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l. Christian Stalter (also found as Christian B. Stalter) was born in Tazewell County Aug. 14, 1868, and died at Meadows Feb. 8, 1953. On Feb. 20, 1896 in Bureau County he married Magdalena Birky. She was born Nov. 29, 1871, and died at Pontiac, Livingston County June 12, 1948. They are found on the 1930 census of Waldo. They are buried in Memorial Park Cemetery at Pontiac, Livingston County. In addition, three children or grandchildren who died are mentioned in Barbara's 1885 obituary.

3. Katharina/Catherine Stalter was born on the Hemerten estate Jan. 9, 1832, and died at Hopedale Oct. 15, 1919. On March 2, 1856 in Tazewell County she married Josef Guth/Joseph Good; the ceremony was performed by minister minister Andrew Ropp. He was born at Burgwalden Jan. 19, 1831, and died at Hopedale Feb. 10, 1909, a son of Christian Guth and Barbara Christner. For background on this couple see GOOD.

4. Jakobina 'Phebe' Stalter was born on the Hemerten estate in 1833, and died at Hopedale Feb. 10, 1894. In 1854 she married Daniel Koch/Cook. He was born in Bavaria circa 1828, and died in 1895. They sailed together on the Cumberland in 1854. Her passport issued at Burgwalden April 11, 1854 described her as age 23, brown hair, gray eyes, pointed nose, full face, mouth proportionate, chin round, complexion healthy, average height, no special marks. They were already living at Hopedale in 1855, according to the birthplace given on the death entry of one of their children. An 1865 non-population schedule census of Hopedale (an accounting of property used for tax purposes) shows Daniel Cook, Christian Zehr, Christian Nafziger, and August Unzicker on the same page. The 1870 census of Hopedale shows farmer Daniel Cook, 42, Bavaria; Phebe, 37, Bavaria; Kate, 15; Christian, 13; Eliza, 4; and Mary, 4; all children born in Illinois. The 1880 census of Hopedale has farmer Daniel Cook, 55, Prussia; Phebe, 46, Prussia; Kate, 24, 'numonia'; Christian, 23; Lizza, 17; and Mary, 14; all children born in Illinois. They appear on the census.
page one family removed from Christian Nafziger, 60, Bavaria, who was elder of the Hopedale congregation.
Jakobina is buried in Hopedale Mennonite Cemetery as Phoebe Koch.

5. According to Guth, Maria Stalter was born on the Hemerten estate Nov. 18, 1836, and married a Renner in Bavaria.
   There may have been a son Heinrich Stalter who died young.351 Was this Henry Stalder, who was born circa 1842,
enlisted at Spring Bay, and died in the Civil War? See 'OTHER' STALTERS.

The child of Jakob Stalter and his second wife Barbara Güngerich was:

6. Georg Stalter was born on the Hemerten estate Jan. 27, 1855. He married Anna Gascho, and became an estate
   manager at Burgwalden (35 miles south of the Hemerten estate).

The Stalters of Monbijou

Josef Stalter [Sr.] was born on the Bickenaschbacherhof estate March 27, 1786, a son of Christian Stalter and
Magdalena Hauter. He lived there until his marriage to Susanne Hauter July 24, 1806. She was born on the
Monbijou estate at Dietrichingen in 1787, a daughter of Nikolaus Hauter and his second wife Elisabeth Maurer.
Josef and Susanne farmed on the Monbijou estate. There they assisted her father, who was the estate manager
and leaseholder. Josef was also ordained as a minister. Susanne died there Nov. 11, 1820.

On Feb. 3, 1822 on the Ottenweierhof estate at Ichenheim, Baden, Josef remarried to Barbara Reidiger. She
was born on the Ottenweierhof estate Sept. 24, 1802, and died on the Monbijou estate May 4, 1867, a daughter of
Sebastian Reütiger and Magdalena Güngerich. (By this time a number of cross-marriages had merged the Stalter,
Hauter, and Oesch families; the Reidiger family would be absorbed as well).

After his remarriage Josef leased the Kirschbacherhof estate adjacent to Monbijou. Some time after 1822 he
also came into possession of the Stuppacherhof estate near the city of Zweibrücken. This estate had once been
owned by elder Jakob Dettweiler.

In 1835 Josef assumed a lease on the Monbijou estate, adjacent to the Kirschbacherhof estate. He gave the
lease on the Kirschbacherhof to his oldest sons Josef Stalter [Jr.] and Johannes. They were married to younger
sisters of their stepmother Barbara Reidiger: Josef [Jr.] to Katharina Reidiger, and Johannes to Elizabeth Reidiger.

Initially Johannes worked with his older brother, but disagreements led him to go off within a year to labor
with his wife's family on the Ottenweierhof estate.

A series of misfortunes drained the savings of Josef [Sr.]. In April 1841 he had to pay a substitute to serve an
army term of enlistment for his son Jakob. Then his income dropped with a drought in the summer of 1842. The
strain of farming losses led to tension between relatives.

In February of 1843 a dispute arose between Stalters, Reidigers, and Hauters over a case of illegal woodcutting
in the Kirschbacher Wald. In May Josef [Sr.] refused to shake the hand of wealthy and well-known horse breeder
Johannes Hauter at a public meeting. Outwardly this looked like a feud between the Stalters and Hauters. In fact
they were brothers-in-law.

Eventually a group of Hauters and Oesches pulled away from Stalter's congregation, objecting to his
strictness.352 Then on Aug. 31, 1843 a fire caused by arson consumed a stable and two barns on the under-insured
Stuppacherhof estate.

While Josef [Sr.] was coping with these trials, his son Josef [Jr.] was floundering on the Kirschbacherhof
estate. Hermann Guth says he farmed 'inefficiently.' His problems were compounded because he misled creditors
to cover up his difficulties. In January of 1848 a civil complaint by one creditor caused his arrest on a street in the
city of Zweibrücken. His deeply embarrassed father paid off the debt, but this only encouraged others to press their
own legal actions.

Josef [Sr.] had been a guarantor for his oldest son, and had a share in his debts. He was eventually obligated to
sell the Stuppacherhof at auction. His wealth had dwindled by the time he died on the Monbijou estate Jan. 25,
1853.

Children of Josef Stalter [Sr.] and Susanne Hauter born on the Monbijou estate include:

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351 In Amish Mennonites in Germany, author Hermann Guth wrote that a daughter named Elizabeth Stalter married
Anthony Colby. This may have been a note transcription error. Elizabeth Guth of Burgwalden is mentioned elsewhere in the
same book as the wife of Anthony Colby. More accurately, Elizabeth Guth/Good and her husband Anton Kalbl were residing at
Hopedale in 1860. See GOOD.

352 The new moderate congregation constructed a church building at Ixheim, while Josef [Sr.]'s congregation continued to
meet in homes.
1. Josef [Jr.]/Joseph Stalter was born Sept. 15, 1807, and died at Arrowsmith, McLean County Oct. 22, 1888. See BROTHER JOSEF [Jr.]/JOSEPH STALTER.

2. Elisabeth Stalter was born May 9, 1808, and died Nov. 11, 1867. In 1828 she married Johannes Reidiger. He was born on the Ottenweierhof estate at Ichenheim, Baden in 1806, a son of Sebastian Reütiger and Magdalena Gungeric.

3. Christian Stalter was born Jan. 10, 1811. He married Elizabeth Kinzinger. She was born on the Heckenaschbacherhof estate at Contwig circa 1816; a daughter of Johannes Kinzinger and Christina Schrag. See BROTHER CHRISTIAN STALTER OF BUTLER COUNTY.

4. Johannes Stalter was born Sept. 15, 1812, settled at Elm Grove, and died at Gridley, McLean County Sept. 15, 1897. See BROTHER JOHANNES/JOHN STALTER.

5. Jakob Stalter was born Nov. 19, 1819. On Jan. 19, 1840 at Sexau, Baden he married Veronika Zimmerman. She was born Dec. 6, 1818, a daughter of Michael/Michel Zimmerman and Veronika Roggy. They bred horses on the Ernstweilerhof estate near Zweibrücken. In Scattering Point: The World in a Mennonite Eye, Jeff Gundy shows a photo of a tree [Linden of Peace, Ger. Friedenslinde] that Jakob planted there to honor Kaiser Wilhelm I and King Ludwig II. Their son Jakob Stalter, also known as Jacob Z. Stalter, emigrated from Europe in 1857 or 1866. See NEPHEW JAKOB STALTER

6. Magdalena Stalter was born Dec. 28, 1822, and died at Eichelscheiderhof, Germany April 11, 1891. In August 1841 on the Monbijou estate she married Johannes Nařziger. He was born on the Ransbrunnerhof estate at Eppenbrunn in 1820, and died on the Kirchheimerhof estate (southwest of the city of Zweibrücken) June 10, 1856, a son of Peter Nařziger and Barbara Guth. Josef Stalter [Sr.] acted as guarantor when they leased the Kirchheimerhof estate in June 1842.

7. Katharina 'Käthchen' Stalter was born March 8, 1824, and died on the Monbijou estate Dec. 4, 1893. On Nov. 6, 1849 on the Monbijou estate she married Jakob Kinzinger. He was born on the Heckenaschbacherhof estate at Contwig Nov. 8, 1822, and died at Solgne, France Dec. 23, 1904, a son of Johannes Kinzinger and Christina Schrag.

8. Daniel Stalter was born Oct. 10, 1828, and died on the Monbijou estate Dec. 4, 1893. In 1859 he married Anna Marie Wenger. She was born at Michelfeld, St. Louis, Upper Alsace March 12, 1827, a daughter of Joseph Wenger and Anne Marie Zimmerman. They farmed on the Wahlerhof estate at Hengstbach (southwest of the city of Zweibrücken), where Daniel became an elder of the Zweibrücken congregation.

9. Barbara Stalter was born July 28, 1829. On June 5, 1847 at Dietrichingen she married Christian Wenger. He was born at Michelfeld, St. Louis, Upper Alsace April 1, 1825, a son of Joseph Wenger and Anne Marie Zimmerman. See HALF-SISTER JAKOBINA STALTER.

10. Jakobina Stalter was born on Oct. 22, 1831, and died at Saybrook, McLean County Sept. 3, 1895. She married Josef Nařziger; accompanied her sister-in-law, nieces, and nephews from Hottviller on the Zurich in 1855; returned to Europe; and remarried to Joseph Dann before emigrating with him in 1870, settling in McLean County. See BROTHER JOSEF [Jr.]/Joseph Stalter.

11. Susanna Stalter was born July 13, 1837, and died Sept. 21, 1907. In 1860 she married Joseph Peterschmitt.

Brother Josef [Jr.]/Joseph Stalter

Josef [Jr.]/Joseph Stalter was born Sept. 15, 1807

On May 23, 1830 he married Katharina/Catherine Reidiger. She was born on the Ottenweierhof estate at Ichenheim, Baden April 5, 1808, and died at Arrowsmith, McLean County Jan. 1, 1877, a daughter of Sebastian Reütiger and Magdalena Gungeric.

He assumed the lease on the Kirschbacherhof estate when his father leased the adjacent Monbijou estate in 1835.

After his arrest and release in January 1848 (the story told earlier) he fled to avoid creditors, and went to his younger brother Johannes on Nassenwald farm at Hottviller, Moselle. Despite differences, the two brothers once again farmed together.

As the oldest son, Josef [Jr.] would have returned from Hottviller to be present at the deathbed of his father Jan. 25, 1853. He may have obtained his share of inheritance immediately to avoid legal attachments on the estate, because he departed within a day or two to emigrate from the port of Le Havre.

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353 The Ernstweilerhof home is now situated in the neighborhood of Ernstweiler within the city limits of Zweibrücken.

354 Nassenwald farm is still active. The property is also an archaeological site, where fragments of Roman statuary have been found. Hottviller's present population is less than 700.
Josef [Jr.] made his rapid exit with his oldest son. We found records of four relevant voyages carrying Josef [Jr.], his wife Katharina/Catherine Reidiger, the widowed Johannes/John, and their children.

**IDDO KIMBALL**

This voyage departed from Le Havre and arrived at New York Feb. 22, 1853 - less than a month after the death of Josef Stalder Sr. The passenger list shows Joseph Stalder, 46, Bavaria; and his son Joseph Stalder, 21, Bavaria.

**SAMUEL L. FOX**

This voyage departed from Le Havre and arrived at New York Aug. 23, 1853. The passenger list shows Bavarian farmer Jean Stalter, 40; and his son Jean, 18.

**CAROLUS MAGNUS**

This voyage departed from Le Havre and arrived at New York Aug. 9, 1854. The passenger list shows Magdal. Stalter, 21; Cath., 22; and Veronica, 16 - three daughters of Josef [Jr.] and Katharina/Catherine.

**ZURICH**

This voyage departed from Le Havre June 13, 1855, and arrived at New York July 23, 1855. The passenger list shows Staller Catha. [Katharina/Catherine Reidiger], 47, Prussia; Philipp, 26 [see HALF-SISTER JAKOBINA STALTER]; Elise, 12; Daniel, 18; Jacob, 14 [likely Jakobina/Jacoline, who was born in 1840]; Anna, 9; Jacob, 7; Susanne, 6; Nicolas, 2; Joseph, 15; and Elise, 11 [children from both marriages].

In addition, another brother Christian brought his family to America in 1854 or 1855. When his passenger list is identified it may have a bearing on this group.

At first Josef [Jr.]/Joseph took his family to Hamilton, Butler County, Ohio. He may have migrated to Illinois circa 1859 with his brother Johannes/John.

In McLean County he became a minister of the Rock Creek meeting. *History of the Central Conference Mennonite Church* says, "The Amish churches at this time, instead of having one pastor, had a number of ministers to serve the congregation. This was true of the North Danvers church. In the year 1872, when the congregation began to worship in the new church, the following were the ministers: Bishop Joseph Stuckey, Rev. John Strubhar, Rev. John Stahly, Rev. Christian Imhoff, Rev. Joseph Stalter, Rev. Michael Miller, and Rev. Jacob Miller. These men represented the three orders of the Amish ministry: bishops, ministers, and deacons ... Rev. Joseph Stalter came from Butler County, Ohio in the 1850s and died in the '90s."

The 1865 state census shows Joseph Stalter as the head of a household at Normal, McLean County. The 1870 census of Normal, McLean county shows Joseph Stalter, 60; Catherine, 52; Nicolus, 18, Baden; and Susan, 20, Baden.

*Gospel Herald*, February 1877: "Jan. 1st 1877, in McLean Co., Ill., of dropsy, Catherine Stalter, wife of Joseph Stalter, aged 68 years, and 8 months. She was the mother of 13 children, 9 of whom survive her. On the 4th her remains were consigned to mother earth, at which opportunity remarks were made from Rev. 14:13, by Joseph Stucky and Henderson."

The 1880 census of Arrowsmith, McLean County shows William Liser, 37, born in Illinois to parents from Prussia; Barbery, 44, Bavaria; Ann, 5, Illinois; Emmie, 2, Illinois; and father-in-law and retired farmer Joseph Stalter, 72, Bavaria.

'Joseph Stalter of Germany' was naturalized in the McLean County circuit court Nov. 1, 1881.


Children of Josef [Jr.]/Joseph Stalter and Katharina/Catherine Reidiger include:

1. Joseph Stalter (also found as Joseph R. Stalter) was born on the Kirschkatherhof estate March 14 (the date April 1 is derived from his inaccurate obituary), 1831, and died at Gridley Sept. 1, 1893. He may have been the 30-year-old Bavaria farm laborer Joseph Stalder found in the household of John Sommer and Barbe/Barbara Schertz on the 1860 census of Elm Grove. On March 22, 1866 in McLean County he married Christina Eicher. She was born March 25, 1842, and died in Livingston County Feb. 25, 1875. They appear on the 1870 census of Waldo, Livingston County.

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355 Latin for the French Charlemagne.
Amish Mennonites in Tazewell County, Illinois

as farmer Joseph Stahlha, 39, Baden; Christiana, 29, France; Barbara, 3, Illinois; Jacob, 1, Illinois; and Barbara, 30, home, Baden. The 1880 census of Waldo shows farmer Joseph R. Stalter, 49, Germany; Barbara, 13; Jacob, 11; Joseph, 9; and John, 7; all children born in Illinois. They are buried in Waldo Cemetery at Flanagan, Livingston County. 

Children of Joseph Stalter and Christina Eicher born at Waldo, Livingston County include:

- Barbara Stalter was born Feb. 15, 1868, and died at Flanagan, Livingston County May 7, 1954. On Nov. 20, 1887 in Livingston County she married Peter Saltzman. Gospel Herald, November 1921: "Peter Saltzman was born near Lacon, Ill., Dec. 10, 1860; died at his late home near Spires Station, Ill., Nov. 10, 1921; aged 60 y. 11 m. He was united in marriage with Barbara Stalter Nov. 20, 1887. To this union were born two sons and five daughters. One son and one daughter preceded him in death. He leaves his loving companion, one son, and five daughters (Mrs. J. Roy Hartzler, Mrs. William Yordy, Mrs. Noah Eigsti, Clara, and Raymond), seven grandchildren, two brothers, two sisters, and many other relatives and friends. His wife preceded him about 20 years, leaving him with four children whom he reared with care, and who now survive him. He was universally loved and respected and was a faithful brother in the Old Amish branch of the Mennonite denomination. Buried on the 3rd at which time the largest funeral assembled that was ever in the meeting-house of that place. Funeral services by D. Orendorff, J. Egly. Jos. Ackerman, John Schmitt and others."

- Jacob Stalter was born May 30, 1868, and died at Peoria Dec. 19, 1917. Gospel Herald, January 1918: "Jacob Stalter was born in Peoria, Ill., May 30, 1869; died in the hospital at Peoria, Ill., Dec. 19, 1917; aged 48 y. 7m. 20d. The cause of his death was pellagra. He leaves two brothers, one sister, five nephews, and nine nieces. Funeral services were held at the home of his brother John near Flanagan, Ill., and at the Waldo Church, by Bros. D.W. Slagel and Geo. Summer. Burial in the Waldo Cemetery."

- Joseph Stalter was born Nov. 23, 1870, and died in Mennonite Hospital at Bloomington, McLean County Feb. 1, 1884. On Sept. 13, 1891 in Livingston County he married Elizabeth Saltzman. Gospel Herald, March 1948: "Stalter - Joseph, son of Joseph and Christene Stalter, was born near Flanagan, Ill., Nov. 23, 1870; passed away at the Mennonite Hospital, Bloomington, Ill.; aged 77 y. 2 m. 9 d. For a year or more he had been in failing health, and was confined to bed for the last four weeks of his life. On Sept. 13, 1891, he was united in marriage to Elizabeth Saltzman, who predeceased him. Surviving are five children (Mrs. Tillie Schertz, Metamora, Ill.; Edward and William, Gridley, Ill.; Ollie and Ethel, Flanagan, Ill.), 16 grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren, one brother (John, of Gridley), and one sister (Mrs. Barbara Saltzman, of Flanagan). One son (Arthur), three daughters (Edna, Mrs. Mattie Beller, and Mrs. Ella Rosehart), and two grandchildren preceded him in death. In his youth he accepted Christ as his personal Saviour and united with the Waldo Mennonite Church, of which he remained a member through life and having been a member of this church for about seventy years. Funeral services were held at the Waldo Mennonite Church in charge of J. D. Hartzler, assisted by E. J. Stalter. Interment was made in the Waldo Cemetery."

- John Stalter was born Feb. 24, 1872, and died in Livingston County Aug. 5, 1958. On Oct. 16, 1901 in Woodford County he married Magdalena Teuscher. She was born in Woodford County Nov. 13, 1874, and died at Meadows, McLean County Sept. 16, 1907. Gospel Witness, October 1907: "Lena Stalter (Nee Teuscher) was born Nov. 13, 1874, in Woodford Co., Illinois; died at her home near Meadows, Ill., Sept. 16, 1907, at the age of 32 y. 10 m. 3 d. She was united in holy matrimony Oct. 16, 1901, with John Stalter. To this union were born two sons and two daughters. She leaves a sorrowing husband, four children, mother, four brothers and many friends to mourn her early departure. Father, four brothers and
one sister preceded her to the spirit world. Funeral services conducted in German by Daniel Orendorff, from Heb. 18:14, and Christian Rediger, from Rom. 6:23, and D. W. Slagel in English, from Isa. 35:10." On Feb. 25, 1913 he remarried to Catherine 'Katie' Nafziger. She was born March 11, 1874, and died at Flanagan Aug. 29, 1940, a daughter of Joseph C. Nafziger and Magdalena Nafziger. Gospel Herald, September 1958: "Stalter, John, son of Joseph and Mary [Christina] Stalter; born Feb. 24, 1872, Gridley, Ill.; died Aug. 5, 1958, at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Emery Cender. Married in 1900 to Lena Teuscher, who died in 1907. Two sons and two daughters were born (Elmer, who died in 1927; Aaron J., Gibson City; Sadie-Mrs. Roy Ingold, Ludlow; and Mattie-Mrs. Emery Cender, Gibson City). On Feb. 25, 1913, he married Katie Nafziger, who died in 1942. Survivors: one son and two daughters, 20 grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren, one brother (Christian, Gridley), and three sisters (Mrs. Albert DeWilde, Gridley; Mrs. Lizzie Rediger, Hesston, Kans.; and Lena Stalter, Upland, Calif.). Two brothers and one sister preceded him in death. Member of East Bend Church, where services were held Aug. 8, with Howard Zehr, Harold Zehr, and Joe Hartzler officiating. Burial in Waldo Cemetery."

2. Katharina/Catherine Stalter was born on the Kirschbacherhof estate Jan. 4 or Sept. 17 (death entry date), 1832, and died at Yellowhead, Kankakee County Dec. 12, 1921. She married David Werner. He was born in 1836, and died in 1915. In 1880 they were living at Anchor, McLean County; they also appear on the 1900 and 1910 censuses of Cheney Grove, McLean County. The 1900 census shows retired farmer David Werner, 64, born in Germany in July 1836 to German parents, immigrated 1853; Catherine, 67, born in Germany in 1854 to German parents; and two grown children born in Illinois. Her death entry said that in 1921 they were residing at Grant Park, Kankakee County. They are buried in Greenwood Cemetery at Saybrook, McLean County.

3. Magdalena 'Lena' Stalter was born on the Kirschbacherhof estate Jan. 27, 1834, and died Jan. 14, 1911. On Feb. 28, 1860 in McLean County she married Peter Lehman. He was born April 12, 1834, and died March 11, 1899. They are found on the 1870 census of Nebraska Township, Livingston County as farmer Peter Lehman, 35, France; Magdalena, 36, Bavaria; Phebe, 12; Peter, 9; Joseph, 7; Elia, 5; Elizabeth, 2; all children born in Illinois; and farm laborer Christian Summer, 31, Bavaria. They are buried in Waldo Cemetery at Flanagan, Livingston County.

4. Barbara Stalter was born on the Kirschbacherhof estate Sept. 5, 1835, and died in McLean County Nov. 15, 1908. It is possible that she was the Barbara Stalter, 32, who emigrated by sailing on the ship Bremen from Bremen, arriving at New York Sept. 23, 1867. On March 3, 1874 in McLean County she married William Leiser. He was born at Joliet, Will County Dec. 7, 1842, and died at Saybrook, McLean County Oct. 20, 1926, a son of John Leiser and Barbara Hickel. He had mined for silver in Utah from 1865 to 1871. They are found on the 1900 census of Arrowsmith, McLean County as landlord William Leiser, 57, born in Illinois in December 1842 to German parents; Barbara, 64, born in Germany in September 1835 to German parents (no immigration date given); and two children born in Illinois. William was Mennonite, and they attended the United Brethren Church at Saybrook. They are buried in Greenwood Cemetery at Saybrook.

5. Elizabeth Stalter was born on the Kirschbacherhof estate March 23, 1837, and died at Normal, McLean County Sept. 25, 1929. On March 28, 1871 in McLean County she married Christian Springer. Also known as Christian W. Springer, he was born at Sarrebourg, Moselle Oct. 25, 1828, a son of Christian Springer and Magdalena/Madeleine Engel. They are found on the 1880 census of Martin, McLean County as farmer C.W. Springer, 50, France; Elizabeth, 42, Germany; and four children born in Illinois.

6. Veronika 'Fannie' Stalter was born on the Kirschbacherhof estate April 7 or 8 (headstone), 1839, and died in McLean County Feb. 18, 1860. On March 20, 1859 in McLean County she married Joseph Kempf/Kamp/Camp. He was born in Butler County, Ohio June 16, 1838, a son of Christian Kempf and Magdalena Sommer. Veronika was the first of his three McLean County marriages within four years. Her headstone in Peter Maurer Cemetery (near County Road 75 N, southeast of Congerville on the Woodford-McLean county line) says she was 'Fannie, wife of Joseph Kamp, died Feb. 16, 1860, aged 20 y.; 10 m.; 8 d.' Joseph remarried to her younger sister Jakobina/Jacobine the following year, his second of three McLean County marriages within a four-year span.

7. Jakobina/Jacobine Stalter was born on the Kirschbacherhof estate Sept. 29, 1840, and died in McLean County Dec. 1, 1861. On Nov. 1, 1860 in McLean County she married widower Joseph Kempf/Kamp/Camp, becoming his second wife. She is buried in Peter Maurer Cemetery, where her headstone says she is 'Jacobine Kamp, wife of Joseph Kamp, died Dec. 1, 1861, aged 21 yrs. 2ms. 1d.'

8. Anna Stalter was born on the Kirschbacherhof estate April 5, 1842, and died at Normal, McLean County Sept. 16, 1934. On Feb. 23, 1865 in McLean County she married Peter Mohr. He was born Dec. 12, 1843, and died May 30, 1892. They are buried in Troyer Cemetery at Carlock, McLean County. Gospel Herald, June 1892: "On the 29th of May, 1892, in McLean Co., III., from the effects of LaGrippe, Peter Mohr, aged 49 years, 5 months and 4 days. Bro. Mohr was married to Anna Stalton on the 3rd of February, 1865. This union was blessed with 10 children, of whom 7 are living. The remains were laid to rest on the 31st in Troyer's burial ground. A large number of sympathizing friends attended the funeral. Appropriate remarks were made at the house from Ps. 103, and in the church at Yudan by Joseph Stuckey and Peter Shantz, from John 11:28. Bro. Mohr was a member of the North Danvers Mennonite church. Peace to his ashes. May God comfort the bereaved family and friends. Joseph Stuckey."
9. A boy was stillborn on the Kirschbacherhof estate March 11, 1844.356
10. Daniel Stalter was born on the Kirschbacherhof estate Feb. 8, 1845, and died Jan. 25, 1846.
11. Jakob/Jacob Stalter was born on the Kirschbacherhof estate Feb. 10, 1847, and died Nov. 28, 1903. On Jan. 17, 1878 in McLean County he married Amelia Haxel. She was born at Quincy, Adams County March 1, 1860, and died at Bloomington, McLean County Aug. 12, 1918. They are buried in Evergreen Memorial Cemetery at Bloomington.
12. Susanne/Susannah Stalter was born on Nassenwald farm at Hottviller, Moselle Jan. 29, 1849, and died in McLean County Sept. 14, 1892. On Jan. 16, 1872 in McLean County she married Hiram Troyer. He was born in Columbus, Ohio March 22, 1843, and died at Chicago Jan. 5, 1923, a son of Jonas Troyer and Elizabeth Miller. 

Herald of Truth, October 1892: "On the 14th of September, 1892, in McLean Co., Ill., Susanna Troyer, maiden name Stalter, very suddenly, of heart disease, aged 43 years, 7 months and 12 days. In her 16th year she united with the church at North Danvers, and was a faithful member. She lived in matrimony 21 years and leaves her sorrowing husband and 4 children. Buried on the 17th in Greenwood graveyard. Funeral services by Joseph Stuckey and I. Henderson. The funeral was very largely attended."

On Dec. 12, 1894 in McLean County Hiram remarried to Eliza Guengerich. Susanne and Hiram are buried in Greenwood Cemetery at Saybrook, McLean County.

13. Nicolas/Nicholas Stalter was born on Nassenwald farm at Hottviler Dec. 8, 1852, and died at Decatur, Macou County May 23, 1930. He married Wilhelmina 'Minnie' Horn. She was born July 29, 1857, and died at Bloomington, McLean County Aug. 20 (death entry) or Aug. 23 (headstone date), 1923. They are buried in Park Hill Cemetery at Bloomington. Nicholas was a carpenter at Bloomington. They are found on the 1900 census of Bloomington as day laborer Nichols Stalter, 48, born in Sweden in December 1851; Minnie, 40, born in Missouri in November 1859 to German parents; and two children born in Missouri in 1878 and 1892. On the 1920 census of Bloomington they appear as Nicholas Stalter, 66, born in Missouri to German parents; Minnie, 62, born in Missouri to German parents; and Lester C., 19, born in Illinois.

**Brother Christian Stalter**

This portion of text is admittedly weak. We first found the family of Christian Stalter on the 1860 census of Lemon, Butler County, where they are listed as a 'Staller.' Had we not had our own relatives living in that community, we would not have found the entry and tucked it away in memory. It was positively identified by comparing the names and ages of children against online Hornbach birth entries. But we were unable to identify a passenger list or follow the later lives of Christian, his wife, or two of their sons. This would be a good project for further investigation in the archives at the Butler County Recorids Center and Archives at Hamilton (e.g. county cemetery and probate records).

**Christian Stalter** was born Jan. 10, 1811. He was a brother to Josef Stalter [Jr.] and Johannes/John Stalter, a half-brother to Jakobina Stalter, and an uncle to Jacob Z. Stalter.

Circa 1837 he married Elisabetha/Elizabeth Kinzinger. She was born on the Heckenaschbacherhof estate at Contwig March 18, 1816, and died in Butler County, Ohio Nov. 19, 1886, a daughter of Johannes Kinzinger and Christina Schrag. In 1836 her older brother Johannes Kinzinger had married his cousin Katharina Stalter (she was a daughter of Christian Stalter and Elisabetha Kinsinger). In 1849 her younger brother Jakob Kinzinger would marry his younger half-sister Katharina 'Käthchen' Stalter.

They emigrated from Europe in 1854 or 1855.

They are found on the 1860 census of Lemon, Butler County, Ohio as Christian Stalter, 50, Rim betz [perhaps meant to be Rhine Bayern/Rhenish Bavaria]; Elizabeth, 44; Joseph, 18; Christian, 16; John, 13; and Catharina, 9.

Elisabetha/Elizabeth is buried in Mennonite Cemetery at Trenton, Butler County.

Children of Christian Stalter and Elisabetha/Elizabeth Kinsinger born at Hornbach include:

1. Elisabetha/Elizabeth Stalter was born April 10, 1838, and died at Hanover, Butler County March 31, 1911. She is buried in Madison Township. Elisabeth Stalter was born in Germany April 10, 1838, immigrated in 1851, and died in Butler County March 31, 1911. On April 14, 1859 she became the second wife of minister Peter Kinsinger (the first was Catherine Augspurger). The ceremony was performed by minister Nicholas Augspurger. Kinsinger was born at the Blumenauer mill at Brensclenchbach im Saarland (6 miles southwest of Hornbach, on the present border of Germany and France) Jan. 28, 1827, and died in Butler County Sept. 7, 1888, a son of Johannes Kinzinger and Magdalena Oesch. According to Grubb's History of the Mennonites of Butler County, Ohio he served the Augspurger congregation 1867-1888. The 1870 census of Hanover, Butler County shows farmer Peter Kinsinger, 43, Bavaria; Elizabeth, 32, Bavaria; six children born in Ohio; farm hand George Himmelsback, 30, Ohio; and domestic servant Phebe Schwartzentuber, 20, Ohio. The 1880 census of Hanover, Butler County has farmer Peter Kinsinger, 53, born in Bavaria to German parents; Elizabeth, 42, born in Bavaria to German parents; and eight children born in Ohio.

356 One database names this boy 'Totgeburt.' This may have come from an original entry. The German Totgeburt means the child was stillborn.
we find the same names here as there. For instance, Ehresman, Mueller, Ulrich, Neuhauser, Klopfenstein, Schlegel, Township, the Germans were in the majority. Children of the German settlers around Farnisville moved here, and vicinity of Gridley the situation was similar. In the township in the southwest corner of Livingston County, Waldo and otherwise fine people, most all of whom attained prosperity and many of whom became wealthy.... In the from Bavaria, Rhenish Bavaria, Switzerland, Wuerttemberg, Baden, Alsace, and Lorraine. They were good farmers

years in Tazewell County), Joseph Cloudon, John, Christian and Jacob Koenig who came from McLean County, and also settled here, such as: George Wurst, Heinrich Otto, John Lukert, John Stalter (who had first lived for several

1858-1864). They were almost exclusively Mennonites (Amish, as they were usually called), who had immigrated

river was settled almost entirely by Germans, many of whom had been there for as long as twenty years (before 1858-1864). They were almost exclusively Mennonites (Amish, as they were usually called), who had immigrated from Bavaria, Rhenish Bavaria, Switzerland, Wuerttemberg, Baden, Alsace, and Lorraine. They were good farmers and otherwise fine people, most all of whom attained prosperity and many of whom became wealthy.... In the vicinity of Gridley the situation was similar. In the township in the southwest corner of Livingston County, Waldo Township, the Germans were in the majority. Children of the German settlers around Farnisville moved here, and we find the same names here as there. For instance, Ehresman, Mueller, Ulrich, Neuhauser, Klopfenstein, Schlegel, Sommer, Rich, Farni, etc. This township was called 'the German township' at that time. New settlers from Germany also settled here, such as: George Wurst, Heinrich Otto, John Lukert, John Stalter (who had first lived for several years in Tazewell County), Joseph Cludon, John, Christian and Jacob Koenig who came from McLean County, and many others.

Brother Johannes/John Stalter

Johannes Stalter was born on the Monbijou estate Sept. 15, 1812.

On Feb. 18, 1835 he married Elisabeth Reidiger. She was born on the Ottenweierhof estate at Ichenheim, Baden circa 1812, and died in Europe in or before 1853, a daughter of Sebastian Reütiger and Magdalena Güngerich.

After arguing with his older brother Josef [Jr.] on the Kirschbacherhof estate, Johannes went off to his wife's home on the Ottenweierhof estate in 1836. In 1839 he obtained his own lease on Nassenwald farm at Hottviller, Moselle (12 miles south of the Monbijou estate). The land was still lightly forested, and required clearing before Johannes could plant crops. In return the contract should have permitted him to remain there for up to 20 years. He was joined there by his older brother in 1848.

History of McLean County says, "Mr. Stalter came to this country in 1853, after the death of his wife." The passenger list of the Samuel L. Fox was given earlier.

In America he became John Stalter. Like his older brother, he took his family to live in Hamilton, Butler County, Ohio. He remained there two years before they resettled at Elm Grove circa 1855.

Why Elm Grove? Johannes/John Kinsinger of Elm Grove was related by marriage (his brother Jakob Kinzinger married John's sister Katharina 'Käthchen' Stalter), and Heinrich Stalter [Jr.] of Groveland was his great-uncle. Perhaps the imminent war was a factor in their decision.

The 1860 census of Elm Grove shows farmer John Stalter, 48, Bavaria; Elizabeth, 38, Bavaria [we could not account for her]; John, 22; Joseph, 20; Eliz., 18; Daniel, 16; and Madaline, 13; all children born in Bavaria. The same census page shows Emanuel Garber, John Schrock, and Peter Unzicker. These three owned property on Allentown Road, and their lots are labeled on the 1860 plat map of Elm Grove. Yet John is not shown there, indicating that he did not own the land he lived on.

John Stalter is found in Elm Grove on the 1865 federal income tax record for District 8. In that year the family moved onto a farm at Waldo, Livingston County.

Centennial History of the Mennonites of Illinois 1829-1929: "The region about Farnisville on the Mackinaw river was settled almost entirely by Germans, many of whom had been there for as long as twenty years (before 1858-1864). They were almost exclusively Mennonites (Amish, as they were usually called), who had immigrated from Bavaria, Rhenish Bavaria, Switzerland, Wuerttemberg, Baden, Alsace, and Lorraine. They were good farmers and otherwise fine people, most all of whom attained prosperity and many of whom became wealthy.... In the vicinity of Gridley the situation was similar. In the township in the southwest corner of Livingston County, Waldo Township, the Germans were in the majority. Children of the German settlers around Farnisville moved here, and we find the same names here as there. For instance, Ehresman, Mueller, Ulrich, Neuhauser, Klopfenstein, Schlegel, Sommer, Rich, Farni, etc. This township was called 'the German township' at that time. New settlers from Germany also settled here, such as: George Wurst, Heinrich Otto, John Lukert, John Stalter (who had first lived for several years in Tazewell County), Joseph Cludon, John, Christian and Jacob Koenig who came from McLean County, and many others."
On Jan. 28, 1868 in Bureau County John remarried to Jacobine Rediger. We suspect but cannot prove that she was born as Jacobé Rediger at Bebing, Moselle April 26, 1808, a daughter of Andreas Reüttiger/André Rediger and Annette/Anne Ringenberg and cousin to his first wife Elisabeth.

The household appears on the 1870 census of Waldo, Livingston County as farmer John Stahlta, 58, Bavaria; Josephine [Jacobine], 58, France; John, 34, Bavaria; Joseph, 28, Bavaria; Daniel, 24, Bavaria; Elizabeth, 27, Bavaria; farm laborer Jacob Zimmerman, 20, Bavaria; domestic servant Mary Stahlta, 22, Illinois; and Barbara Staha, 14, Illinois.

Jacobine died in Livingston County Feb. 13, 1877. The 1880 census of Waldo, Livingston County shows farmer John Stalter, 67, Bavaria; John, 40, Bavaria; Elizabeth, 35, born in France to Bavarian parents, 'insane'; and August Peplow, 27, Germany.

On Jan. 17, 1881 in Livingston County John married a third time to widow Catherine 'Katie' Schertz. She was born Dec. 12, 1822, and died in Livingston County Dec. 28, 1895, a daughter of Christian Schertz and Elisabeth Huter. Her first two husbands were Peter Unzicker and Christian Fuchs.

'John Stalter of Bavaria' was naturalized in the Livingston County circuit court May 26, 1887.

John died at Gridley Sept. 15, 1897, and is buried in Waldo Cemetery. Herald of Truth, July 1897: "On the 18th of May 1897, in Livingston Co., Ill., of the infirmities of old age, Bro. John Stalter, aged 84 years, eight months and three days. Like a weary pilgrim, longing for home and rest with Jesus, our dear aged brother passed from us, so that their home was one of peace and plenty. His remains were laid to rest on the 20th in the Waldo graveyard. A large concourse of friends assembled to pay their last respects to the departed. Funeral services by Andrew Werckler, Joseph Kinsinger, Christian Zimmerman and others. Texts Isa. 38:1-3, Gen. 24:56 and Heb. 4-9." She is buried in Waldo Cemetery as 'Katharina Schertz, ehrefrau vor John Stalter.' She is buried T Cullum, Livingston County.

Children of Johannes/John Stalter and his first wife Elizabeth Rediger include:

1. Johannes/John Stalter was born on the Kirschbacherhof estate March 1, 1836. We could not follow him after the 1880 census of his father's household at Waldo, when he was unmarried. He died before his father's obituary was created in 1897.

357 The original entry may have been illegible or inaccurate; it was transcribed into the Illinois Statewide Marriage Index as a marriage between John Stalter and Jacobine Radiger.

358 To narrow down the search for Jacobine, we looked at two families living at Waldo in 1870 who used the spelling 'Rediger' (rather than 'Reidiger'). The heads of household were Defenseless Mennonite minister Joseph Rediger, 42, and his brother Johannes/John Rediger, 41, lived next door to Joseph Stalter, the son born in 1840. Joseph Rediger was born on the Lärchenhof estate at Wimsheim March 2, 1826, and died at Meadows, McLean County March 8, 1904. John/Johannes Rediger was born on the Lärchenhof estate Nov. 28, 1828, and died March 13, 1882. They were sons of Benjamin Rediger and Barbara Ehesman, and had immigrated in 1849 (see REIDIGER). We did not find a candidate Jacobine in their family tree. This suggests the possibility that Rediger was not her birth surname, but the surname of a first husband.

359 Catherine married Peter Unzicker in Butler County, Ohio Jan. 13, 1850. He was born at Altenbeuern, Germany Jan. 13, 1822, and died at Collinsville, Butler County, Ohio March 21, 1866, a son of Daniel Unzicker and Magdalena Kahn (see UNZICKER for background on this family). They farmed at Milford, Butler County. After his death she remarried to Christian Fuchs at Milford. Fuchs died Dec. 5, 1879. The Illinois Statewide Marriage Index lists them as John Stalter and Fuchs, Catharina Schertz (Mrs.).
2. Jakob/Jacob/Jacques Stalter was born on the Ottenweierhof estate at Ichenheim, Baden Jan. 19, 1838, and died on Nassenwald farm at Hottviller July 17, 1850. His birth entry was recorded in the Protestant Reformed church at Ichenheim in accordance with Baden's laws. It names the parents of Jakob as Johann Stalter and Elisabethe Reidiger.

3. Joseph Stalter was born on Nassenwald farm at Hottviller, Moselle March 30, 1840, and died at Waldo, Livingston County June 3, 1925. He is found living next door to his cousin Joseph Stalter on the 1870 census of Waldo; the household of Anton Huser shows farm laborer Joseph Stelter, 30, Baden. On March 5, 1871 in Livingston County he married Mary Stalter. She was born in Tazewell County July 22, 1850, and died at Gridley Dec. 11, 1917, a daughter of Jacob Stalter and Barbara Birky. The 1880 census of Waldo, Livingston County shows farmer Joseph Stalter, 40, Germany; Mary, 31, Illinois; John, 8; Mary, 7; Barbra, 3; and Elizabeth, 2, all children born in Illinois. The 1900 census of Waldo shows farmer Joseph Stalter, 60, born in France in March 1840 to German parents, immigrated in 1857; Mary, 49, born in Illinois in July 1850 to German parents; and five children born in Illinois. They are buried in Waldo Cemetery. *Gospel Herald*, December 1917: "Mary Stalter was born near Pekin, Ill., July 22, 1850; died Dec. 11, 1917; aged 67 y. 4 m. 19 d. She came with her parents to Livingston Col., Ill., in 1854. She was married to Joseph Stalter on March 5, 1871. They located near Meadows, at which place they still resided at the time of her death. They walked life's pathway peaceably together for nearly 47 years. To this union four sons and four daughters were born, two sons and one grandson preceded her. She leaves a loving husband and six children (John, Chris, Mrs. Henry Stalter, Mrs. Ed. Rediger, Barbara, and Lena); also 12 grandchildren. In early life she united with the A. M. Church and remained a faithful member. She suffered from Bright's disease for sometime, but bore her affliction patiently until she quietly passed away. She had the privilege of seeing her children grown to manhood and womanhood and all members of the church of her choice. Services at the house by Bro. D. W. Slagel (Text *Jno. 14*) and at the Church by Bro. Dan Orendorff (*Phil. 1:21*). Bro. Geo. H. Summer (*Rev. 14:13*). Burial in the Waldo Cemetery." *Gospel Herald*, July 1925: "Joseph Stalter, Sr., was born Mar. 31, 1840, in Alsace-Lorraine, France; entered into rest June 3, 1925, at his home near Meadows, Ill.; aged 85 y. 2 m. 2 d. At the age of 17 he came to America and located near Hamilton, Ohio, with his father and brother. Remaining there two years they moved near Pekin, Ill., where they lived seven years. In 1865 the family moved near Meadows, Ill. In 1871 he was united in holy matrimony to Mary Stalter and moved on the farm where he died, living there 54 years, with the exception of four months which he spent in St. Petersburg, Fla., last winter. To this union were born four sons and four daughters. His companion preceded him to the home beyond Dec. 11, 1917. Two sons died in infancy. He leaves two sons (John and Chris) three daughters (Mrs. E. A. Rediger, Barbara, and Lena), 13 grandchildren, 4 great-grandchildren, one brother (Daniel), and one sister (Magdalena Rocke). He accepted Christ and united with the Mennonite Church in his youth, and remained faithful and loyal until God called him home. "Dearest Father, thou hast left us, How we miss thee everywhere; But we hope again to meet thee, On yonder heavenly shore." Funeral services were held at his late home June 7, by Bro. D. W. Slagel, and at the church by Bro. Joe Heiser, Fisher, Ill., who preached the funeral sermon. *Text, II Tim. 4:6-8*. Burial in the Waldo cemetery."

4. Elisabeth/Elizabeth Stalter was born on Nassenwald farm Nov. 15, 1841, and died at Peoria May 9, 1918. The 1880 census of Waldo described her as 'insane.' She is buried in Waldo Cemetery. *Gospel Herald*, May 1918: "Elizabeth Stalter, daughter of John and Elizabeth Stalter was born at Nussenwalder Hof, Lorraine, France, died May 9, 1918, at the St. Francis Hospital, Peoria, Ill.; aged 76 y. 5 m. 24 d. She came to America with her parents in her youth, where she united with the A. M. Church at Hamilton, Butler Co., Ohio. Later they came to Illinois, first to Tazewell Co., then to Livingston Co. Her parents and 3 brothers preceded her. She leaves 2 brothers, Joseph and Daniel, 1 sister Mrs. Magdalena Rocke. He accepted Christ and united with the Mennonite Church in his youth, and remained faithful and loyal until God called him home. "Dearest Father, thou hast left us, How we miss thee everywhere; But we hope again to meet thee, On yonder heavenly shore." Funeral services were held at his late home June 7, by Bro. D. W. Slagel, and at the church by Bro. Joe Heiser, Fisher, Ill., who preached the funeral sermon. *Text, II Tim. 4:6-8*. Burial in the Waldo cemetery."

5. Daniel Stalter was born on Nassenwald farm July 14, 1843, and died at Flanagan, Livingston County April 2, 1930. On March 2, 1873 at Pike Township, Livingston County he married Katharina/Catherine 'Katie' Stalter. She was born in Tazewell County March 20, 1855, and died at Pontiac, Livingston County Dec. 20, 1918, a daughter of Joseph Stalter and Barbara Birky. 'Daniel Stalter of Bavaria' was naturalized in the Livingston County circuit court May 26, 1877. They appear on the 1900 census of Pike Township, Livingston County as farmer Daniel Stalter, 56, born in France in July 1843 to German parents, immigrated in 1855; Katie, 36, born in Illinois in March 1854 to German parents; and six children born in Illinois. Daniel donated 20 acres for the establishment of Meadows Mennonite Retirement Home. They are buried in Waldo Cemetery. *Gospel Herald*, April 1930: "Daniel, son of John and Elizabeth Stalter, was born in Alsace-Lorraine, France, July 14, 1843; died at the home of his son Simon, near Flanagan, Ill., April 2, 1930; aged 86 y. 8 m. 18 d. At the age of eleven years he came to America with his parents and located near Hamilton, Ohio, after two years they moved to Pekin, Ill. In 1865 they came to this vicinity where he spent the greater part of his life. On March 2, 1873, he was married to Katie Stalter. To this union ten children were born, four of whom died in infancy. His companion preceded him in death; also one son (John D.) and two daughters (Mary and Lydia, wife of Debolt Risser). He leaves two sons (Daniel D. and Simon D.) one daughter (Mrs. Sarah Roth), one sister (Mrs. Jacob Rocke), 30 grandchildren, and 3 great-grandchildren, besides many relatives and friends. He confessed Christ as his Savior and united with the Mennonite Church in his youth, and was a faithful member at the time of his death. His health had been failing for several years, but he was only confined to his bed for three days previous to his death. He was blessed with a clear mind up to the time when he peacefully passed away. Funeral services were conducted at the home by Bro. J. D. Hartzler and at the Waldo Mennonite
"Catharine Stalter was born in Tazewell Co., Ill., Mar. 20, 1855; died of dropsy at St. James hospital, Pontiac, Ill., Dec. 20, 1918; aged 68 yr. 9 m. In her youth she united with the A. M. Church and lived the life of a true Christian. Mar. 2, 1873, she was married to Daniel Stalter. This union was blessed with 10 children, 6 of whom preceded her to the better world. She leaves husband, 2 sons, 2 daughters, 25 grandchildren, 2 brothers, 2 sisters and many relatives and friends. One son living in Alberta and one daughter living in Oregon were permitted to visit with her before she died. But what made it sad was that nearly all the children and grandchildren were taken down with the influenza and could not attend the funeral services which were held Sunday, Dec. 22 at the Waldo Church by Bro. George Summer and Bro. D. W. Slagel. Buried in the Waldo cemetery."

6. Chrétien/Christian Stalter was born on Nassenwald farm July 10, 1845. He may have died as an infant.

7. Madeleine/Magdalena Stalter was born on Nassenwald farm July 31, 1847, and died at Waldo, Livingston County May 21, 1930. She married Jacob Rocke. He was born Dec. 1, 1844, and died at Chenoa, McLean County Nov. 19, 1924. They are found on the 1900 census of Waldo as farmer Jacob Rocke, 56, born in France in December 1844 to German parents, immigrated in 1866; Magdalena, 53, born in France in July 1846 to German parents, immigrated in 1856; and two children born in Illinois. They appear on the same census page as the household of her older brother Joseph Stalter. They are buried in Waldo Cemetery at Flanagan, Livingston County.

Half-sister Jakobina Stalter

The Zurich passenger named 'Philipp.', 26, was actually Jakobina Stalter, a half-sister to Josef [Jr.] Joseph and Johannes/John, the brothers who lived on Nassenwald farm at Hottviller.

In Germany Philippine was an equivalent to Jakobina (the German version of the French Jacobine). The name Jacobine may have once honored the Jacobine party from the French Revolution, but in practice it was simply a feminine form of Jacob. The popular Americanized equivalent was Phoebe or Phebe.

Jakobina Stalter was born on the Monbijou estate Oct. 22, 1831 (headstone date), and died at Saybrook, McLean County Sept. 3, 1895.

Circa 1850 she married Josef Nafziger, a son of Peter Nafziger and Barbara Guth of the Faunerhof estate at Eppenbrunn (south of Pirmasens on the Germany-France border). In 1849 her sister Magdalena Stalter had married his brother Johannes Nafziger. The two couples farmed on the Kirchheimerhof estate (southwest of the city of Zweibrücken).

Presumably Jakobina accompanied Katharina/Catherine Reidiger on the Zurich in 1855 to help with the children, and then returned to Europe.

Her first husband Josef Nafziger died between 1860 and 1866. Circa 1866 in Germany she remarried to Joseph Dann. He was born in Germany Oct. 2, 1838 (headstone date), and died Feb. 19, 1920.

The S.S. Paraguay departed Le Havre and sailed via London to New York, where it arrived March 7, 1870. The passenger list shows farmer Joseph Dann, 30, Baden; Jacobine, 36, wife; Barbara Nafziger, 17, servant; Jakob, 16; Jacobine, 9 [Barbe, Jakob, and Jacobine were children from the first marriage]; Magdalena Dann, 3; and Daniel, 2 [Magdalena and Daniel from the second marriage].

Joseph was naturalized at the McLean County circuit court March 20, 1882. He was a farmer and served as treasurer of the McLean County Fair Association.

Herald of Truth, September 1895: "On the 3d of September 1895, near Saybrook, McLean Co., Ill., Sister Jacobina Dann, maiden name Stalter, aged 63 years, 10 months and 11 days. She was born in Monbijon, Rhenish Bavaria, Germany. She leaves her husband, one son and two daughters; two daughters and three sons preceded her. Buried on the 5th in Greenwood cemetery. Funeral services by Andrew Werekler, Michael Kinsinger and Pre. Schrag from Psa. 90: 10 and Rev. 14: 13. Sister Dann was a faithful member of the church, and was greatly esteemed by a large circle of friends."

Joseph is found as a widower on the 1900 census of Arrowsmith, McLean County: Joseph Dann, 60, born in Germany in October 1839 to German parents, immigrated in 1870; Lena, 34, born in Germany in January 1866 to German parents, immigrated 1870; and farm laborer Christian O., 28, born in Illinois in 1872 to German parents.

Joseph and Jakobina are buried with three of their children under a joint headstone in Saybrook Cemetery: Lena E., Jan. 8, 1866-Oct. 23, 1921; Daniel, May 1, 1867-Oct. 29, 1888; and Christian O., April 15, 1871. Presumably the headstone was purchased by Christian Oliver Dann with the expectation that he would be buried there. However, he died at Muskegon, Michigan Oct. 13, 1931 and is buried in Elmwood Cemetery at Cedar Springs, Michigan.
CHILDREN OF JAKOBINA'S FIRST MARRIAGE

- Barbe Nafziger, the youngest child of the first marriage, became Barbara in America. She was born May 12, 1860, and died at Pontiac, Livingston County, March 15, 1922. To this union were born four sons and one daughter. Two sons and the daughter preceded her in death.

- Jakobine Nafziger, the youngest child of the first marriage, became Phoebe in America. She was born May 12, 1860, and died at Meadow, McLean County, Oct. 19 (headline date) or 20 (obituary), 1894. On March 12, 1885 in McLean County she married minister Joseph Kinsinger. He was born on the Monbijou estate at Dietrichingen Sept. 30, 1855, and died at Peoria May 8, 1925, a son of Josef Kinzinger and Katharina Hauter. Joseph remarried Jan. 23, 1897 to Barbara Bertsche. Herald of Truth, November 1894: "Kinsinger - On the 20th of October, 1894, of dropsy of the heart, of which she suffered for several months, sister Phoebe Kinsinger, maiden name Nafziger, aged 34 y., 8 m. She leaves her bereaved husband and two children to mourn her early death. She suffered patiently looking forward to the time of her departure. Her remains were laid to rest on the 22d, followed by many friends. Funeral services conducted by Andrew Werkler and Michael Kinsinger in German and by Stephen Staehly and Simon Baechler in English from Rev. 14:14-16." Jakobina, Joseph, and Barbara are buried in Waldo Cemetery at Flanagan.

Nephew Jakob Stalter, also known as Jacob Z. Stalter

Jakob Stalter, also known as Jacob Z. Stalter, also known as Jake, was born on the Ernstweilerhof estate near Zweibrücken Oct. 20, 1840. He was a son of Jakob Stalter and Veronika Zimmerman, and a nephew to Josef [Jr.]/Joseph and Johannes/John, the brothers living on Nassenwald farm at Hottviller. His father bred horses on the Ernstweilerhof estate.

One source says that he immigrated in 1857 to avoid military conscription; the 1900 census says 1866. However, we suspect he was the 27-year-old German farmer Jac. Stalter found on the passenger list of the steamer New York as it arrived at New York from Bremen March 25, 1868.

On Feb. 11, 1872 in Livingston County he married Katharina/Catherine 'Kate' Grieser. She was born June 9, 1850, a daughter of Christian Grieser and Katharina Reiderig.

They are found on the 1880 census of Chenoa, McLean County as farmer Jacob Stalter, 39, Bavaria; Kate, 28, Baden; and three children born in Illinois. The 1900 census of Pikesville, Livingston County shows farmer Jake Stalter, 60, born in Germany in October 1839 to German parents, immigrated in 1866; Katie, 49, born in Germany in June 1850 to German parents, immigrated in 1870; farm laborer Jacob, 22, born in Illinois in May 1878 to German parents; Joseph, 9, born in Illinois in July 1890 to German parents; and servant Lizzie Beller, 15, born in Illinois in September 1885 to a father from Germany and mother from Illinois, occupation kitchen work. The 1910 census of Pike, Livingston County shows Jacob Z. Stalter, 69, Germany; Katherine, 59, Germany; Jacob G., 31, Illinois; and Joseph R., 19, Illinois.

Gospel Herald, April 1922: "Stalter - Catherine Grieser was born in Bavaria, Germany, June 9, 1850; died at her home in Meadows, Ill., Aug. 15, 1922; aged 72 y. 2 m. 6 d. She came to America in 1870, and was united in the holy bonds of matrimony with Jacob Stalter Feb. 11, 1872. They made their home in the vicinity of Meadows, Ill. To this union were born four sons and one daughter. Two sons and their daughter preceded her in death, leaving to mourn her sudden departure her deeply bereaved life companion, two sons, 10 grandchildren and great-grandchildren, three brothers, and many relatives and friends. She united with the Mennonite Church in her youth and remained a faithful and consistent member until death. Her last words were 'Come dear Jesus, I am ready.' Services were conducted by Bro. Joseph Kinsinger in German and Bro. D. W. Slagle in English. Interment in the Waldo cemetery."

Jacob died after having a heart attack while driving. Gospel Herald, January 1923: "Stalter - Jacob Stalter was born at Rheinpfalz, Germany, Oct. 20, 1840; died in Pontiac, Ill., at the St. James Hospital, Dec. 18, 1922; aged 82 y. 1 m. 28 d. He was married Feb. 15, 1872, to Catherine Grieser, at Bloomington, Ill. His companion died Aug. 15, 1922. To this union were born four sons and one daughter. Two sons and the daughter preceded him in death. He is survived by two sons (Henry and Joe of near Meadows, Ill.), 10 grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, one brother, one sister, and many relatives and friends. He united with the Mennonite Church while yet a young man and remained faithful to the end. The greater part of his life was spent in the vicinity of Meadows, Ill. Funeral services were held at the home of his son Henry (with whom he had his home since the death of his companion) and at the Waldo Church by the home ministers. Interment in the Waldo cemetery." They are buried in Waldo Cemetery at Flanagan.
The Stalters of Gern

In 1795 a Wittelsbach named Maximilian Joseph became duke. He was born as the Count of Rappolstein in Lower Alsace, and had been educated by French tutors. He had also been a major general in the French army, and was stationed at Strasbourg 1782-89 with his Royal Alsace Regiment. However, he actually turned against the French during their revolution, fighting with Austria from 1789 until the Peace of Amiens in 1802.

In February of 1799 Maximilian Joseph became Elector Maximilian IV Joseph of Bavaria. He proved to be a progressive administrator who relaxed restrictions on agriculture and commerce, and made the tax code more equitable. His edict of religious tolerance offered Mennonites full rights of citizenship. Though not exempt from conscription, Mennonites could hire substitutes to serve their military commitments. The elector also confiscated a number of Catholic properties and used their revenues for public education.

Recall the earlier story of Heinrich Stalter, who fled from French troops after they burned the buildings on the Kirschbacherhof estate near Hornbach. Heinrich died in Moselle in 1800.

His widow, Katharina Imhof, appealed to the new elector. She pointed out that his royal parents had often hunted on the Kirschbacherhof estate. She requested new properties for her sons, citing the role her deceased husband had played as host to the Wittelsbach family.

The elector knew of several nationalized cloister properties. The request was successful, and Katharina's sons did receive estates. They also invited other Amish Mennonite families to join them.

One of the first to migrate was her son Heinrich Stalter [Jr.], who was born circa 1776. In 1802 he was awarded outright ownership of the cloister of St. Theresa at Gern near Munich.

The prefect of the Moselle region wrote in 1803: 'The emigration of these Anabaptist farmers would be disastrous, for they are the most competent, and in general they are very obedient to the law. Several families from the region of Zweibrücken have already been lured to Bavaria by the elector, their former ruler, and he is planning to bring as many as possible into his new state'.

The Elector of the Pfalz had opposed the French Revolution and initially provided troops to fight against Napoleon. However, when war resumed in 1804, the elector changed allegiances and fought on the side of Napoleon and France. His troops helped Napoleon to defeat a numerically superior Austrian army at Austerlitz. He received the anticipated reward when the country of Bavaria was created from Wittelsbach family properties under the Treaty of Pressburg, and became King Maximilian I of Bavaria Dec. 26, 1805. When Austria challenged Napoleon again four years later, Bavaria once again fought as a French ally.

Circa 1806 Heinrich Stalter [Jr.] married Jakobina Stalter. Her family connections could not be identified.

In June of 1812 Napoleon marched his troops into Russia to head off a threat to Poland. The campaign was an unqualified disaster. During this time Bavarian troops were considered 'unreliable at best' on the battlefield. The king of Bavaria was beginning to reconsider his options.

Many Bavarian troops declined to take the field on behalf of the French on the eve of the 'battle of nations' at Leipzig, Oct. 16-19, 1813. Following the battle, Maximilian I made it openly known that he was going over to the allies. He met up with 13,000 Austrian units, and energetically moved his 17,000 troops to block the retreat path of the French at Hanau. Although the French succeeded in passing through his lines on Oct. 30, inflicting 9,000 casualties, the Bavarian king had made the point that he was prepared to sacrifice to aid the allies.

The French occupation ended in 1814. But through his political maneuvering Maximilian I managed to preserve his kingdom and sovereignty in the bargaining at the Congress of Vienna in 1815.

The kind treatment offered to Amish Mennonites in Bavaria by the Wittelsbach family caused many émigrés to remain there, and more to follow. However, the political landscape of Europe moved toward conservatism after the Congress of Vienna. Maximilian I struck up an alliance with the Vatican. The Catholic Church was reinstated in Bavaria in October of 1817, but the monarch reserved the right to restrict activities and approve appointments. A Catholic priest was chosen to tutor the king's son.

Despite the resurgence of the Catholic church in Bavaria, Heinrich Stalter [Jr.] and Jakobina Stalter remained on the former cloister property at Gern, where they raised cattle.

On the opposite side of the center of Munich was Berg am Laim, a mountain and brickworks. Daniel Zehr and Magdalena Unzicker had children there in 1810 and 1812.

Gern also had connections to the Hemerten estate. Owner Heinrich Stalter [Jr.] of Gern and owner Heinrich Stalter of the Hemerten estate were cousins, and there were several intermarriages between the two locations.

The story of the voyages of the Granville and Alexandre Toussin is given in YORDY. The Granville sailed from Le Havre in autumn of 1839, but its passengers arrived at New Orleans on the Alexandre Toussin Dec. 26. They included a very pregnant daughter Katharina/Catherine Stalter with two children; her soon-to-be husband
Chrétien Jordi/Christian Yotty; her older brother Jacob Stalter acting as escort (he later returned to Europe); and her younger sister Magdalena Stalter.

Widower Heinrich Stalter [Jr.] is thought to have arrived at New Orleans in 1842. He may have been accompanied by four or five of his children: Marie and her new husband Christian 'Harry' Burkey; Jakobina and possibly husband Jacob Sann (they married in 1842); Heinrich; Veronika; and possibly Joseph.

Daughter Elizabeth did not emigrate from Europe until 1851, sailing from Le Havre with her husband Christian Birki on the Adhemar. They arrived at New York June 7, 1851.

The 1850 census of Tazewell County shows Heinrich in the household of a son-in-law and daughter: farmer Christian Yeatty [Jordi], 40, Germany; Catharine [Stalter], 41, Germany; John, 16, Germany; Mary, 15, Germany; Henry, 10, Louisiana; Jos3eph, 4, Illinois; Catheraine, 1, Illinois; and [father in law] Henry Stalder, 74, Germany.

Heinrich died in Tazewell County between 1852 and 1860, and is thought to be buried in Birki Cemetery at Groveland near daughter Elizabeth Stalter.

Children of Heinrich Stalter [Jr.] and Jakobina Stalter born at Gern include:

1. Jakob Stalter was born July 22, 1807. He accompanied his sister Katharina on her 1839 voyage to America, then returned to Europe. On April 23, 1841 at Munich he married Anna Bächer of Mosach. He was the only one of the children who died in Europe.

2. Katharina/Catherine Stalter was born circa 1809, and died in Woodford County Oct. 4, 1894. She married Christian Yotty. He was born circa 1811, and died at Ohio, Woodford County Nov. 7, 1870. See YORDY, CHRISTIAN YOTTY for more on this couple.

3. Elizabeth Stalter was born at Gern April 15 or 18, 1813, and died at Groveland Sept. 29, 1872. In 1844 in Tazewell County she became the second wife of Christian Birki. He was born March 14, 1789, and died at Groveland Jan. 14, 1866, a son of Christian Bircky. See BIRKY/BIRKEY, THE BIG BIRKEYS for more on this couple.

4. Magdalena Stalter was born at Gern in 1815, and died at New Orleans Oct. 27, 1893. She arrived at New Orleans on the Granville Dec. 28, 1839. The passenger list gave her age as 24. She remained in New Orleans while her sister Katharina/Catherine went with Christian Yotty to Illinois. In 1840 she married gardener Christian Rupp, becoming his second wife. He was born in Germany in 1811 (passenger list) or 1813 (death entry age 52), and died at New Orleans June 29, 1865. He arrived in New Orleans on the Platina from Le Havre April 7, 1838; the passenger list shows Christian, 27; Barbara, 27; and Magdalena, 3 months. First wife Barbara died in 1840. Louisiana archives show five children born to Magdalena in New Orleans. The first was Heinrich 'Harry' Rupp, born Oct. 1, 1841, who fought for the Confederacy in the Chalmette Regiment of the Louisiana Militia. Others included Jacob (born July 25, 1843), Christoph/Christian (born April 26, 1845) who fought in the Union Second Regiment Infantry formed of volunteers from Louisiana; Michel (born March 31, 1849); and Catherine (born in October 1854). The Times Picayune, Oct. 29, 1893: "On Friday, Oct. 27, 1893, at 4:50 p.m., Magdalena Stalter, widow of -- (aged 75 years, -- months, and 17 days) a native of Bavaria, Germany, and a resident of this city for the past fifty-four years."

5. Jakobina Stalter was born in 1817, and died circa 1865. In 1842 she married Jacob Sann. He was born in Germany circa 1811, and died in 1880 or later. The 1850 census of Tazewell County shows Jacob Sing, 39, Germany; Jacobine, 31, Germany; Jacob, 8, Illinois; Christian, 6, Illinois; May [Mary], 1, Illinois; Fredericka [Veronika] Stalter, 20, Germany; laborer Henry, 23, Germany; and Lanie [Magdalena], three months, Illinois. They are found on the same page as Benjamin Goldschmidt and Michael Zimmerman. The 1860 census of Tremont shows farmer Jacob Sonn, 39, Germany; Jacobin, 18, Illinois; Christian, 16, Illinois; Mary, 10, Illinois; and Jannas [John], 3, Illinois. The 1870 census of Chenoa, McLean County shows farmer Jacob Sann, 58; Biren [Bayern, or Bavaria]; Mary, 20, Illinois; Jacob, 27, Biren; and John, 12, Illinois; the 1880 census shows retired farmer and widower Jacob Sann, 68, Germany; son Jacob Sann, 35, Germany; daughter-in-law Annie [Neuhauser] Sann, 28, France; Mary, 9, Illinois; and Emanuel, 8, Illinois.

6. Maria/Mary Stalter was born at Munich March 3, 1820, and died at Raymond, Nebraska Jan. 3, 1916. In 1839 in Germany she married Christian 'Harry' Burkey. He was born in Bavaria Sept. 4, 1819, and died at Milford, Nebraska (1910); and Liberty, Nebraska (1920).

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360 A 'near miss' ship is misattributed in some sources. The Albert sailed from Le Havre and arrived at New Orleans Dec. 20, 1843. The passenger list shows a family with some resemblances: Henrich Staltah, 62, washman from Damme, Germany; Maria, 56; Heinrich, 18; and A.M. [Anna Maria], 15.

361 Their son Jacob Sann [Jr.] enrolled as a 17-year-old at Hopedale Jan. 27, 1865 by overstating his age as 22. The records say that he was a farmer born in Germany and a resident of Hopedale; he was 5-foot, 6-inches tall; he had brown hair, gray eyes, and a dark complexion. He was mustered in for a one-year term on Feb. 18, 1865. Serving as a private in Company D, 152nd Infantry, Jacob went via Nashville to Tullahoma; Tennessee. The officer in charge of the regiment was Colonel Ferdinand D. Stephenson of Groveland. Company D was outprocessed at Memphis, Tennessee on Sept. 9-11, 1865, receiving their final pay and discharge letters, and reached Camp Butler, Illinois Sept. 19, 1865. Jacob Sann [Jr.] is later found in censuses from Holdredge, Nebraska (1910); and Liberty, Nebraska (1920).
Nebraska Nov. 8, 1890, a son of Valentine Birky and Elizabeth Unzicker. They immigrated via New Orleans in 1842. See BIRKY/BIRKEY for more on this couple.

7. Heinrich 'Henry' Stalter was born in 1826. In September of 1850, 23-year-old 'Henry Stolder' from Germany was living with Jacob Sann and his sister Jakobina, along with his sister Frederika (Veronika) and her infant daughter, Magdalena, in Tazewell County. He may have died in 1852 and been buried in Birki Cemetery at Groveland.

8. Josef Stalter was born in 1828. He died before 1842.

9. Veronika Stalter was born Aug. 7, 1831, and died at Hopedale Sept. 16, 1880. On Jan. 5, 1851 in Tazewell County she married George Eichelberger. He was born May 17, 1817, and died July 3, 1902. He appears on the Emerald passenger list as a 29-year-old. He was presumably the brother of Jacob Eichelberger (1825-1897) who married Elizabeth Birkey of the 'Big Birkeys.' Their household appears on the 1870 census of Elm Grove as farmer George Eichelberger, 53, Bavaria; Veronika, 40, Bavaria; and eight children born in Illinois. Herald of Truth, August 1902: "Eichelberger - July 3rd, 1902, near Flanagan, Ill., George Eichelberger, aged 85 Y., 1 M., 16 D. He leaves four sons and five daughters to mourn his departure, yet not as those who leave no hope. Funeral services at the Amish Mennonite M. H., near Hopedale, by Jno. C. Birky, J. P. Smith, Daniel Slagel and Jos. Egli. Interment in the A. M. graveyard west of Hopedale." Headstones in the Mennonite Cemetery at Hopedale describe the couple as "George Eichelberger, May 17, 1817-July 3, 1902" and "Fanny Stalter, August 7, 1831-Sept. 16, 1880"; they are buried in the same Eichelberger family plot as Elizabeth Birkey, the wife of Jacob Eichelberger.

'Other' Stalters

JOHN STALTER OF PEORIA

There is an odd postscript to the story of the Stalters of Gern. A weathered headstone in Springdale Cemetery at Peoria commemorates 'John Stalter, 1780-1873.' His birthplace is found as Rheinish Bavaria (the lands west of the Rhine River, the Pfalz, now called the state of Rheinisch-Pfalz). His wife Katharina Hauter (who was likely his second wife) was born at Zweibrücken in 1804. Their daughter Catherine was born circa 1819.

They were thought to have emigrated from Bavaria in 1830. The packet ship Isaac Hicks sailed from Le Havre in November 1830, and arrived at New Orleans Jan. 29, 1831. It may have brought the Peoria family, despite significant discrepancies on the passenger list.

J. Stalter, 49, male
If Johannes/John Stalter was born in 1780, in accordance with his headstone, he would have been approximately 51 years old.

C. Stalter, 49, female
This person would have been born circa 1782, and would have been an appropriate age to be the mother of C. Stalter, the daughter born in 1816. This would be Johannes/John's first wife. Historical Encyclopedia of Illinois and History of Peoria County, Volume II says Katharina Hauter was born in 1804. If so, she would have been approximately 27 years old in 1831, and too young to be the mother of C. Stalter. Perhaps Katharina was not an 1831 passenger, but a second wife who married John in America.

C. Stalter, 24, female
Daughter Catherine who married Peter Herschberger was born circa 1816. A match.

M. Stalter, 21, female
We could not account for this daughter.

E. Stalter, 18, female
We found no daughter named E. Stalter in notes on this family. However, there is a significant chance that she answers a question about an Elizabeth Stalter born in 1812 or 1813 who married Christian Zimmerman (1817-1887), a son of Michael Zimmerman and his first wife Barbe Roggy. Christian and Elizabeth lived at Elm Grove.

J. Stalter, 7, male
John Stalter Jr. was born circa 1824. A match.

Immediately following this family on the passenger list was the family of Johannes/John Habecker and Barbara Stalter. Barbara was born on the horse breeding farm Le Haras at Sarralbe, Moselle April 3, 1799, a daughter of farmer Jacob/Jacques Stalter and Barbe Imhof. See HABECKER for background on this couple and their son who came to Woodford, Tazewell, and McLean Counties.

The Stalters settled in Hamilton County, Ohio (encompassing Cincinnati, adjacent to Butler County). There Catherine married Peter Herscherberger.

Fort Clark was built on the west side of the Illinois River in 1813. The county of Peoria was established in 1825, and Fort Clark became the settlement of Peoria. In 1835 it was incorporated as a village. The Stalters and Herschbergers resettled at Peoria in 1841. John ran the Upper Ferry on the Illinois River.
Peter died of cholera at Peoria in 1849. On June 24, 1849 in Peoria County John Jr. married Magdalena Eyer. She was born in Baden circa 1823. The 1850 census of Peoria shows widow Catharin [Stalter] Hershberger, 34, Germany; laborer Joseph [Herschberger], 18, Germany; saddler John [Herschberger], 16, Germany; Christian, 1, Illinois; Madilane, 14, Ohio; Catharine, 8, Illinois; Philapean, 4, Illinois; and labourer John Stalder, 70, Germany. John Jr. drove a supply wagon during the construction of the 50-mile Peoria and Bureau Valley Railroad from May 1853 to January 1855. Some sources say John Sr. was the teamster, but this is unlikely considering his advanced age.

The 1860 census of the 4th Ward of Peoria shows farmer John Stalter, 81, Bavaria; butcher John Stalter Jr., 36, Switzerland; Madalina, 37, Baden; Catherine, 9, Illinois; Henry, 6, Illinois; Louisa, 4, Illinois; Emily, 2, Illinois; and harness maker John Herschberger, 26, Ohio. Their 4-year-old daughter Louisa later married Samuel D. Ropp, a son of Jacob Ropp and Elizabeth Schlegel of Elm Grove; she is buried in Railroad Cemetery at Elm Grove.


Inexplicably, Katharina Hauter shows up again on the 1880 census of Peoria as grandmother Kattie Stalter, 75, Germany, in the household of George Weber and her daughter Kate Herschberger. She died in 1887.

Recall the list of the children of Heinrich Stalter [Sr.] and his second wife Katharina Imhof. The fifth child, born after 1776, was Johannes Stalter: "Very little is known about him. Guth says that in 1803 he was an applicant with Daniel Unzicker for leases on land at the Polling cloister in Bavaria." Did Heinrich [Jr.] bring his children to Tazewell County in 1842 because his brother Johannes was already in the area? This might make an interesting DNA check.

HEINRICH/HENRY STALDER OF SPRING BAY

Heinrich/ Henry Stalder was born circa 1842. He was 20 when he enlisted at Spring Bay, Woodford County June 21, 1862. Entry documents describe him as Harry Stalder, a married farmer born in Germany, who had light hair and gray eyes, and stood 5 foot-6. He mustered in at Peoria Aug. 27, 1862, and served with Company F of the 85th Illinois Infantry Regiment.

They moved by train to Louisville, Kentucky Sept. 6. The bulk of the active Union forces were at Nashville, Tennessee under Major General Don Carlos Buell. When Confederate general Braxton Bragg's Army of the Mississippi approached Louisville, Henry's company moved out to join troops confronting him. They pursued Bragg Oct. 1-6, and fought in the battle of Chaplin Hills west of Perryville, Kentucky Oct. 8. There the two sides fought to a standstill.

The engagement was considered part of the largest Confederate simultaneous offensive, and one of the bloodiest battles of the war. But the Union considered it a success, because it bought time for more new recruits to arrive. Two nights later Bragg withdrew to Tennessee. Buell added reinforcements. The Union retained control of Kentucky for the remainder of the war.

Henry returned to Louisville from the battle scene. He died there of disease Oct. 12, after only six weeks of service. Nine soldiers died from the impact of bullets or shells during the company's three years of service; Henry was one of 10 who died of disease. Over the course of the Civil War the entire Regiment lost four officers and 86 enlisted men to bullets or shells; one officer and 131 men succumbed to disease.

We could not identify his family relationships, passenger list, or place of burial.

362 Our three principal sources were Historical Encyclopedia of Illinois, Volume 2; Illinois Biographical Dictionary; and Portrait and Biographical Album of Peoria. Historical Encyclopedia of Illinois, Volume 2 on butcher Charles F. Weber: "...Mr. Weber married Kate Herschberger in Peoria, July 17, 1864. She was born in Tazewell County, January 24, 1843, a daughter of Pete and Kate (Stalter) Herschberger, who located in Peoria in 1836. They were natives of Germany, and the mother was a daughter of John and Katharine (Haeuter) Stalter. John Stalter was born in Rhenish Bavaria in 1780, and lived to be ninety-three. His wife Katharine was a native of Zweibrucken, Rheinpfalz, Old Bavaria, where she was born in 1804. She died in 1887. John Stalter and family came to the United States in 1830. After living in Pennsylvania for a time they came to Peoria, where he ran the Upper Ferry. He was a teamster and helped build the Bureau Valley Railroad. Peter Herschberger and wife were married in Germany, came to America with her father's family, and settled in Ohio. Later they came to Tazewell County, and subsequently to Peoria, where Mr. Herschberger died, November 11, 1850, a victim of cholera, aged forty years." A few discrepancies: Katharina was likely a second wife; this says Peter and Catherine married in Germany, but Peter does not appear on the Isaac Hicks passenger list; it says Peter died Nov. 11, 1850, but he is absent on the 1850 census. Catherine Stalter Herschberger died in August 1887.
Was this Heinrich, a son of Jakob Stalter and his first wife Katharina Stalter (THE STALTERS OF HEMERTEN)?

**THE STALTERS OF TRIPPSTADT**

Magdalena Stalter was born at Lachen in the Pfalz circa 1808, and died at Washington, Tazewell County after 1880, a daughter of Johann Peter Stalter and Anna Maria Sauter. Johann Peter Stalter was born at Lachen Sept. 17, 1769, a son of Johann Peter Stalter (Lachen April 17, 1738) and Anna Margaretha Roth. His parents were Johann Adam Stalter and Anna Catherine Riessen, who were married at Lachen Nov. 24, 1728. Thus there is no known tie-in to the Stalter family of Pfalz-Zweibrücken.

At Trippstadt in the Pfalz (20 miles west of Lachen, below Kaiserslautern, adjacent to Schmalenberg) Magdalena gave birth to three children. The family came to Central Illinois in the early 1850s.

She is last found in the 1880 census of Washington, Tazewell County as the 72-year-old mother in the household of Elizabeth Stalter Schmalenberger, her daughter.

Magdalena's children born at Trippstadt include:

1. Elisabetha/Elizabeth Stalter was born April 28, 1825, and died at Morton April 16, 1888. Only Magdalena Stalter was named as a parent on the birth entry. On Oct. 4, 1849 at Trippstadt she married Heinrich/Henry Schmalenberger. He was born at Trippstadt Dec. 5, 1825, and died at Farmdale Dec. 5, 1869, a son of Johannes Schmalenberger and Katharina Henriette Jung. Only Magdalena Stalter was named as a parent on the entry. He is buried in Guth Cemetery at Washington as 'Henry Smallberry, aged 44' near a daughter 'Lena, dau. of H. & E. Smallberry, died April 25, 1872, aged 14 y. 6 m.' Widow Elizabeth's household appears on the 1880 census of Washington, Tazewell County as farmer Elizabeth Smallberger, 55, Bavaria; Andrew, 17, Illinois; Joseph, 12, Illinois; and Magdalena Stalter, 72, mother, Bavaria.

2. Barbara Stalter was born May 14, 1835, and died at Washington, Tazewell County Jan. 15, 1922. Magdalena Stalter was the only parent named on her birth entry. On May 19, 1859 in Tazewell County she married Abraham Ringenberg/Ringenberg; the ceremony was performed by minister Michael Mosiman. He was born in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania May 28, 1833, and died April 15, 1915, a son of Pierre Ringenberg /Peter Ringenberger and Anna/Anne Schrag/Schrock. They are found on the 1880 census of Fon du Lac as farmer A. Rinkenberger, 47, born in Pennsylvania to French parents; Barbara, 45, born in R. Biern [Bayern/Bavaria]; and eight children born in Illinois. They worshipped at the Defenseless Mennonite Church of Groveland. They are buried in Rinkenberger Cemetery.

3. Ludwig/Louis Lewis Stalter was born Nov. 26, 1841, and died at Hanna City, Peoria County Oct. 15, 1914. Magdalena Stalter was the only parent named on his birth entry. On May 11, 1861 in Tazewell County he married Anna Schrock. She was born in Ohio in 1840, and died in 1874, a daughter of Andrew Schrag/Schrock and Anna Oyer. The 1870 census of Waldo shows farmer Lewis Stahlta, 29, Bavaria; Anna, 28, Illinois; five children born in Illinois; and farm laborer Joseph Garber, 32, Illinois. 1861. Gospel Herald, June 1874: "March 4th, in Livingston co., Ill., Anna Stalter, wife of Lewis Stalter, aged 34 years. Services by John and Joseph Rediger. She leaves a husband and 6 children to mourn their loss." On Dec. 3, 1874 in McLean County he remarried to Jakobina 'Phebe' Rediger. She was born at Ichenheim, Baden Feb. 2, 1845, and died at Gridley, McLean County March 7, 1922, a daughter of Christian Reider and Magdalena Stalter. They appear on the 1880 census of Morton. In 1893 he married a third time to Roseanna Dearth, the widow of Herman Kehr. She was born in Woodford County Feb. 25, 1852, and died at Morton Oct. 22, 1927, a daughter of Randolph Dearth and Elizabeth Fuhrman (on Jan. 22, 1885 she married a third time to Lemuel Harris in Tazewell County). They appear on the 1900 census of Elmwood, Peoria County. Ludwig/Louis/Lewis served two terms as Tazewell County sheriff. He is buried as Louis Stalter under a joint headstone with his first wife Anna in Waldo Cemetery at Flanagan.

**JOHN STALTER OF FRANCE**

John Stalter was born in France July 24, 1828, and died in Montgomery Township, Woodford County March 11, 1911. He immigrated in 1845, according to his 1900 census report.

On March 28, 1855 in Woodford County he married Mary Farney. She was born at Wilmot, Ontario Jan. 1, 1832, and died March 24, 1908, a daughter of Peter/Pierre Farny and Anne Kempf. ‘Her father, with her uncle Christian, were ‘the Amishmen who hired Lincoln.’

They are found on the 1860 census of Olio Township, Woodford County as farm laborer John Stalter, 28, France; Mary, 27, France; and Annie, 4, Illinois. The 1873 plat map shows their farm as 80 acres overlapping Sections 19 and 20 in Montgomery Township. The 1900 census of Kansas and Montgomery Townships shows landlord John Stalter, 71, born in France in July 1828 to French parents, immigrated in 1845; Mary, 69, born in Canada in November 1830 to French parents, immigrated in 1840; and Joseph, 35, born in Illinois in March 1865 to parents from France and Canada.

They are buried in Imhoff Cemetery at Danvers.
ANTON STALTER OF PEKIN

Anton Stalter was born circa 1822 (per a possible passenger list), in Switzerland in March 1824 (1900 census), or in Switzerland in 1827 (headstone and enlistment documents), and died at Peoria April 12, 1901, a son of Johann Stalter and Anna Stagman.\(^{363}\)

The 1900 census says he immigrated in 1853. However, he may have been the Anton Stalter who sailed from Le Havre on the *Souter Johnny*, arriving at New York June 21, 1852.\(^{364}\) The passenger list shows a 32-year-old farmer from Bavaria. If so, he may have underestimated his age to enlist in 1860 and remained consistent on census reports. The 1900 census says he immigrated in 1853.

On Dec. 2, 1855 in Tazewell County he married Rebecca Hanks. She was born in Virginia circa 1825, and died in Illinois in 1881. She was a daughter of Joshua Hanks and Mary, and a second cousin to Springfield lawyer Abraham Lincoln.\(^{365}\)

Anton was naturalized in the county courthouse at Pekin Sept. 4, 1860.\(^{366}\) The record was transcribed and typewritten, and the index card entry describes him as a 31-year-old who had arrived at New York March 2, 1856 (an obviously incorrect date which may be due to a faulty transcription). His birthplace was given as Lützen, Germany. Witnesses were John O’Brien [possibly farmer John O’Brien of Groveland] and John Griffith.

He enlisted at Pekin July 1, 1861, and served with Company A of the 44th Illinois Infantry. His enlistment documents describes him as a 34-year-old married farmer, height 5 foot-10, brown eyes, black hair, complexion dark, born in Switzerland.

He signed for a three-year term of enlistment. His company was mustered in at Chicago Sept. 13, 1861. They initially participated in engagements in Missouri. From there they pursued to the south, where they took part in a number of significant battles including the siege of Corinth, Chickamauga, Mission Ridge, and the siege of Atlanta. At the close of the war the company was garrisoned at Port Lavaca, Texas. They mustered out Sept. 25, 1865.

The 1870 census of Little Mackinaw shows farmer Anthony Statler, 45, Switzerland; Rebecca, 45, Virginia; Geo. W., 24, Illinois; Eliza, 11, Illinois; and Isabelle, 9, Illinois.

The 1880 census of Elm Grove shows farmer and housekeeper Rebecca Statler, 55, born in Virginia to parents from Virginia; farmer George, 23, born in Illinois to Swiss parents; Isabell, 18, born in Illinois to Swiss parents; and boarder David Hale, 14 or 19, born in Illinois to parents from Indiana, 'works on farm.'

We cannot account for the absence of Anton and his daughter Elizabeth. He may have had a disability, and been cared for in another household that is not apparent on the census. His veteran's pension documents said that he became an invalid in Illinois Feb. 13, 1886.

Rebecca died in Illinois in 1881. On June 10, 1890 in Tazewell County Anton remarried to widow Rachel Largent. She was born in Virginia in 1828, and died at Enid, Oklahoma June 2, 1918, a daughter of James Largent and Elizabeth Boxwell. She was the widow of John W. Williams, with whom she had 14 children. Williams had died at Peoria Sept. 11, 1879.

On Sept. 15, 1893 Anton entered the Soldiers and Sailors Home at Quincy, Riverside Township, Adams County. The 1900 census shows him as Anton Stalter, 76, born in Switzerland in March 1824, immigrated in 1853. He died there June 28, 1909. He is buried as "Anton Stalter, Co. A., 44 Ill. Inf." in Sunset Cemetery at Quincy (formerly the Soldiers and Sailors Cemetery).

His second wife is buried as "Rachel W. Stalter, 1828-1918" in Enid Cemetery at Enid, Oklahoma. Children of Anton Stalter and his first wife Rebecca Hanks born in Tazewell County include:

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\(^{363}\) Lucerne is the administrative center of Canton Lucerne. It is roughly 45 miles northeast of Lake Thun in Canton Bern.

\(^{364}\) Souter Johnny is a 'drinking buddy' in the poem *Tam O’Shanter* by Robert Burns. "Ae market-night, Tam had got planted unco right; Fast by an ingle, bleezing finely, Wi’ reaming swats, that drank divinely. And at his elbow, Souter Johnny, His ancient, trusty, drouthy crony; Tam lo’ed him like a vera brither— They had been four weeks together."

\(^{365}\) The 1850 census of Marion, Marion County shows Mary Hanks, 63, Virginia; Elias, 35, Virginia; Rebecca, 25, Virginia; Solomon, 16, Ohio; and Elizabeth, 6, Ohio. We found one source that named the parents of Solomon as Joshua Hanks and Mary 'Polly.' This may have been the Joshua Hanks found on the 1820 and 1830 censuses of Grayson, Virginia. Joshua was born in Virginia circa 1762, and died circa 1835.

Thus Rebecca's parents were Joshua Hanks (circa 1762-circa 1835) and Mary; her paternal grandparents were Joseph Hanks (1725-circa 1793) and Ann 'Nancy' Lee (circa 1742-after 1794). Abraham's parents were Thomas Lincoln (1778-1857) and Nancy Hanks (1784-1818); his paternal grandparents were James Hanks (circa 1761-1785) and Lucy Shipley (circa 1761-circa 1826); and his paternal great-grandparents were Joseph Hanks and Ann 'Nancy' Lee.

\(^{366}\) The brick courthouse at Pekin was constructed in 1849 and torn down in 1914.
1. George Washington Stalter was born in August 1858 (1900 census) or in 1859 (headstone), and died at Rantoul, Champaign County Jan. 10, 1933. On June 15, 1893 in Champaign County he married Anna E. Burkhardt. She was born at Rantoul Dec. 15, 1871, and died at Urbana March 13, 1953, a daughter of John Martin Burkhardt and Maria. They are found on the 1900 census of Rantoul as farm laborer George W. Stalter, 41, born in Illinois in August 1858 to a father from Switzerland [no information for his mother]; Anna B., 27, born in Illinois in December 1872 to German parents; and three children born in Illinois. They are buried in Maplewood Cemetery at Rantoul.

2. Elizabet' Eliza' Stalter was born May 12, 1859, and died at Martinez Community Hospital, Contra Costa County, California (in the San Francisco Bay area) Sept. 19, 1944. Her death entry there called her Eliza Lintz, and named her parents as Stalter and Hanks. On July 17, 1900 at Fresno, California she married George Irving Hall. He was born circa 1865, and died in 1923. They are found on the 1910 census of Fresno as George I. Hall, 45, born in Connecticut to parents from the United States; Eliza, 51, born in Illinois to parents from Germany and Maryland; Bert C. Hall, 8, California; and Charles B. Hall, 6, California. Between 1923 and 1930 she remarried to widower Joseph W. Lintz. He was born at Richmond, Iowa Sept. 28, 1865, and died at Contra Costa Sept. 10, 1942, a son of Franz 'Frank' David Lintz and Elizabeth Anna Holick. His had married his first wife Elizabeth E. Kodym at Richmond Oct. 29, 1889; she died in 1922. The 1930 census of Martinez shows Joseph W. Lintz, 65, born in Iowa to parents from Czechoslovakia; Eliza [Stalter], 70, born in Illinois to parents from Switzerland and Virginia; and divorced son Bert C. Hall, 28, born in California to parents from Connecticut and Illinois. They appear on the 1940 census of Martinez as Joseph W. Lintz, 74, Iowa; and Eliza, 80, Illinois.

3. Isabella Stalter was born in 1862, and died in 1940. On March 6, 1881 in Tazewell County she married Charles Schmutz of Tremont. Schmutz was born in Germany, a son of Christian Schmutz and Louise Fredericka Spahr. He was naturalized in Woodford County in 1876. Isabella is found as widowed sister-in-law Esibel Schmutz, 58, born in Illinois to a father from Switzerland and a mother from Virginia, in the Peoria household of John Sommer in 1920. Sommer was vice president of the Keystone Steel and Wire Company of Peoria, founded by his father. He had married Eliza Schmutz, a sister to Charles.

367 A headstone in Holy Trinity Cemetery at Richmond, Iowa says "Joseph W. Lintz, 1865-Elizabeth E. his wife 1861-1922."
Steinman: Steinmann of Pfalz-Zweibrücken

In the Bernese dialect a Steinmann cuts stone in a quarry. Heimatorte or legal places of origin for citizenship rights associated with this surname are the villages of Lauperswil and Konolfingen in Canton Bern.

Steinmann is generally found where German is spoken; Steinman where French or English are spoken. Recall from STAKER, "The Joder Newsletter cites Document K-893 of March 9, 1580, which has recently been moved to the State Archives of Canton Bern. The deed describes land on the border of Steffisburg and neighboring Fahrni [now Fahrni bei Thun]. 'The brothers Caspar and Nicolaus Joder, sons of the deceased Caspar Joder, bought, together with the families Stückler, Steinmann, Blank, Roth, and Zimmerman related to them by marriage, a large part of the March of Farni and jointly exploited it.'"

In a reconstruction of the 1732 census of Mennonites in Pfalz-Zweibrücken, Ernst Müller listed Johannes Steinmann. He was born in 1684, and had three children. Also listed were Jacob Weiss born circa 1710 and his wife; Hans Bachmann born circa 1661; and Heinrich Bachmann born circa 1700 with two children.

The most prominent Amish Mennonite Steinmann in Pfalz-Zweibrücken was Jakob Steinmann (#1). He was likely born circa 1721. In 1742 he and Jacob Weiss leased the 1,680-acre Huberhof estate (now called Huberhof bei Pirmasens, 6 miles southeast of Contwig) from Johann Jacob Haberling. The prior leaseholder Johannes Bärr had emigrated to America. According to J. Virgil Miller's Both Sides of the Ocean, Weiss was a witness for Steinmann when he was baptized as an adult on the Bickenaschbacherhof estate in 1742.

He was ordained as a minister in 1753. In 1758 he became a co-leaseholder with Johann Schmitt on the Offweilerhof estate at Contwig, then renewed that lease with a Biery in 1767. Contwig is two miles east of the city of Zweibrücken.

The Global Anabaptist Mennonite Encyclopedia Online: "Hirschberg-Kirschbach was a Mennonite congregation in the Duchy of Pfalz-Zweibrücken, Germany, listed in the Dutch Naamlijst for 1784 with Jacob Dätweiler as elder (1760) and Johannes Steinmann (1753) and Jacob Bachmann as preachers. [In 1759 Johannes Steinmann and Üli Bachmann represented the Zweibrücken congregations in the assembly of ministers at Essingen]. It also appeared in the Naamlijst for 1769 with the names of additional ministers, Johannes Steinmann (1753), Andreas Leimberger (1753), and Jacob Thomas (1753). In the list of delegates at the Essingen Amish Mennonite Conference of 1779 this congregation is called the Zweibrücken congregation."

Hornbach is located nine miles south of Contwig, on the border of Germany and France. The village square is only one mile from the boundary. Gerichtsbuch von 1853 bis 1790, a compilation of lease contracts at Hornbach, indicates that in 1776 Mennonite residents included Jacob Steinmann and his 22-year-old son Jacob Steinmann (#2). (Despite this, it is more likely that Jacob was born circa 1745, as found on later records, and the age 22 was his age at the beginning of a nine-year lease - indicating that they arrived at Hornbach circa 1765.) They lived in the Unterer Hof (lower house) with Jacob Dettweiler. Leasers on the Rinkweilerhof estate included Jacob Bachmann senior and junior, and Jacob Dettweiler's father Johannes and brother Heinrich. The following year a contract describes "Jacob Steinmann, Hof beständer auf dem untern Hof dahier, und dessen Ehefrau Barbara, gebornene Walschburgerin" - Jacob Steinmann, leaseholder on the lower house, with his wife whose maiden name is Barbara Walschburger. This may describe the parents, or name the wife of their son.

Jacob was the father of Christian Steinmann, who was born circa 1771. Christian married Katharina/Catherine Stalter. They farmed on the Rinkweilerhof estate at Hornbach. Their children are entered in civil records there from 1801 to 1806: Christian, born Nov. 16, 1801; Johannes, born April 23, 1803; Henry, born Feb. 15, 1805; and Magdalena, born Aug. 1, 1806. The 1801 birth entry states that one witness was Jakob Steinmann der alte [senior], 56. Thus Christian must have had a brother, Jakob Steinmann der Jüng [junior] (#3).

The Illinois settler Jakob Steinmann/Jacob Steinman (#4) was born in Pfalz-Zweibrücken circa 1802. According to the Karlskron Familienbuch he was born on or came from the Rinkweilerhof estate, though no civil

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368 The first Amish Mennonite Weiss in Zweibrücken may have been Elisabeth. She married Hans Stalter, and they became the progenitors of the prolific Stalter family of Zweibrucken. Their oldest son Johannes Stalter was born on the Offweilerhof estate at Contwig on Christmas Day 1712. He married Maria Weiss. Johannes became deacon of the Zweibrücken congregation. Jacob Weiss was listed on Ernst Müller's 'reconstruction census' as someone born circa 1710; he had a wife but no children.
entry is found there. Thus it is not likely that Christian was his father. Perhaps the brother Jakob der Jüng is the most likely candidate.

See STALTER for an explanation of the migration of families from Pfalz-Zweibrücken throughout Bavaria.

In February 1823 Jakob/Jacob married Barbara Nafziger on the monastery estate Baumgärtle [Ger. Baumgärte Kloster] at Breitenbrunn, Bavaria. Barbara was born on the lllbacherhof estate at Reinheim in the Darmstadt-Dieburg district of the state of Hesse, a daughter of Christian Nafziger (1763-1832) and Katharina Hochstetter (1771-1837). Her parents had lived at Gumbrechtshoffen, Lower Alsace for a few years before coming to Bavaria in 1814, then resettled at Breitenbrunn.

Breitenbrunn is only 5 miles northwest of the Hertleshof estate at Heinzenhof, the residence of Noé Augspurger/Noah Augsburger's family from 1818 to at least 1828. An entry describing the bankruptcy foreclosure auction of farm items Dec. 7, 1825 mentions "the Mennonite Steinmann" as a creditor. However, the writing is too unclear to make out an exact translation.

Jakob and Barbara had a son born at Untertiessen (below Landsberg am Lech) in 1824, and sons born at Breitenbrunn in 1828 and 1831.

They must have been employed at Josephenburg near Karlskron (65 miles northeast of Breitenbrunn) at least briefly. Karlskron was the parish and district that encompassed Probfeld and Josephenburg, two Donaumoos villages that held Amish Mennonite Ackermann, Gascho, Güngerich, Hage, Ingold, Oesch, Springer, and Sutter families.

The Karlskron Familienbuch contains an entry for the family. It describes Jakob as someone born on or coming from the Rinkweilerhof estate, and Barbara as someone born on or coming from the Ilbacherhof estate. It gives the month and year of their marriage, though not the place. It also lists three sons with birth dates but no birth places (suggesting they were born elsewhere). An extra note says that they were mit Pachler - living at Josephenburg with Joseph Pechler/Pachler/Pacher and Katharina Ingold.

After 1836 they worked for Daniel Unzicker on the Stoffersbergerhof estate at Stoffersberg (adjacent to Landsberg am Lech, 6 miles north of Untertiessen, 30 miles east of Breitenbrunn). We could not discern when Barbara Nafziger died, or when Jakob came to Illinois.

In Illinois he was known as Jacob Steinman. However, on the 1860 census of Tremont he appears as Jacob Steinman, 58, Germany. He was living in the household of his youngest son Daniel and daughter-in-law Katharina/Catherine Birky: Daniel Stymann, 28, Germany; 24, Illinois; Mary, 4, Illinois; Barbara, 3, Illinois, and Catharina, 2, Illinois. The same census page shows the households of Daniel Augsburger and Maria/Mary Oesch; Jacob Stalter and Barbara Birkey; and Nicholas Stecker/Staker (found as 'Soker') and Magdalena Eimer, indicating that they were living along Allentown Road near the border of Elm Grove.

His headstone in Landes Mennonite Cemetery at Elm Grove says he died March 19, 1865, at 63 years of age. Children of Jakob Steinmann/Jacob Steinman and Barbara Nafziger include:

1. Christian Steinmann was born at Untertiessen (6 miles south of Stoffersberg) Feb. 23, 1824, and was buried at Stoffersberg April 6, 1840.
2. Jakob Steinmann/Jacob Steinman was born at Breitenbrunn June 1, 1828, and died at Gridley, McLean County March 3, 1908.
3. Daniel Steinmann/Steinman was born at Breitenbrunn May 1, 1831, and died at Waldo Township, Livingston County March 17, 1916.

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369 Children of Chrétien Steinman/Christian Steinmann and Katharina/Catherine Stalter found in Hornbach civil records include Christian, born Nov. 16, 1801; Johannes, born April 23, 1803; Henry, born Feb. 15, 1805; and Magdalena, born Aug. 1, 1806.

370 Baumgärte Kloster is still in operation. Current photos can be found online on Panoramio.

371 According to a Karlskron Familienbuch family entry, Joseph Pechler was a Mennonit who died April 17, 1834. He was married to Katharina Ingold, a daughter of Jakob Ingold and Elisabeth Baumann. After Joseph's death she remarried to Christian Schantz (found as Szanz).

Their oldest son Christian Baechler was born at Probfeld March 27, 1827, and died as Blake, Ontario Nov. 29, 1915. In 1848 he immigrated to Ontario as a single man. In 1852 in Huron County he married Barbara Oesch. She was born in 1829, and died in 1909, a daughter of minister and elder John Oesch and Barbara Schultz. Christian served as a minister in Huron County for 50 years. They are buried in Lakeview Conservative Mennonite Cemetery at Blake.

372 According to a notation in the Unterigling Familienbuch found by Hermann Hage. Background on Daniel Unzicker is given in BIRKY/BIRKEY, THE BIG BIRKEYS.
Jakob Steinmann/Jacob Steinman

**Jakob Steinmann/Jacob Steinman** was born at Breitenbrunn June 1, 1828 (the 1900 census erroneously gave June 1824 and age 76).

On the 1900 census he also reported that he had immigrated in 1862, and had been in the country 38 years. Nevertheless, he may be the Jacob Steinmann who is found on the passenger list of the *New Orleans* as it arrived in New Orleans from Le Havre July 16, 1861.

On Sept. 7, 1862 in Tazewell County he married Maria/Mary Oesch, the widow of Daniel Augsburger, who had died in 1861. She was born on the Sutter family's leased estate, the Forsthof at Bergen, Bavaria on April 25, 1837, and died at Flanagan, Livingston County Feb. 22, 1892. She was a daughter of estate foreman Christian Oesch and Katharina Sutter.

At the time of their marriage Maria/Mary was still living on a property on the north side of Allentown Road at Tremont. Her first husband Daniel Augsburger had purchased it just before the 1860 census. There was apparently no hurry to change the land title, because the 1864 plat map shows it as belonging to 'D. Augusberger.' Their neighbors were the 'Little Red Birkys' Valentine, John, and Andrew.

They are found on the 1870 census of Allin, McLean County as farmer Jacob Stineman, 45, Byre [likely meant to be Bayern/Bavaria]; Mary, 28; Byre; Daniel, 8 [from Maria/Mary's first marriage]; Elizabeth, 9 [from Maria/Mary's first marriage]; Liddy, 6; Catherine, 5; Theodore, 5; Jacob, 2; and Christian, six months; all children born in Illinois; farm hand Peter Oxburger, 44, Byre [we could not identify him]; and ditcher Otto Bluhr, 58, Saxony. The place where the Steinmans lived would now be called Stanford within Allin Township.

They can be found in the 1880 census of Allin Township, McLean County as farmer Jacob Steinman, 54, Germany; Mary, 43, Germany; Lidda [Lydia], 16; Catherine, 15; Theodore, 13; Jacob, 11; Christian, 10; William, 7; Mary, 6; Emma, 5; Bertha, 1; and Daniel Augsburger, 18 [from Maria's first marriage].

*Herald of Truth*, March 1892: "On the 22d of February, 1892, in Livingston Co., Ill., suddenly of throat trouble, Maria Steinman, aged 54 years and 10 months. She was up quite late in the evening, and spent the time reading and meditating. The children had already retired, then she told her husband she would retire too, but was already breathing heavily. Soon after she called him saying she could not lie down. He hastened to her side, and in a few minutes she expired in his arms. She had been afflicted with the grippe, but had almost recovered. Her maiden name was Oesch. She was born in Forsthof, in Bavaria, on the 25th of April 1837, was married to Daniel Augsburger, Nov. 14, 1858, who died soon afterward. On the 7th of September 1862, she was married to Jacob Steinman, whom she now leaves with nine children to mourn her sudden death, but we rejoice that they need not mourn as those who have no hope. Sister Steinman was a faithful follower of Jesus in the Amish church. Funeral services by Joseph Ackerman from 2 Cor. 5, and by Daniel Orendorff, Stephen Staehly and John P. Schmitt from 1 Cor. 15. She was laid to rest on the 24th. A large number of friends and loved ones followed the remains to the grave.

The 1900 census of Waldo, Livingston County shows Jacob living with three of his single children. Their household appears as farmer Theodore Steinman, 33, born in Illinois in February 1867 to German parents; retired farmer Jacob, 76, born in Germany in June 1824 to German parents, immigrated in 1862, 38 years in the country; dress maker Emma, 24, born in Illinois in March 1876 to German parents; and Bertha, 21, born in Illinois in November 1878 to German parents. 373

Jacob died at Gridley, McLean County March 3, 1908. *Gospel Witness*, March 1908: "Bro. Jacob Steinmann was born in Bavaria, Germany, and emigrated to this country while yet a young man; died near Gridley, Ill., Mar. 3, 1908: aged 82 y. 9 m. 3 d. He was united in marriage Sep. 7, 1862, with Mary Augsberger (nee Esh) who preceded him to the spirit world Feb. 22, 1892. To this union were born ten children, two having preceded him in death, leaving four sons and four daughters, two step children, 23 grandchildren and one brother to mourn his departure. Deceased was a member of the A. M. Church. Services at the house by Bro. Geo. Summer from Psalms 46 and at the church by Bro. Daniel Orendorff from II Cor. 5:10 and Bro. D. W. Slagel from Isa. 38:1."

They are buried in Waldo Cemetery at Flanagan.

Children of Jakob Steinmann/Jacob Steinman and Maria/Mary Oesch born at what is now Stanford within Allin Township, McLean County include:

1. Lydia Steinman was born in 1864, and died March 5, 1895.
2. Catherine 'Katie' Steinman was born April 26, 1865, and died at Bloomington, McLean County May 2, 1930 (her death entry calling her Katie King erroneously named her parents as Jacob Steinman and 'Katherine Eash' and

373 On this census Steinman is written with an uncrossed 't.' At least one source has misread it to be 'Slimman.'
gave her birthplace as Stanford). On March 3, 1887 in McLean County she married Christian King. He was born in McLean County Dec. 13, 1864, and died at Peoria, Peoria County Oct. 28, 1920, a son of Christian R. King and Maria Sommer Baechler. They are buried in Waldo Cemetery at Flanagan, where their joint headstone calls her 'Katy Steinman 1865-1930.'

3. Theodore Steinman was born in February 1867, and died in Indiana in 1940. In 1904 he married Clara Gurtner. She was born at Carlock, McLean County in 1878, and died in Indiana in 1968, a daughter of Swiss immigrants Christian Gurtner and Rosina Stähly of Carlock, McLean County. They are buried in Woodburn Mennonite Cemetery (formerly the Evangelical Mennonite Cemetery) at Woodburn, Indiana.

4. Jacob Steinman was born Aug. 25, 1868, and died in 1951. On Feb. 17, 1892 at Danvers, McLean County he married Katie E. Unzicker; the ceremony was performed by minister Joseph Stuckey. She was born circa 1869, a daughter of Joseph Unzicker and Barbara of Pike, Livingston County. They are found on the 1900 census of Chenoa, McLean County as farmer Jacob Steinman, 31, born in Illinois in August 1868 to German parents; Katie, 31, born in Illinois in February 1868 to parents from Ohio; Frada, 7, born in Illinois in June 1892; and Ervin R., 4, born in Illinois in December 1895. On March 28, 1905 at Carlock, McLean County Jacob remarried to Josephine Stuckey. She was born at Danvers, McLean County in August 1871, and died in Indiana in 1967, a daughter of Christian Stuckey and Magdalena Miller. The 1910 census of Chenoa shows Jacob Steinman, 42, born in Illinois to German parents; Josephine, 39, born in Illinois to parents from Ohio and Germany; five children born in Illinois; and Jesse Streid, 16, born in Illinois to a French father and a mother from Illinois. They are buried in Woodburn Mennonite Cemetery at Woodburn, Indiana.

5. Christian Steinman was born in 1870, and died in 1963. He married Adeline Imthurm, who was born in 1884, and died in 1970, a daughter of Gideon Imthurm and Amelia of Gridley. Their household is found on the 1910 census of Gridley, McLean County as Christine Steinman, 39, Illinois; Adeline, 25, Illinois; and three children born in Illinois; and on the 1920 census of Gridley as Christian Steisman, 49, Illinois; Annie, 35, Illinois; and seven children born in Illinois. The 1940 census of Maumee Township outside Woodburn City, Indiana shows farmer Chris Stienman, 69, Illinois; Vaddline, 55, Illinois; and farmer and son Orville, 20. They are buried under a joint headstone in Leo Memorial Park at Leo-Cedarville, Indiana.

6. William Steinman was born May 12, 1872, and died at Lower Hominy, North Carolina May 3, 1944. His household is found on the 1900 census of Gridley, McLean County as yard worker William Steinman, 28, born in Illinois in May 1873 to German parents; and his wife Tillie, 25, born in Illinois in January 1875 to parents from France and Ohio. William's death entry said that he was born at Stanford May 12, 1872, a son of Jacob Steinman and Mary, and husband of Matilda. At the time of his death he was a building carpenter living at Candler, North Carolina. He is buried in Greenhills Cemetery at Asheville.

7. Mary Steinman was born May 15, 1874. On Dec. 6, 1894 in Livingston County she married Samuel E. Baughman. He was born in Illinois in 1873, a son of Johannes John Baughman and Catherine Nafziger. Their marriage entry called her 'Mary Steisman,' and said that she was the daughter of Jacob Steisman and Osch.' They are found on the 1910 and 1920 censuses of Gridley; on the 1930 census of Gridley as Samuel E. Baughman, 56, born in Illinois to parents from Germany and Ohio; and Mary, 55, born in Illinois to German parents, and on the 1940 census of Gridley as dry goods boxer Samuel E. Baughman, 67; and Mary, 65.

8. Emma Steinman was born in March 1876. She married G.E. Ehresman of Fort Wayne, Indiana.

9. Bertha Steinman was born Nov. 1, 1878, and died Feb. 13, 1965. On Jan. 16, 1902 at Bloomington, McLean County she married Jacob Ehresman. He was born Nov. 27, 1877, and died July 12, 1931, a son of John Ehresman and Catherine Sommer. They are buried under a joint marker in Waldo Cemetery at Flanagan.

One more child may have died as an infant (born and died between decade censuses). This would explain the count on father Jacob's obituary: two children had died before him (the unidentified child and Lydia), leaving four sons and four daughters in 1908. Taking into consideration the count in Mary/Maria's 1892 obituary ("...She now leaves him with 9 children to mourn her sudden death..."), and figuring in the two stepchildren, this unidentified child must have died before her.

Daniel Steinmann/Steinman

Daniel Steinmann/Steinman was born at Breitenbrunn May 1, 1831 (the 1900 census erroneously gave his birth date is February 1830). The 1900 census reported that Daniel had immigrated in 1844. He is thought to have come over with Birkys. He must have sailed from Le Havre on the Baltimore with Joseph and Maria Birky, children of Christian Birk and Marie Anne/Maria Anna Gascho, arriving at New York June 17, 1844, though his name is not found on the passenger list. He would have been 13 years old. His family had known the family of their uncle Joseph Gascho at Josephenburg. It would have been difficult for Daniel to obtain travel papers before participating in required military training at age 18; most exceptions were made for minors who were indigent, were traveling with their parents, whose father had died, or in the case that their father had already emigrated.
On Nov. 12, 1854 in Tazewell County he married Katharina/Catherine Birky; the ceremony was performed by minister Andrew Ropp. She was born in Bavaria in November 1834, and died in Livingston County Feb. 8, 1874, a daughter of Christian Birki and Marie Anne/Maria Anna Gascho.

They are found on the 1860 census of Tremont, living with Daniel's father Jacob on the north side of Allentown Road: Jacob Stinman, 58, Germany; Daniel Styman, 28, Germany; 24, Illinois; Mary, 4, Illinois; Barbara, 3, Illinois; and Catharina, 2, Illinois. Their next-door neighbors on the north side were Jacob Stalter and Barbara Birky, and on their south side Nicholas Stecker/Staker (found as 'N. Stecker') and Magdalena Eimer.

Just after the 1860 census the Tremont property was sold to Daniel Augsburger and Maria/Mary Oesch. Augsburger died in 1861, Maria/Mary remarried to Daniel's older brother Jacob, and the property returned to the Steinman family. In 1865 Daniel and Katharina/Catherine relocated to Flanagan, Livingston County. In 1870 Daniel was ordained as a minister of the Gridley Prairie congregation.

The 1870 census of Nebraska, Livingston County shows farmer Danl. Steinman, 39, with 'Byron' [Ger. Bayern] scratched out and Bavaria written in; Catharine, 34, Bavaria; Mary, 14; Barbara, 12; Catharine, 10; Melinda, 9; Elizabeth, 7; Anna, 5; Fannie, 2; all children born in Illinois; and farm laborer Peter, 22, Bavaria.

Gospel Herald, April 1874: "Feb. 8th, in Livingston Co., Ill., of nerve fever, Catharine Steinman, wife of Pre. Daniel Steinman, in the 40th year of her age. She admonished her children to be obedient to their father. She leaves a bereaved husband and eight children to mourn their loss. Appropriate remarks were made by Christian Schlegel, from Rev. 21:1-7; and Joseph Gascho, from Heb. 12:1-8."

On Aug. 17, 1876 Daniel remarried to Catherine Wyse, the widow of Christian Stahley. She was born in October of 1829, immigrated in 1865, and died at Flanagan Feb. 9, 1905. She brought daughter Bertha from her first marriage.374

Daniel represented the Gridley Prairie congregation at assemblies of ministers in 1872, 1873, 1875, and 1878. In 1880 he was ordained as elder. The 1880 census of Nebraska, Livingston County shows farmer Daniel Stainman, 50, France; Catharine, 49, France; Lizzie, 17, Illinois; Anna, 14, Illinois; Fannie, 11, Illinois; Daniel, 9, Illinois; Bertha Stafla [Stahley], 7, Illinois; and farm laborer Joseph Greener, 21, Germany.

The 1900 census of Nebraska, Livingston County shows Daniel Steinman, 70, born in Germany to German parents in February 1830, immigrated in 1844, 55 years in the country; and Catarine, 71, born in Germany to German parents in October 1829, immigrated in 1865, 50 years in the country. They were living next door to Daniel's son Daniel C. Steinman and his wife Jenny Stähly, and Daniel's daughter Melinda, 9; Elizabeth, 7; Anna, 5; Fannia, 2; all children born in Illinois; and farm laborer Peter, 22, Bavaria.

In 1905, Daniel died at Waldo Township, Livingston County March 17, 1916. He is buried at Flanagan. The birth date on his obituary was presumably taken off the 1900 census report.

Herald of Truth, February 1905: "Catherina Steinmann (nee Wise) was born in Lothringon [Lorraine], France, in 1827, and died at her home near Flanagan, Ill., Feb. 9, 1905; aged 78 years. She was united in marriage to Christian Stehly, Mar. 25, 1869, who preceded her to the spirit world. To this union was born one daughter. She was again united in marriage, Aug. 17, 1876, to Daniel Steinmann. She leaves her husband, one daughter, six stepchildren and one brother to mourn their loss. She was a true and faithful member of the Amish Mennonite church. Funeral services by Daniel Orendorff in German and Daniel W. Slagel in English from Rev. 14:13."

Daniel died at Waldo Township, Livingston County March 17, 1916. He is buried at Flanagan. The birth date on his obituary was presumably taken off the 1900 census report.

Gospel Herald, March 1916: "Daniel Steinman was born in Germany in February, 1830; died Mar. 17, 1916; aged 86 y. 1 m. At the age of 10 he came to Ohio then on to Tazewell Co., Ill., with relatives; united with the Amish Mennonite Church in his youth and remained a faithful member to the end. Nov. 12, 1854 he was married to Catharine Birky. They made their home in Tazewell Co. for 11 years, then came to Livingston Co. near where the town of Flanagan now is. To this union were born seven daughters and one son. His wife died Feb. 8, 1874. Aug. 17, 1876 he was married to Catharina Stahley (widow) who died Feb. 9, 1905. In the spring of 1870 he was ordained to the ministry, and in 1885 he was ordained bishop [elder of the Gridley Prairie congregation]. These places he filled to the best of his ability. As long as his health permitted he was at his post. For many years he suffered with severe headaches and of late with heart trouble. The last years of his life he has been making his home with his daughter, Barbara (Mrs. Dan Eigsti). On the evening of March 16 he ate a hearty supper and before retiring said he feels real well. The next morning he was found dead in his room. He leaves to mourn his sudden departure six daughters, one son, one stepdaughter, 45 grandchildren, and 45 great-grandchildren. One daughter and six grandchildren preceded him. Short services were held at the house by Bro. John Birky, Hopedale, Ill. The services

374 Bertha Stahley was born in Tazewell County Aug. 28, 1872, and died at Flanagan June 29, 1953. On Dec. 30, 1889 at Flanagan she married Joseph A. Zehr.
at the church were held by Bros. Dan Orendorff, Andrew Schrock and D. W. Slagel. Texts, II Cor. 4:17, 18; Matt. 25:21 (1st clause), Job 19:25 (1st clause). Buried in the Waldo graveyard."

Children of Daniel Steinmann/Steinman and Katharina/Catherine Birky include:

1. Maria Steinman was born at Tremont Dec. 13, 1855, and died at Flanagan, Livingston County March 26, 1932. On Sept. 7, 1873 at Chenoa, McLean County she married Nicholas Schlegel. He was born in Tazewell County April 22, 1849, and died at Flanagan June 28, 1913, a son of Christian Schlegel and Salome Sommer.

2. Barbara Steinman was born at Tremont Sept. 22, 1857, and died at Flanagan March 19, 1937. On Feb. 28, 1876 in Livingston County she married Joseph Orendorff. He was born at Spring Bay, Woodford County July 4, 1853, and died at Flanagan, Livingston County June 25, 1884, a son of Daniel Ohrendorf/Orendorf and Katharina Albrecht. See ORENDOFF for his obituary. On Feb. 17, 1889 in Livingston County she remarried to widower Joseph Yoder. He was born in Pennsylvania Aug. 21, 1822, and died Feb. 12, 1908, a son of John Yoder and Susanna Stutzman. His first wife was Lydia Kurtz. On Oct. 5, 1910 she remarried to Daniel Eigsti, the widower of her younger sister Elizabeth. He was born at Morton in Feb. 14, 1861, and died at Flanagan June 2, 1936, aged 75 y. 3 m. 19 d. He accepted Christ as his Savior and united with the Mennonite Church, and ever remained faithful. In the year 1882 he was united in marriage to Lizzie Steinman of near Flanagan. This union was blessed with six children: two daughters and four sons. The oldest daughter died in infancy. The children were quite small when the mother was taken to her eternal home on July 25, 1897. On Oct. 5, 1910 he was united in marriage to Mrs. Barbara [Steinman] Yoder, a sister of his former wife, who survives. Besides his companion he leaves one daughter (Susie, wife of Wm. J. Schertz), four sons (Sam and Will of Flanagan, Edward of Gridley, and Noah of El Paso), one brother (Samuel of Kansas), two sisters (Mary Kauffman, Manson, Ia.; Lydia Saltzman, Flanagan, Ill.), 15 grandchildren, besides a host of other relatives and friends. His seat at church services was seldom vacant when health and weather permitted. His quiet and congenial disposition won for him many friends. He had been ailing the past year, but was able to be up and around. He became suddenly ill on Tuesday evening with heart failure. Just before he passed away he said, "Just as well now as any time" and peacefully fell asleep. Funeral services were held at the Waldo Church conducted by Bro. D. W. Slagel and Bro. J. D. Hartzler. Burial in Waldo Cemetery."

Gospel Herald, April 1937: "Eigsti. - Barbara, daughter of the late Daniel and Catharine Steinman, was born Sept. 22, 1857, in Tazewell Co., Ill.; died at her home in Flanagan, Ill., Mar. 19, 1937; aged 79 y. 5 m. 22 d. After six weeks of illness she died of complications. At the age of nine years she with her parents moved to a farm near Flanagan, where she grew to womanhood. In the year of 1876 she was united in marriage to Joseph Orendorff, Sr., who died in 1884. To this union were born three sons (Daniel and Benjamin who died in infancy, and Joseph Jr. who survives and lives near Flanagan). In 1889 she was united in marriage to Joseph Yoder, who died in 1908. To this union was born one daughter (Ida Yoder Poser) who resides at Flanagan. In 1910 she was united in marriage to Daniel Eigsti who preceded her in death in 1936. She is survived by four grandchildren and one great-grandchild, three sisters (Mrs. C. Orendorff; Mrs. Anna Saltzman, both of Wayland, Iowa, and Mrs. Henry Ingold, of Fisher, Ill.); one brother (D. C. Steinman), and a step-sister (Mrs. Bertha Zehr, Flanagan, Ill.). She was preceded in death by three sisters. In her youth she became a member of the Waldo Mennonite Church and remained a faithful member to the end. Her last days were of patient waiting for deliverance from the burden of pain and suffering and on Friday evening the Lord granted dear Grandmother's release. Funeral services were conducted March 22, at the Waldo Mennonite Church by J. D. Hartzler and D. W. Slagel. Burial in the Waldo Cemetery."

3. Catherine 'Katie' Steinman was born at Tremont Feb. 23, 1859, and died at Wayland, Iowa Sept. 18, 1923. On Aug. 31, 1876 at Flanagan she married Benjamin Franklin Schlegel/Slagell/Slagel. He was born at Tremont Feb. 8, 1851, and died at Wayland, Iowa Nov. 10, 1922, a son of Christian Schlegel and Salomé 'Sarah' Sommer. See SCHLEGEL for more on this couple including her obituary.

4. Magdalena 'Len' Steinman was born at Tremont Feb. 27, 1861, and died at Wayland, Iowa Jan. 29, 1948. On Sept. 19, 1878 at Flanagan she married Christian Orendorff. He was born at Spring Bay, Woodford County Oct. 22, 1856, and died at Wayland, Iowa April 30, 1843, a son of Daniel Ohrendorf/Orendorf and Katharina Albrecht. They relocated to Wayland, Iowa in 1902. Gospel Herald, February 1948: "Orendorff. - Lena, daughter of Daniel and Katherine (Burkey) Steinman, was born near Tremont, Ill., Feb. 27, 1861; passed away at the home of her son (D. W. Orendorff), Wayland, Iowa, Jan. 29, 1948; aged 86 y. 11 m. 2 d. As a girl she moved with her folks to Flanagan, Ill., where she grew to womanhood and united with the Amish Mennonite Church. On Sept. 19, 1878, she was married to Christian Orendorff. In 1902 they moved from Flanagan to Wayland, Iowa, and on April 30, 1943, her husband passed away. Surviving are three daughters (Amelia - Mrs. P. H. Conrad, East Peoria, Ill.; Lydia - Mrs. P. J. Roth, Wayland, Iowa; and Alice - Mrs. E. F. Gingerich, Iowa City, Iowa), two sons (Daniel W., Wayland, Iowa; and John R., Spencer, Iowa), one sister, Mrs. Fannie Ingold, Fisher, Ill.), one brother (Daniel, Danvers, Ill.), one step-sister (Mrs. Bertha Zehr, Flanagan, Ill.), 17 grandchildren, 40 great-grandchildren, one foster grandchild, two great-great-grandchildren, and many other relatives and friends. One son (Samuel) preceded her in death in 1891. Funeral services were held Jan. 31 at the Sugar Creek Church, near Wayland, Iowa, in charge of Willard Leichty and Simon Gingerich. Interment was made in the cemetery nearby."


7. Veronica 'Fanny' Steinman was born at Flanagan May 4, 1868, and died at Gibson City, Ford County Aug. 14, 1958. On Feb. 28, 1888 at Flanagan she married Henry Ingold. He was born in Woodford County Aug. 4, 1864, and died at Urbana, Champaign County March 24, 1941, a son of Joseph Ingold and Barbara Unzicker.

Barbara Steinman

We expected to find that Barbara Steinman was a daughter of Jakob Steinmann/Jacob Steinman and Barbara Nafziger. Barbara Steinman and Jacob are buried in the same cemetery, and both were linked to the Augsburgers. However, his Karlshron Familienbuch entry completed after 1831 shows only three sons. 375

Barbara was born June 16, 1829, and died at Morton March 21, 1911. She reported on the 1900 census that she had immigrated in 1847. On Aug. 7, 1848 at Lancaster, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania she married Jacob Augusburger. Presumably she had sailed from Europe with him. He was born on the Hertleshof estate at Heinzenhof, Bavaria July 29, 1823, and died at Elm Grove Feb. 21, 1869, a son of Noé Augspurger/Noah Augsburger and Elisabeth Eyer.

Barbara gave birth to her first child Oct. 2, 1848 (their children are listed in AUGSBURGER). They are found on the 1850 census of Paradise, Lancaster County as laborer Jacob Augusburgers, 27, Germany; Barbara, 21, Germany; Magdaline, 1, Pennsylvania; and Noah, 6 months, Pennsylvania.

The 1860 census of Groveland shows them as Jacob Oxenberg, 35, Bavaria; Barbara, 30; Madaline, 12; Noah, 10; Christian, 8; Elizabeth, 6; Catharine, 4; and Andrew, 1.

Widow Barbara and her children are found on the 1870 census of Elm Grove living next door to Peter Eiman: Barbara Alsberger, 38, Bavaria; farmer Joseph [Noah], 21; laborer Christian, 19; Elizabeth, 17; Catharine, 14; Andrew, 12; Anna, 7; Daniel, 4; and Veronika, 1; all children born in Illinois.

375 Jakob Steinmann/Jacob Steinman had a sister Katharina Steinmann. According to Catholic entries at Bedernau (adjacent to Breitrenbrunn) she had illegitimate children there in 1821 and 1823. The father was Johan Georg Pfaff. The parents may have been married by an Anabaptist minister; the ceremony would perhaps not have been recognized by the recording scribe.
On April 15, 1873 in Tazewell County Barbara remarried to widower Christian Sutter. He was born on the Forsthof estate at Bergen, Bavaria April 21, 1823, and died at Hopedale May 11, 1899. His first wife Magdalena Nafziger had died May 25, 1871. That household can be found on the 1880 census of Little Mackinaw as farmer Christian Suter, 57, Bavaria; Barbara, 50, Bavaria; Annie Augsberger, 17, stepdaughter born in Illinois; Daniel, 13, stepson born in Illinois; and Fannie, 10, stepdaughter born in Illinois. Christian Sutter died at Hopedale May 11, 1899, and was buried next to his first wife in the Mennonite Cemetery there.

Widow Barbara is found on the 1900 census of Hopedale as Barbara Sutter, 71, born in Germany in June 1829; mother of nine children, seven still living; she reported that she had immigrated in 1847.

She was buried in Landes Mennonite Cemetery with her first husband Jacob Augsburger, son Christian, Jacob Steinman, and her Sutter in-laws.

**Christian Steinman of Wilmot**

**Chrétien/Christian Steinman** was born at Barst-Marienthal (now in Moselle) in 1792, a son of Jacques/Jacob Steinman and Barbe von Kennel.

He married Veronika Eyer in Bavaria. She was born in Bavaria April 10, 1801, a daughter of Jakob Eyer and Magdalena Birki. She had two sisters who also figure in these pages:

- Magdalena Eyer married Jacob Heiser. Recall from HEISER that Magdalena was living at Dillon in 1850, died Oct. 19, 1851, and is buried in Railroad Cemetery or Landes Mennonite Cemetery.
- Elisabeth Eyer married Noé/Noah Augsburger (#3). Recall from AUGSBURGER that they were the parents of Augsburgers who are buried in Landes Mennonite Cemetery and Pleasant Grove Mennonite Cemetery.

As told in ROPP, the family of Andreas Ropp and Elisabeth Eymann sailed from Le Havre, arriving at Philadelphia on the *Moss* July 22, 1826.

ROPP tells the story of the *Nimrod* voyage from Amsterdam, arriving at Philadelphia Aug. 18, 1826. Many of its Amish Mennonite passengers who figure elsewhere in these pages later settled at Wilmot, Ontario with the Ropps. These included Christian Steinman and his wife Veronika Eyer. They appear on the passenger list as "Christian Steinmann, 35; V., 34; Jacob, 4; Christian, 2; and Jacob, 75" (Christian's father).

"The surviving records of Wilmot assessor John Hamacher mention Lot 8, Snyder’s Road north side belonging to Andrew Rupp Sr.; and Lots 7, Snyder’s Road north and south sides belonging to Andrew Rupp Jr. The obligatory improvements were completed on both lots by 1830.

However, despite any relationships in Wilmot, the bitterness of Ontario winters and the dispute over remaining community land convinced the Ropps to move to Butler County in 1831-32. They saw no future in paying steep prices for further acreage in a cold climate with a short growing season....

According to Hamacher's records, by 1834 'Lot 8, Snyder’s Road north side' had passed from Andreas into the hands of Christian Steinman. Thus the site that Andreas improved can not only be pinpointed, but tied to a specific landmark. The place where the Steinmans lived was called Steinmann's Corner, and the Steinmann Mennonite Church was constructed there in 1884...."

"After selling their lots to Christian Steinmann, the Ropps departed Canada with $1,100 from the sale of property and farm implements, equivalent to $25,350 in modern buying power. Butler County land was selling for $10 an acre (the 1833 equivalent of $230), and Illinois land for $1.25."

Christian Steinman and Veronika Eyer are found on the 1851 and 1861 censuses of Wilmot. The first shows his family as Mennonite farmer Christian Steinmann, 60, Luderinger [Ger. Lothringer, or person from Lothringen - Lorraine]; Veronica, 52, Beier [Ger. Bayern, or Bavaria]; Christian, 26, Baden; Veronica, 22, Baden; carpenter Joseph, 22; Daniel, 20; and laborer Christian, 16 [not a son]. The second census shows Mennonite Christian Steinmann, 68; France; Veronica, 60; France; and Magdalena, 65, France [Christian's sister].

Christian died at Wilmot Nov. 10, 1865. Veronica died there March 13, 1883. They are buried in what is now the cemetery of Steinmann Mennonite Church.

Though we could not identify the location of Christian's marriage in Bavaria, it was possible to ascertain that one of his brothers lived with the families in the *Donaumoos* or Danube marsh. The surprising link was discovered by German genealogist Hermann Hage. Hage knew that a Peter/Pierre Steinman had come from Moselle to work in
Bavaria from 1821 to 1826. He was a laborer with Hermann's ancestor Friedrich Hage at Josephenburg. Friedrich will be recalled from SUTTER as someone who co-signed with Johannes Sutter a 12-year lease on the Forsthof estate at Bergen, beginning in 1811. Hage also found the entry that describes the marriage of Johannes Steinmann and Barbara Nafziger at Breitenbrunn, Bavaria in a *Familienbuch* created at Karlskron. The marriage was noted at Karlskron because they were living at adjacent Josephenburg.

**CHRISTIAN'S BROTHER PETER/PIERRE STEINMAN**

Peter/Pierre Steinman was born at Barst-Marienthal (now in Moselle) circa 1790, and died at Clay, Miami County, Indiana Feb. 2, 1862.

Before it began to be drained, the *Donaumoos* (Danube marsh) was the largest bog in southern Germany. In 1790 the Bavarian elector Charles Theodor began to invite Mennonites to settle in the inhospitable 120-square-mile area area, offering incentives for reclamation and cultivation. In 1802 over 120 Mennonite families were permitted to settle there, and many of the families remained until the '48er wave of emigration. Entries for Mennonite families in the *Donaumoos* such as Sutter, Oesch, and Ingold can also be found in Catholic records at Karlskron. Peter may have traveled to Bavaria specifically to work as a laborer there. This would have guaranteed him an exemption from military service.

Peter/Pierre Steinnmann later emigrated from Europe with the Hages. They sailed from Hamburg on the brig *Hibernia*, arriving at Philadelphia Aug. 14, 1826. The passenger list shows Friedrich Hage, 35; Verona, 25; Elizabeth, 6: Mary, 4; and Peter Steinnmann, 40; all from Bavaria, Germany.

Peter rejoined his brother, Christian, at Wilmot, Ontario. One source says he arrived there in 1826. His name is found on the 1830 surveyor's plat map of Wilmot, affixed to Lot 21 on the south side of Snyder’s Road. The website of the Mennonite Historical Society of Ontario says that, "Peter, probably a brother [to Christian Steimian], settled first in Wilmot but moved to Sugar Creek, Ohio in 1837."

In Ohio Peter/Pierre married Veronica 'Fanny' Hochstetler. She was born in Somerset County, Pennsylvania June 28, 1809, and died in Miami County April 17, 1885, a daughter of Benjamin Hochstetler and Catherine Miller. They lived in Holmes County, Ohio before resettling at Clay, Miami County in June of 1848. The household of Pierre/Peter Steinnmann and Veronica can be found on the 1850 census of Clay, Miami County, Indiana as farmer Peter Stimon, 56, Ger.; Fanny, 40, P.; and Jonas, 4, O. The 1860 census of that community shows farmer Peter Stileman, 69, France; Fanny, 51, Pennsylvania; and Jonas, 14, Ohio.

A year after the death of Pierre/Peter, Veronica remarried to Philip Yoder. Their son Jonas kept his father's surname, with a spelling variation. *Herald of Truth*, October 1919: "Jones Stinemman, son of Peter and Veronica Stinemman, was born in Holmes Co., Ohio, March 13, 1846; died in Miami Co., Ind., Sept. 29, 1919; aged 73 y. 6 m. 16 d. In June, 1848, he, with his parents, moved to Miami Co., Ind., upon a farm which was his home until death. On November 25, 1869, he was married to Lydia Christner. To this union were born 7 children, two of them preceded him to the spirit world. His first wife died Aug. 19, 1882. One December 13, 1885, he was again united in marriage to Barbara Metzler; to this union was born one son, who died March 24, 1909. Brother Stinemman was a life-long member of the Mennonite Church, and was a kind and devoted member possessing cheerful disposition. He leaves to mourn his departure his aged wife, 5 children, and a number of grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and a host of friends. Funeral services at the Mennonite Church Oct. 1, conducted by N. M. Slabaugh and E. A. Mast from II Kings 20:1."

**CHRISTIAN'S BROTHER JACOB STEINMAN**

Jacob Steinman was born at Barst-Marienthal, Moselle Aug. 7, 1793, and died at Leacock Township, Lancaster County in February 1877.

He traveled from Neuberg an Donau to Amsterdam, then sailed on the *Osprey*, arriving at New YorkSept. 2, 1824. The same ship brought Johannes/Hans/John Oesch, who was mentioned earlier in a LITWILLER footnote. Oesch farmed at Probfeld, adjacent to Karlskron in the *Donaumoos*, until he departed Neuberg an der Donau June 1, 1824. At Wilmot Oesch was ordained as a minister in February 1829, and in September 1829 he replaced 'Apostle Peter' Naffziger as elder.

Jacob Steinman was living at Leacock with his wife Catherine Stoltzfus in 1850. She was born at Spring Township, Berks County, Pennsylvania March 13, 1783, and died March 13, 1879, a daughter of Christian Stoltzfus and Catherine Gerber. According to Lorraine Roth in her article *Documents Do Tell Stories*, Christian Stoltzfus held over 1,000 acres in Woolwich Township, Waterloo County, Ontario.

Leacock is adjacent to Paradise; recall that Paradise was the site of the marriage of Barbara Steinman in 1848.

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376 Friedrich Hage's father Friedrich was born in 1739 at Guntersbuhl (now in Moselle), and died on the Forsthof estate at Bergen (near Neuberg an der Donau) Nov. 17, 1817. He married Elisabeth Anna Schultz. Friedrich [Jr.] was born on the Bärenbrunnerhof estate at Busenberg in the Pfalz Jan. 25, 1794, and died in Holmes County, Ohio June 28, 1863, a son of Friedrich Hage and Elisabeth Anna Schultz. Circa 1818 he married Veronika Esch. The *Mennonite Church USA Archives* at Goshen College holds a certificate issued to him May 8, 1826, to show his time of service on the Josephenburg farm since March 29, 1821. It describes him as a full minister (Ger. *Pachter und Diener zum Buch*). The Hages sailed from Hamburg with Peter Steinnmann on the brig *Hibernia*, as noted. Friedrich served as an elder for the Martin's Creek congregation in Millersburg and Berlin, Holmes County.
CHRISTIAN'S COUSIN PETER STEINMAN

A Steinman family settled at East Zorra-Tavistock, Oxford County after 1845. Discussing the Wilmot family, the website of the Mennonite Historical Society of Ontario says only, "At least one other Steinman family came to Canada and settled in the Tavistock area. This family came somewhat later and came from France."

The father was Peter/Pierre Steinman. He was born at Grostenquin, Moselle June 1, 1795, and died at East Zorra-Tavistock circa 1871, a son of Christian/Chrétien Steinman and Elisabeth Güngerich. On Aug. 23, 1823 at Imling, Moselle he married Anne Abresol. She was born in 1792, and died in 1845, a daughter of Jean Abresol and Barbe Zwalter. In 1852 in Ontario he remarried to Jakobina Ingold. She was born circa 1806, possibly a daughter of Jakob Ingold and Elisabeth Baumann. They are not found on the 1861 or 1871 censuses.

Grostenquin, Diffembach-Hellimer, and Barst-Marienthal Grostenquin are all in Moselle. Grostenquin is only five miles southwest of Diffembach-Hellimer. Barst-Marienthal is only five miles north of Diffembach-Hellimer. Steinman was not a common surname in Moselle, particularly before the Napoleonic wars. Thus it is probable that the progenitors of the two families - Jacob/Jacques Steinman born circa 1757, and Christian/Chrétien born circa 1761 - were brothers, and Peter Steinman of East Zorra-Tavistock was a cousin to Christian Steinman of Wilmot.

377 We could find no direct proof that Jakobina Ingold was a daughter of Jakob Ingold and Elisabeth Baumann. Jakob and Elisabeth are found in the Karlskron Famillienbuch. Jakob was born on the Wilensteinerhof estate at Trippstadt in the Pfalz in 1778, and died at Probfeld, Bavaria Oct. 12, 1836. Elisabeth was also born on the Wilensteinerhof estate, and died at Probfeld Feb. 28, 1844. They were married on the Lindebrunnerhof estate at Annweiler in 1795. A Jakobina is listed among their children, with no birthdate or birthplace. We have seen a source that incorrectly says Jakob and Elisabeth were early settlers of East Zorra-Tavistock. We have also seen sources that say Jakobina's father was Christian Ingold, who could not be further identified.
Amish Mennonites in Tazewell County, Illinois

Hauter of Pfalz-Zweibrücken

In the Bernese dialect a *Haueter* was a woodcutter. Heimatorte or legal places of origin for citizenship rights associated with this surname include Langnau, Trub, Trachselwald, and Schlosswil. The surname was also found as Hauërter in places such as Diessbach.

**Johannes Hauter** was born circa 1730, and died before 1791. He married Magdalena Schrag. She was born on the Ernstweilerhof estate near the city of Zweibrücken in 1735, a daughter of Ulrich Schrag and Elisabeth Meier.

In 1764 they were managing the Blumenuer Mühle [mill] at Brenschelbach. This little village was located in Hornbach, six miles south of the city of Zweibrücken, just above the border of the Duchy of Pfalz-Zweibrücken with the region of Lorraine. It is now the name of a road in Hornbach.

In 1776 they were working in a mill at Ixheim, a village one mile below the city of Zweibrücken.378

Children of Johannes Hauter and Magdalena Schrag include:

1. Christian Hauter married Elisabeth Dörr at Zweibrücken in 1791.
2. Andreas Hauter was born in 1754, and died in the mill at Ixheim Jan. 11, 1823. He married Katharina Imhoff.
3. Joseph Hauter was born at Walsheim (10 miles southwest of the city of Zweibrücken) circa 1758, and died at Zweibrücken Nov. 20, 1812.
4. Magdalena Hauter was born at the Ixheimermühle June 1, 1759, and died on the Bickenaschbacherhof estate Dec. 11, 1805. She married Christian Stalter. He was born at Francaltroff (in what is now Moselle) in 1750, and died on the Bickenaschbacherhof estate (four miles southwest of the city of Zweibrücken) April 12, 1831, a son of Heinrich Stalter and his first wife.

**Joseph Hauter** was born at Walsheim circa 1758, and died in the city of Zweibrücken Nov. 20, 1812. He married Magdalena/Madeleine Schertz. A census created in the city of Zweibrücken Aug. 30, 1796 described the household of Joseph Hauter, his wife, and six children. Joseph worked in the palace mill [Ger. Schlossmühle] there.379

Their children include:

1. Joseph Hauter was born in the Duchy of Pfalz-Zweibrücken in 1784. On April 22, 1809 in the city Zweibrücken he married Barbara Schrag. She was born on the Heckenaschbacherhof estate in 1790, and died there April 16, 1819, a daughter of Johannes Schrag and Christine Esch. They were living on the Niederwurzbachermühle in 1814. Joseph remarried to his cousin Katharina Hauter. She was born at Ixheim in 1801, and died in the city of Zweibrücken in 1826, a daughter of Johannes Hauter and Maria Susanna Kinsinger.
2. Magdalena Hauter was born at Hornbach in the Duchy of Pfalz-Zweibrücken July 22, 1785, and died before 1827. She married Joseph Dettweiler, a son of Joseph Dettweiler and Magdalena Reiderig of the Spitalhof estate at Sundheim, Baden (adjacent to and below Kehl).
3. Katharina Hauter was born in the Duchy of Pfalz-Zweibrücken in 1786. She married Michel Philipp Kegel.
4. Christian/Chrétien Hauter was born in the city of Zweibrücken Nov. 30, 1788, and died there June 5, 1829.
5. Johannes Hauter was born in the city of Zweibrücken in 1791. He married Barbara Schertz, a daughter of Christian Schertz and Barbara Schertz of the Sarreck Mill at Oberstinzel, Moselle.
6. Elisabeth Hauter was born in the city of Zweibrücken in 1792.

**Christian/Chrétien Hauter** was born in the city of Zweibrücken Nov. 30, 1788, and died there June 5, 1829.

On May 12, 1812 at Diemeringen, Lower Alsace he married Catherine Dettweiler. She was born on the Neumatte estate at Diemeringen April 16, 1792, a daughter of Chrétien Dettweiler and Anne Wagler (see DETTWEILER for more on her father, who was also from Pfalz-Zweibrücken). Their civil marriage entry described the groom as a miller from Zweibrücken, and a son of miller Joseph Hauter and Madeleine Schertz.

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378 The Duchy of Zweibrücken was annexed to France in 1797. When the duchy was occupied by French troops many Amish Mennonites migrated to the Pfalz. It was restored to Bavaria at the Congress of Vienna in 1814-15, while neighboring areas became part of Hesse-Darmstadt. Still the Ixheim congregation became the last Amish Mennonite congregation in Europe, finally merging into the South German Mennonite Conference in 1952.

379 The mill was destroyed on the night of March 14, 1945, when more than 80 percent of the city was leveled by aerial bombing.
Catherine died in 1814, and before the year ended 25-year-old Christian/Chrétien remarried to 17-year-old Katharina Güngerich. She was born on the Monbijou estate at Dietrichingen (seven miles south of the city of Zweibrücken) in 1797, a daughter of Michel Güngerich and Barbara Hauer.

Two of their sons sailed from Le Havre on the packet ship *Sully*, arriving at New York July 15, 1845. They are shown on the passenger list as Joseph Hauer, 19, farmer, Bavaria; and Jacob, 21, farmer, Bavaria.

**Jacob Hauer**

*Jacob Hauer* was born in the city of Zweibrücken Nov. 9, 1823.

Jacob ‘remained a short time’ in New York before continuing on to Butler County, Ohio. From Butler County he was one of the few immigrants who were able to revisit Europe. He can be found on the passenger list of the *Radius* from Le Havre arriving at New Orleans Dec. 27, 1849, along with Morton resident Jacob Kennel and John Unzicker (who later spelled his surname ‘Unsicker’ at Morton).

On Feb. 25, 1853 in Butler County he married Marie/Mary Brenneman. She was born at Wohra, Hesse Feb. 24, 1829, and came to America on the Hessian Mennonite voyage of 1832 with her parents Daniel B. Brenneman and Elizabeth Jutzi in 1832.

The Hauers and the Brenneman family relocated from Turtle Creek, Warren County, Ohio (adjacent to Butler County) to Tazewell County in 1854. *History of Tazewell County, Illinois*: "Jacob Hauer, farmer and stock raiser, sec. 9; P. O., Hopedale. Few have succeeded better in life than the genial gentleman whose name stands at the top of this column. He is a native of Germany, where he was born in 1824, and there passed his childhood, and grew to manhood. Attaining his majority he concluded to seek his fortune in the New World, and accordingly sailed for America, arriving during the summer of 1845 in New York city, where he remained a short time, and then proceeded to Ohio where he procured employment as a farm hand, and there married, in 1853, Miss Mary Brenneman, a daughter of Daniel Brenneman, a well-known resident of this township. For seven years Mr. Hauer worked in Ohio, and then plunging still further westward, he located in Putnam county, where he remained three years, when he moved and settled in Boynton Township, where, in 1858, Mr. H. made his purchase of land in Illinois, consisting of 160 acres, now the property of Jacob Brenneman, Esq. At the present writing Mr. H. is the owner of 245 acres of land unequaled in this Western country, on which he erected four years ago a handsome farm residence."

The 1850 census of Boynton shows farmer Jacob Houter, 54, Germany; Mary, 1, Germany; Eliza, 6; Arthur, 5; Emma, 4; Betty, 3; and May, 1 (all children born in Illinois).

Jacob is shown on an 8th District *Draft Registration* document created June 1863 as Jacob Hauer, 39, Germany, resident of Boynton.

They appear on the 1870 census of Boynton as farmer Jacob Hauer, 45, Bavaria; Mary, 41, Hesse-Darmstadt; Eliza, 16; Arthur W., 15; Emma E., 14; Bertha A., 12; Mary J., 11; Oscar E., 8; and Edgar S., 7 (all children born in Illinois).

The 1873 plat map shows a Hauer farm in the southwest quarter of Section 9 in Boynton. They were adjacent to Valentine Naiziger and one lot below Jacob Brenneman.

The 1880 census of Boynton shows Jacob Hauer, 55, Bavaria; Mary, 50, Hesse-Darmstadt; Bertha, 22; Arthur, 25; J. Mary, 20; Oscar, 19; and Edgar, 18 (all children born in Illinois).

Marie/Mary Brenneman died at Boynton March 15, 1882.

The 1900 census of Boynton shows Edgar Hauer, 37, born in Illinois in June 1862; wife Maria, 38, born in Germany in January 1862; Albert, born in Illinois Feb. 19, 1881; Minnie, born in Germany July 13, 1886; and Jacob, 75, born in Germany in November 1824.

Jacob Hauer died at Delavan April 26, 1905. He and Marie/Mary Brenneman are buried in Orendorff Cemetery at Hopedale. Their children include:


2. Arthur William Hauer was born in Putnam County Feb. 12, 1855, and died at Pana, Shelby County March 20, 1926. On Dec. 27, 1881 he married Eliza Jane Sharbine. She was born in McLean County May 13, 1858, and died at Pana, Shelby County June 14, 1933, a daughter of John Sharbine [Scherbein] and Sophia Lape. In 1898 they relocated to Champaign County. They are found on the 1900 census of Fisher Village, Brown Township, Champaign County as farmer Arthur Hauer, 55, born in Illinois in February 1855 to German parents; Eliza, 41, born in Illinois in May 1859.
Amish Mennonites in Tazewell County, Illinois

3. Emma Helena Hauter was born in Tazewell County March 22, 1856, and died Dec. 22, 1934. On Feb. 4, 1880 in Tazewell County she married John E. Schwarzentraub. He was born in Bureau County Jan. 19, 1854. They appear on the 1900 census of Walnut, Bureau County as hardware dealer John E. Schwarzentraub, 46, born in Illinois in January 1854 to parents from Germany and France; Emma H., 44, born in Illinois in March 1856 to parents from France and Germany; and two children born in Illinois. The Bureau County Directories of 1902 and 1914 list J.E. Schwarzentraub as the owner of a Hardware & Stoves store at Walnut (population 791). They are also found on the 1920 census of Walnut.


5. Mary Josephine Hauter was born at Boynton March 17, 1859, and died June 1, 1923. On Dec. 27, 1881 she married Fritz Michael Weis. He was born in LaSalle County April 26, 1857, a son of Joseph Weis and Marie Bremmeman. They are found on the 1910 census of Eden, LaSalle County as Fritz M. Weis, 53, Illinois; and Mary J. Weis, 50, Illinois.

6. Oscar Edward Hauter was born at Boynton March 21, 1861, and died July 14, 1937. On Jan. 27, 1885 in Putnam County he married Helene/Helen Hirschy. She was born at Granville, Putnam County Feb. 7, 1861, and died in 1931, a daughter of Michael Hirschy and Jakobina Holly. They are found on the 1910, 1920, and 1930 censuses of Marion, Indiana. They are buried in Weston Cemetery at Rensselaer, Indiana.

7. Edgar Louis Hauter was born at Boynton June 21, 1862, and died at Delavan Nov. 4, 1917. On March 8, 1900 in Tazewell County he married Maria Theresa Longfohl. She was born Jan. 23, 1861, and died at Delavan May 15, 1916. The 1900 census of Boynton was mentioned earlier. They were living at Delavan in 1900. They are buried in Prairie Rest Cemetery at Delavan.

Joseph Hauter

Joseph Hauter was born in the city of Zweibrücken April 19, 1826, and died at Morton Jan. 30, 1907.

The 1850 census of Tremont shows blacksmith Joseph Houter, 23, Germany, in the household of blacksmith Frederick Dean, 49. He later worked as a blacksmith with his uncle Jacob Unzicker at Tremont, and then became a farmer at Morton.

On Nov. 25, 1851 he married Marie/Mary Belsley. She was born at St. Jean-Kourtzerode March 13, 1826, and died Dec. 20, 1904, a daughter of Michael/Michel Bältzli/Belsley and Catherine Schertz. They purchased land that straddled the boundary between Morton and Tremont, though they resided in Morton. It is found on the 1873 plat map as the southeast corner of Section 31, Morton, adjacent to Henry Berkey; and the northeast quarter of Section 6, Tremont, adjacent to Joseph Landes.

The 1860 census of Morton shows the household of Joseph Hauter, 35, Germany; Mary, 35, Illinois; Mary, 7, Illinois; Elizabeth, 2, Illinois; Jacob, 7 months, Illinois; and Catharina Beltzly, 67, Germany.

Joseph is shown on an 8th District Draft Registration document created June 8, 1863 as farmer Joseph Hauter, 36, Germany, resident of Morton.

In 1870 they appear as farmer Joseph Hauter, 44, Berne; Mary, 44, France; Mary, 18; Elizabeth, 17; Joseph, 6; Amelia, 6; and Benjamin, 5 (all children born in Illinois). In 1880, farmer Joseph Houder, 54, Germany; Mary, 54, France; Joseph, 16, Illinois; Amelia, 16, Illinois; and Benjamin, 15, Illinois.

The 1900 census of Morton shows farmer Joseph Hauter, 74, born in Germany in April 1826 to German parents, immigrated in 1845. Mary, 74, born France in May 1826 to French parents, immigrated 1837; and housekeeper Katie Lindown, 20, born in Germany in March 1880 to German parents, immigrated in 1890.

Joseph Hauter and Marie/Mary Belsley are buried in the Apostolic Christian Cemetery at Morton. Their children include:

1. Mary Hauter was born March 6, 1853, and died at Morton March 11, 1915. On Dec. 8, 1872 in Tazewell County she married John Frank. He was born at Rettersberg, Germany June 15, 1847, and died at Morton June 1, 1916. They are buried in the Apostolic Christian Cemetery at Morton.

2. Elizabeth ‘Lizzie’ Hauter was born Oct. 3, 1858, and died Sept. 15, 1880. On Dec. 29, 1878 in Tazewell County she married David Musselman. He was born at Rindhof, Germany Oct. 3, 1852, and died at Morton Aug. 5, 1832, a son of David Musselman and Christina Hunzicker. He had immigrated in 1876. They are found on the 1880 census of Morton. David remarried to Elizabeth Yentes (September 1881) and Rosina Schlupp (February 1890). He is found on the 1920 census of Morton with Swiss wife named Rosina; and as a 77-year-old widower on the 1930 census of Morton.

3. Jacob Hauter was born circa November 1859. He is shown as a seven-month-old on the 1860 census, but is not found on the 1870 census.
4. Joseph Hauter (twin) was born Aug. 28, 1863, and died at Morton June 14, 1935. He married Emma Wittmer. She was born Jan. 24, 1864, and died June 19, 1959, a daughter of Jacob Wittmer and Mary M. Reusser. Joseph was a grain dealer. They are buried in the Apostolic Christian Cemetery at Morton.

5. Amelia Hauter (twin) was born Aug. 28, 1863, and died at Morton April 30, 1944. On Dec. 12, 1887 she married John Getz. He was born at Dillon May 17, 1864, and died at Morton Aug. 17, 1925, a son of John Getz and Jacobine Sommer.

6. Benjamin Franklin Huter was born Feb. 14, 1865, and died at Morton Jan. 28, 1939. On Nov. 3, 1888 in Tazewell County Benjamin married Louisa E. 'Lucy' Voelpel. She was born Dec. 14, 1868, and died Sept. 18, 1967. Benjamin was county treasurer at the time of his death. They are buried in the Apostolic Christian Cemetery at Morton.
Cender: Zehnder of Eriswil

In Bernese dialect a Zehnder was a tithe collector. The only Heimat or legal place of origin for citizenship rights associated with this surname in Canton Bern is Eriswil, 10 miles northeast of Lützelflüh.

Nicolas Zehnder was the father of Ulrich Zehnder. Ulrich was born at Le Hohwald, Lower Alsace circa 1762, and died at Ribeauvillé, Upper Alsace July 8, 1835.

The son variously signed his own name Ulrich Zender, Ulerich Zehender, and Ullerich Zender. The entries that bore these signatures had much more colorful varieties of spelling in the texts written by municipal clerks: Zehender, Zentner, Zentner, Tzentner, Tzenter, Zinnter, Zintner, Cehnder, and Cender.

Circa 1785 he married Barbara/Barbe Sommer. She was born at Barembach (adjacent to La Broque, 21 miles northwest of Le Hohwald) circa 1765, and died at Marckolsheim, Lower Alsace Nov. 16, 1827, a daughter of Chrétien Sommer and Barbara Gerber.

Their children were born at Belmont, Lower Alsace between 1786 and 1807. There Ulrich was described as a cultivator. They were living at Niedernai (20 miles east of Belmont) in 1816, but by 1822 they were on a farm called La Hueb at Marckolsheim, 28 miles southeast of Belmont near the Rhine River, where they remained until Barbara’s death in 1827.380

Barbara/Barbe’s civil death entry from Marckolsheim described her as miller Barbara Sommere, 62, the wife of Ulrich Zhnter. She was born at Barrenbach, a daughter of deceased parents Chrétien Sommer and Barbara Gerber. It was witnessed by grandson and laborer Jean Lehmann, 27; and laborer Jacques Wagner, 47, a brother-in-law. Signatures looked like Lehman and Wagner.

Widower Ulrich witnessed the birth of a granddaughter Elisabeth Schlatter at Zellwiller, Lower Alsace (below Niedernai) July 21, 1831, and likely lived there with his daughter Elisabeth and son-in-law Nicolas Schlatter. He was considered a resident of Ribeauvillé, Upper Alsace when he died there in 1835; he may have been living there with his daughter Marie and son-in-law Pierre Eymann.

Ulrich’s civil death entry from Ribeauvillé described him as cultivator Ulric Cehnder, 73, born at Hohwald and a resident of Ribeauvillé. He was a son of the deceased Nicolas Cehnder, and the widower of Barbe Sommer. It was witnessed by his grandson Jean Leymann, 24, and friend Pierre Sommer, 34. Signatures look like Lehmann and Sommer.

For the sake of clarity we use the spelling ‘Cender’ from this point (recall LITWILLER, where over 30 varieties of spelling had to be pared down to one to make the text understandable). Children of Ulrich Zehnder and Barbara/Barbe Sommer born at Belmont include:

1. Christian Cender was born Sept. 22, 1786.
2. Joseph Cender was born Aug. 22, 1788, and died at Belmont April 19, 1792. His death from smallpox [Fr. la petite Vérole] is found in the Protestant register for Waldersbach, which called him Joseph Zéhender. It described his parents as Anabaptist residents of Belmont Ulric Zéhender and Barbe Sommer. The father signed Ullerich Zendter. All Waldersbach entries were signed by minister Jean Frédéric Oberlin; see SOMMER for background on this tolerant and progressive clergyman.
3. Marie Cender was born March 2, 1792, and died at Ribeauvillé, Upper Alsace July 11, 1846. Her birth entry is found in the Protestant register for Waldersbach, which called her Marie Zéhender. It described her parents as Anabaptist residents of Belmont Ulric Zéhender and Barbe Sommer. The father signed Ullerich Zendter. On March 24, 1816 at Niedernai, Lower Alsace Marie married Pierre Eymann. He was born at Lubine, Vosges Jan. 13, 1785, and died at Soultz, Upper Alsace May 26, 1858, a son of Joseph Eymann and Barbe Goldschmidt/Goldschmid. Their civil marriage entry described the groom as Pierre Eimann, born on Près du Chêne at Lubine Jan. 13, 1785. He was a son of cultivator Joseph Eimann and Barbe Kolckmette. The bride was described as Marie Zéhnere, born at Belmont March 2, 1792, and a resident of Riethhoff at Niedernai. Her parents were cultivator Ulric Zéhnere and Barbe Sommer, both residents of Niedernai who were present and consenting. Marie and her mother Barbe signed with an ‘x’ and an ‘o’, indicating they were illiterate. Marie’s civil death entry created at Ribeauvillé described her as Marie Zehnter, age 54 years and five months. It was witnessed by her husband cultivator Pierre Eymann, 57, a local resident; cultivator Joseph Lehman, 47, a resident of Selestat. She was born at Bellenont, a daughter of the deceased cultivator Ulric Zehnter and Barbe Sommer. Signatures looked like Peter Eiman and Lehmann.
4. Barbe/Barbara Cender was born Sept. 12, 1794. On Jan. 31, 1822 at Marckolsheim she married Jean Lehman. Their civil marriage entry described the groom as laborer Jean Lehmah, born at Mussig Oct. 14, 1800, and a resident of

380 La Hueb is still a working farm on Rue de la Hueb at Marckolsheim. A fine-dining restaurant, Auberge de la Ferme Hueb, opened in 2009.
Schneckenbühl farm at Selestat (a nine-mile line running from Selestat southeast to Markolsheim near the Rhine River would run through the villages of Mussig, Heidolshem, and Ohnenheim; all five communities in Lower Alsace). His parents were the deceased laborer Joseph Lehmann and Elisabeth Sommer, a resident of Schneckenbühl. The bride was described as Barbe Zehnder, born at Belmont Jan. 21, 1797, a resident of the farm called Hueb at Markolsheim. (This birthdate is a mistake; it was actually the date for younger sister Anne). Her parents were laborer Ulric Zehnder and Barbe Sommer of the farm called Hueb. Witnesses included Ulric Zehnder, father of the bride. Signatures looked like Jean Lehman, Barbara Cender, and Ullerich Cender.

5. Anne Cender was born Jan. 21, 1797, and died in 1856. On Nov. 28, 1822 at Markolsheim she married Joseph Lehman (the brother of Jean). Their civil marriage entry described the groom as Joseph Lehmann, born at Mussig Sept. 11, 1797, a resident of Schneckenbühl, Selestat. His parents were the deceased cultivator Joseph Lehmann, who had died at Schneckenbühl Feb. 11, 1814, and Elisabeth Sommer, who was present and consenting. The bride Ann Zehnder was born at Belmont May 31, 1799, and resided at Markolsheim. (This birthdate is a mistake; it was actually the date for a younger sister Elisabeth who died in 1800). Her parents were cultivator Ulric Zehnder and Barbe Sommer of the farm called Hueb, who were present and consenting. Witnesses included father-of-the-bride Ulric Zehnder and brother-of-the-groom and cultivator Jean Lehman. Signatures looked like Jean Lehman, Joseph Lehman, and Ullerich Cender; Anne signed with an ‘O’ and Elisabeth Sommer signed with a slash, indicating they were illiterate.

6. Elisabeth Cender was born May 31, 1799, and died at Belmont March 15, 1800.

7. Elisabeth Cender was born Feb. 22, 1801, and died at Foug, Meurthe-et-Moselle (adjacent to Écrouves) Feb. 10, 1841. On March 17, 1827 at Markolsheim she married Nicolas Schlattter. Their civil marriage entry described the groom as laborer Nicolas Schlattter, born at Richwiller, Upper Alsace Jan. 23, 1802. He was a son of laborer Chrétien Schlattter and Anne Marie Roth, who were residents of Richwiller, and present and consenting. The bride was Elisabeth Zehnter, born at belmont Feb. 22, 1801, a resident of Markolsheim. Her parents were farmer Ulric Zehnter and Barbe Sommer, residents of Markolsheim who were present and consenting. Witnesses included laborer Jacques Zimmerman of Eschenswiller, 43; farmer Jean Lehman, 26, a brother-in-law of the bride; and laborer Jean Lehman, 33, a resident of Niederaspach [Fr. Aspach le Bas], Upper Alsace. Signatures looked like Nicklaüs Schlatter, Elisabetha Cender, Ullerich Cender, and Lehman. Schlatter died at Ensisheim, Upper Alsace Feb. 12, 1837. On Dec. 18, 1837 at Ribeauvillé she remarried to Johannes Maurer. Their civil marriage entry described him as cultivator Jean Mour, 29, born at Ste. Croix-aux-Mines Feb. 9, 1808, and a resident of Ribeauville for six months. His parents were the deceased cultivator Michel Mour, who had died at Ste. Croix-aux-Mines May 2, 1809, and the deceased Barbe Schlattter, who had died at Fertu [Fertrupt], Ste. Marie-aux-Mines March 11, 1836. His paternal grandparents were the deceased cultivator Michel Mour and Anne Yansi [Jantz], who had died at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines before the revolution of 1789. Witnesses included weaver Michel Murer, 35, a resident of Fertrupt and second cousin to the groom; and driver Jean Dellenbach, 43. Signatures looked like Elisabetha Cender, Johannes Dellenbach, and Micheal Miber; the groom was illiterate. Elisabeth’s civil deth entry created at Foug described her as Elisabeth Senzear, 29. It was witnessed by her widow, day laborer Jean Maurer, 34, who did not know how to sign.

8. Jean Cender (he signed his own name Johannes Zendner) was born Oct. 15, 1803, and died at Foug. Meurthe-et-Moselle Oct. 14, 1874. On Feb. 2, 1831 at Vaucouleurs, Meuse (adjacent to Rigny-la-Salle, and 11 miles southwest of Foug) he married Catherine Neyhouser [Neuhuser]. Catherine was born at Raon-sur-Plaine, Vosges March 21, 1805, and died at Foug Dec. 14, 1883, a daughter of Jean Neuhauser and Marie Augspurger/Augsbourger. The civil marriage entry described the groom as laborer Jean Tzentner, 26. His parents were laborer Ulric Tzentner, a resident of Zellwiller [in Lower Alsace], and the deceased Barbe Sommer. The bride was Catherine Neyhouser, 25, a servant. Her parents were the deceased Jean Neyhouser and the deceased Marie Ausbuer. Bride and groom were residents of Vaucouleurs. The groom signed Zendner. Their oldest son would come to Illinois.

381 André Serach [Schrag] and Catherine Serre [Zehr] were married at Dombrot-sur-Vair, Vosges April 21, 1839. Their civil marriage entry described the groom as miller André Serach, 26, born at Assenoncourt [in Moselle] Feb. 22, 1813, and a resident of Dombrot-sur-Vair. His parents were miller André Serach, 58, and Anne Pellesy [Balzli], 51, who were local residents who were present and consenting. The bride was described as Catherine Serre, 22, born at Nutting [Nitting, Moselle] Feb. 1, 1817, and a resident of Nutting. Her parents were cultivator Jean Serre, 54, and Barbe Serre, 44, residents of Nutting who consented. Witnesses included miller David Shert, 30, a brother-in-law of the groom from Aingeviller [in Vosges]; and miller Simon Gerard, 50, an uncle-of-the-groom from Dombrot-sur-Vair. Signatures looked like André Gerard, Simon Schrag, David Schertz, and Anne Belsel. The bride was illiterate.
Écrouves Grand Ménil [Grand Ménil is an area on the west side of the village of Écrouves], living at the soapmakers. He was a son of farmer-cultivator Jean Zendner, 56, and Catherine Neuser, 54, who were present and consenting. The bride was described as Barbe Gerard, 21, born at St. Ouen-lès-Pary (formed from the merging of two villages in 1833), Vosges. She was a daughter of miller André Gerard, 48, and Catherine Zer, 44, residents of the mill Froid at Robécourt who were present and consenting. Witnesses included miller Jean Eymann, 31, a brother-in-law of the groom from Gironcourt [Gironcourt-sur-Vraine]; Nicolas Neuser, 57, a paternal uncle of the bride; miller Christophe Sommer, 43, a paternal uncle of the bride from Pagney-sur-Meuse; and miller Joseph Schweitzer, 36, a maternal uncle of the bride from Goncourt [in Haut-Marne]. The 1920 census of Thurman says 81-year-old Mary Zendner immigrated in 1868. Christian is buried in Roanoke Mennonite Cemetery as “Christiann Zendner, died March 28, 1885, aged 54 yrs. 10 mons.” Barbe’s headstone in Thurman Cemetery in Washington County, Colorado says she was “Mary B. Zendner, Feb. 23, 1839, April 4, 1920” and gives an age count. When did they immigrate? The 1910 census of Thurman, Colorado says 71-year-old widow Mary Zendner immigrated in 1844.

9. Ulrich Cender died at Belmont May 18, 1807. He was eight days old.

**Christian Cender** was born at Belmont, Lower Alsace Sept. 22, 1786. The battle of Waterloo was fought June 15, 1815. On June 22 Napoleon Bonaparte abdicated, then on June 28 was captured trying to escape; on Oct. 16 he would be exiled for the second time. On July 18 Louis XVIII re-entered Paris. Citizens were once again free to move about the country.

On Sep. 2, 1815 at Niedernai, Lower Alsace (17 miles southwest of Strasbourg) Christian Cender married Magdalena/Madeleine Eymann. Their civil marriage entry describes the groom as cultivator Christian Zentner, born at Belmont Sept. 22, 1786, and a resident of Niedernai. His parents were cultivator Ulric Zentner and Barbe Sommer, residents of Niedernai who were present and consenting. The bride was described as Madelaine Eumann, born at Lubine Nov. 20, 1789, and a resident of Neuhoff, Strasbourg. She was a daughter of deceased cultivator Jean Eumann, who had died at Lubine April 13, 1808, and Anne Goldschmitt, a resident of au Hang, Bourge Bruche. Signatures looked like Christian Cender, Ullerich Cender, and Magdalena Eiman.

From their marriage until 1832 they lived on the farm called Taufferhof within the farm Reidhoff or Reith at Niedernai. The owner of the Reidhoff was named Türcheim; sons Chrétien and Joseph Cender were born in his home. The location is now called the Ferme Reidhof ou Tauferhof.

There is no particular pattern to family birth entries found at Niedernai. The names of the cultivator father and his children were variously written as Zehnter, Zenter, or Cender.

From 1832 to 1835 they lived at Saverne, where Christian was described as a laborer. From 1836 until their emigration from Europe in 1855 they lived at Rigny-la-Salle, Meuse.

Descendants have a *Hausbuch* of home remedies that Christian possessed in Europe. On the first page he wrote, "This housebook is mine, Christian Cender. Whoever takes it is a thief, whoever brings it back is kind to me." This seems to be a nearly-standard phrase inscribed on German-language grammars.

They sailed from Le Havre on the *John Hancock*, and arrived at New York June 20, 1855. The passenger list shows farmer Christian Zender, 58, France; Madelaine, 58; Madelaine, 35; Barbara, 28; Jean, 25; Cathrine, 21; Madelaine, 9; farmer Christophe Gerard, 35; Elise, 34; Christian, 4; Cathrine, 2; Joseph, eleven months; and Joseph [Cender], 29. Note that most of the stated ages were nearly correct except for those of Christian and his wife Magdalena/Madeleine: they were stated to be 58 when they were actually 65 and 58.

In late summer the traveling party settled near Metamora. In Woodford County Christophe Gerard/Christian Schrock would have reunited with his sister Catherine, who had immigrated in 1842 with her husband David Schertz. He would also have met numerous Belsley relatives. Their mother Anne Pelsy [Baltzli] was born at Rhodes, Moselle Nov. 5, 1783, and died at Robécourt, Vosges Dec. 3, 1843, a daughter of Rudolf/Rodolph/Rudolphe Baltzli and his second wife Catherine Zwalter.

It is obvious that they arrived in Central Illinois at a dangerous time. Recall from SMITH remarks in the *Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society*, April 1930: "...Then came next the worst and most extensive of all the local cholera outbreaks, that of July and August, 1855. The total number of deaths of this period will never be known, and can only be approximated."

Christian Cender died in Tazewell County March 22, 1861. His widow Magdalena/Madeleine Eymann died there Feb. 13, 1873.

For the sake of clarity we have called all the children Cender, though that spelling may not appear on some of the entries.

1. Barbe Cender was born at Niedernai Oct. 14, 1815, and died there Dec. 14, 1816.
2. Madeleine/Magdalena Cender was born at Niedernai Sept. 28, 1817, and died at Roanoke, Woodford County Dec. 24, 1913. On June 28, 1857 in Woodford County she married Pierre/Peter Rediger. Pierre/Peter Rediger was born at Bébing, Moselle on June 8 or 9, 1815, and died at Roanoke, Woodford County Oct. 23, 1898. The 10-year index of Bébing civil birth entries called him Pierre Réydiqwer. The entry described his parents as cultivator André Réydiqwer [Rediger] and Anne Reinqueber [Ringenberg] of Rinting farm. The entry was witnessed by cultivator Pierre Reinqueber, 36. At first they farmed in Bureau County. In 1863 they resettled at Roanoke. Their household is found on the 1865 state census of Roanoke, Woodford County as Peter Radiker, next door to Magdalena’s younger brother John Cender: one male 50-59; one female 40-49; and one female under 10. They are found on the 1880 census of Roanoke as retired farmer Peter Rediger, 65, France, Macdalina, 63, France; and Catharina, 22, Illinois. Peter was naturalized at Metamora Nov. 7, 1892; one witness was Peter Belsley. Gospel Herald, January 1914: “Magdalena Rediger, nee Cender, was born in Germany Sept. 28, 1817. She emigrated to America in May, 1855, locating near Metamora, Illinois. In August, 1856, she was united in holy matrimony with Peter Rediger, moving to Bureau Co., Illinois. In 1863 they again located in Woodford Co., near Roanoke, where she spent the last fifty years of her life. To this union were born two children, Phoebe and Catherine. Her life was the scene of many sorrows and disappointments, the early death of her children causing her many sad hours, yet her faith in her God was unshaken. She was a lover of her Bible, and spent many hours reading passages which had become so precious to her in her trials. She united with the A. M. Church at the age of thirteen years, and was a faithful member unto death. She had been unable to attend church for eight years, could not walk the last seven years. The last two years of her life her memory was almost a blank. Her husband preceded her to the better world in 1898, thus leaving her the only survivor of her family. She reared and cared for her only grand-daughter, who with her husband kindly cared for and comforted her in her widowhood and old age. She passed to her reward on Dec. 24, 1913, at the ripe age of 96 y. 2 m. 26 d. She leaves to mourn her departure one grand-child, seven nephews, four nieces, and a host of friends and neighbors. Funeral services were held at the Roanoke meeting house Dec. 26. the ninetieth Psalm was read, and prayer offered, by P. D. Schertz. Christian Reesor, Sr., spoke for a short while in the German language, after which C. A. Hartzler preached an appropriate sermon. Text, II Cor. 4:18. Remains were laid to rest beside those of her husband, in cemetery nearby.” They are buried in Roanoke Mennonite Cemetery.

3. Jean Cender was born at Niedernai May 25, 1819, and died at Niedernai July 11, 1830. His civil death entry gives the birthplace of his father as Schönemberg (the German name for Belmont), Lower Alsace, and the birthplace of his mother as Saales, Voges (tiny Lubine is adjacent to Saales).

4. Elisabeth Cender was born at Niedernai June 24, 1821, and died in Woodford County April 26, 1892. On Dec. 9, 1844 at Dombrot-sur-Vair, Voges she married Christophe Gerard/Christian Schrock. He was born at Devyillers, Voges Sept. 4, 1818, and died at Roanoke, Woodford County Jan. 21, 1878, a son of Andreas/André Schrag and Anne Pelys or Belzel [Baltztl]. See SCHROCK for background on this couple.

5. Chrétien/Christian Cender was born at Niedernai Jan. 11, 1824, and died at Abbyville, Kansas Feb. 10, 1895. On Oct. 25, 1852 at Bürioncourt, Moselle he married Barbara Geny. She was born June 24, 1829, and died at Abbyville, Kansas Oct. 30, 1925, a daughter of David Geny and Madeleine Kennel. They immigrated in 1867 or 1868. ‘Christian Zendner’ was naturalized at Metamora Dec. 4, 1878; one witness was Peter Belsley. Christian is buried in Sterling Mennonite Cemetery at Nickerson, Kansas. Gospel Herald, January 1926: “Barbara Cender (nee Jenny) was born June 24, 1829, at Jette, France; died Oct. 30, 1925 at the home of her granddaughter near Abbyville, Kans.; aged 96 y. 4 m. 6 d. When she was 15 years old she united with the Amish Mennonite Church at Grand Ancourt, France. She remained a faithful member in that faith unto the end. In 1852 she was united in marriage to Christian Cender at Grand Ancourt. To this union was born one son (Joseph). In 1867 they came to America and settled north of Peoria, Ill., where her husband was a miller. In 1873 they moved to a farm near Roanoke, Ill., then in 1888 they moved near Abbyville, Kans. On Feb. 10, 1895, death called her companion and April 1, 1915, her son Joseph died. Grandma Cender stayed on the home place until a few years ago she moved to Hutchinson, Kans., to live with one of her grandchildren, but she moved back again to her home on the farm with her other grandchild where she passed away peacefully. She leaves one daughter-in-law (Mary Cender), two grandchildren (Matilda King and Emil Cender), and two great-grandchildren, besides a host of relatives and friends.” The obituary of their son Joseph Cender: Gospel Herald, June 1915: “Joseph Cender was born in France, Oct. 18, 1855; died April 1, 1915; aged 59 y. 5 m. 14 d. He came to America with his parents in the year 1869. They lived in Woodford Co., Ill., till the year 1888, then they moved to Reno Co., Kan. Oct. 21, 1890 he was married to Mary Oyer, to which union two children were born. Bro. Cender’s health has been failing for about seven years, and he was taking treatments at a sanitarium, where he also passed away. He leaves his wife, aged mother, a son, a daughter, a grandson, and many other relatives and friend to mourn their loss, but not as those who have no hope. He was saved and joined the Defenseless Mennonite Church, of which he was a faithful member for many years. Funeral services were conducted in the German language by Jacob Schmucker, and in English by D. M. Zimmerman. Text, Eccl. 8:8.”

6. Barbe/Barbara Cender was born at Niedernai Sept. 5, 1825. We could not follow her after her arrival in America.

7. Joseph Cender was born at Niedernai June 13, 1827, and died at Fisher, Champaign County Jan. 17, 1910.

8. Catherine Cender was born at Niedernai July 30, 1827, and died there Jan. 21, 1830. Her civil death entry gives the birthplace of her father as Schönemberg, Lower Alsace, and the birthplace of her mother as Saales, Voges. One witness was maternal grandfather Ulric Cender, 68, a resident of Niedernai.
9. Jean/John Cender was born at Niedernai Jan. 3, 1831. His household may be one that is found on the 1865 state
census of Roanoke, Woodford County next to Peter Radiker [Rediger]: one male 30-39 years of age; one female 20-
29; and one female 70-79. The entry is barely legible.

10. Catherine Cender was born at Saverne, Lower Alsace July 18, 1833. Her civil birth entry described her parents as
laborer Chrétien Cender, 46, and Madeleine Eimann, 43. One source says she married Christian Schertz, and is
buried in Hickory Point Cemetery at Metamora as “Cath. Cender Schertz, 1833-1894.” There is indeed a relatively
recent marble headstone there with that inscription. But we found no record of such a marriage. A
genealogytrails.com listing of burials from a survey in 2010 says that the Catherine Cender Schertz buried there was
born Jan. 6, 1905, and died March 8, 1905. This needs another look.

Joseph Cender was born at Niedernai June 13, 1827, and died at Fisher, Champaign County Jan. 17, 1910.

He is found on the John Hancock passenger list as Joseph, 29, in the grouping with his sister
Madeleine/Magdalena.

On Feb. 28, 1870 he purchased 80 acres of public land in Section 26 of Roanoke (Township 27N), Woodford
County. The parcel cost $12 per acre, or $960.

On March 13, 1870 in Tazewell County he married Marie/Mary Rouvenacht. She was born at Guermange,
Moselle March 28, 1842, and died at Fisher March 4, 1909, a daughter of Christian Rouvenacht and Marie
Suisse/Schweizer (see ROUVENACHT, RUEWENACH for background on the parents).

The 1880 census of Roanoke shows them as Joseph Cender, 53, France; Mary, 38, France; Crist, 7, Illinois;
Joseph, 6, Illinois; Lena, 4, Illinois; John, 3, Illinois; father-in-law Crist Reuvenack, 72, France; and mother-in-law
Mary, 76, France. They were next door to the household of Peter Rediger and Joseph’s sister Magdalena Cender.

The 1900 census of East Bend, Champaign County shows them as Joseph Centner, 72, born in Germany in
June 1827, immigrated in 1854; Mary, 58, born in Germany in March 1842, immigrated in 1854; farm laborer John,
21, born in Illinois in August 1878; Mary, 20, born in Illinois in January 1880; and Peter, 18, born in Illinois in
December 1881.

Gospel Herald, March of 1909: “Mary Cender (maiden name Rouvenac) was born in France, March 28, 1842;
died of paralysis near Fisher, Ill., March 4, 1909; aged 66 y. 11 m. 6 d. She united with the A. M. Church in her
younger years and remained a faithful member to the end. She was married to Joseph Cender and lived in this
relation for nearly 39 years. To this union were born seven children. She leaves to mourn her departure an aged,
mourning husband, three sons and two daughters. Funeral services were held at the house by Andrew Schrock of
Metamora, Ill., in German and Samuel Gerber of Tremont, Ill., in English. Text Psa. 103; Gal. 2:20, and I Cor.
15:22.”

17, 1910; aged 82 y. 7 m. 4 d. He united with the A. M. church in his youth and remained a faithful member to the
end. He united in marriage with Mary Rouvenac, Mar. 13, 1870. This union was blessed with seven children. He
leaves three sons, two daughters, eight grandchildren, one sister and many friends to mourn his departure. Two
children and his companion preceded him to the spirit world. Funeral services were conducted at the home by Bro.
Peter Zehr from Psa. 90:2, and at the church by Bro. Samuel Garber in English from Gal. 2:20, and by Bro. Andrew
Schrock in German from II Tim. 4:7. C.W. S.”

They are buried in East Bend Memorial Gardens at Fisher.