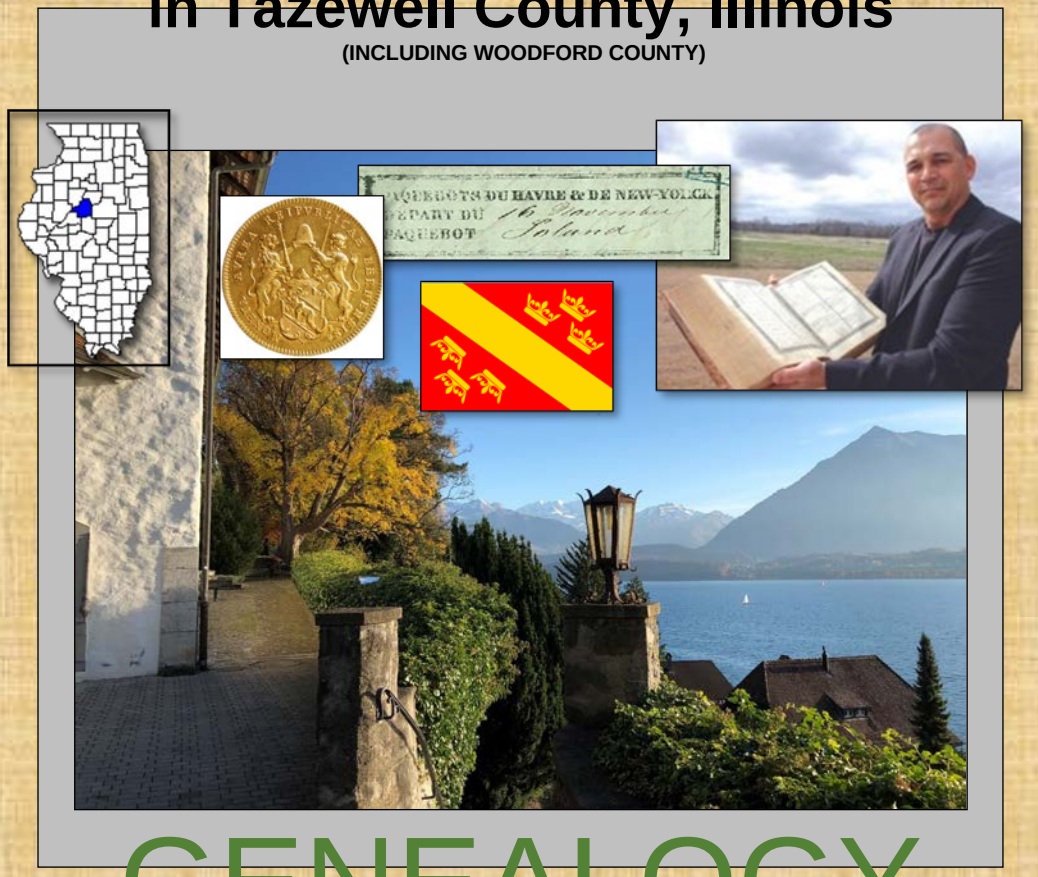
Amish Mennonites

in Tazewell County, Illinois

(INCLUDING WOODFORD COUNTY)



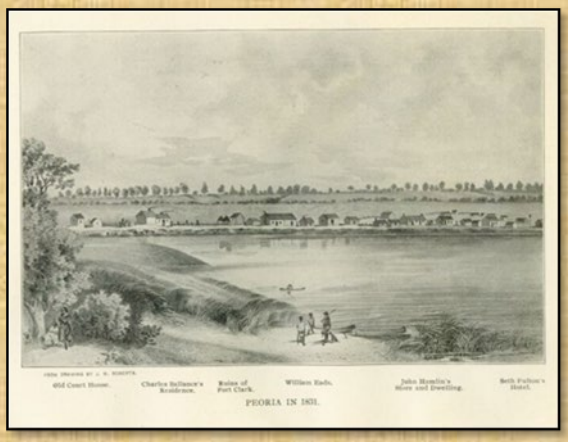
GENEALOGY

Part Two of Five

Compiled by Joseph Peter Staker

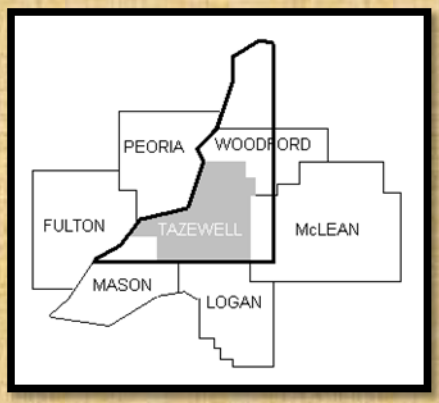
ABERSOLL - BACHMAN/BAUGHMAN - BECHLER/BECKLER - BECK - CAMP
DONNER - FARNY - GERBER/GARBER - GINGERICH - KENNEL - KISTLER
LEMAN - MOSIMAN - NAFZIGER - OSWALD - RUVENACHT
SALZMAN - SCHROCK - SCHWEIZER

Genealogy and history of 103 families that came to Tazewell and Woodford Counties 1830-1856



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

On the cover, clockwise from upper left: Tazewell County, Illinois; a Bernese ducat from 1703; a mail mark from the packet ship *Poland*, 1835; flag of *Haut-Rhin* (Upper Alsace); and Bryan Nicklow with the Peter Ropp family *Bible* he rediscovered in 2006. Background: From the church at Hilterfingen, looking across Lake Thun to the Swiss Alps. Photo by Jen Staker, 2017.



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

Amish Mennonites in Tazewell County, Illinois

(including Woodford County)

Part Two of Five

Text only copyright © January 2022, revised January 2025. Permission is given to reproduce up to 50 lines without a formal request. joestaker@hotmail.com

PART TWO OF FIVE

MOSIMAN	**Mosiman of St. Quirin**	**3**
	Marie/Maria Rocher (or Rusche)	**10**
SALZMAN	**Salzman of Petit-Tenquin**	**12**
SCHROCK	**Schrag of Wynigen**	**18**
	John Schrock of Groveland	**42**
GINGERICH	**Güngerich of Heimberg**	**44**
	John Gingrich or Gingerich	**46**
	Joseph 'Joe Gold Rush' Guingrich	**51**
	John Gingery	**55**
FARNY	**Farny of Bistroff**	**59**
	Farny of Bisping	**62**
SCHWEIZER	**Schweizer of Steffisburg**	**72**
	Visitor Joseph Schweitzer	**79**
	Canadian Schweitzers	**80**
CAMP	**Kempf of Rhodes**	**84**
RUVENACHT	**Rouvenacht of Rhodes**	**92**
	'Ruewenach'	**96**
ABERSOLL	**Abresol of Rhodes**	**99**
	Second Cousin John Abersoll	**102**
LEMAN	**Lehmann of La Broque**	**104**
BACHMAN	**Bachman: Bachmann of Richterswil**	**109**
	John Bachman of Danvers	**109**
	Woodford County Bachmann/Bachmans	**119**
	Heinrich/Henry of Putnam County	**134**
GERBER AND	**Gerber and Garber**	**136**
GARBER	**Gerber of Elm Grove**	**136**
	The Gerbers (Metamora and Washington)	**145**
	Garber (Elm Grove)	**149**
	The Groveland Gerbers	**152**
	Apostolic Gerbers (Morton)	**153**
BECHLER AND	**Variations of Bächler**	**154**
BECKLER	**Bavarian Becklers**	**154**
	Bächler of Garrebourg	**158**
	Bechler of Montgomery	**169**
NAFZIGER	**Naffzger of Uetendorf**	**174**
	The Birlenbach Branch	**176**
	The Essingen Branch	**204**
	Nafzgers on the *Phoenix* and *Brotherhood*	**222**
BECK	**Beck of Neustadt im Odenwald**	**226**
DONNER	**Danner of Mühlhofen**	**229**
KISTLER	**Kistler of Richen**	**235**
KENNEL	**Von Känel of Aeschi and Reichenbach**	**240**
	Kennel of Kirchheimbolanden	**240**
	Kennel of Diffembach-lès-Hellimer	**248**
OSWALD	**Oswald of Oberhofen**	**253**

Mosiman of St. Quirin

In Canton Bern, a *Mosiman* or *Mosimann* was a farmer on land reclaimed from swamp or forest. Families are associated with Biglen, Rüderswil, Signau, Sumiswald, Trub, and Worb, all 10-20 miles east of the city of Bern.

Amish Mennonite minister Michael Mosiman was not only the first Amish Mennonite to be ordained as an elder in Illinois, but also figured in the Egly Amish phase of the movement's 'gradual progression.' He played a part in the establishment of what is now the Evangelical Mennonite Church of Groveland, and served as an elder there.[1]

Jacob Mosiman/Jacques Mosimann was born before 1715 (based solely on the birth year of his first identified child). We found nothing to indicate where he was born, or his parentage.[2]

Before 1735 he married Magdalena Rüfenacht. In that year they were living on the Struthof at Natzwiller, Lower Alsace. The obituary of his son of the same name described Jacob/Jacques as someone who had been a cultivator at Salm.

Their children include:

1. **Christian/Christianne Mosimann** was baptized in the Catholic church at Schirmeck, Lower Alsace Sept. 4, 1735.
2. Jacob/Jacques 'Jagi' Mosimann was born circa 1740, and died at Les Quelles, La Broque March 14, 1820. Circa 1763 he married Barbe Rŭbi/Roby. She was born circa 1743, and died at La Broque Jan. 15, 1811, a daughter of Pierre Rŭbi/Roby and Barbe Joder (see RŬBI/ROBY/RUBY in the Appendix for background on her family). They farmed at l'Abbateux, in Le Hang basin near Boug-Bruche (10 miles southwest of Schirmeck). He became a minister and elder at Le Hang. With Peter Gerber he signed a petition for Anabaptist exemption from military service on behalf of the Salm congregations in 1808. His civil death entry created at La Broque described him as cultivator Jacques Mosimann, 80, a resident of *aux quevelles* [Les Quelles, Le Broque] who had been a cultivator at Salm. He was the widower of Barbe Roby, and the son of the deceased Jacques Mosimann, who had been a cultivator at Salm. His mother was not identified. One witness was cultivator and son-in-law Peter Neuhaŭser, 40, *aux quevelles* [a resident of Les Quelles]. *Les Anabaptistes des Vosges* fancifully described visiting Jacob/Jacques 'Jagi' Mosimann in his home at Le Hang. However, we note that it was first published in Paris in 1860. The author named on the title page, literary historian Alfred Michiels, was born in 1813; Mosimann died at age 80 in 1820. It has been suggested that the publisher simply dusted off an old manuscript and put it out under the name of his best-selling writer. The veracity of a book on Anabaptists in remote locations would not be examined or challenged by Paris critics. Scholarly lists of Michiels books do not include this one.

---

[1] The Evangelical Mennonite movement has become the Mennonite Brethren in Christ, but the church in Groveland has retained its historic name.

[2] We could not identify the original source of one version of the origin of this family. It starts with Andres Mosiman and Madlen Ramseÿer, who were married at Signau March 30, 1655.[2] At the time they were living in Schŭpbach, a hamlet on the east side of the village that is now within Signau. For background on the church at Signau see ENGEL. Their children include:

1. Anni Mosiman was born at Schŭpbach, and baptized at Signau Jan. 20, 1656. Witnesses included Peter Ramseÿer, Anna Gerig, and Barbli Äshliman.
2. Michel Mosiman was baptized at Signau May 27, 1660. Witnesses included Daniel Neuenschwand, Michel Anthoni, and Madlen Bärtschi.
3. Christianus Mosiman was baptized at Signau Nov. 15, 1663. Witnesses included Christen Dällenbach, Daniel Bächler, and Elsi Peter.

Michel Mosiman was baptized at Signau May 27, 1660.

On Jan. 23, 1697 at Signau he married Anna Lŭthi. She was baptized there May 3, 1663, a daughter of Ŭli Walti and Catharina Engel. Witnesses included Jost Kräienbuhl, Anna Gfeller, and Anna Saltzman.

Their children include:

1. Hannes Mosiman was baptized at Signau Nov. 28, 1697. Witnesses included Christen Dällenbach, Elias Brand, and Elsbeth Mosiman.
2. Barbara Mosiman was baptized at Signau Feb. 26, 1699. Witnesses included Hanns Lŭthi, Babi Bärtschi, and Elsbeth Lŭthi.
3. Maria Mosiman was baptized at Signau July 7, 1700. Witnesses included Christen Jutzi, Maria, and Anna.

— A Signau baptism entry created Dec. 3, 1706 names Barbara Mosiman, a daughter of Ŭlrich Mosiman and Anna Lŭthi.

— A Signau baptism entry created Aug. 9, 1711 names Hans Ŭlrich Mosiman, a son of Ŭlrich Mosiman and Anna Lŭthi.

"…At the end of three quarters of an hour, we arrived on the edge of Le Hang. It is a basin surrounded by mountains, which seem to protect against noise and curiosity the modest sectarians. Two main heights dominate the least summits, the Climont on the left, in the shape of a saddle, and the Heumont on the right, in the shape of a cone; further on, the Ormont rises its majestic head. From the edges of this small amphitheater, we could see, in the golden evening light, Colroy la Roche, Saulxures, the town of Saales, with a romantic aspect, and Provenchères, and Colroy la Grande. A dozen small farms scattered at the bottom of the basin, a cold land where the streams that descend from the hills maintain perpetual humidity…

Novelists, poets and painters are always looking for curious interiors, in order to place their characters, which the novelty of the decor makes more interesting. They would therefore have been delighted with the room where a brave woman led me after I had supper of an omelet, a salad, and a glass of wine…

Three large windows, slightly arched upwards, lit the room, two from the front and one from the side. Up to three feet high, a pine paneling covered the walls; and benches of the same wood, with German-style backrests, skirted two walls… A large sack of wheat occupied the middle of the parquet floor without a hitch; dried beans, not stripped of their pods, were stacked against a paneling; in a corner, on a large oak table, honey was dripping. Opposite one another, two spacious wardrobes, with copper hinges and shiny fittings, seemed to be sentinels before two beds set up at the back of the room like ancient monuments. They were large and deep oak boxes, surmounted by a canopy and surrounded by curtains. On the lintels, a whole squadron of crockery was placed in rows. There were six brightly colored soup tureens, a host of cups, mugs, decanters, and candlesticks… we will hastily finish our inventory by mentioning an armchair covered in black leather, an articulated round table, a bedside table, beech wood chairs, with the seat of the same material, and a *Bible* in folio, fitted with clasps, sleeping like a venerable matron on a window sill. The many objects did not clog the room, where we could have held a council. It was in one of the deep crates, under a scalloped cornice of soup tureens, that I settled in and prepared to sleep ... The next day I met Mr. Mosiman, the owner of the house, who had been absent the day before and returned while I slept. This tall old man, with a white beard collar, was the first servant of the town, the first minister in office… Mr. Mosiman had the gentleness and benevolence that characterize the sect, and was only interested in a life of religion and practicality. Beyond that, he saw only useless things…"

One child, Barbe, can probably be attributed to Jacob/Jacques 'Jagi' Mosimann and Barbe Rŭbi/Roby. The second, Anne, is linked by her marriage entry:

- Barbe Mosimann was born circa 1767, and died at La Broque Dec. 21, 1793. She married André Chérique [Göerig/Gerig] of La Broque. He was born at La Broque Feb. 16, 1764, and died there Jan. 24, 1844, a son of André Chérique and Elizabeth Roqui. Her civil death entry descibed her as Barbe Mosimann, 26, wife of Salm cultivator Andre Chrique. It was witnessed by cultivator Christianne Naiheuser. Signatures looked like Andreas Chirch, Christian Naihŭser, and Ullrich Vongond. On March 7, 1794 at La Broque, André remarried to Marie Brechbühl. She was born at Bellefosse in 1771, a daughter of Martin Brechbühl and Anna Bachmann of Bénaville (she was a sister to Magdalena Brechbühl who married Christian Rupp, a son of Jacob Roup and Elizabeth Sommer).
  - a. Anne Mosimann was born at Les Quelles April 15, 1783, and died there March 6, 1854. On March 10, 1799 in the hamlet Salm at La Broque she married Pierre/Peter Neuhauser [in his signature his first name looked like 'Pnttnr']. He was born at Salm Nov. 8, 1782, and died at La Broque March 15, 1822, a son of Jean Neuhauser and Suzanne Zender. One witness was the bride's father Jacques Mosimann, 58. Following Pierre's death, Anne remarried to André Bacher at Bourg-Bruche Nov. 2, 1827.
- Barbe Mosimann may belong here. She was born circa 1735, and died in the foundry town Klingenthal, Lower Alsace (adjacent on the east side of Natzwiller) April 29, 1771. She married Matthias Ulrich. He was born circa 1725 (a very loose estimate), and died at Klingenthal April 10, 1764. For background on this couple see ULRICH.

Cultivator **Christian/Christianne Mosimann** was baptized in the Catholic church at Schirmeck, Lower Alsace Sept. 4, 1735, and died after 1793.

Recall that Swiss emigrants desired a permanent record of their presence so their descendants would be eligible for local privileges and eventually citizenship. The lefthand margin note on his baptism (or more accurately registration) entry described him as *Christianus Musimann Anabaptistarum filius* – Christian Mosimann Anabaptist son. *In Schirmeck baptizatus est Christianus, filius Jacob Musimann et Magdalena Ruffach conjuge Anabaptistarum commorantiam in Struthoff en la parochia* – Christian was baptized, a son of Anabaptist couple Jacob Mosimann and Magdalena Ruffach [Rüfenacht] of Struthoff [in Natzwiller, four miles southeast of Schirmeck] in this parish. The Struthof at Natzwiller is associated with an Anabaptist Sommer family (see SOMMER for background on this location). Witnesses signed as Jean de Saint Martin and Catherine Monfort, though the text described them as Joannes Saint Martin and Catharina Montfort, wife of Jacobi Parisot.

Circa 1757 he married Marguerite Liechti, who was born circa 1733, and died after 1793. They resided at Malplaquet (five miles west of Schirmeck, now in the department of Vosges), a location within walking distance of

La Broque and the Ropp's and Ŭlrich's home at Plaine. Familiar family names found at Malplaquet in the mid-1700s include Fongond, Luethi, Neuhauser, Göerig/Scherich/Chérique/Gerig, and Sommer.

Sometime between 1758 and 1763 they relocated 24 miles to the north to La Charmille farm at St. Quirin (now in the department of Moselle). St. Quirin held a number of smallholdings and a substantial glassmaking trade.

Children of Christian/Christianne Mosimann and Marguerite Liechti include:

1. Jacob Mosimann was born at Malplaquet Feb. 10, 1758, and died at Diane-Capelle Jan. 27, 1842. He was a cultivator on La Charmille farm at St. Quirin. He married Elisabeth Stücker (found as Schticker, Schtiker, and Steker). She was born circa 1760, and died at St. Quirin May 10, 1804.[3] On Jan. 19, 1805 at St. Quirin he remarried to Marie Mayer, who was born circa 1773 and was living at Cirey. She was a daughter of Jean Mayer, living at Angomont, and the deceased Elizabeth Steiner. Children of Jacob Mosimann and his first wife Elisabeth Stücker include:
    a. Marie Mosimann was born circa June 1790. She was 24 years, four months old when she married Jean Suisse at St. Quirin Oct. 22, 1814. He was born at Fribourg June 5, 1790, and died at Saales, Lower Alsace, a son of Joseph Suisse and Marie Barbe Abresole. At the time of the marriage he was 24 years, 4 months old, and worked in d'Albin mill between Azoudange and Fribourg.
    b. Christian/Chrétien Mosimann was born at St. Quirin June 4, 1793. He was a witness at his older sister's wedding in 1814; the entry gives the same age for both. He served as a soldier in the 139th Regiment 1812-14, and in 1857 received the veteran's *Médaille de Sainte-Hélène* as Christophe Mosimann of St. Quirin. On Feb. 18, 1822 at St. Quirin he married Marie Catherine Wolff. She was born March 13, 1797, a daughter of operator Nicholas Wolff and Rose Dalancouth.
    c. Anne Mosimann was born in 1797, and died at St. Quirin June 16, 1799.
2. Barbe Mozimann/Mosimann was born circa 1759, and died at Turquestein May 13, 1819. Circa 1777 she married Peter Bächler/Pierre Bechler. See BECHLER/BECKLER for background on this couple.
3. Christian/Christ Mosimann was born Feb. 10, 1760. He married Marie Elisabeth Bächler/Bechler. She was born circa 1755 (or perhaps Feb. 17, 1756), and died at Métairies-St. Quirin Jan. 15, 1805 (see BECHLER/BECKLER for background on her family). A census of Mennonite families created April 27, 1809 listed the household of 'Xtiane Moziman' with six children at Metaires. One source says Christian/Christ died on La Charmille farm at St. Quirin March 17, 1812; however, no civil entry is found there. He certainly died before January of 1814. Their children include:
    a. Freni/Véronique Mosimann was born circa 1789, and died at Haraucourt-sur-Seille, Moselle March 14, 1815. On Oct 1, 1809 at St. Quirin she married Joseph Sommer (1785-1873), a son of Jean Sommer and Barbe Brechbühl.
    b. Christian/Chrétien Mosimann was born at St. Quirin June 3 or 4, 1793 (per his civil birth entry dated '4 June 2'). On Feb. 18, 1822 at St. Quirin he married Marie Catherine Wolff. She was born at St. Quirin March 13, 1797, and died there Jan. 31, 1862, a daughter of Nicolas Wolff and Marie Rose Lalanconte.
    c. Barbe Mosimann was born at St. Quirin Dec. 25, 1794. She was identified as Marie Mosimann upon her death at Herbéviller, Meurthe-et-Moselle Jan. 6, 1814. Her civil death entry described her as a 20-year-old single woman, a daughter of the deceased Christian Mosiman and Marie Pecheler. It was witnessed by cultivator Jacob Vercler, 30.
    d. Elisabeth Mosimann was born circa 1798, and died at Saulxures-lès-Nancy, Meurthe-et-Moselle Jan. 27, 1823. Her civil death entry said that she was 25 years of age, a daughter of Crittian Mosiman and Elisabeth Barceler. Witnesses included day laborer Jacob Voilerich [he signed Jacob Ŭllerich], 25; and laborer Christian Guerbert, 68 [he signed Christian Gerber].
    e. Jean Mosimann was born at Métairies-St. Quirin March 1, 1798, and died at Bourg-Bruche, Lower Alsace March 26, 1868. On July 3, 1823 at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines he married Barbe Haas, a daughter of Jacques Haas and Barbe Wagler.
    f. Michel Mosimann was born at Métairies-St. Quirin Dec. 11, 1799 (per his marriage entries, though no civil entry is found there), and died at Bourg-Bruche Aug. 9, 1880. On March 28, 1825 at Bourg-Bruche he married Magdalena Bächer. Their civil marriage entry described his parents as Christiane Mosiman and Elisabeth Pecheler. The bride was described as Magdeleine Pecher, 20, born at Saales May 30, 1796, a daughter of the deceased Jacob Pecheur, who had died at Bourg-Bruche March 24, 1824, and Agnes Kerique [Göerig], who was present and consenting. Witnesses included cultivator Michel Mosiman, 62, from Montigny, Meurthe, paternal uncle of the groom; cultivator Jacob Pecheur, 40, Vermont [in Vosges], brother of the bride; and cultivator André Pecheur, 31, brother of the bride. Magdeleine died at Bourg-Bruche Dec. 12, 1834. On March 12, 1835 at Bourg-Bruche Michel remarried to Barbe Bächer.

[3] Considering the location, it is likely that Elisabeth was a descendant of the Swiss farm laborer Michel Stequer and Anne de Paradis, who married at St. Blaise-la-Roche in 1702. Their descendants are often found as 'Stequaire.' This was an early offshoot of the Stücker family.

Their civil marriage entry described the bride as Barbe Pecheur [Bächer], 27, born at Bourg-Bruche June 26, 1808, a daughter of Christianne Pecheur, 59, and Anne Dholder, 59, farmers from Climont. Barbe died at Boug-Bruche Dec. 6, 1854. On May 25, 1856 Michel married a third time to Catherine Abresol. Their civil marriage entry described the groom as Catherine Abresol, 54, born May 22, 1803 at l'Abbateux, Rhodes Sept. 15, 1830, a daughter of the deceased André Abresol, who had died at Rhodes Sept. 15, 1830, and Barbe Becker [Bächer/Pecheur], who had died at Pisdorf, Saverne [Bischtroff-sur-Sarre] Sept. 13, 1850. One witness was Jean Delbach [Dellenbach], 50, a farmer at au Hang [Le Hang, Bourg-Bruche], brother-in-law of the groom.

4. Anne Mosimann was born in 1761, and died circa 1789. In 1779 she married weaver Christian Roth, who was born at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines circa 1751, and died at Xouaxange Feb. 13, 1845 (recorded under the name 'Christian Rhodes'), a son of Johannes/Jean Roth and his first wife Anna Blank. [4] This means that minister Nicholas Roth and minister Michael Mosiman, who jointly initiated the Defenseless Mennonite congregation at Groveland, were cousins − sharing Christian Roth and Anne Mosimann as uncle and aunt. See ROTH for background on this couple.
5. **Michel Mosimann** was born circa 1763. He was the father of minister Michael Mosiman.
6. Marie Mosimann was born on La Charmille farm at St. Quirin circa 1764. She married Michel Bächler, and died at Bourscheid, Moselle Oct. 31, 1797 (she is found in records there as Marie Moyemont). See BECHLER/BECKLER for background on this couple.
7. Jean/Hans Mosimann was born circa 1765, and died at St. Quirin Sept. 19, 1793. Before 1793 he married Anne Marie Brechbühl, who was born at St. Quirin Sept. 25, 1771, and died in 1857. On Jan. 25, 1798 at St. Quirin she remarried to Joseph Eymann of Herbéviller (who signed his own name 'Eiman'). He was born at 'La Adevant' in the principality of Salm (this may have been the farm Devant le Moulin [in front of the mill] at Saales) Dec. 25, 1771, a son of Christian Eymann and Elisabeth/Inée Sommer. Marriage witnesses included Michel Mosimann and Christian Roth, described as brothers-in-law of the bride. They became cultivators at Fauconcourt, Vosges.
8. Elisabeth Mosimann was born at St. Quirin in 1767, and died at Turquestein Jan. 30, 1848. Circa 1793 she married cultivator Christian Brechbühl. He was born circa 1761, and died at Turquestein April 1, 1813, a son of Ŭlrich Brechbühl and Barbe Sommer. Their surname was often found in Turquestein records as Prachpierre. Their children, all born in their home on Richardville farm at Turquestein, include:
    a. Marie Brechbühl was born Jan. 30, 1794, and died at Herbéviller Feb. 10, 1827. On Dec. 3, 1811 at Turquestein she married 24-year-old Jacob Vercler [Würgler], born at Oberstinzel March 25, 1787. He was a son of Joseph Vercler and Marie Abersol. Marie's civil death entry gave her age as 34, suggesting she was born in 1789.
    b. Freni/Frény/Véronique/Françoise Brechbühl was born Sept. 1, 1798, and died at Deyvillers, Vosges March 12, 1871. On July 17, 1817 at Turquestein she married Joseph Fongond. He was born at Malplaquet, La Broque Oct. 26, 1775, and died at La Broque March 10, 1820, a son of Jacob Fongond and Barbe Schérique/Chérique [Göerig]. On May 11, 1825 at Turquestein she remarried to Jacques Krehbiel (found as 'Kreipiller'). He was born at La Broque July 27, 1799, a son of Jacob Krehbiel and Marie Barbe Voillery [Olry derived from Ŭllrich].
    c. Elisabeth Brechbühl was born Dec. 18, 1801, and died at Turquestein Sept. 17, 1842. On Feb. 27, 1823 at Turquestein she married Joseph Dubois.
    d. Catherine Brechbühl was born Feb. 28, 1809, and died at Turquestein Sept. 30, 1878. On Nov. 19, 1829 at Turquestein she married Joseph Sommer. He was born at Cirey-sur-Vezouze, Meurthe-et-Meuse Feb. 23, 1796, and died at Turquestein Nov. 7, 1850, a son of Christian Sommer and Marie Barbe Verly.
9. Joseph Mosimann was born at La Broque Aug. 7, 1775 (per his marriage entry). On Dec. 12, 1793 at Gondrexange he married Anne Marie Zwalter. She was born at Gondrexange Sept. 10, 1776, a daughter of Christian Zwalter and Marie Risser (see the Appendix, ZWALTER for background on the family). Their marriage entry described the groom as Joseph Mosimenn, age 18 years, three months, and five days; born at La Brock Aug. 7, 1775; a resident of St. Quirin; and a son of cultivator Christiane Mosimann and Marguerite Liechte of St. Quirin. The bride was described as Anne Marie Zvalter, age 17 years, three months, and eight days; born at Gondrexange Sept. 10, 1776; a daughter of cultivator Christiane Zvalter and Anne Marie Risse of Gondrexange. It was witnessed by mother-of-the-groom Marguerte Liechte, 60; brother-of-the-groom Christian Mosimann, 33; brother-of-the-groom Michael Mosimann, 27; cultivator Jean Suisse, 30, of Rhodes; and cousin-of-the-bride Nicolas Risse of Sarrebourg, 30.[5] Joseph and Anne Marie lived at Imling until at least 1802, then at Azoudange, Moselle until at least 1810. In October of 1830 the family sailed from Le Havre aboard the *Superior*, accompanied by an extended family of Oyers from Niderhoff, Moselle. They arrived at New Orleans Dec. 4, 1830. The nationality of the entire party was given on the passenger list as 'Suisse,' or Switzerland. The names and ages as found on the passenger list differ from what we

[4] His civil death entry stated that he was born at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines. The 1805 wedding entry of his oldest son identified him as a resident of Basel.

[5] Nicolas Risser was a son of Jacob/Jacques Risser and Catherine Roupe/Ruppe/Rupp, and married to Barbe Engel; see ROPP.

found in other sources: Jos.h Mosiman, 54; Maria Mosiman, 45; Christian Mosiman, 27; Jos.h Mosiman, 25; Mad. Mosiman, 23; Mary Mosiman, 22; Francis Mosiman, 14 (female); Cat. Mosiman, 16; and Jacob Mosiman, 25.[6] We could not determine Joseph and Anne Marie's residence in America. Their children include:

a. Elisabeth Mosiman was born at Imling, Moselle Jan. 26, 1799, and died at Farmdale in 1875. On Feb. 18, 1830 at Turquestein, Moselle she married Jacob Oyer. He was born circa 1778, and died at Farmdale Nov. 14, 1885, a son of Johannes/Jean Oyer and Jacobine Réglé. At the time of the marriage Jacob already had children from a first wife, Suzanne Schertz, who had died at Turquestein July 2, 1829. See OYER for a list of their children.

b. Christian Mosiman was born at Imling Dec. 6, 1801. On the *civil* marriage entry for his cousin Christianne Mosiman and Barbe Chérique, created at Chazelles-sur-Albe Nov. 13, 1824, he was described as a 23-year-old cultivator from Frémonville, Meurthe-et-Moselle and a cousin of the groom. In 1835 he married Barbe Schmitt/Smith. She was born Oct. 16, 1811, and died at Danvers Nov. 17, 1889, a daughter of Jean Schmitt/John Smith and Anna Sommer. In 1840 they bought land at Milford, Butler County with Peter Litwiller and Marie Mosiman. The family can be found on the 1850 census of 2nd District (now Alexandria), Campbell County, Kentucky as Christian Musselman, 50, France; Barbaray, 37, France; John, 16, Ohio; Anna, 14, Ohio; Francis, 12, Ohio; Joseph, 6, Ohio; Christopher, 5, Ohio; and Peter, 4, Ohio (they appear on the same page as Barbara's parents). The 1860 census of St. Clair, Butler County, Ohio shows them as as farmer Christian Moseman, 60, born in France; Barbara, 47, born in France; and children born in Ohio including John, 25; Fanny, 22; Joseph, 20; and Christian, 18; their house guests included Elizabeth Birkey, 18, of Illinois; and Ann Smith, 20, born in France. After Christian's death, Barbara lived at Danvers with her daughter Anna (July 16, 1835-Sept. 27, 1923) and son-in-law Christian Augspurger. *Herald of Truth*, Dec. 1, 1889: "On the 17th of November, near Danvers, McLean Co., Ill., of the infirmities of old age, Barbara Mosiman (maiden name Schmidt) aged 78 years, 1 month and 1 day. Buried on the 18th in Imhoff's graveyard. She leaves five children, three sons and two daughters, 39 grandchildren, 7 great-grandchildren and many friends who followed her to her last resting place. Services in the church by Joseph Stuckey from *Ps. 39:5,6* and by Peter Schantz at the grave." A bit of confusion has been caused by a marriage that took place in Butler County, Ohio Sept. 3, 1866. A couple recorded as Joseph Moseman and Catharine Esher were actually Joseph Mosiman, a son of this couple, and his cousin Catherine Escher, a daughter of John E. Escher and Frances/Francis/Fanny Mosiman.

c. Madelaine Mosiman was born at Azoudange Oct. 20, 1805.

d. Marie Mosiman was born at Azoudange Oct. 11, 1807, and died in 1871. She married *Superior* passenger Peter Litwiller (1808-1875), a son of Johannes/Jean Lidviller and Freni Zehr (also found as Françoise or Véronique Serre).

e. Joseph Mosiman was born at Azoudange Aug. 2, 1810.

■ Jacob/Jacques Mosiman was born in 1814. He is found in a number of sources, but we could not identify a birth entry.

— The 10-year civil index at Frémonville, Meurthe-et-Moselle lists an entry for the death of 13-year-old Jean Mosimann created May 7, 1826. Unfortunately the full death entries between approximately 1803 and 1831 are missing. Was this Jacob? Or a hitherto unknown son? Or someone from another family?

f. Frances/Francis/Fanny Mosiman was born Oct. 10, 1817 (headstone), and died in Ford County Sept. 10, 1889. In 1843 she married Hans/John E. Escher. He was born at Kulmbach, Bavaria Dec. 14, 1815, and died in Ford County Feb. 27, 1898. They are found on the 1850 census of District 2, Campbell County, Kentucky as farmer John E. Escher, 32, Germany; Francis, 20, Germany; Catharine, 4; Magdalene, 4; Anna, 2; and Mary, six months; all children born in Kentucky. In 1856 they resettled at Groveland, where the 1860 census shows them as farmer John Asher, 41, France; Francis, 40, Bavaria; Catherine, 14, Kentucky; Magdalene, 12, Kentucky; Anna, 10, Kentucky; Caroline, 8, Kentucky; Joseph, 7, Kentucky; Mary, 4, Kentucky; Frances, 3, Illinois; Christian, five months, Illinois; and Fred Birling, 35, Wertemberg [Württemberg]. In 1864 they went to Chenoa, and then Gridley; in 1870 they arrived in Ford County.[7] The 1870 census of Drummer Township, Ford County has farmer John Escher, 52, Borne [likely intended as Bayern for Bavaria]; Fanny, 50, France; Joseph, 17, Kentucky; Mary, 15, Kentucky; Fanny, 13, Kentucky; Christian, 10, Illinois; Anna, 20, Kentucky; and Caroline, 19, Kentucky. The 1880 census of Drummer has farmer John Escher, 64, Bavaria; Fanny, 61, France; Anna, 28, Kentucky; farm laborer Joseph, 27, Kentucky; farm laborer Christ, 20, Illinois; and farm laborer/boarder William Blane, 44, Prussia. They were living next door to the family of Peter Litwiller, 39, born in Ohio to parents from

[6] The National Archives *Quarterly Abstract of New Orleans Passengers 1820-75* show J. Mosiman, 23, male; M., 54, male; C., 45, female; Jph., 27, male; M., 25, male; M., 23, famale; F., 22, female; C., 10, female; and J., 25, male. This may only reflect that it is copy of a copy.

[7] Per the obituary of daughter Mary Ann Escher Suter in the *Gibson City Courier*, Dec. 23, 1937, provided by Jeff Cassens.

Alsace. *Historical Atlas of Ford County, Illinois* (1884) shows J. Escher as the owner of 180 acres in the northwest corner of Section 22. Drummer Township. John and Fanny are buried in Drummer Township Cemetery at Gibson City, Drummer Township, Ford County.

g. Catherine Mosiman was born circa 1820 (census and obituary), and died at Boynton Feb. 13, 1909. On Aug. 30, 1841 she married Christian Birkey of the 'Big Birkeys.' He was born in Bavaria Sept. 29, 1810, and died in Tazewell County Sept. 26, 1885. See BIRKY/BIRKEY, THE BIG BIRKEYS for background on this couple.

10. Freni/Véronique Mosimann was born circa 1772, and died at Landser, Upper Alsace (two miles southeast of Mulhouse) March 16, 1839. On July 7, 1793 at Hattigny she married cultivator Johannes/Hans/Jean Roth. Their civil marriage entry names them as 'Jean Rothe' and 'Fréni Mosimanne.' He was born Oct. 10, 1773, and died at Landser Oct. 16, 1826, a son of Jean Roth and Marie Lehman (found as 'Laimann') who lived on Boutier farm at Hattigny. Freni's parents are named as 'Christianne Mosimanne' and 'Créte Lihti' of St. Quirin. Witnesses included uncle-of-the-groom Christian Laimann [Lehman], 33, living on Boutier farm at Hattigny; uncle-of-the-groom Joseph Laimann, 22; brother-of-the-bride Christianne Mosimanne, 30, living on La Charmille farm at St. Quirin; and brother-of-the-bride Michel Mosimanne, 28, also living on La Chamille farm. Freni and Jean lived on Risholz farm at Hattigny.

Michel Mosimann was born circa 1763, and died at Montigny, Meurthe-et-Moselle June 12, 1842.[8]

In 1790 he married Susana/Suzanne Brechbühl. She was born Aug. 27, 1765, and died at Montigny Jan. 18, 1848, a daughter of Ŭlrich Brechbühl and Barbe Sommer.

Michel's death entry gave his age as 80, and his surviving wife was 77. It was witnessed by son-in-law George Zehr, a 48-year-old cultivator.

They had nine children while farming at Chazelles-sur-Albe, Meurthe-et-Moselle; three died young.

1. Joseph Mosiman was born at St. Quirin Aug. 9, 1792. Pierre Sommer's *Historique des Assemblées* describes him as 'Joseph Mozimann,' an elder of the Herbéviller/Domèvre-sur-Vezouze congregation; he represented that congregation at a Meuse assembly of ministers in 1836. He married Catherine Zehr (1795-1882) and had three children.
2. Jean Mosiman was born at St. Quirin Sept. 24, 1793, and died there Nov. 23, 1793.
3. Marie Mosiman was born at St. Quirin Nov. 6, 1794, and died at Repaix March 19, 1853 or 1855. On March 2, 1814 at Chazelles-sur-Albe she married Jean Lidviller/Litwiller, a laborer at Richeval, Meurthe-et-Moselle. He was born at Richeval circa 1783, according to the marriage entry, and died at Repaix May 13, 1851, a son of Johannes/Jean Lidviller/Litwiller and Freni Zehr. (It is easy to confuse this couple with Peter Litwiller, Jean's younger brother, and his wife Marie Mosiman, who was a daughter of Joseph Mosiman and Marie Zwalter of Azoudange).
4. Christian/Christianne/Christophe Mosiman was born Nov. 20, 1797, and died at Repaix, Meurthe-et-Moselle on Dec. 9, 1844. He was an elder of the Herbéviller/Domèvre-sur-Vezouze congregation and the Repaix congregation. On Nov. 13, 1824 at Chazelles-sur-Albe he married Barbe Chérique [Göerig/Gerig], a daughter of André Cherique and Marie Brechbühl of La Broque, Lower Alsace.
5. Pierre Mosiman was born July 12, 1800.
6. Elisabeth (later Elizabeth) Mosiman was born June 23, 1802, and died at Sarrebourg March 11, 1876. On April 7, 1822 at Chazelles-sur-Albe she married cultivator George Zehr of Chazelles-sur-Albe. He was born at Gros-Réderching Aug. 28, 1794, and died at Montigny, Meurthe-et-Moselle April 4, 1849, a son of Michel Zehr and his first wife Anne Marie Kohler of Bitche. George was a witness on the civil death entry of his father-in-law Michel Mosimann at Montigny in 1842.
7. Jean Mosiman was born Jan. 26, 1803, and died at 3½ years of age.
8. **Michael Mosiman** was born at Chazelles-sur-Albe May 3, 1806.
9. Anne Mosiman was born Dec. 18, 1809, and died at Chazelles-sur-Albe April 10, 1821.

Michael Mosiman was born at Chazelles-sur-Albe, Meurthe-et-Moselle May 3, 1806. His civil birth entry actually spells his name Michel Mozimanne, and describes his parents as cultivator Michel Mozimanne, 40 (he signed Michel Mosman), and Susanne Briephfiehle. Witnesses included cultivator Joseph Aumann, 43 (he signed Ioseph Eiman), and farm equipment operator Christianne Rouge, 46 (he signed Christian Roth), residents of Chazelles-sur-Albe.

He is thought to have arrived at New York City in 1831. He spent time in Lancaster County before continuing on to Butler County, where he worked two years in a mill.

[8] The 1793 marriage entry of his younger brother Joseph said Michel was 27, thus born circa 1766.

The pace of settlement farther west in Illinois picked up after the Black Hawk War of 1832. In 1833 minister Christian Engel (1765-1838) traveled from Moselle to Illinois and established the first Amish Mennonite congregation at Partridge Creek.

In 1834, Mosiman rode horseback with a friend from Ohio to Peoria. The cholera pandemic had swept the area the year before, and many families were anxious to sell their land. He eventually settled on the Wesley City area (now the Creve Coeur neighborhood). It apparently did not take long to get acquainted - according to Tazewell County records, he married Marie/Maria Rocher there July 13, 1834. Minister Christian Engel performed the ceremony following a Sunday all-day church service.

On Dec. 18, 1835, Mosiman rode to Kaskaskia to register the purchase 120 acres of public land for $1.25 per acre. It was situated in Section 5 of Township 27N. This later became Worth, Woodford County.

Apparently he made the trip with his brother-in-law Joseph Rocher and his father-in-law Christophe, who purchased their own tracts.

In 1840, Mosiman became the first Amish Mennonite elder or full minister [Ger. *Völliger Diener*] ordained in the state of Illinois (the title 'bishop' did not come into use in some congregations until the 1860s). His congregation, known as the *Busche Gemeinde* or rural congregation, was made up of farmers from East Peoria to Morton. In the initial years, his congregation may have blended with that of elder Andrew Ropp, who led the Dillon Creek meeting (later the Pleasant Grove Amish Mennonite Church).

Michael Mosiman's family can be found on the 1840 and 1850 censuses of Tazewell County (while they were living in Wesley City). The 1840 census describes him as 'Micheal Mosenman,' living next door to 'Joseph Rosha.'

According to the *Grantors Index* on Sept. 13, 1848 Michael and Marie/Maria paid Coleman Gibson and his wife $125 for 30 acres. This land in the northwest corner of Groveland became their home for the next 27 years. And on Jan. 5, 1850 they were paid $100 by her father Joseph Roche, who purchased 72 acres from the eastern side of their farm.

Marie/Maria Rocher died at Groveland in 1852. She was buried in the Schertz-Mosiman Cemetery at East Peoria, which is now covered by Interstate 74.

Children of Michael Mosiman and Marie/Maria Rocher born in Illinois include:

1. Christian Mosiman was born March 27, 1835, and died July 4, 1897. He visited Europe in the summer of 1859. On May 20, 1859 in New York City he filled out a passport application. It stated that he was born at 'Pekintown, Tazewell Co.' March 27, 1835, and described him as 5-foot 8-inches, complexion healthy, forehead high, eyes blue, nose medium, hair dark brown. The application was witnessed by Simon Bächler. Simon Baechler became a minister and a prosperous farmer at Yates, McLean County (see BECHLER/BECKLER). On that trip Simon married his sister-in-law Elisabeth Wenger. They returned to Central Illinois in the autumn of 1859. On Dec. 28, 1869 in Tazewell County Christian married Catherine Sommer; the ceremony was performed by minister Joseph Stuckey. She was born Oct. 15, 1843, and died July 4, 1897, a daughter of Jean/John Sommer and Barbe/Barbara Schertz of Elm Grove. They had one child who died as an infant. They are found on the 1880 census of Fon du Lac as retired grocer C. Moseman, 45, born in Illinois to French parents; Catharine, 39, born in Illinois to French parents; and brother Joseph Moseman, 43, a hardware merchant born in Illinois to French parents. They are buried in Fon du Lac Township Cemetery at East Peoria.
2. Joseph Mosiman was born in 1837, and died in 1902. He never married. He is buried in Fon du Lac Township Cemetery.
3. Maria 'Mary' Mosiman was born Sept. 24, 1840, and died at Meadows March 11, 1909. On Feb. 15, 1863, she married Joseph Claudon. He was born at Réding, Moselle Feb. 16, 1840, and died at Flanagan, Livingston County Feb. 19, 1898, a son of Nicolas Claudon and Barbara Bechler.
4. Katharine 'Katie' Mosiman was born in 1841, and died in 1843. She is buried in the Schertz-Mosiman Cemetery. She may have been a victim of the 1843 scarlet fever epidemic.
5. Anna Mosiman was born Sept. 23, 1848, and died Aug. 11, 1914. She married Joseph Staker (1844-1874), oldest son of Joseph Stecker/Staker and Frena Roth; and later grocer Henry Merchenthaler; their story was told in the STAKER genealogy.
6. David Mosiman was born Aug. 27, 1849, and died Jan. 23, 1909. He married Anna Staker on Nov. 9, 1869; minister Joseph Stuckey performed the ceremony.[9] She was born July 26, 1852, and died May 14, 1943. They are buried in Fon du Lac Township Cemetery.

[9] As Pearl Staker pointed out at the 2003 Morton reunion, the marriage of David Mosiman and Anna Staker (the second between the families that year) created a bit of name confusion. There was now an Anna (Mosiman) Staker living with Stakers, and an Anna (Staker) Mosiman living with Mosimans.

On Feb. 22, 1853, Michael remarried to Barbara Rediger; minister Andrew Ropp conducted the ceremony. Barbara was born on the Lärchenhof at Wimsheim, Württemberg Sept. 3, 1821, and died April 16, 1886, a daughter of Benjamin Rediger and Barbara Ehresmann.

The family can be found on the 1860 census of Fon du Lac as Michael Mosiman, 53, farmer from France; Barbara, 40, from Württemberg; Christian, 22; Joseph, 20; Mary, 19; David, 13; Anna, 12; laborer John Bechley of Württemberg, 25; and widow Barbara Rittwer of Württemberg, 62.

On Nov. 9, 1869, daughter Anna married Joseph Staker, and son David married Anna Staker. The first marriage was the only ceremony performed by Michael Mosiman after his realignment with Henry Egly and Nicholas Roth as a Defenseless Mennonite.

David Mosiman and Anna Staker lived in a separate dwelling on Michael's farm. The 1870 census of Groveland shows Michael Mosiman born in France, 64, with a farm valued at $5,000 and personal property worth $200; Barbara [Rediger] born in Baden, 49, keeping house; son David, a 26-year-old farmer born in Illinois, with $500 in personal property; daughter-in-law Anna [Staker], 18, keeping house; and Frank Deggert, 40, a farm laborer born in Ohio. The 1872 plat map of Groveland shows M. Mooseman on 80 acres in the northeast corner of Section 6, along the boundary with Fon du Lac.

On July 17, 1877, Michael Mosiman and Barbara Rediger sold the Groveland farm property and other items to son David for $5,000. Michael retired from farming, but continued to live on the farm until 1884, when the entire family moved to Morton.

Barbara Rediger died in Morton April 16, 1886. She was buried in the Evangelical Mennonite Cemetery at Groveland.

Mosiman "...was considered a good man with considerable zeal for the cause and a desire for the stimulation of the church, but he was only fair in pulpit power. He served his church faithfully until his death in 1898," according to *Centennial History of the Mennonites of Illinois 1829-1929*. Michael outlived most of his contemporaries, dying at the home of his daughter Anna on April 9, 1898. He was buried near Barbara Rediger, by the meeting house of the congregation he had served.[10]

Michael Mosiman's first wife Marie/Maria Rocher (or Rusche)

The spelling of the Rocher family name has caused a wealth of confusion over the years. One branch of descendants in Tazewell County chooses to spell their name 'Ruesche,' another 'Roche,' and the street that runs along the site of the family's old homestead in Creve Coeur is called Ruesche Road. The original form is Rüsch, derived from Rüschenegg; this Bernese village is now part of Guggisberg.

A number of family records can be found at Rhodes, Moselle, 22 miles southeast of Grostenquin.[11] The family name is spelled 'Rocher,' and later 'Roché,' with no apparent pattern. The earliest generation mentioned is **Christian Rocher**, a laborer born 180 miles to the north at Dierdorf in Nassau-Weilburg, and his wife Cristane Rëder (possibly meant to be Reber). [12] Their children include:

1. Nicolas Rocher was born circa 1765. He married to Catherine Cherrier, and they lived at Rhodes. [13]
2. Therése Rocher was born circa 1766. Her first husband was Pierre Dion of Fribourg. On Aug. 29, 1797 at Rhodes she remarried to second husband Antoine Brion of Diane-Capelle.
3. **Christophe Rocher** was born circa 1766 or later (1766 appears on his marriage entry, though later entries make him as much as four years older), and died in Tazewell County after Dec. 23, 1835.

Christophe Rocher was born circa 1766 or later. He was a laborer on Ste. Croix farm at Fribourg near Rhodes. He witnessed dozens of civil entries for Amish Mennonites in the vicinity of Fribourg and Rhodes. He died in Tazewell County sometime after Dec. 23, 1835 (the date he purchased public land as 'Christopher Roche').

---

[10] The headstone says Michael Mosiman died April 9, 1898 at the age of 91 years, 11 months, and 21 days.

[11] The site is now *Parc Animalier de Sainte-Croix*, a wildlife area. Rhodes has been reduced to a population of less than 60, mainly staff of the animal park and the hotel *Château de Rhodes*. It lies on the western shore of *Etang de Stock*, or Stock Pond.

[12] He probably lived on Offhauserhof, the leased estate of the Unzicker family. A Schanz family also leased there.

[13] Rhodes civil records are often inaccurate. Nicolas appeared as a witness to several events, with a birth year that ranged from 1761 to 1768.

On May 1, 1797 at Rhodes Christophe married Anne Belsley. Her maiden name never actually appeared as 'Belsley', and never the same way twice: 'Paltz' (her marriage entry); 'Palz' (daughter Elisabeth's birth entry); 'Palser' (daughter Anne's birth entry); 'Belselé' (son Joseph's birth entry); and 'Belzer' (daughter Marie's birth entry). The variations all seem to be forms of the Bern surname 'Balzli.' Anne was unable to correct them, signing her name with an 'x.'

Their children, all born at Rhodes, include:

1. Elisabeth Rocher was born March 1, 1798.
2. Anne/Anna Rocher was born April 17, 1802. She married widower David Schertz (1786-Nov. 12, 1860). He was a son of Jean Schertz and Anna Engel. He had first married in 1811 to Catherine Belsley, and he brought three daughters from that marriage to his marriage with Anne. Background on their family is given in SCHERTZ, SCHERTZ OF BÜHL. Together they emigrated from France in 1831 and settled in Wesley City (now the northwest corner of Groveland).
3. Joseph Rocher was born April 17, 1802, and died at Groveland July 25, 1859. The county register shows that Joseph Rusha and Catharine Bechler were issued a marriage license May 14, 1840, but the followup information was never reported by the minister. She was born in 1817, and died in 1884. The 1840 census of Tazewell County shows Joseph as 'Joseph Rosa' next door to Michael Mosiman. The 1850 census shows them next door to the Mosimans as Joseph Roshre, 45, France; Catharine, 33, Illinois; Joseph, 9, Illinois; Mary, 6, Illinois; Magdaline, 2, France; and Joseph Bechler, 31, France. Probate records L 1859-61 shows that Michael Mosiman served as the administrator of his estate. The heirs were named as his widow Catharina Roche, and children Joseph, Mary, Christian, John, and Catherine. The 1864 plat map of Groveland shows 'J. Roche.' The 1870 census of Groveland shows Catherine Russey, 53, France; coal digger Joseph, 29, Illinois; coal digger Christian, 21, Illinois; farmer John, 18, Illinois; and Catharine, 15, Illinois. A petition to the Tazewell County court dated Oct. 8, 1874 was entered on behalf of Catherine, Joseph, John, and Catherine Rusche. It asked for a civil survey to determine whether or not the Wesley City Coal Company mine ran under their land. The 1880 census shows the family living in Groveland next to the households of Michael Mosiman and his son David: C. Rousche [widow Catherine Bechler], 62, born in France to parents from Switzerland; Joseph, 37; Chris, 31; John, 28; and Katie, 23; all born in Illinois to parents from Alsace.
4. **Marie/Maria Rocher** was born Dec. 27, 1807, and died at Groveland in 1852.

Marie/Maria Rocher was born at Rhodes, Moselle Dec. 27, 1807.

In 1830 Christophe Rocher and his wife Anne Belsley, the David Schertz-Anne Rocher family group, and 'Black Joe' Belsley departed Rhodes bound for Ohio.

At Ligny-en-Barrois, Meuse, only 85 miles west of Rhodes, Anne Belsley Rocher fell from a wagon. She died there March 24, 1831. A burial took place, a civil death entry was recorded for 54-year-old ‘Anne Belzy,’ a native of Canton Sarrebourg, Moselle, and the group continued on its journey.

The group sailed from Le Havre on the *Massasoit*, and arrived at Baltimore May 21, 1831. The Rochers appear on the passenger list as 'Christophe Roshe,' 66-year-old farmer, his son Joseph, 30, and daughter Mary, 20 [Marie/Maria Rocher].

From Baltimore they traveled 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.* Magdalena and Catherine Schertz (ages 19 and 16 on the 1831 passenger list) remained in Butler County, where they assisted a physician for two years before rejoining their family.

Marie/Maria Rocher died at Groveland in 1852. She was buried in Schertz-Mosiman Cemetery at East Peoria, near her father Christophe and brother Joseph. The story of how that cemetery was covered by mining slag after 1906 is told by Ardys Serpette in the June 1996 issue of *Illinois Mennonite Heritage*. It now lies beneath Interstate 74.

Salzman of Petit-Tenquin

In Bern, a *Salzmann* is a salt merchant.

The surname 'Salzman' was found among the earliest Anabaptists in Bern. Christen Saltzman attended the 1538 debate between Anabaptists and Protestant Reformed clergy at Bern. The name was spelled 'Salzmann' and occasionally 'Saltzman' in all later French entries.

Christian Salzman was born circa 1719. He married Marie Rider. He died on Zelle farm at Petit-Tenquin [Ger. *Zellerhof am Kleintänchen,* now in Moselle] May 5, 1795 at the age of 76, and the event was entered in civil records by his son the following day. The death entry mentioned that Marie Rider had died earlier.

Their son **Michel Salzman** was born at Altviller (now in Moselle, about seven miles above Bistroff) or Altwiller (in Lower Alsace on the border with Moselle) circa 1755.[14] He died on Vallerade farm at Albestroff [Ger. *Albesdorf,* 13 miles southeast of Altviller] June 16, 1821. He worked most of his adult life as a farmer and cultivator at Le Haras, a horse breeding farm that once belonged to the Duke of Lorraine. He was also found on Ste. Croix farm at Fribourg near Rhodes, Moselle in 1810 and 1813.

His wife Catherine Weiss [Wyss] was born circa 1758, and died one week after her husband, at Albestroff June 23, 1821. Much of what we know about this family comes from civil entries made at Sarralbe Dec. 26, 1801. On that day Michel and Catherine registered the births of their five adult children.

Children of Michel Salzman and Catherine Weiss include:

(To put some of these locations in perspective, imagine the communities of Bistroff, Albestroff, Val-de-Guéblange, and Sarralbe in a line from west to east at 6-8 mile intervals. Blamont is 34 miles below Bistroff, Petit-Tenquin is four miles above Albestroff; and Forbach is 20 miles above Val-de-Guéblange (formerly Guéblange-lès-Sarralbe).

1. **Michel/Michael Salzman** was born on Zelle farm at Petit-Tenquin Sept. 29, 1779. See MICHEL/MICHAEL SALZMAN OF BUTLER COUNTY.
2. Pierre Salzman was born on Zelle farm May 24, 1786.
3. Catherine Salzman was born on Zelle farm June 18, 1788. On Aug. 7, 1823 she married Christian Gerber. He was born at Rosheim (now in Lower Alsace) circa 1796, a son of Joseph Gerber and Madeleine Fritz, cultivators at Gensbourg, Oberhaslach.
4. Madeleine Salzman was born on Zelle farm May 12, 1790.[15] On Jan. 27, 1810 she married Jacob Blüm at Rhodes (his name was spelled 'Lompe' on the entry, which he signed with his correct name). He was a son of Jacob Blüm and Elisabeth Blaser. Marriage witnesses included her father, who was described as a 56-year-old cultivator on Ste. Croix farm at Fribourg near Rhodes, and Nicholas Roché, a 48-year-old cultivator from Rhodes who was uncle to Marie/Maria Rocher (she married minister Michael Mosiman).
5. Barbe Salzman was born on Zelle farm April 2, 1792. On Jan. 14, 1813 at Rhodes she married André Schertz. He was born at Gondrexange Sept. 10, 1790, a son of Jean Schertz and Catherine Abresol (they are easily confused with a later couple of the same names; this Jean was born circa 1760 and resided at Gondrexange). The marriage entry gave her name as Elisabeth, and witnesses included her father Michel, who was working as a cultivator on Ste. Croix farm; Jean Gingerich, the proprietor of Ste. Croix Farm; and Christophe Rocher, another cultivator there. On Feb. 26, 1817 the death entry of 6-month-old Jean Schertz at Albestroff mentions his parents as André Schertz of Neuhof farm at Bühl and Barbe Salzman.
6. Christian/Christel Salzman was born on Zelle farm April 13 or 14, 1793. On May 10, 1819 at Grostenquin he married Magdalena/Madeleine Schertz. She was born Dec. 18, 1795 at the mill on Hingsange farm at Linstroff, a daughter of Joseph Schertz and Barbe Blanck. Marriage witnesses included brother of the groom Michel Salzman, 39; Jacob Bloom [Blum], 34; and Jean Hirschi, 29. Christian and Magdalena lived at Veutzviller at Guéblange-lès-Sarralbe (now called Le Val-de-Guéblange), where two births are found: Andres, born Nov. 3, 1825; and Joseph, born Nov. 8, 1827.
7. Jacob Salzman was born on Zelle farm June 26, 1795.
8. **Andreas/André/Andrew Salzman** was born in 1799,[16] and died at Danvers Nov. 3, 1876. See ANDREW SALZMAN OF TAZEWELL COUNTY.

---

[14] His death entry was recorded at Albestroff June 17, 1821. It gave his age as 66 (sources vary between 1749-55), and said he was born at "Olteuver." The death entry of Catherine Weiss only a week later said she died at 63, and was born at Achlade or Achlach in Zweibrücken (Achslach in Bavaria) to Christian Weis and Catherine Zieguel [Siegel?].

[15] Her marriage entry erroneously stated that she was born Jan. 17, 1788 at 'Clens.'

[16] His marriage entry said he was born on Le Haras at Sarralbe May 12, 1795, but there is no entry in Sarralbe records, and the date conflicts with the birth of brother Jacob at Petit-Tenquin. His obituary suggests that he was born circa 1799.

9. Jean Salzman was born at Sarralbe April 24, 1800, and died within 24 hours. The witnesses to his birth were Jacques Stalter, 40, and Jean Hauter, 36.[17]

Michel/Michael Salzman of Butler County

Michel/Michael Salzman was born on Zelle farm at Petit-Tenquin Sept. 29, 1779. From 1801 to 1804 or later he worked with his father as a cultivator at Le Haras, a horse-breeding farm at Sarralbe.

On March 3, 1804 at Sarralbe he married first wife Catherine Hirschi. She was born at Bening-lès-Harprich circa 1781, and died at Forbach, Moselle March 5, 1814, a daughter of Pierre Hirschi and Anne Farny. (Pierre Hirschi was the brother of Anne Hirschi who married Christian Farny; Anne Farny was sister to Christian Farny who married Anne Hirschi. This meant that Joseph Stecker's in-laws were Christian Farny and Anne Hirschi; Michael Salzman's in-laws were Pierre Hirschi and Anne Farny. In simplest terms, the children of Michael Salzman and children of Joseph Stecker shared common great-grandparents).

Children of Michel/Michael Salzman and his first wife Catherine Hirschi include:

1. Catherine Salzman was born at Sarralbe Oct. 27, 1804. Her name is found as 'Elizabeth' in the margin of her birth entry, but as a heavily overwritten 'Catherine' in the body of its text; she was known as Catherine throughout her life. On April 8, 1826 at Blâmont she married Johannes/John Schrag/Schrock. He was born at Gondrexange June 15, 1801, and died at Pekin Jan. 21, 1875, a son of Joseph Schrag and his second wife Maria Neuhauser. See SCHROCK for more on this couple.
2. Peter/Pierre Salzman is found on the 1831 passenger list as a 31-year-old. One source says he was born at Metz in 1805, and died at Pyrmont, Indiana, near the Mennonite community at Rossville in 1848. In 1835 he married Susan Sommer/Summers in Butler County. She was born March 3, 1810, and died at Pyrmont Aug. 17, 1905. They are found on the 1850 census of Jackson, Indiana (next door to brother Christian) as farmer Peter Saltsman, 45, France; Susan, 39, France; and 10 children born in Ohio and Indiana. They are buried in Pyrmont Cemetery.
3. Magdalena 'Lena' Salzman was born circa 1811. In about 1838 she married miller John King. He was either a son of Christian König and Maria Zimmerman (some sources give this information, though these two did not emigrate from Baden), or a son of Christian's brother Nikolaus König/Nicholas King and Maria Güngerich; Nicholas King did come to Butler County. They are shown on the 1850 census of Milford with three children.
4. Christian/Christophe Salzman was born at Forbach, Moselle March 31, 1811, and died at Newton, Kansas June 2, 1895. On Oct. 18, 1838 in Butler County he married Maria Imhof. The ceremony was conducted by minister Benedict König. A civil marriage entry calling them 'Christian Saltzman' and 'Mary Imhoff' was created March 14, 1839. She was born in the vicinity of Frankenthal circa 1805 (1880 census), circa Nov. 1 or Dec. 1, 1806 (partially illegible headstone, incompatible with what we calculate her older brother's birth date to be), 1806 (*Portrait and Biographical Album of McLean County*), circa 1808 (passenger list), circa 1809 (1870 census), or circa 1812 (1850 census). She was a daughter of Johannes Imhof and Anna Maria Schwarzentruber (see IMHOFF for background on this family). They relocated to Jackson, Clinton County, Indiana in 1849. They appear on the 1850 census of Jackson as farmer Christian Saltsman, 40, France; Mary, 38, Germany; and six children born in Ohio (next door to brother Pieter/Pierre). In 1854 they relocated to Perry, Tippecanoe County, Indiana. The 1870 census of Perry shows them as farmer Christian Salsman, 59, Metz, France; Mary, 61, Bayern [Bavaria], and Elisabeth, 25, Ohio. The 1880 census of Tippecanoe, Indiana has retired farmer Christian Saltzman, 69, born in France to French parents; and Mary, 75, born in France to French parents. Maria/Mary's headstone in Mennonite Cemetery at Edna Mills, Indiana says she was "Mary, wife of C. Saltzman, died Feb. 3, 1890, age 83 y 2 [or also possible 3] m 2 d" (thus born circa Nov. 1 or Dec. 1, 1806). After her death Christian went to live with a daughter for two years, according to *Past and Present of Tippecanoe County*. *Portrait and Biographical Album of McLean County* says Christion owned 80 acres near Lafayette, which is 11 miles west of Edna Mills. In 1893 he relocated to Pawnee, Kansas. *Herald of Truth*, July 15, 1895: "Christian Salzman was born on the 10th of March 1811 in France, and came to America in 1831. He remained a short time in Lancaster Co., Pa., then went to Butler Co., Ohio, where he united in matrimony with Maria Imhof. This union was blessed with six children. In 1849 he moved to Tippecanoe Co., Ind. and in 1893 to Pawnee Co., Kansas where he spent his remaining days with his daughter and the writer. He died on the 2d of June 1895, aged 4 years, 2 months and 23 days. Buried on the 4th in the Prett graveyard, on which occasion many friends assembled to sympathize with the bereft friends. Appropriate services were held by D. D. Zook of Newton, Kansas, from *1 Cor. 5: 26*." (Christian died in the home of daughter Catherine Salzman, who married John B. Zook and can be found in ZOOK).

[17] Jean, also known as Johannes Hauter (1771-1846), was leaseholder of Le Haras 1799-1817. He was also witness to the birth of Barbe Stalter, a daughter of Jacques/Jacob Stalter and Barbe Imhoff, at Sarralbe on April 4, 1799. On that document the two witnesses were listed as (the senior) Michael Salzman, 42, and Jean Hauter, 36. At his death in 1846, Jean Hauter left 16 children and an estate worth $2.5 million. See Guth's *Amish Mennonites in Germany*, pp. 82-83.

Michel/Michael was described on his first wife's death entry as a worker at the palace mill [*Schloessersmühle*] at Forbach.

Michel/Michael remarried to Magdalena Eymann, who was born in the Pfalz June 2, 1795. The announcements of their impending marriage were published at Albestroff June 1 and 8, 1814. The entry lists her parents as Étienne [Stephen] Aeiyman and Marie Cers [Zehr], and describes him as a worker in Troisieme Moulin [Third Mill] at Forbach.[18]

From 1820 to 1825 Michel/Michael was described on the birth entries of his children as a farmer at the Bischwald mill in Bistroff. In January of 1826 Michel/Michael and Magdalena relocated to Xouaxange, Moselle, where he was employed as a miller.

The Salzmans sailed from Le Havre on the Massasoit, and arrived at Baltimore May 21, 1831 (see the Appendix, THE VOYAGE OF THE *MASSASOIT* IN 1831). According to the obituary of one of his children, the family spent 'a short time' in Lancaster County before continuing on to Butler County. He was naturalized as Michael Salzman at the Hamilton Courthouse with son-in-law John Schrock on Sept. 21, 1842.

His home at Lemon, Butler County has already been described in the section on John Stecker/Staker, who was his next-door neighbor. His household is found on the 1850 census of Lemon as Michael Salysman, 70; Magdalena, 54; Andrew, 21; Pheobe, 18; and John 16. The 1860 census of Lemon shows the same address as John Salzman, 79, gentleman, Serbry; and Magdalene, 63.

Michael died at Lemon Nov. 30, 1861, and Magdalena died there Oct. 1, 1875. They are buried near John Staker and Barbara Schertz in the Amish corner of Mound Cemetery at Monroe.

For more on this family see Donna Schrock Birkey's article *Immigrant Michael Salzman (1779-1861) His Ancestors and His Descendants* in the Winter 2004 issue of *Illinois Mennonite Heritage*.

Children of Michel/Michael Salzman and his second wife Magdalena Eymann include:

5. Jacob/Jacques Salzman was born on Vallerade farm at Albestroff Aug. 25, 1815.
6. Barbara/Barbe Salzman cannot be found in Moselle birth entries, but is found as a 12-year-old on the 1831 passenger list. She is also among Michael Salzman's children in W.H. Grubb's *History of the Mennonites of Butler County, Ohio*. She is supposed to have married Jacob 'Rocky' in a ceremony conducted by Nicholas Augspurger in Butler County. She may have died before 1860, when Jacob 'Rockey' appears on the Madison census with a different wife.
7. Marie/Mary Salzman was born at Albestroff Jan. 27, 1820. On Jan. 28, 1841 she married John Eichelberger. He was born in Pennsylvania circa 1820, and died in 1849. She remarried to Thomas Russell. They can be found on the 1860 census of Madison as Thomas, 46; Mary, 40; and five children.
8. Michael/Michel Salzman was born at Bistroff Oct. 11, 1821. His age is given incorrectly on the 1831 passenger list as 7, and again as 17 on his father's naturalization entry in 1842. He died unmarried on April 11, 1844 and is buried in Mound Cemetery at Monroe, Butler County (where his headstone says '23y 6m 7 d').
9. Elisabeth Salzman was born at Bistroff Aug. 15, 1823. The name 'Sissel' is found in her birth entry, though it is indexed in the same register as 'Elisabeth.' Since she was not shown as a passenger with the rest of her family, it is possible that a pre-1831 death entry will be found.
10. Jacobine 'Phebe' Salzman was born at Bistroff April 25, 1825, and died before the 1831 voyage.
11. Catherine Salzman was born circa 1827. She is also listed by W.H. Grubb as a child of Michael Salzman. However, we could not locate a birth entry in Moselle.[19] On Jan. 11, 1846 in Butler County she married wagon maker Peter Kehm [or Keim]. He was born in Hesse-Darmstadt July 4, 1820, and died at Lemon Oct. 31, 1870, a son of John Kehm and Margaret Clemm. Catherine and Peter can be found on the 1860 census of Lemon, ages 39 and 32 with five children; on the 1870 census of Lemon their ages are given as 50 and 43. Their next-door neighbor in 1870 was her sister Jacobine, who by then was a widow. On May 31, 1874 Catherine remarried to the much older John Altermatt. He was born at Berlenbach, Germany April 15, 1799, and died Dec. 26, 1886; he is buried in Graceland Cemetery at Sidney, Ohio. Catherine outlived both husbands, dying at Dayton March 25, 1906, and is buried in Greenwood Cemetery at Hamilton, Butler County.
12. André/Andrew Salzman was born in 1829. He was incorrectly described as a 10-year-old on his father's 1842 naturalization entry (the age may have been carried over from a *Declaration of Intent*, normally filed two years before naturalization). In 1859 in Woodford County he married Mary 'Mell' E. Pogue (born circa 1842); she was born in Pennsylvania. In 1862 he enlisted in Company K of the 129th Illinois Volunteers. He served throughout the Civil War and was honorably discharged with a pension for wounds. In 1868 they moved to Tecumseh, Nebraska,

---

[18] On June 10, 1819 at Albestroff, Michel/Michael Salzman reported the death of Christian Ayeman, 66, a laborer on Vallerade Farm. Christian was described as his father-in-law, which conflicts with the name (Étienne) on the marriage entry.

[19] One genealogist says she was born in 'Vynam,' which could be Weinheim in the Pfalz, where there was a Mennonite congregation. However, it is more likely that 'Vynam' is a misinterpretation of an attempt to write 'Bayern' on the 1870 census. The word is lined out in favor of 'Bavaria.' Catherine's mother Magdalena also gave her birthplace as Bavaria on censuses.

where he was a farmer and stock raiser. They were shown on the 1880 census of Lincoln, Nebraska with one daughter; his birthplace is given as France and hers as Prussia. Also in their household are Frank Pogue, 18, and Phoeba Pogue, 10. This *Herald of Truth* obituary from January 1897 is thought to be his: "Salzman - On the 13th of November 1896, at Aurora, Hamilton Co., Neb., after suffering for two weeks of kidney trouble, Andrew Salzman, aged 70 years and 13 days. He leaves his widow, one son and two daughters, besides many friends to mourn their loss. Buried on the 15th in the Prairie church graveyard. Funeral services by Chr. Rediger, J. Stauffer of Seward Co., Neb., and W. Thompson from *John 11*."

13. Jacobine or 'Bina' or 'Phoebe' Salzman was born in Butler County in 1832. Before 1857 she married Jean/John Staker. He was born at St. Avold April 26, 1828, and died before 1870, a son of Christian Farny/Stecker/Staker and Magdalina Gabriel. Phoebe Salzman is found as a mother-in-law in the household of saloon keeper John Newhauser, living at Gridley, McLean County in 1880. John Newhauser was described as 37, born in France to French parents; his wife was Helena, 32, born in Illinois to a father from France and a mother from Ohio; and Phoebe Salzman, 46, born in Ohio to parents from France. She died at Gridley Feb. 8, 1921, where her Gridley Cemetery headstone calls her 'Phoebe Salzman Stecker 1832-1921.'
14. John Salzman, born in Butler County Nov. 4, 1834, died there Jan. 1, 1921. On Oct. 21, 1856 he married Magdalena 'Malinda' Schertz. She was born in Butler County Oct. 11, 1830, and died there Dec. 14, 1871.[20] On the 1870 census of Lemon they were shown living next door on Salzman Road to John Staker's widow 'Barbaray Stecker', whose maiden name was Barbe Schertz: farmer John Salzman, 35, France; Magdaline, 39, France; William, 12, Ohio; John, 9, Ohio; Joseph, 6, Ohio; Edward, 2, Ohio; domestic servant Anna Schertz, 15, Kentucky; domestic servant Elizabeth Kehm, 21, Ohio; farm worker Augustus Grundeck, 24, Bavaria; Barbaray Schertz, 73, France [Magdalena's mother]; and Madaline Salzman, 74, Prussia [John's stepmother Magdalena Eymann]. John and Magdalena are buried in Mound Cemetery at Monroe, Butler County.

Andrew Salzman of Tazewell County

Andreas/André/Andrew Salzman was born in 1799, and died at Danvers Nov. 3, 1876. [21]

On Feb. 5, 1827 at Guéblange-lès-Sarralbe he married Anne/Ann Hodler . She was born at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines, Upper Alsace Oct. 10, 1801, and died at Hudson, McLean County Dec. 14, 1891, a daughter of Christian Hodler and Madeleine Maurer, who attended her wedding. Older brother Christian served as a witness. See a footnote in SCHERTZ, SCHERTZ OF BISTROFF for background on her family and her brother Joseph who also came to McLean County.

Andrew and Anne came to America on the same ship as older brother Michael in 1831 (see PASSENGER LISTS in the Appendix). He signed a naturalization *Declaration of Intent* at Hamilton, Butler County in September 1840; it described him as a 45-year-old native of France and noted three sons Arthur, Andrew, and Christian. Andrew and Anne lived at St. Clair, Butler County until 1854.

Andrew was certainly acquainted with Joseph Stecker/Staker and Frena Roth, who also came to Tazewell County in 1854. Joseph's brother John lived next door to Andrew's brother Michael Salzman in Lemon, Butler County. It is tempting to assume they came to Central Illinois together. But in fact many families made the move in 1854; it was the first year when rail lines connected the two locations. This not only made the trip easier on the old, infirm, and children, but enabled stock raisers to bring along their horses and cattle.

Andrew Saltzman appears on the 1855 Illinois State Census as a resident of Tazewell County, but they soon moved to White Oak, McLean County.

Herald of Truth, December 1876: "Nov. 3rd, in McLean Co., Ill., of the infirmities of age, Andrew Salzman, aged 77 years. Buried the 5th. Services by Joseph Stuckey, from *Rev.14: 13*."

Herald of Truth, January 1892: "On the 14th of December, 1891, at Hudson, McLean Co., Ill., of the infirmities of old age, Sister A. Saltzman, aged 89 years. She had been feeble for a long time. Her companion preceded her to the grave some years. Her posterity number 79, of which more than 20 are dead. She was buried on the 16th in the Simon Lantz burial ground. Funeral services by Pre. Goudie in English from *1 Cor. 15*, and by John Stahly in German from *John 14*. The deceased was a beloved sister in the church, and we believe she has gone to her eternal rest."

Andrew and Anne are buried in Lantz Cemetery at Carlock. Their descendants are documented in a genealogy of the Salzman, Troyer, and King families collected by Ann Crane Salzman Farrier. It can be found in the FHL microfilm catalogue as microfilm number 965937.

Their children include:

---

[20] Her marriage record calls her 'Melinda Schutz.'

[21] His marriage entry said he was born on Le Haras at Sarralbe May 12, 1795, but there is no entry in Sarralbe records, and the date conflicts with the birth of brother Jacob at Petit-Tenquin. His obituary suggests that he was born circa 1799.

1. Arthur 'Otto' Salzman was born 'Arthur Hodler' at Blamont May 25, 1825. Andreas and Anne were his parents, and made an appropriate declaration on their marriage entry two years later. On Nov. 13, 1853 in Butler County Arthur married Magdalena 'Melinda' Schrock. The ceremony was performed by minister Nicholas Augspurger. She was born June 6, 1830, a daughter of conservative minister Peter Schrock and Magdalena Zimmerman. They moved to Morton in 1854. Arthur and his family can be found as Morton residents on the 1855 state census of Illinois. The 1860 census of Morton lists 'Arthur Saulsman', a 32-year-old farmer, and his wife Melinda, 28, both born in France; children living with them included John, 6; Christian, 3; and Peter, 2. Fanny Schrock of Ohio, 19, also lived in their household. Arthur died at Trenton, Butler County May 1, 1871. Magdalena died at Lemon, Butler County Jan. 27, 1878. *Herald of Truth*, July 1871: "On the 1st of May, after an illness of two years, in Butler County, Ohio, Arthur Salsman, aged 44 years, 11 months and 15 days. He had a desire to depart and be with Christ. He leaves a wife and six children. He was buried at the Apostolic Mennonite Church. Funeral discourses by Peter Kinsinger, from *Heb. 13:14*, and from Pre. Smoker from *Ps. 39:5*."
2. Barbara Salzman was born at Blamont Nov. 11, 1827, and died in Hitchcock County, Nebraska in 1894. On April 12, 1855 in Tazewell County married Christian King Jr.; the ceremony was performed by minister Andrew Ropp. He was born in Baden Dec. 15, 1830, and died in Hitchcock County July 3, 1909, a son of Christian King and Phoebe Barnett of Dry Grove. They are buried in Mount Zion Cemetery at Culbertson, Nebraska
3. **André/Andrew Salzman** was born at Blamont Oct. 10, 1829, and died April 20, 1891.
4. Christian H. Salzman was born in Butler County May 14, 1837. On April 29, 1862 in McLean County he married Mary Troyer (Jan. 27, 1844 Licking County, Ohio-June 6, 1873), a daughter of Jonas Troyer and Elizabeth Miller. *Herald of Truth*, August 1873: June 5th, in Bloomington, Ill., of consumption, Mary Salzman, aged 39 years, six months, and eight days. She lived in wedlock eleven years, and leaves a husband and three children to mourn their loss. Funeral discourse by Joseph Stuckey from *Heb. 4*; Pre. Snavely, and Chr. Imhof." On Nov. 25, 1880 in McLean County he remarried to Elizabeth Hodler. She was born at Lemon, Butler County, Ohio circa 1850, a daughter of Joseph Hodler and Barbara/Barbe Schertz.
5. Catherine Salzman was born Aug. 19, 1841, and died April 28, 1921. On Jan. 19, 1862 in McLean County she married Manassas Troyer. He was born June 16, 1841, and died Aug. 28, 1914, a son of Jonas Troyer and Elizabeth Miller. They are buried in Troyer Cemetery at Carlock.

André/Andrew Salzman was born at Blamont, Meurthe-et-Moselle Oct. 10, 1829, and died April 20, 1891.

On Aug. 20, 1851 in Butler County he married Barbara Peter Schmidt/Smith. She was born at Durmenach, Upper Alsace April 29, 1826, and died at Normal, McLean County Jan. 12, 1916, a daughter of Johannes or Jean Peter Schmidt/John P. Smith and Christine Schwartz.

They can be found as residents of Morton on the 1855 state census of Illinois, though a son was born the following year in Butler County.

The 1860 census of Groveland shows carpenter Andrew Soltzman, 30, France; Barbara, 31, France; John, 9, Ohio; Andrew, 5, Ohio; and Samuel, 1, Illinois. The census page sandwiches their household between those of John O'Brien Sr. and John O'Brien Jr. The father was born in Nova Scotia, a son of French immigrant Brions. The son was married to Susan Stecker/Staker, a niece of Joseph Stecker/Staker and Frena Roth.

In 1867 the Salzmans relocated to McLean County. The 1870 census of Dale has farmer Andrew Solsman, 37, France; Barbaray, 40, France; John, 18, Ohio; Andrew, 16, Ohio; Samuel, 12, Illinois; and Christiana, 8, Illinois. The 1880 census of Danvers shows Andrew Saltzman, 50, France; Barbara, 52, France; and Christina, 17, Illinois.

The 1900 census of Bloomington, McLean County has Barbara Saltzman [now a widow], 74, born in Germany in April 1826, immigrated in 1832; daughter Christiana Saltzman, 38, born in Illinois in June 1862 to German parents; and boarder August Leuschner [soon to marry Christiana], 38, born in Germany in April 1862, immigrated in 1891.

Gospel Herald, February 1916: "Barbara Schmidt was born in Alsace, Germany, April 29, 1826; died Jan. 12, 1916, at the home of her daughter, Christiana Leuschner, Normal, Ill., aged 89 y. 4 m. 13 d. She was the third in a family of six sons and daughters. She came with her parents to this country in 1832, first settling in Lancaster Co., Pa. Five years later they moved to Butler Co., Ohio. In 1856 they moved to Tazewell Co., Ill. In 1867 she with her husband moved to McLean Co., which has been her home ever since. She was united in marriage to Andrew Saltzman in 1851. To this union were born six children, two of whom died in infancy. There were 17 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. She died of the infirmities of old age. She was an earnest Christian, a member of the Mennonite Church from her youth. Hers was a life lived above reproach. Quiet and unassuming, her heart went out in tender sympathy towards the needy. She enjoyed extensive acquaintance and was always a welcome visitor in the homes of friends and relatives. Funeral Jan. 14 was conducted at the house by Bros. Peter Shantz and Lee Lantz, and at the East White Oak Mennonite Church by I. Shantz, J. H. King, and Valentine Strubhar. Interment in the Shantz Cemetery near Carlock, Ill., where lies her husband who preceded her in death more than 25 years."

They are buried near Andrew's parents in Lantz Cemetery at Carlock. Their joint headstone notes "Andrew Salzman, died April 20, 1891, age 63 years" and "His wife Barbara Schmidt born Apr. 29, 1826, died Jan. 12, 1916."

Children of André/Andrew Salzman and Barbara Peter Schmidt/Smith include:

1. John William Salzman was born in Butler County May 23, 1851, and died at Bloomington, McLean County Dec. 12, 1921. On Aug. 27, 1876 at Trenton, Henry County, Iowa he married Ann 'Nancy' Roth. She was born there in 1853, and died in 1890, a daughter of Peter Roth and Mary. She is buried as Nancy Roth Salzman in Green Mound Cemetery at Trenton. On Nov. 17, 1891 at Trenton he remarried to her younger sister Lucinda Roth. The 1900 census of Bloomington shows carpenter John W. Salzman, 49, born in Ohio in May 1851 to parents from Ohio; Lucinda, 35, born in Iowa in May 1865 to parents from Iowa; Chester W., 5, born in Illinois in September 1894; Walter R., 3, born in Illinois in October 1896; Raymond E., on month, born in Illinois; Lulu, 12, born in Iowa; and Arthur J., 19, born in Iowa; all children born to a father from Illinois and a mother from Iowa. They are also found at Dale, McLean County in 1910. John and Lucinda are buried in Lantz Cemetery at Carlock, McLean County.
2. Anna Salzman was born in Butler County Oct. 12, 1853, and died June 24, 1854.
3. Andrew Benjamin Salzman was born in Butler County July 29, 1856, and died at Bloomington, McLean County Nov. 10, 1930. On March 21, 1878 in McLean County he married Elizabeth 'Lizzie' Kinsinger. She was born at Fairfield, Butler County, Ohio May 3, 1850 (she was a three-month-old on the 1850 census), and died in McLean County Nov. 18, 1913, a daughter of Johannes/John Kinsinger and his first wife Barbara Peter Schmidt. The 1900 census of White Oak, McLean County shows farmer Andrew B. Salzman, 43, born in Ohio in June 1856 to parents from France and Germany; Lizzie, 48, born in Ohio in May 1852 to German parents; and four children born in Illinois. They are buried in Parklawn Cemetery at Danvers, McLean County.
4. Catherine 'Kate' Salzman was born at Morton Nov. 6, 1857, and died in Tazewell County Sept. 30, 1858.
5. Samuel D. Salzman was born in Tazewell County April 17, 1859, and died in Dunn County, Wisconsin June 7, 1939. On Nov. 1, 1888 in McLean County he married Louise May Thoeman. She was born in March 1867, and died in 1935. They are found on the 1900 census of Bloomington, McLean County as carpenter Samuel Salzman, 41, born in Illinois in April 1859 to German parents; Louisa, 33, born in Germany in March 1867, immigrated in 1889; and four children born in Illinois. They are buried in Hay River Township Cemetery at Wheeler, Wisconsin.
6. Christina/Christena/Christiana 'Dena' Salzman was born at Groveland Jan. 17, 1862, and died at Normal, McLean County Dec. 9, 1948; her death certificate called her Christen Leischner. On Sept. 30, 1900 in McLean County she married August Karl Leischner. The ceremony was performed by minister Peter Schantz. Leischner was born at Dresden, Germany April 11, 1862, and died at Normal, McLean County April 30, 1941. The 1930 census of Normal shows August Leischner, 67, Germany; Christina, 68, Illinois; and Aaron, 25, Illinois. His death entry described him as Karl August Leischner, 79, a native of Dresden and son of Karl A. Leischner and Sophia Vipaner, survived by Christina Leischner. They are buried as August Karl Leischner and Christena Leischner in Lantz Cemetery at Carlock.

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.'[22]

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 *Evangelische Reformierte* 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 Löuenberg farm was sold by Hans Schrag (the husband of Maria Steffan) to Ŭlrich Wÿss for 1,500 pounds. Weiss descendants still live on the property, while Mistelberg farm is still occupied by Schrags.[23]

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 Vereni 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.

— Ŭlli 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 Ŭlli 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 Ŭlli remarried to Madlena Kilchmann. They lived at Niderösh (now Nideroesch) in Kirchberg, five miles southwest of Wynigen. Four of their children were baptized at Kirchberg. One of them, son Ŭlrich, 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. Ŭlrich Schrag was baptized Nov. 26, 1626 and died at Mistelberg May 31, 1700. On Aug. 24, 1646 at Wynigen he married Margret Wÿss 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 Wÿss and Catherine Löits. His death entry described him as 70 years of age, a *Chorrichter* [choir master] for 40 years. Their children baptized at Wynigen include:

---

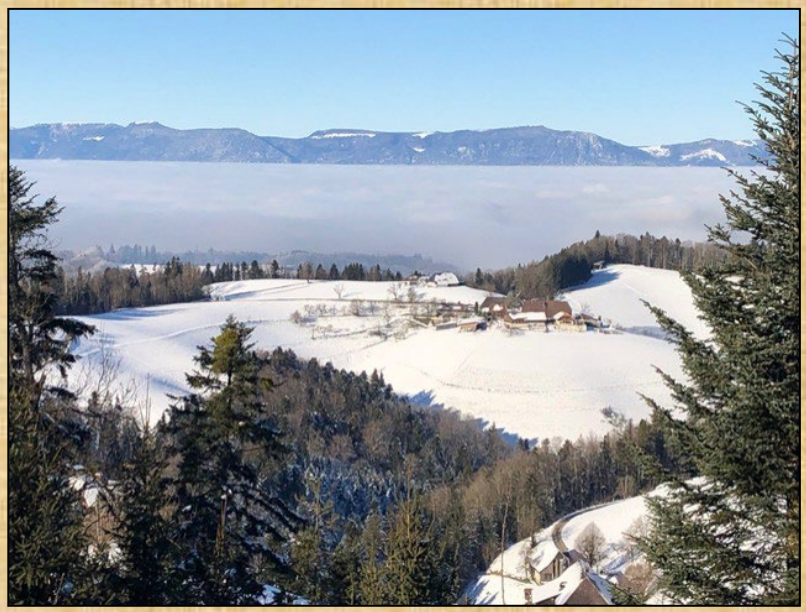
[22]Later in Germany Schrag would also be thought of as an occupational description: someone who builds things with a *Schrage* or crossed wood, such as a cabinetmaker or tablemaker. It could also describe someone who lived in a house with the distinctive crossed beams of medieval half-timber construction.

[23] 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.

Above and right, the *Evangelische Reformierte Kirche* at Wynigen, Canton Bern. Its *Kirchenbuch* dates from 1553.

Below, the view from Mistelberg, Wynigen looking across the Bielersee To the Jura Mountains.

Photos courtesy Daniel Schrag 2024.



a. Petter Schrag was baptized June 18, 1648 (named for witness Petter Jost).
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 Niclaŭs Jost and Elsbeth Äbi.
c. Johannes Schrag was baptized Jan. 19, 1651.
d. Madleni Schrag was baptized April 24, 1653.

On April 21, 1656 at Wynigen Ŭlrich remarried to Elsbeth Wälchli (also the name of his father's 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.[24] 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) Ŭllrich Shrag was baptized May 5, 1689, and died as an infant. The entry described his father as Tobias Schrag *zŭ 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 Chorrichter* [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 Oberbühl farm are now Swiss Heritage Sites.
i. Bendicht Schrag was baptized Dec. 1, 1671 (named for witness Bendicht Wälchli; the father was described as Ŭllrich Schrag *zŭ 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 Jŭng* 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 'Breittenegk.' However, on the opposite side of the page the baptism entry of Hanns Solberger has witness Hanns Shrag *zŭ 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 *zŭ Schultend* [a location we could not identify], *über 80 Jahren*, thus born before 1594.

---

[24] Tobias Wild was baptized at Wynigen March 22, 1616. The entry names his parents as Niklaŭs 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 council 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.

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

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 Jŭng* 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 Jŭng* 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 zŭ Löuenberg* – a weaver living at Löuenberg.
2. **Ŭli 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 Ŭlli/Ŭlrich 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. Catrÿn Schrag was baptized April 19, 1607.

On March 28, 1612 at Wynigen widower Hanns remarried to widow Margret Hiltbrŭnner. She had married her first husband Ŭlli Christen at Wynigen May 21, 1604. We found three entries for Wynigen baptisms of the children of Margret Hiltbrŭnner and her first husband Ŭlli 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 Hiltbrŭnner 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 Anni/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 Löumberg* 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. Ŭli 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 Äbi. Their marriage entry gave his address as Mistelberg. Their children baptized at Wynigen include:
        1) Cathrÿna Schrag was baptized July 8, 1681. The entry described her father as Ŭllrich Schrag *Chorrichter zŭ 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 zŭ Mistelberg*.

3) Abraham Schrag was baptized Jan. 13, 1688.

f. Anna Schrag was baptized Jan. 29, 1655.

6. Fröni Schrag was baptized Sept. 22, 1614 (named for witness Fröni Graft).

7. Anni Schrag was baptized Dec. 10, 1615, and died at Wynigen Oct. 2, 1691. On Sept. 26, 1636 at Wynigen she married Hans Mathÿs. He was born at Rüdisbach in Wynigen, and was baptized at Wynigen Aug. 11, 1609, a son of Christen Mathÿs and Anni Weibel. Anni's *Totenrodel* death entry gave her age as 75 years 10 months, and cited scriptural verse *1 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. Hanns/Hans Schrag was baptized May 6, 1619, and died at Löuenberg Dec. 25, 1693. On May 6, 1639 at Heimiswil he married Anni Kŭntz (the entry appears to name Anna Lŭntz) 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 Kŭntz and Elsbeth Franzig. They lived at Löuenberg. His death entry described him as 74-year-old '*alt* Hans Schrag *Chorrichter.*' Their children baptized at Wynigen include:

a. Ŭli Schrag was baptized Aug. 9, 1640. One witness was Madlena Paŭli.

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 Ŭli 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 Jŭng von Löumberg* (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) Niclaŭs Schrag was baptized at Wynigen June 23, 1695 (named for witness Niclaŭs Lätt; Hans Schrag *zŭ Löuenberg* was also a witness), and died at Stampfenhäusli in Wynigen July 13, 1771. Circa 1726 he married Ŭrsula Ŭllman. She was baptized at Wynigen Feb. 2, 1705, and died at Stampfenhäusli April 10, 1778, a daughter of Hans Ŭllman *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 Ŭlrich Hofer and Anna Isch. 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 *zŭ Schwandi* – an area below the two farms; the father was described as Jost Schrag *zŭ Löuenberg*), 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 Hanns/Hans remarried to Elsbeth Hunsperger/Hundsperger. She was baptized at Wynigen Oct. 22, 1620, a daughter of Caspar Hunsperger/Hundsperger and Elsbeth Müliman; one witness was Hanns Schrag.

c. Hans Schrag was baptized Sept. 23, 1646. 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 *Täufrodel 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 Löuenberg 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 Rÿser.

2) Barbara Schrag was baptized Feb. 12, 1672 (named for witness Barbara Schrag *zŭ Bergdorff* (Burgdorf is four miles southwest of Wynigen); another witness was Elsbeth Wälchli; the father was described as Hans Schrag *der Jŭng*), and died at Wynigen April 14, 1740.

3) Jost Schrag was baptized March 13, 1674 (named for witness Jost Matthÿs; another witness was Maria Schrag; the father was described as Hans Schrag *von Löuenberg*), and died March 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 Claŭs Schrag), and died at Wynigen April 20, 1694.
6) Tobias Schrag was baptized March 15, 1682 (named for witness Tobias Schrag), and died at Wynigen March 20, 1682.
7) Niclaŭs Schrag was baptized July 15, 1683 (named for witness Niclaŭs 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 Ŭlrich Moser. He was baptized at Wynigen Dec. 13, 1646, a son of Hans Moser and Madleni Ma[illegible]i. Their child baptized at Wynigen was:
1) Hans Moser was baptized Jan. 12, 1679 (named for witness Hans Hundsperger; the father was described as Ŭllrich Moser, *Haŭssman zŭ Mistelberg* – servant or farmhand living at Mistelberg).
2) Niclaŭs Moser was baptized Jan. 9, 1682 (named for witness Niclaŭs Bracher; the father was described as Ŭllrich Moser *zŭ 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 Wälschli.

9. Margret Schrag was baptized Oct. 12, 1621 (named for witness Margret Hiltbrŭnner).
10. Niklaŭs Schrag was baptized Feb. 28, 1623 (named for witness Niklaŭs Bracher senior), and died in 1673. On March 22, 1666 at Affoltern he married Margretha Reÿnhart/Reinhart.[25] She was baptized at Sumiswald Nov. 23, 1624, a daughter of Claŭs Reinhardt and Elsbeth Rÿser. 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 Gŭgger. One *Heimatort* or place of legal origin for Swiss citizenship rights for this surname 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) Ŭllrich Schrag was baptized April 29, 1687 (named for witness Ŭlli Wÿss of Löuenberg). The entry describes his parents as Bendicht Schrag *Clauses Sohn zŭ Löuenberg* [Claus's son living at Löuenberg] *und* Barbara Gŭgger. 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.[26] Bernese authorities were prohibited from chasing Anabaptists across that boundary (and so, based solely on his relocation, we strongly suspect that Ŭllrich had chosen adult baptism). A fire destroyed most of the village of Eschert in 1733. Ŭllrich married Margreth Röthlisberger. In 1738 a census at Eschert identified Ŭlrich Schrag, 50; Marguerite, 45; Houle [Ŭli], 13; Christian, 9; Bendit [Bendicht], 7; Barbelet [Barbli], 5; and Annelet [Anneli], 2. Thus their children include:
a) Ŭli Schrag was born circa 1725.
c) Bentz or Benedict Schrag was born at Eschert circa 1725, and died there Jan. 14, 1781. He was among the first Anabaptists to obtain a *Heimatschein* certificate

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

[26] On a modern map Eschert is about three miles below the boundary with Canton Jura, but that entity was not created until 1978.

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 Matthÿs Blaser and Barbara Beütler (her birthplace has been confused with her *Heimatort*, 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. His death entry created at Grandval described him as Bentz or Benedict Schrag, *Anabaptiste de Vingen* [Wynigen], about 55 years of age, and a resident of Eschert. He died Jan. 14, 1781 and was buried on the 16th. Their children include:

1. Barbara Schrag was born Jan. 26, 1763.
2. Bendicht Shrag 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 Augsperger. 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 the late 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 *Heimatort* 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-Bishophric of Basel until 1797, later in Canton Bern] to Liestal and leased Schillingsraingütli 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."

c) Christian Schrag was born circa 1729. He was among the first Anabaptists to obtain a *Heimatschein* certificate when he applied to Wynigen with his brother Bentz/Benedict in 1763. He married Marie Üllrich.
d) Barbli Schrag was born circa 1733.
e) Anneli Schrag was born circa 1736.

2) Niclaŭs Schrag was baptized Oct. 25, 1689 (named for witness Niclaŭs Bracher *im Thal*). His entry describes his parents as Bäny Schrag *der Jŭng zŭ Löumberg* ['junior, living at Löuenberg,' though we found no Bendicht senior there] *und* Barbli Gŭgger.
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 *zŭ Löumberg und* Barbli Gŭgger. Her death entry describes her father as Bäni Shrag *eine jŭnger Mann zŭ Löumberg* [a young man living on Löuenberg farm; perhaps the unusual choice of words was meant to amend the mistake in the previous entry].

Ŭli 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 *Chorrichteren*), 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*.[27]

Ŭli'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 Ŭli had promised to marry her.

However, Ŭli must have had cold feet. On Nov. 25, 1629 - approximately 15 months later - 27-year-old Ŭli and his 'Adelheit' were summoned before the court. She was 14-year-old Madlena Paŭli, 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 Ŭli 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 Ŭli 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. Ŭli 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 Ŭli 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 Ŭli as a resident of Löuenberg.

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

Ŭli's *Totenrodel* death entry described him as Ŭlli Schrag *zŭ 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 Ŭli Schrag and Madlena Paŭli baptized at Wynigen include:

1. Andres Schrag was baptized Jan. 28, 1629 (named for witness Andres zŭm Stag). His parents, as yet unmarried, were identified as Ŭli Schrag and Madlena Löwenberger (the surname of Ŭli'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

[27] The *Oberchorgericht* in the city of Bern became the Superior Court of Bern in 1803 (under French occupation), and was abolished altogether in 1831.

there, and died at Löuenberg Sept. 21, 1676. On July 15, 1687 at Wynigen he remarried to Verena Gigax of Hellsau (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 Löuenberg.

4. Barbli Schrag was baptized Jan. 19, 1640.
5. Ŭli/Ŭllrich 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 Ŭllrich Schrag *der Schŭmacher zŭ Hŭseren* – the shoemaker living at Häusern, a location in Wynigen).
    b. Hans Ŭllrich Schrag was baptized March 4, 1683 (named for witness Hans Ŭli of Hirsbrŭnnen, a location in Wynigen; the father was described as Ŭllrich Schrag *alt der Schmidten zŭ Ferrenberg* – senior, the blacksmith at Ferrenberg, a hamlet less than two miles northwest of Mistelberg). He may have been Hans, the *Schumacher Sohn* who died at Wynigen May 30, 1700.
    c. Christen Schrag was baptized July 1, 1687 (named for witness Christen Jost).
6. **Niclaŭs 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 Cŭnrad Killrman (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.

Niclaŭs 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 Ŭli Schneider and Barbeli Cŭnrad.

Their children baptized at Wynigen include:

1. Hans Schrag was baptized April 16, 1684. On Feb. 24, 1719 at Wynigen he married Elsbeth Hŭbler. She was baptized at Bätterkinden (seven miles west of Wynigen) July 31, 1687, and died at Wynigen March 7, 1733, a daughter of Hans Hŭbler and Anna Bŭchser.
2. **Caspar Schrag** was baptized Dec. 13, 1685.
3. Ŭllrich Schrag was baptized Sept. 16, 1688. His baptism entry described his father as Nicolaŭs Schrag *zŭ Löuenberg* but misidentified his mother as Christina Scheidegger. Circa 1716 he married Elsbeth Ŭllman of Herzogenbuchsee (seven miles north of Wynigen).
4. Petter Shrag was baptized Dec. 3, 1693 (named for witness Petter Zŭ Flŭ, *Weibel* [bailiff], or witness Petter Äbi *der Jŭng*).

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 Ŭli/Ŭllrich/Ŭlli Löuenberger *der Jŭng* was living with them; he was identified as an Anabaptist.

ELSBETH'S FAMILY

Elsbeth was a daughter of weaver Ŭli/Ŭllrich/Ŭlli Löuenberger *der Jŭng* and Anni Zoŭgg/Zaŭg/Zaŭgg (three spellings found in Wynigen records). Her father was baptized at Wynigen July 10, 1659, a son of Ŭli 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 Zoŭg baptized at Eriswil (12 miles east of Wynigen) March 1, 1663, a daughter of Caspar Zoŭg 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. Ŭllrich 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 Zaŭg zŭ Hirsbrunnen im Klösterli*' (a monastery in Wynigen). It states that her Anabaptist husband, '*ein Täufer nahmen Ŭlli 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 lsace June 22, 1712.
3. **Ŭlrich Schrag** was born circa 1714.
4. Johannes Schrag was born circa 1715.
5. Niclaŭs 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 Elsbeth 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 at Reipoltskirchen (17 miles north of Kaiserlautern) in 1761.

They died at Ernstweiler, above the city of Zweibrücken.

Their children include:

1. **Caspar Schrag** (also found on French documents as 'Caspard' and 'Gaspard Schraque'), was born circa 1744.
2. Elisabeth Schrag was born at Ernstweiler, and died at Contwig Jan. 17, 1810. Her civil death entry described her as the widow of the deceased Jacques Leobold, a miller at Hasseler Glasshutte. It was witnessed by son-in-law and cultivator Joseph Stalder, 57, of the Offenweilerhof, and Jean Eyer, 26. It gave her age as 82, but 62 seems move likely (yielding a birth year circa 1747).
3. Nikolaŭs Schrag was born circa 1750. In 1779 on the Ernstweilerhof he married Barbara Güngerich. She was born on the Pfalzhof 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 Güngerich (born circa 1692, a son of Hans 'Hans *der alte*' Güngerich) and his second wife Barbara Jutzi. After this marriage Nikolaŭs went to live with the Güngeriches on the Pfalzhof.

Caspar Schrag (also found on French documents as 'Caspard' and 'Gaspard Schraque'), was born circa 1744, and died on the Sommerhof farm at Neuviller, 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 Neuviller 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 [the father of Joseph Sommer, and grandfather to the Sommers who came to Tazewell County in 1834], 63, and day laborer Jean Müller, 59.

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 Rŭvenacht.'

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

2. Hans/Jean Schrag/Schraque/Gerack (he wrote his own name 'Hans Shrag') was born in Bischwald mill at Bistroff March 2, 1775, and died at Vic-sur-Seille June 10, 1838. 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 Chrétien 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 Capelle, 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. [28] 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:

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/Hirschy.
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. She married Christian Dellenbach in Tazewell County Nov. 20, 1837. Minister Christian Engel performed the ceremony (the county register has them as Christian Delebaugh and Barbara Gerar). See DELLENBACH for more on this couple.
d. Anne Gerack was born and died at Marsal Sept. 10, 1807.
e. Jean Gerack was born at Marsal Aug. 4, 1809, and died at Vic-sur-Seille Aug. 26, 1828 (found in the 10-year index as Jean Gerag).

Jean remarried to Anne Farny at Rhodes Dec. 27, 1810. She was born at Bisping Nov. 30, 1785, and died at Vergaville after 1856, a daughter of Joseph Fahrni/Farny and Anne Schertz. She was three months pregnant at the time of their marriage; though we have no seen the actual marriage entry, or the birth entry of the child, we can guess that Jean was not the father.

— André Farny was born at Marsal. Some sources give the date as May 27, 1811; the 10-year index of Marsal gives May 30, 1811; there may have been a lapse between the birth and recording. In 1838 he was a witness to the death of 'Jean Gerack,' who was presumably his stepfather. That entry called him André Gerack, but did not mention a relationship.

Jean died at Vic-sur-Seille June 10, 1838. His death entry described him as cultivator 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. A civil entry for Jean Gerack was witnessed by André Gerack, 27, a cultivator. It said that cultivator Jean Gerack, 66, was born at Belgrade, Canton de St. Avold, was the widower of Anne Lange and husband of Anne Farny. We can only guess at some of the children of Jean Schrag/Schraque/Gerack and his second wife Anne Farny from what can be found in 10-year indexes.

f. 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-lès-Vaucouleurs, Meuse she remarried to Joseph Roth. He was born at Métaires-St. Quirin April 25, 1814, and died at Vaux-sur-St. Urbain, Haute Marne May 19, 1883, a son of Joseph Roth and Marie Sommer.
g. Joseph Gerack was born at Marsal June 26, 1814. On May 2, 1844 at Vic-sur-Seille he married Marie Barbe Fonkennel. She was born at St. Jean-de-Bassel March 16, 1809, a daughter of Nicolas Fonkennel and Magdalena/Madeleine Engel.
h. Christian Gerack was born at Marsal May 20, 1816, and died at Vic-sur-Seille March 25, 1827.
i. Jean Schrag was born at Salival (three miles northwest of Marsal, and now part of Moyenvic) Oct. 23, 1818. He would have had an older half-brother of the same name. On March 15, 1846 at Diane-Capelle he married Catherine Muller (though no entry is found in the 10-year civil index). She was born at Angomont, Moselle Jan. 4, 1821, and died in Kings County, New York Feb. 1, 1874, a daughter of Pierre Müller and Elisabeth Mosimann.
j. Anne Schrag was born at Salival June 6, 1820.
k. Magdelaine/Madeleine Schrag/Gerack was born at Salival Oct. 6, 1822, and died at Dieuze April 17, 1899. On the 10-year index her name was crossed out, with the comment *'voir Girak,'* though there are no Girak entries. On April 20, 1858 at Vic-sur-Seille she married Pierre Salzmann. He was born at Denting Sept. 29, 1804, and died at Dieuze Dec. 12, 1879. The marriage listing in the 10-year index described them as Pierre Salsmann and Madeleine Gerack.
l. Pierre Scherag (as he is found in the 10-year index)/Gerack was born at Vic-sur-Seille Aug. 22, 1825, and died there June 3, 1832 (an entry found as Pierre Gerag).
m. Marguerite Scherag (as she is found in the 10-year index)/Gerack was born at Vic-sur-Seille May 9, 1828.

[28] A member of the Third Hussar Regiment of light cavalry established in 1764, garrisoned in the vicinity of Metz.

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 Ringenberg/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 Ringenberg. 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 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.[29] She was 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; Chistian, 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, Bavaria Oct. 25, 1829, and died at Gridley, Mclean County April 23, 1896, a daughter of Christian Reidiger and Magdalena Stalter. [30] 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

[29] 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.

[30] The hamlet Mittelbach is in a valley of the Bickenalb River. The hamlet Hengstbach is in a side valley. The two were administatively 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. The Wahlerhof. is located there.

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. Werri, 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 Gondrexange, 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 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 Schrag/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 Bisping, 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 Tazewell County 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 Bältzli and Katharina/Catherine Vercler 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/Jean/John Schrock was born at Gondrexange June 15, 1801, and died at Pekin Jan. 21, 1875, a son of Joseph Schrag 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 Xouaxange 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 Xouaxange; 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/Jean/John Schrock and Catherine Salzman include:

1. Joseph Schrock was born in Lorraine March 17, 1828 (some sources say Dompçevrin, but no entry is found there), and died at Congerville Dec. 29, 1901. On June 8, 1852 in Tazewell County he married Magdalena 'Laney' Guingrich (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, 1922, a daughter of Joseph 'Gold Rush' Guingrich 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 Dompçevrin, 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, Ill., 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."

ŬLRICH SCHRAG, leading to Volhynia-South Dakota, Bavaria, Canada, and Illinois

A second son of Caspar Schrag and Elsbeth Löwenberger/Elisabeth Leyenberger was **Ŭlrich Schrag**, born circa 1714.

On June 6, 1735 on the Ernstweilerhof he married pregnant maid servant Elisabeth Meier, prompted by a court order. An associated document described him as the leaseholder. Ernstweiler is now a district on the west side of the city of Zweibrücken.

Their children born on the Ernstweilerhof include:

1. Magdalena Schrag was born on the Ernstweilerhof in 1735, a daughter of Ŭlrich Schrag and Elisabeth Meier. She married Johannes Hauter. They lived at the Blumenauermühle at Brenschelbach (now a road in Hornbach, six miles south of the city of Zweibrücken), then in the mill at Ixheim (one mile below the city of Zweibrücken). For background on this couple see HAUTER.
2. **Johannes/Johann Schrag** was born before 1740. His descendants went to Volhynia (now the Ukraine and Russia) and later South Dakota.
3. **Ulrich Schrag** was born circa 1740. His descendants went to Bavaria, Canada, and Illinois.
4. Anna Schrag. She married Jakob Hauter, a brother of Johannes Hauter. In 1776 they lived in the mill at Ixheim.
5. **Andreas/André Schrag** was born circa 1749, and died at Vergaville, Moselle June 13, 1809.

Johannes/Johann Schrag and Volhynia-South Dakota

This branch of the Schrag family became Swiss Volhynians, colonizing what are now the Ukraine and Russia. Though they drifted from Mennonite to mixed Amish Mennonite-Mennonite to communal Hutterite to Mennonite groups and settlements, they remained aware of their religious background. After they helped to lead a group migration to America in 1874, they made efforts to re-contact Amish Mennonites by sending representatives to assemblies of ministers [Ger. *Diener Versammlungen*] in Tazewell and Woodford Counties.

Johannes/Johann/Hans Schrag who was born on the Ernstweilerhof near the city of Zweibrücken before 1740.

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.[31] 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, Volhynia [now in the Ukraine, 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.

[31] Galicia remained part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire until 1914. From 1918 until 1939 it was part of Poland.

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 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 Stŭcki/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 Hornbach 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 Hornbach 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 Hornbach Jan. 11, 1781, and died at Poutschy, Volhynia (now the Ukraine) Nov. 5, 1839. She was baptized in the Hutterite congregation Dec. 21, 1796 by minister 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.
7. Joseph Schrag was born circa 1784, and died at Poutschy Aug. 19, 1859. In 1803 he married Freni Stŭckÿ. She was born circa 1783, and died at Poutschy Aug. 19, 1859, a daughter of Hans Stŭckÿ and Anna Wenger of Grandvillars. She and her siblings had come with a group 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 in 1789.
9. Anna Schrag was born at Falkenstein 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 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 Kleinsause, 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 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 Stŭcki/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 Stŭcki/Stucky).

Andreas and 11 others representing diverse religious groups made a land-scouting trip to North America from mid-April to September of 1873.[32] 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.

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.d 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 easements 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.

[32] A detailed account of the scouting trip can be found in *Hutterite Roots* (2012) by Arnold and Norman Hofer.

> Their farmers suffered financial losses in the short term. But once substantial acreage was sewn, the strain provided 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 would migrate 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.[33]

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 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 was born on the Ernstweilerhof near the city of Zweibrücken circa 1733.

He married Maria/Marie or Elisabeth Stalter.[34] They farmed on the Gersbergerhof, three miles above the Ernstweilerhof. They followed their son Jacob onto two estates, and Ulrich died at Ingolstadt.

Their son **Jacob Schrag** was born on the Gersbergerhof circa 1753.

He married widow Magdalena Holly. She was born at Nehwiller-près-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. Both estates were located near Ernstweiler.[35]

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.

Their son Joseph Schrag emigrated from Europe ahead of others in his family. He was presumably the "brewer Joseph Schrag, 32, destination Canada" who sailed from Bremen on the bark *Elizabeth*, and arrived at New York July 24, 1837.

According to Holly, widower Jacob's 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.

---

[33] 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.

[34] In *Amish Mennonites in Germany* Hermann Guth gave Ulrich's wife as Maria Stalter. We note the civil death entry of Johannes Schrag at Contwig Jan. 30, 1820. He was a brother to Jacob born in 1760. It described Johannes as a 64-year-old plowman born on the Kirschbergerhof [Gersbergerhof], a son of Ulrich Schrag who died at Ingolstadt and Elisabeth Stalter. It was witnessed by plowman Joseph Stalter, 67, and plowman Johannes Eÿer, 45. Johannes had been married to Christiane Esch, and was the leaseholder on the Heckenaschbacherhof. The witnesses lived on the Offweilerhof at Contwig.

[35] 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.

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 Nov. 11, 1797; the late Ontario genealogist Lorraine Roth characterized her as "still living in 1881, unmarried," a resident of Wilmot.
2. **Christian Schrag** was born on the Freudenbergerhof 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 was presumably the "brewer Joseph Schrag, 32, destination Canada" who sailed from Bremen on the bark *Elizabeth*, and arrived at New York July 24, 1837. 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 Swartzendruber, 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.
8. Daniel Schrag was born 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 Imling, 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 Dec. 24, 1798, and died at Unterföhring (above Munich) Aug. 26, 1831.

Circa 1821 he married Elizabeth Bürki. She was born circa 1801, and died in Tazewell County Jan. 24, 1892. She may have been a daughter of Christian 'Christel' Bürcky/Bircki and Barbara/Barbe Koch (see BIRKY/BIRKEY, THE BIG BIRKEYS).

In 1822 they obtained a lease on the Grathof at Kösching Kösching is eight miles northeast of Ingolstadt, but below the Hellmannsberg estate leased by Sutters in 1819.

According to Herbert Holly, Christian's death entry describes him as a 32-year-old *Wiedertaüfer*. He was buried by a Catholic priest.

Children of Christian Schrag and Elizabeth Bürki born on the Grathof at Kösching include:

1. Elizabeth Schrag/Schrock was born March 30, 1822, and died at Hopedale March 19, 1899. Circa 1849 she married Michael Saltzman. He was born March 8, 1817, and died in Tazewell County March 18, 1903. 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 Habecker/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." They are buried in Hopedale Mennonite Cemetery.

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, THE HANFELD/HEINZENHOF FAMILY for more on this couple.
3. **Christian Schrag/Schrock** was born April 24, 1826, and died at Flanagan, Livingston County Oct. 29, 1917.
4. Barbara Schrag/Schrock was born Aug. 17, 1828, and died at Elm Grove 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.[36] Mother Elizabeth, Christian, Magdalena, and Barbara arrived at Pekin in 1850.

Mother Elizabeth lived to be 90, and died Jan. 24, 1892.[37] She is buried in Pleasant Grove Mennonite Cemetery as 'Elizabeth Schrag.' *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 31 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.

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."

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

[36] 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.

[37] The county cemetery book erroneously gives Jan. 24, 1892.

brother. Funeral services were held at the Waldo A.M. Church by the home ministers, Dec. 22. Burial in the Waldo Cemetery."

Andreas/André Schrag and Woodford County

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

He married Suzanne Bachmann. They farmed on the Wahlerhof at Mittelbach-Hengstbach, three miles southwest of the city of Zweibrücken, where she died in 1779. (For background on this location see SCHROCK).

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

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], *orriginaire 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. **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.
3. Pierre Schrag was born at Sarreguemines, Moselle circa 1791, and died at Gondrecourt-le-Château, Meuse Aug. 5, 1854. On May 5, 1827 at Marimont-lès-Bénestroff, Moselle he married Marie Barbe Salzman. On Nov. 19, 1831 at Goncourt, Haut-Marne he remarried to Marie Neuhauser.
4. Christian/Christophe Schrag was born on Hingsange farm at Linstroff, Moselle Oct. 26, 1797, and died at Chassey, Meuse Dec. 26, 1850. On May 30, 1830 at Vic-sur-Seille, Moselle (four miles west of Marsal) he married Marie Schraque. 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 Beaupré, 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, [Hirschi/Hirschy] and the widower of Marie Schrag.
5. Catherine Schrag was born at Vergaville, Moselle Nov. 22, 1805, and died at Roanoke, Woodford County Nov. 8, 1893. 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, SCHERTZ OF OBERSTINZEL for background on this couple.
6. Madeleine Schrag was born at Vergaville March 13, 1807, and died there May 13, 1808.
7. Anne Georgette Schrag was born at Vergaville April 24, 1809, and died there Nov. 17, 1810.
8. Anne Schrag was born at Baccarat, Meurthe-et-Moselle March 4, 1810, and died there March 13, 1810.
9. Cristian Schrag (named after a witness who was described as Cristian Guinot, but signed as Christophe Guinot) was born at Vergaville Nov. 4, 1810.
10. André Schrag was born at Assenoncourt, Moselle Feb. 23, 1813, and died at Sauvigny, Meuse Nov. 24, 1878. On April 20, 1839 at Dombrot-sur-Vair he married Catherine Zehr (found as Zeer). She was born at Nitting, Moselle Feb. 21, 1817, and died at Guenestroff, Moselle (now Val-de-Bride) Dec. 30, 1884, a daughter of Jean Zehr and Barbe Zehr. 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 Shertz, 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.
11. Christine Schrag was born at Baccarat Dec. 30, 1814, and died at Pagny-sur-Meuse, Meuse June 21, 1857. On Jan. 24, 1842 at Dombrot-sur-Vair, Vosges she married Christophe Sommer. He was born at Ibigny, Moselle June 26, 1818, and died at Pagny-sur-Meurse Dec. 2, 1868, a son of Jean Somnmer and Barbe Elisabeth Geny [Jenni].
12. Anne Schrag/Gerard (found on her birth entry) was born at Baccarat March 4, 1817, and died there within days.

13. Magdelaine Schrag/Gerard (twin) was born at Deyvillers, Vosges Sept. 4, 1818, and died there March 15, 1819. The civil birth entry described her parents as André Gerard and Anne Belzel. The faher did not sign, indicating he was illiterate.
14. Christophe Schrag/Gerard (twin) was born at Deyvillers Sept. 4, 1818, and died in Woodford County in 1878. On Dec. 9, 1845 at Dombrot-sur-Vair he married Elisabeth Cender [Zehnder]. She was born at Niedernai, Lower Alsace June 24, 1821, and died in Woodford County in 1891, a daughter of Christian Cender and Madeleine Eymann.

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/Rudolphe 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 [his first wife]. The father signed 'Andreas Schrag.'

His civil death entry described him as miller André Schrag, 68, born at *Mittelback en Bavière* to Andre Schrag of Mittelback and an unknown mother. He was married to Anne Beltzel, 68, a resident of Dombrot-sur-Vaire. It was witnessed by miller and son-in-law David Schertz, 39.

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 lengthy remark inserted in the civil records of Chassey, detailing all the family events that had been misidentified because of it.[38]

Children of Andreas/André Schrag and his second wife 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 amd 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. Cristian Schrag (as spelled on his civil birth entry) was born at Vergaville Nov. 4, 1810.
5. 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}.
6. 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. Their civil marriage entry described her parents as miller Andre Gerard, 60, and Anne Pelzelle, 55, residents of Dombrot who were present and consenting. Witnesses included farm equipment operator Jean Sommer, 25, a cousin of the groom living at Nicheval; miller Joseph Greabille [Krayenbuhl], 26, a cousin of the groom living at Dompcevrin; and miller David Schertz, 34, a brother-in-law of the bride living at St. Ouen-lès-Parey Vosges. The bride signed Christine Gerard.
7. Anne Gérard was born at Baccarat March 3, 1817, and died there March 13, 1817.
8. Madeleine Gerard (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.

---

[38] *Chassey NMD (1863-1872)* can be found online through the *Archives Départmentales 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.

10. Joseph Gerard/Schrock was born at Dombrot-sur-Vair, Vosges (39 miles west of Deyvillers) Dec. 30, 1825. His civil birth entry described his parents as miller André Gerrard, 48, at la Gravier; and Anne Belsel. André was illiterate, and could not sign. Joseph sailed in the same party as his older brother Christophe/Christian in 1855. On June 12, 1859 he married Catherine Ringenberg/Katie Ringenberger, the widow of Joseph Oyer/Schrocck. The ceremony was performed by minister Michael Mosiman; it was recorded as the marriage of Joseph Schrock and Catharine Schrock. For background see JOHN SCHROCK OF GROVELAND.

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

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 'Elise' 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 Eimann, 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 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.

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 Catherine 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, a son of Andreas/Andrew Birkey and Magdalena Gerber. For background on this couple see BIRKY/BIRKEY.
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 Ugny-sur-Meuse, Meuse (adjacent above Rigny-la-Salle) May 17, 1852, and died at Albany, Oregon May 6, 1943.[39]

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 [Darmstadt?].

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 ailing 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. Wolfer 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, Lebabnon; 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

[39] At the time Joseph Gerard/Schrock was born there, the village was called simply Ugny. We could not determine when it became Ugny-sur-Meuse; this was likely done to differentiate it from Ugny, 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, Colo. 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 Jacobée Reglé [Rüschli/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 strongpoint 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. This was a marriage between widow Catherine Ringenberg and Joseph Gerard/Schrock. Who had immigrated in 1855. 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, though he left a seven-month-old son. 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. They died at a time when wooden markers were prevalent, and it is understandable that wood would not endure

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.

Did he die? Go off on a business trip and not return, perhaps dying elsewhere (which would have been a complete mystery in those days)?

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 half-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 minister 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. A few *Heimatorte* or places of legal origin for Swiss citizenship rights of the surname are Unterlangenegg, Aeschau im Eggiwil, 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.[40]

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. One *Heimatort* or place of legal origin for Swiss citizenship rights for 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 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 Rŭbi.

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 Diemtigen created an enameled wooden tableau called a *Mosestafel*.[41] Below the name of minister Hans Jacob Freudenreich is the inscription, '*die 18 Man und Beide*

---

[40] 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 Mŭrer (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 Schwendÿman.

[41] Christian Stücki was born at Diemtigen 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 Diemtigen 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.

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 Güngerich 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 at Niederrödern In 1674 the sandstone castle was reduced to a ruin by cannon fire, and it was not restored until 1870. The grounds are now heavily forested. They are within 250 yards of the present French-German border, four miles north of the center of Lembach, and 12 miles northwest of Riedseltz.

In 1713 his son Christen and his son-in-law Christian Schlabach leased the Hülshof 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 Froensbourgerhof at Lembach, Lower Alsace, but then joined his son Christen and other children at Laasphe.

Children of Christen Güngerich and Barbara Rũbi born at Heimberg but baptized at Steffisburg include:

1. **Hans 'Hans *der alte*' Güngerich** was baptized Nov. 21, 1669.
2. Elsbeth Güngerich was baptized Sept. 29, 1672.
3. Christen Güngerich was baptized June 26, 1675, and died before 1731. He married Barbara Oswald. Christen and Barbara initially lived with his parents at Riedseltz. In 1711 Christen leased the Froensbourgerhof at Lembach. This was left with older brother Hans when Christen and Barbara, with son-in-law Christian Schlabach, leased the Hülshof 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 and OSWALD), and they leased the property Homrighausen at Berleburg (now Bad Berleburg, adjacent above Laasphe).
4. Barbara Güngerich was baptized Aug. 11, 1678.
5. Peter Güngerich was baptized May 2, 1680, and died at Lohe in 1766. He went to the Hülshof at Laasphe with his father in 1713.
6. Cathrin Güngerich was baptized July 22, 1683, and died as an infant.
7. Bendicht/Benedikt 'Benz' Güngerich was baptized Aug. 8, 1686. When others went to the principality of Wittgenstein, he remained in the Pfalz. He married Anna Catherine Schlabach. They were on the Stryck dairy farm (28 miles soutwest of Wrexen) in 1749, and at Rospe (57 miles west of Berleburg) in 1761. Hermann Guth proposed that their sons accounted for Güngeriches at Dirmstein.
8. Michel Güngerich was baptized March 17, 1689. He went to the Hülshof at Laasphe with his father in 1713. In 1737 he was a co-leaseholder at Billinghausen with his stepfather Hermann 'Mannus' Bender.
9. Cathrin Güngerich was baptized May 8, 1692.

Hans 'Hans *der alte*' Güngerich 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 Uetendorf (on the west side of Heimberg). She had been 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 reconcilation meeting at Heidolsheim, Lower Alsace in 1711.

Hans's younger brother Christen leased the Froensbourgerhof 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.

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).

When Anabaptists were expelled from the area of Ste. Marie-aux-Mines in 1712, Hans went to the Froensbourgerhof. His father and others in his family moved on in the following year, but Hans remained there and became an influential minister and elder. Over the years he held meetings of ministers at his home. 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 of the Froensbourgerhof at Lembach 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 Jutzi.
2. Maria Magdalena Güngerich was born in 1694, and died at Essingen Nov. 11, 1759. Circa 1713 she married Ŭlrich Nafziger. He was born at Uetendorf, Canton Bern; baptized at adjacent Thierachern in February of 1686; and died at Green Garden, Leacock Township, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania prior to June 11, 1754; a son of Christen/Christian Naffzger and Anna Schnÿder. See NAFZIGER for background on this couple.
3. **Johannes 'Hans *der Jŭng*' Güngerich** was documented on the Froensbourgerhof with his father in 1726 and 1736. He may have been born between the late 1690s and 1710. 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 Froensbourgerhof in 1736, and died before 1759. He may have been born between the late 1690s and 1715. At Ste. Marie-aux-Mines in 1729 he married Verena/Vérène/Freni Staufer/Stauffer, who was the widow of Peter/Pierre Blank.
5. Anna Güngerich married Johannes/Hans Nafziger. He was born in 1715, likely at Birlenbach, Lower Alsace, a son of Christen Naphzger/Christian Nafziger and Margreth Dietrich. They lived at Niedersoultzbach, Lower Alsace, then 14 miles west on the Steinbacherhof at Durstel, Lower Alsace. See NAFZIGER for background on his family.
6. Catherine/Katharina Güngerich was born on the Froensbourghof circa 1725, and died in childbirth with stillborn twins at Fertrupt, St. Marie-aux-Mines Jan. 21 or 27, 1747. She married 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 a minister and 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 Jutzi.

Christian Güngerich was born circa 1713. He married Jakobea/Jakobine Widmer. They lived in a mill at Steinseltz (below Wissembourg, Lower Alsace near the border with the Pfalz). An assembly of Amish Mennonite ministers [Ger. *Diener Versammlung*] was held there in 1752. Christian served as a minister and elder of his own congregation from 1759 to 1766.

In 1766 he went to Holland with ministers Jakob Rüpp of Freiburg im Breisgau, Baden; Hans Richen (as he signed his own name, later standardized as Rich) of Montbéliard in the county of Montbéliard; and Jacob Goldschmitt of Ste. Marie-aux-Mines, Upper Alsace. There they clarified procedural issues for ministers.

Christian and Jakobea/Jakobine died at Steinseltz in 1775. Their children include:

1. Barbara Güngerich married Johannes Lichtenberger.
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 Nafziger, a son of Stefan/Steffen Nafziger and Magdalena Güngerich. See NAFZIGER 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 Froensbourgerhof 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 Froensbourgerhof at Lembach, Lower Alsace in 1763.

Christian Güngerich was born on the Froensbourgerhof at Lembach in 1763, and died at Kutzenhausen Jan. 17, 1836. He married Catherine Wagler. She was born on the Neumatte Hof 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:

1. Barbara Güngerich was born circa 1787. On Aug. 12, 1808 at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines she married Jacques/Jacob Goldschmidt. He was born at La Broque, Salm March 8, 1784, and died at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines Jan. 13, 1861, a son of Heinrich Goldschmid/Henri Goldschmitt and Barbara Güngerich. (Heinrich represented the Ste. Marie-aux-Mines congregations with minister Jacob Bachmann at the assembly of ministers at Essingen in 1779). Witnesses to their marriage included Isaac Hochstettler.
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 Elisabethe Güngerich) and Jacques Wagler (son of Chrétien Wagler and Jacobé Güngerich). Witnesses included laborer Isaac Hochstettler, 72, on the Neuhof 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 Oberhaslach 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.
6. Jacob Güngerich was born July 1, 1808, and died at Moyenmoutier March 3, 1859. On Feb. 19, 1833 at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines he married Madeleine Bächer. She was born at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines Jan. 14, 1813, and died at Senones Poterose July 4, 1874.

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 minister and elder Christian Gerber and Anne Kupferschmidt, and a cousin to Nicholas Gerber (in the story that follows). Their marriage entry described th groom as laborer Jean Gingrich. It was witnessed by uncle-of-the-bride and laborer Michel Gerber, 47; friend-of-the-groom and laborer Jacque 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[rist]ian, 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 Nic Gerber, 68; Magd., 61; and [their son] Ch[rist]ian, 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 minister/elder Nicolas Augspurger at Salm dated Dec. 5, 1840.[42]

"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 our 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."

---

[42] 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.

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 Güngerich 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 Steinmann. 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 Detweiler 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 Güngerich was born at La Broque Dec. 15, 1835, and died there as an infant.
9. Jean Güngerich 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 Naffziger.
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.

12 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 Danvers 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 U.S. 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. From the day of his mustering in until the day of his mustering out he was accompanied by Private Michael Ritthaler (see RITTHALER).

The 82nd Illinois U.S. Infantry was called the Second Hecker Regiment, after its first commanding officer, the German expatriate Colonel Frederick Hecker. There was a company of Scandinavian volunteers and one of Jewish volunteers. But Company E was almost exclusively German speaking, recruited in Peoria and McLean Counties.

Christian and Michael's company went directly to Virginia, where it became part of the Army of the Potomac in November 1862. In October of 1863 they became part of the Army of the Cumberland. They engaged in battles at Missionary Ridge, Chancellorsville (where Hecker was wounded), Gettysburg, Lookout Mountain, Chattanooga, Bentonville, and Sherman's March to the Sea before their activity closed out in the campaign of the Carolinas. In the course of the war Company E. suffered more than 60 percent casualties.

Christian and Michael participated in the Grand Review Parade at Washington D.C. May 23-24, 1865. The Army of the Tennessee and the Army of Georgia had arrived near the capital in mid-May, after accepting the surrender of Confederate General Joseph Johnston and riding trains from the Carolinas. At 10 a.m. on May 24 General William Tecumseh Sherman led a process of 65,000 men. It took four hours for them to pass the parade stand where President Andrew Johnson was seated.

Christian and Michael mustered out as privates there June 9.

Christian's 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 Christan Gingrich, 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 'Hans *der Jŭng*'

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

Johannes 'Hans *der Jŭng*' Güngerich may have been born between the late 1690s and 1710. He was documented on the Froensbourgerhof at Lembach, Lower Alsace with his father in 1726 and 1736. From Lembach he also ministered to a congregation in the principality of Salm, where he is found in 1759.

In *Amish Mennonites in Germany*. Hermann Guth mentions a family consisting of three brothers, who he describes as 'the Güngeriches of Lorraine.' He gave them unattached, but they were likely candidates to have been sons of Hans *der Jŭng*. In addition, there was a daughter.

Children of Johannes 'Hans *der Jŭng*' Güngerich include:

1. Nikolaus Güngerich/Nicolas Gingerich was born circa 1738, and died at what is now Bérig-Vintrange, Moselle Oct. 24, 1816 (found in the 10-year civil index as Nicolas Guingerich). Bérig (also found as Berich) and Vintrange are were administratively merged as Bérig-Vintrange, two miles southwest of Grostenquin; for the sake of clarity we will not differentiate between them. Today their total population is less than 300. Nikolaus married Katharina Rubi/Catherine Ruby. She was born at Bérig-Vintrange circa 1749, and died there My 22, 1815. They farmed at Francaltroff and then Bérig-Vintrange. Francaltroff is three miles southeast of Grostenquin.[43] Their children include:
    a. Marie Güngerich Gingerich was born at Francaltroff circa 1766, and died on Bliesbruck, Moselle May 31, 1827. She married Nicolas Guerber [Gerber]. He was born in 1768, and died at Blies-Ébersing (adjacent to Bliesbruck) May 20, 1827.
    b. Jean Güngerich Gingerich was born at Léning Sept. 7, 1767, and died at Haboudange May 18, 1847. On Nov. 16, 1795 at Francaltroff he married Anne Schertz. She was born at Lagarde Aug. 25, 1776, and died at Haboudange Nov. 8, 1858, a daughter of Jean Schertz and Barbara Farny.
    c. Christian Güngerich/Gingerich was born at Francaltroff Jan. 5, 1770, and died at Farebersviller or Henriville, Moselle Jan. 30, 1825. He married Magdalena/Madeleine Blank. She was born at Bistroff Feb. 5, 1777, and died at Uchtelfangen, Illingen, Germany April 2, 1851, a daughter of Nicolas Blank and Madleleine Hirschi/Hirschy. They grew clover for horsefeed on La Chapelle farm at Linstroff [Ger. *Linsdorf*]. He became minister and then elder of the congregation surrounding Bistroff. In 1809 he signed a petition to the French government asking for Anabaptist exemption from military service, which was denied. Neither he nor his children emigrated. His petition co-signer was Christian Engel (1764-1838), who had traveled from Le Havre to New Orleans in 1833 and became elder of the Partridge Creek meeting. Engel was born at Gelucourt, but grew up in Bistroff. His father - also named Christian Engel - was a laborer at Bischwald mill. The Engel family had come to Bistroff from the Dieuze Ponds area of Lorraine in 1775, and remained at Bischwald mill until father Christian's death in 1794. Many of the next Engel generation later settled in a part of Tazewell County that became Woodford County.
    d. Nicolas Güngerich/Gingerich was born at Bérig-Vintrange circa 1775. On Sept. 3, 1798 at Bérig-Vintrange he married Magdalena/Madeleine Roggy (found as Nicolas Guingerich and Madelaine Rogie). She was born at Reidseltz, Lower Alsace March 6, 1780, and died Kalhausen May 10, 1849, a daughter of Jean Roggy and Elisabeth Eyer.
    e. Joseph Güngerich/Gingerich was born at Francaltroff Nov. 3, 1777, and died at Lindre-Haute, Moselle April 20, 1837. On Nov. 11, 1801 at Bérig-Vintrange he married Barbe Ommel [Ummel] (found in the 10-year civil index as Joseph Guingerich and Barbe Hommel). She was born Feb. 3, 1781, a daughter of Nicolas Omel and Barbe Hirschi/Hirschy.
    f. Catherine Güngerich/Gingerich (twin) was born at Francaltroff April 20, 1783, and died at Wittring, Moselle July 16, 1858. On Dec. 22, 1801 at Bérig-Vintrange she married Jean Roggy (found in the 10-year civil index as Jean Rogie and Catherine Guingerich). He was born on the Diefenbacherhof at Rieseltz, Lower Alsace Jan. 10, 1783, and died at Kalhausen, Moselle March 15, 1851, a son of Jean Roggy and Elisabeth Eyer.
    g. Freni or Freny/Véronique Güngerich/Gingerich (twin) was born at Vintrange April 20, 1783, and died at Bérig-Vintrange Feb. 2, 1811. On Dec. 22, 1801 at Bérig-Vintrange she married Jacques Roggy (found in the 10-year civil index as Jcob Rogie and Freny Guingerich). He was born on the Diefenbacherhof Sept. 25, 1776, and died at Oermingen, Lower Alsace (three miles southwest of Kalhausen) Sept. 25, 1807, a son of Jean Roggy and Elisabeth Eyer.

[43] Altroff rather than Francaltroff is given in some sources. It was 30 miles to the northwest of Vintrange, and was annexed by Bettelainville in 1811.

h. Madeleine Güngerich/Gingerich was born in 1788. On March 2, 1806 at Bérig-Vintrange she married Henry Fritz. He was born at Rosheim, Lower Alsace in 1783, and died April 4, 1838, a son of Joseph Fritz and Anna Schantz.

i. Pierre Güngerich/Gingerich was born at Francaltroff April 30, 1791, and died at Haboudange Feb. 25, 1822. On May 3, 1811 at Linstroff or Grostenquin he married Catherine Hirschi. She was born at Linstroff June 8, 1796, a daughter of Joseph Hirschy and Anne Blank. On June 12, 1824 at Faulquemont she remarried to Christian Kieffer.

2. Catherine Güngerich was born between 1739 and 1750, and died after 1798. Before 1768 she married Jacob Bachmann (junior) of Hornbach, Pfalz-Zweibrücken. He was born before 1748, and likely died on the Waderhof at Lorentzen, Lower Alsace before 1792, a son of Jacob Bachmann (senior). See BACHMAN for background on their family.

3. **Christian Güngerich** was born circa 1750, and died at Fenetrange, Moselle Dec. 8, 1826.

4. Joseph Güngerich, who spelled his own name Joseph Guingerich, was born circa 1755, and died on the Brandelfingerhof at Gros-Réderching Feb. 24, 1795 (a child was born six days alter). Circa 1778 he married Anna Rubi/Ruby. She was born circa 1760, and died at Gros-Réderching Nov. 8, 1819. On April 19, 1797 at Gros-Réderching she remarried to Michel Engel. Background on their three children together is given in ENGEL. The death of Joseph Guingerich has caused some confusion. It was recorded in the 10-year civil index as having occurred on the Republican calendar date '6 Ventose 8,' several years after his widow's remarriage to Michel Engel. It should have said '6 Ventose 3.' Children of Anne Rubi/Ruby and her first husband Joseph Güngerich/Guingerich include:

a. Catherine Guingerich was born on Brandelfing farm circa 1779. On April 16, 1796 at Gros-Réderching she married Jean Nafziger, a son of Johannes Nafziger and Magdalena Güngerich. For background on children of this couple see NAFZIGER, GRANDPA JOHN NAFFZIGER.

b. Susanne Guingerich was born on Brandelfing farm Aug. 1, 1784. On July 9, 1802 at Gros-Réderching she married Pierre Ringenberg. He was born at Bébing June 29, 1783, a son of Jean Ringenberg and Marie Engel of the farm La Forge below Imling. They lived on Weidesheim farm at Kalhausen. Following Pierre's death, Susanne remarried to Joseph Engel (1778-1818).

c. Marie Guingerich was born at Sarraltroff in 1787. On March 17, 1807 at Gros-Réderching she married Christian Schantz. He was a son of Christian Schantz and Anne Rubi of Rohrbach. The bride was given away by uncle Jean Roggy, 49; witnesses included stepfather Michel Engel and his brother Joseph Engel.

d. Barbe Guingerich was born circa 1790, and died in Bureau County between the 1860 and 1870 censuses. On May 17, 1809 at Linstroff she married cultivator Jean Hirschy. He was born on Hingsange farm at Linstroff circa 1790, and died there Dec. 14, 1822, a son of Joseph Hirschi and Anne Blank. Marriage witnesses included her stepfather, Michel Engel, described as a 39-year-old cultivator on Brandelfing farm. The civil entry makes a curious lapse: her father is correctly given as Joseph Guingerich, but her mother is given not as Anne Rubi, but as Anne Boulzeler. On Aug. 18, 1824 at Grostenquin she remarried to Joseph Kiefer. He was born at Folschviller Aug. 29, 1800, and died in Bureau County after the 1880 census, a son of Jean Joseph Kiefer and Madeleine Hirschi (and a brother to recruiter-land agent Jean/John Kieffer). They sailed to America, where Joseph joined the Gold Rush to California. See the Appendix, KIEFER/KIEFFER and HIRSCHY/HIRSCHEY for background on this couple.

e. Jean Guingerich was born circa 1792, and died on Brandelfing farm Aug. 28, 1832. On June 23, 1819 at Gros-Réderching he married Jacobine Ringenberg, who was born at Imling in 1794 and died on Brandelfing farm April 23, 1823 a daughter of Jean Ringenberg and Marie Engel. Marriage witnesses included Pierre Ringenberg, 32, brother of the bride; Christian Engel, 46, uncle of the groom; Michel Engel, 40, stepfather of the groom; and Christian Schantz, 36, brother-in-law, all described as *Annabaptiste*. On April 26, 1826 at Gros-Réderching Jean Guingerich remarried to Madelaine Guingerich. She was born on Vallerade farm at Albestroff March 22, 1803, and died on Brandelfing farm at Gros-Réderching Feb. 28, 1836, a daughter of Jean Guingerich and Anne Marie Müller, and was living at Fenetrange. Marriage witnesses included Michel Engel, 55, stepfather of the groom; Jean Risser, a cultivator at Rahling, 51; Christian Schantz, 42, brother-in-law; and Joseph Guingerich [also known as Joseph Guingrich], 22, a brother of the bride.

f. Joseph Guingerich was born on Brandelfing farm March 2, 1795 (six days after the death of his father), and died there Feb. 24, 1798.

Christian Güngerich was born circa 1750, and died at Fenetrange, Moselle Dec. 8, 1826.

He married Jakobea/Jacobie/Jacoby/Jacobine Güngerich. She was born at Steinseltz, Lower Alsace in 1750, and died at Gros-Réderching, Moselle March 14, 1828, a daughter of Christian Güngerich and Jakobea/Jacobine Widmer.

Their children include:

1. Elisabeth Gingerich was born in 1772, and died at Imling. She married Christian Steinmann. He was born in 1741, and died at Farebersviller Aug. 24, 1817.

2. **Johannes/Jean Gingerich**, who signed his name 'Hans Gingerich,' was born at Imling Oct. 20, 1778.

Johannes/Jean Gingerich, who signed his name 'Hans Gingerich,' was born at Imling Oct. 20, 1778. He was a cultivator.

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.

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-Réderching 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-Réderching Feb. 28, 1836. On April 26, 1826 at Gros-Réderching she married her cousin, widower Jean Güngerich/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-Réderching 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.

Recall from VERCLER that Joseph was 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. During those years Magdalena delivered 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 nuggests. 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 Gingrich, 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 Strubhar 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 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 Kauffman, 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

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 Schwartzentrŭber 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 and elder of the Amish Mennonite congregation there, and attended the asembly 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 at Dürrn, Baden-Durlach Dec. 20, 1757, a daughter of Nikolaus Brenneman and his first wife Barbara Kurtz. They leased the Albacherhof at Lich, Hesse.

Their son **Johannes Güngerich**, later known in Illinois as John Gingery, was born on the Albacherhof July 6, 1792. He worked on the Lehrbach Hof 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."[44]

On March 27, 1831 in Pennsylvania their oldest child Catharine married Peter Beck. Peter was born on the Wolferhof 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. It 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

[44] The Wetterau is an especially fertile area north of Frankfurt am Main in Hesse-Darmstadt.

only minister would also have been considered the 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.

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.[45] 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 Güngerich 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.*[46] Some of those listed below may have died as infants.

Children of Johannes Güngerich/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 (the county register has them as Peter Ginerich and Maidlina Nofsinger). 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; Magdaline, 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 Katharine Gingrich.
    b. Barbaray/Barbara Gingery was born Oct. 8, 1841, and died Feb. 28, 1920. On Feb. 19, 1863 in Woodford County she married Peter Nafziger. He was born at Gauersheim July 2, 1835, and died in Tazewell County Nov. 2, 1909, a son of Valentine Nafziger and Anna Catharina Nafziger. They are

[45] *History of Bureau County, Illinois* erroneously states that John died in 1831. *The Past and Present of Woodford County* says, "He came from Germany in 1831, the year before the Black Hawk War, and died the second summer after he came to the country."

[46] The four unidentified children may have died young. We hope to view FHL microfilms of Laubach records in the near future.

found on the 1900 census of Deer Creek as farmer Petter Naffziger, 64, born in Germamy in July 1835 to German parents; Barbara, 58, born in Illinois in October 1841 to German parents (Alsace-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 in Woodford County she married Christian Nafziger. He was born at Gauersheim June 17, 1839, and died in Tazewell County Oct. 26, 1923, a son of Valentine Nafziger and Anna Catharina Nafziger. They are found next door to Peter and Barbara on the 1900 census of Deer Creek as farmer Christ Naffziger, 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 that there was a son Henry may be a misreading of 'Jeney' on the 1850 census. On that census Jeney is clearly marked as female, 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 and 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 be someone who married in Tazewell County Oct. 18, 1840. Minister John Nafziger performed a ceremony that is listed in the county register as Joseph Ginery and Mary Kandall [Kennel?]. They may have been the couple 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, Illinios; and Madaline Gingrey, 60, Germany. A decade later an 11-year-old Peter Gingery is found in the Worth household of Peter Kennel and Catherine Bachmann.
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.

7. Christian Güngerich/Gingery.
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.[47] 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.

[47] Woodford County marriage records name them Daniel Gingery and Catherine Gasler.

Farny

In German a fern is a *Farn.* A *Farni* 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 Ŭlrich Farni and Peter Farni. 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 Leszcynski 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 Farni/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 Grostenquin) 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 Bellegrade farm who was the son of the deceased Christian Farny and Anne Hirchÿ, 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 Josephe 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 Brandelfing 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 Grostenquin. 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 Püttlingen (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 Spänler/Spenler.
7. Suzanne/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 Olferding [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 *décéde 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 Farni. 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.[48] 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/HIRSCHEY.

[48] Besville is the area around the pond l'Etange 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.

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 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:

1. Jean Pierre Farny was born at Destry Aug. 3, 1827, and died at Buhl-Lorraine Jan. 20, 1841.
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; Magdalina, 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 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 Farny (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.[49] 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 Insviller 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 Insviller 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 minister 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

[49] Bisping and Angviller-lès-Bisping combined to become Belles-Forêts in 1973.

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 Thuilley-aux-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 Bénestroff 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 Etival-Clairefontaine), a son of Christian Mayer and Madeleine Zehr. On the civil marriage entry their signatures appear as 'Catarina Farni' and 'Hans Meyr.' 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 Farny 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. Recall that Peter/Pierre served as minister/elder for the Mackinaw meeting at Farnisville/Slabtown (now in Montgomery Township) at the Mackinaw Dells, formed between 1836 and 1838. He served as elder until 1846.

   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 Ehresmann. 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.[50] 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 Ringenberg/Peter Ringenberger and Anna Schrag, and the widow of Joseph Oyer Schrock. John Spring and Catherine Farny are buried in Guth Cemetery at Washington. See SPRINGER for more on this couple.
   c. Christian Farni/Farny/Farney 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 Farney, 28, a farmer born in Germany; Catherine, 27, born in Illinois; and Barbara, 4, born in Illinois.

[50] 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).

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 carpenter Johannes Räuber/John Raeuber. He was born in Baden April 3, 1828, and died at Elm Grove Nov. 11, 1926, a son of Johann Sebastian Räuber and Margaretha Schöpflin. At the time of his death he was the oldest person in Tazewell County. See RAEUBER for background on this couple.

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/Valentin/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 census of Reno, Kansas next door to Christian Rediger, his wife Magdalena Hildy, and his father Benjamin Rediger (formerly of Washington).

h. Lydia Farney was born in Illinois Feb. 4, 1837, and died Oct. 21, 1901. She married Christian Feicht. He was born May 2, 1822, and died Feb. 9, 1908. They can be found on the 1860 census of 1st Ward, Peoria City as Christian Feicht, a 36-year-old laborer born in Bavaria; Lydia, 22, born in Illinois; and Frederick, a 1-year-old son born in Illinois.

'Peter Farney' is found on the 1840 census of McLean County, listed with Christian Farney and Christian Roup [Ropp]. His household appears as one male 50-59 years of age; two males 5-9; two females 10-14; one femald 5-9; and three females under 5. On Nov. 12 (county record) or 20, 1841 in Woodford County, Peter remarried to Magdalena Oyer. The ceremony was performed by Michael Mosiman. Magdalena was born Aug. 31, 1805, and died at Milford, Nebraska March 28, 1888, the oldest child of Joseph Oyer and his first wife Catherine Schrag. *Herald of Truth*, April 15, 1888: "On the 28th of March, near Milford, Seward County, Neb., of the infirmities of old age, Magdalena Farhney, aged 82 years, 6 months and 28 days. She was buried in the Amish graveyard. She was a staunch member of the Amish Mennonite church for many years. Services by Joseph Rediger and Joseph Shlegel from *John 5:22-29*." The child of Peter/Pierre Farny and his second wife Magdalena Oyer was:

i. Magdalena 'Malinda' 'Lena' Forney was born in Woodford County Dec. 2, 1846, and died at Wood River/Milford, Nebraska Feb. 28, 1913. On Jan. 10, 1865 in McLean County she married Joseph S. Beckler. He was born at Milford, Butler County, Ohio Sept. 30, 1836, and died at Milford, Nebraska July 4, 1882, a son of Joseph Bechler and Catherine Sommer. For more on Magdalena and Joseph see BECHLER/BECKLER. *Herald of Truth*, January 1874: "Dec. 15th, in Woodford Co., Ill., of the infirmities of age, Peter Farney, aged 76 years, and 10 days. Buried the 16th in the presence of many relatives and friends, at which time remarks appropriate to the occasion were made by Jacob Zehr, and Joseph Stuckey, from *1 Thess. 4:* and *John 5*." He is buried in Slabtown Cemetery under an obscured reddish headstone next to that of his first wife Anne Kempf.

8. **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.

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 minister 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.

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 cavalrymen. 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 [Christian 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; aone 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 Farny Family Bible*, yielding a birth date of about Aug. 4, 1803). This left Christian to care for six children. Christian remarried to Magdalena 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 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 *proprietaire* [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.[51] 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.[52] 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.

---

[51] 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.

[52] 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 Ruch 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 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 Gouveneur 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.

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.[53] 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 refiled 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.

---

[53] 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.

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 any thing 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 Farni, by F. Heinrichs

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.[54]

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 Farnys, they appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court. The case was heard there as *Farni vs. Tesson* in December 1861.[55] 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.

---

[54] 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 Nov. 30-Dec. 6, 1859 Lincoln made a speaking tour of Kansas.

[55] 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 Bontcum and Carrey were the obligors, and Tesson, Dargen, Tuber, 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.

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 Farny 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.[56] 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.

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.[57] 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.[58]

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.

---

[56] 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.

[57] 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.

[58] 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 grist 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 grist 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/MHB/Nolt.html,* or *The Rise and Fall of an Amish Distillery: Economic Networks and Enrepenurial Risk on the Illinois Frontier* by Nolt in the September 1995 and December 1995 issues of *Illinois Mennonite Heritage,* or *Christian Farni and Abraham Lincoln: Legal Advice and the Election of 1860* by Nolt in the March 1996 issue of *Illinois Mennonite Heritage.*

Name	*Age*	*Relationship*	*Occupation*	*Place of birth*	*Father's*	*Mother's*
Forna, Joseph	53	—	Farmer	Penn	France	Penn
Catherine	46	Wife	House keeper	Canada	France	Penn
Catherine	20	Daughter	At home	Illinois	Penn	Canada
Christian	15	Son	Works on farm	Illinois	Penn	Canada
Joseph	13	Son	Works on farm	Illinois	Penn	Canada
Lizza	6	Daughter	Attending school	Illinois	Penn	Canada
Mary	4			Kansas	Penn	Canada
Christian	81	Father	At home	France	France	France
Magdeline	76	Mother	At home	France	France	France
Roup, Joseph	30	Son-in-law	Carpenter	Illinois	France	France
Annie	3	Granddaughter		Kansas	Illinois	Illinois
Emma	7 m	Granddaughter		Kansas	Illinois	Illinois

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:

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.[59] 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; Victorine, 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 Farney 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 cerermony 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.[60] He was born at Oley, Berks County, Pennsylvania Feb. 1, 1827, a son of minister 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.

---

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

[60] An entry in *Woodford County Marriage Index 1841-1902* names 'Barbara Forney' and 'Joseph Yoder.'

7. Peter Farney was born at Farnisville Feb. 11, 1839, and died at Nevada, Story County, Iowa Feb. 28, 1924; he is buried in Nevada Cemetery as 'Peter C. Farnii.'.[61] 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/Unreghst/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. Farnii,' a farmer, 5' 4½", 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 Farney was born March 11, 1849, and died Feb. 27, 1852.

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 Farney. *Herald of Truth*, June 1867: “On the 6th of May, 1867, in Woodford Co., Ill., of consumption, Andrew Farney, 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 Farney 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.

[61] 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 of 1924.

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.[62]

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 *Eherodel* 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.[63]
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 Stücker. 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.

---

[62] *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.

[63] Baptism entries at the baptism of Hans Schweizer in 1713 included Hans Moser, Ŭlrich Berger, and Barbara Moser.

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:

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-les-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 died at Sarrebourg June 22, 1877, a daughter of Jean 'Hans' Neuhauser and Marie Kennel.

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:

1. 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 Christophe Mayer and Madeleine Zehr.
2. Christian/Christophe Suisse was born at Imling July 15, 1799. On March 17, 1825 at Dolving he married Marie Guerber. She was born at Dolving in 1802, a daughter of Valentine Guerber and Anne 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 'Garber' 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 Oct. 11, 1820, and died in 1880, a son of Peter/Pierre Gerber and Magdalena Gingerich. See GERBER AND GARBER, THE GERBERS OF METAMORA AND WASHINGTON. They are buried in Union Cemetery at Washington as 'Garber' and 'Switzer.' *Gospel Herald*, June 1917: "Barbara Garber was born Jan. 1, 1828; died April 11, 1917; aged 89 y. 3 m. 11 d. Her maiden name was Sweitzer and she was a daughter of Bro. and Sister Christian Sweitzer. She was born in Lorraine, France, and at the age of about 20 years came to this country, locating at New Orleans, La., where she stayed with her uncle for about one year, after which she came to Woodford Co., Ill. She was married to Peter Garber on Dec. 24, 1850."
3. 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.

4. Catherine Suisse was born at Kerprich-aux-Bois Feb. 3, 1805, and died there Feb. 10, 1805.
5. Jean Suisse was born at Diane-Capelle, Moselle April 12, 1806, and died there June 17, 1806.
6. **Jean Suisse** was born at Diane-Capelle Sept. 29, 1807, and died at Morton Jan. 28, 1885.
7. Joseph Suisse was born at Diane-Capelle April 5, 1813, and died there the same day.

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 Jambrot Farm at Lagarde, Moselle Dec. 1, 1807, and died near Washington Feb. 17, 1888, a daughter of minister 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 sailed from Le Havre on the *Massasoit*, and 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 *MASSASOIT* 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.

According to the *Grantors Index* on Oct. 27, 1849 John Schwitzer paid Samuel S. Patterson $800 for property in Township 26.

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, France; Mary, 43, France; Christian, 21, France; 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 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 5, 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. See GERBER/GARBER for background on this couple.

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.[64] She was born at Washington Dec. 21, 1839, and died there Nov. 19, 1886, a daughter of minister and elder Jean/John Nafziger and Anna Marie Gerber. The *Grantors Index* says that on March 24, 1853 John Switzer paid Wm. N. Mercer $600 for property in Section 2 of Township 25. 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.
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, 1843. On Dec. 20, 1865 in Tazewell County she married André/Andrew Risser; the ceremony was performed by minister 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. They are buried in Glen Cemetery at Paxton.
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 minister 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 minister 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 Lorraine to parents from Lorraine; Catherine, 28, 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. They are buried in Union Cemetery at Elbow Lake.
10. Three children born after 1852 died as infants, according to a family history found with the possessions of Frederick Sweitzer, 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 Schweizer 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.

[64] Local records list them as John Switzer and Ann Naffsinger.

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).[65] Both died in accidents on the water. Did they leave a male 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.[66]

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).[67] 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.[68]

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.[69]

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.[70] In 1857 he worked with three partners to construct a sternwheeler steamboat at Canemah.[71] The

---

[65] 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.

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

[67] 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.

[68] Two acounts 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.

[69] 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.

[70] 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.

[71] 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

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.

Sometime 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 *Northerner* 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 *Northerner* 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.

---

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.

> 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 Francis Kent, 48, Carpenter, Maine; Elizabeth, 36, Ohio; Irwin Switzer, 21, born in Oregon, steward on boat; John, 14, Oregon; Mary, 12, Oregon; Nettie, 10, Oregon; Caroline, 8, Oregon; Hiram Mullins, 2, Oregon; and James Mullins, 1, Oregon. They appear again on the 1880 census of Portland as ship carpenter C.F. Kent, 57, born in Maine; wife E. Kent, 46, born in Ohio to parents from Connecticut; daughter N.G. Switzer, 20, born in Oregon; dress maker and daughter C.H. Switzer, 18, born in Oregon; and son J.T. Kent, 11, born in Oregon.

In 1873 locks were constructed to circumvent the Willamette Falls falls altogether. Canemah lost its uinque importance and was gradually absorbed into Oregon City. It is now a National Historic District.

Elizabeth Geer's lengthy obituary from the *Sunday Oregonian*, June 25, 1916: "Last of 10 passes, Mrs. Elizabeth Geer Kent follows brothers and sisters. Family early pioneers. Father, first of name in 200 years to leave Connecticut, emigrated to Ohio, Illinois, and in 1847 came to Oregon." "The death of Mrs. Elizabeth Geer Kent on Saturday, June 17, marked the passing of the last of 10 grown brothers and sisters, five men and five women, who crossed the plains in the '40s. Joseph Cary Geer, the father of this family, was born in Connecticut February 5, 1795, and was married to Mary Johnson [Johnston] in 1815, and in 1818, with two young children, moved across the Allegheny Mountains to Madison County, Ohio. The first of his name to move 'West,' though his ancestors had lived in Windham County, Connecticut, for nearly 200 years. Mr. Geer remained in Ohio for 22 years, eight children having been added to the family during that time, and in the Fall of 1840, during the height of the famous Harrison campaign, the parents, with all the children, three of whom were then married, chartered a boat, went down the Ohio River and ascended the Mississippi to their new home in Knox County, Illinois. Here they remained until the Oregon fever became irresistible and in the Spring of 1847 the journey was begun which ended with their arrival in the Willamette Valley in October of that year. . . .Elizabeth became the wife of Charles Sanborn on August 22, 1848. Having later become a widow, she married Christopher Sweitzer on April 23, 1855. While on the return trip from San Francisco in January, 1860, to which city they had gone to see a young son who was there for surgical treatment, the vessel which was carrying them, the *Northerner*, was wrecked and Mr. Sweitzer was drowned. Mrs. Sweitzer was rescued, and two months after reaching home gave birth to a baby daughter, now Mrs. Nettie Gradon, of Portland. The next year a younger brother of Mr. Sweitzer arrived in Oregon from Ohio and within a few months

Mrs. Sweitzer became his wife, without changing her name. He soon became an officer on one of the boats plying the Willamette River between Oregon City and Salem, and during a fierce wind and rain storm lost his footing on a slippery deck and was drowned. In 1870 Mrs. Sweitzer married C. F. Kent, who died in 1896, since which time she has made her home with her daughters, in recent years with Mrs. Gradon. Mrs. Kent was born in Madison County, Ohio, October 27, 1833. Since the death of her brother, Cary Geer, at Modesto, Cal., about 10 years ago, Mrs. Kent has been the last survivor of 10 children. Of Mrs. Kent's children, Captain Irwin Sanborn and Captain James Kent, Mrs. Mary Ferguson and Mrs. Nettie Gradon, live in Portland. Mrs. Caddie Crane lives in San Francisco. All except the last one were with her at the last. Captain George A. Pease, the veteran retired river pilot, was present at the wedding of Mrs. Kent on August 22, 1848. Rev. James D. Corby officiated at her funeral. The pallbearers were 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/Sweizer/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.' Sweitzer 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. Sweitzer.' 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 souces 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. Sweitzer.' In 1916 Caroline was living at San Francisco.

Elizabeth Geer had one son with fourth husband Charles Francis Kent: [72]

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

---

[72] 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.

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.

Jean married three times.[73] 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.

When Pierre Suisse died at Blâmont, Meurthe-et-Moselle May 27, 1808, his civil death entry described him as 'Pierre Suise,' a cultivator born at '*Same, departement de Voche'* [the village Salm, in the department of Vosges].[74] His age at death was 50, indicating that he was born circa 1758.[75] 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.

---

[73] 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 another sister of Nicolas/Nicholas Risser.

[74] 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 with 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.

[75] '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.

► 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.[76]

Children of Pierre Suisse and Anne Ringenberg include:

1. Barbe Suisse was born on Petite Voile farm at Blâmont (adjacent to Chazelles-sur-Albe) circa 1788, and died at Lafrimbolle, Moselle Jan. 3, 1851. On June 4, 1809 at Walscheid, Moselle she married Jean Bächer. He was born in 1774, and died at Lafrimbolle Sept. 14, 1847, a son of Pierre Bächer and Véronique Shoerich [Göerig].

■ 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 Christophe Mayer and Madeleine Zehr.
4. Anne 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 Voily Schlabch, 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 Blamont May 27, 1808, and the deceased Anne Marie Ringenberger, 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 Voily Schlabach, who died July 20, 1817, and Elisabeth Chipach, 68, present and consenting. The entry says that Jacob was the widower of Anne Suisse, who had died at Bionville, Meurthe-et-Meuse Feb. 3, 1837.[77] And there was in fact a civil death entry for someone created at Bionville Feb. 4, 1837. It said that 42-year-old Anne 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 [Kropf] married for his third time. The civil entry described him as miller André Krop, living at *La Vacherie*, born at Hartzviller, Moselle May 13, 1802; widower of Magdelaine Peller [Beller]; son of Pierre Krop, 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 Ribeauvillé; a daughter of the deceased Pierre Schwitzer, who had died at Blamont May 27, 1808, and Anne Marie Renguenberg, who had died at Moyenmoutier, Vosges Dec. 1, 1806. It is possible that either Jacob

[76] 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 Farhrni/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.'

[77] Bionville is located within the township of Badonviller, Meurthe-et-Moselle, 17 miles north of St. Michel-sur-Meurthe.

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.

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.[78]

On Oct. 4, 1823 at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines, Upper Alsace Joseph remarried to Catherine Wagler. She was born at Muesbach near Ribeauvillé Oct. 1, 1802, a daughter of Johannes/Jean Wagler and Anne Catherine Liechti. Joseph and Catherine had 10 children, with four dying young.

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, Ludzinger, cabinet maker, Mennonite, married' in the household of his father Christian Kennel.[79] (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 [Vordemwald]. She was born at Lièpvre 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.

---

[78] 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 Herbéviller, 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.

[79] The location 'Ludzinger' 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.

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/Jean/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 shown 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. 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 *Statera* 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 1900 census of Shields as John Kennel, 69, 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, 1853, 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 was 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 twelve children, of whom four sons and two daughters remain. Thirty-six grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren also remain. She leaves two sisters, one brother, two step-sisters, and one 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.
11. Barbe Suisse was born at Aubure Sept. 9 or 10, 1840, and died at Lièpvre (near Ste. Marie-aux-Mines and Aubure) Feb. 22, 1849.
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.[80] 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.[81] 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.

---

[80] 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.

[81] 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 Olferding estate at Gros-Réderching. He was born in 1734, and died at Willerwald Jan. 26, 1811. He married Elisabeth Hochstettler. 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 Wagler (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 Hochstädlerin' 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?

Descendants of Jean Kempf

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

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.
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 Risholz farm at Hattigny, Moselle April 1, 1868. On Dec. 22, 1832 at Gondrexange she married Christian Nafziger. He was born at Gondrexange April 21, 1800, and died on Risholz farm March 24, 1859, a son of Christian Nafziger 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.[82] 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.

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.

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,

[82] 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.

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.

On June 9, 1844 in Woodford County Magdalena Engel remarried to Christian Kennel. He was a veteran of the French army born circa 1808 who had arrived in Woodford County in 1942. 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.' For background on Magdalena's life with her second husband Christian Kennel, see KENNEL.

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 are 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 Magdalena Smith who preceded him to the home beyond March 22, 1902. He united with the Amish Mennonite Church in his youth and remained a faithful member to the end. He had a longing desire to go home and during the last days of his life often mentioned it. He leaves to mourn one brother, one half-brother, five sons, three daughters, 15 grandchildren, one foster grandchild and one great-grandchild. Funeral services were conducted Feb. 17 by Bro. George Sommers (German) and Bro. A.L. Buzzard (English) at the Metamora Church." *Herald of Truth*, May 1902: "On the 22 of March, 1902, at Metamora, Ill., of heart failure, Magdalena Camp, aged 62 Y., 9 M., 28 D. She was born May 24, 1839, united in marriage with Christian Camp, Feb. 1860. She leaves her husband, five sons and three daughters, ten grandchildren, two sisters and one brother to mourn her departure. She united with the Amish Mennonite church in her youth, in which she remained faithful to the end. Funeral services at the Metamora M. H. in German by Andrew Schrock from *2 Tim. 4:4-8*; in English by Samuel Garber from *Rom. 6:23*. Burial in the Roanoke cemetery."

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 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 Schrock 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 Magdaline 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 Nafzinger 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 attributed to 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 he in normal condition. After spending sometime 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, 1897 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 Neuenschwander, becoming the fourth or her five husbands. *Gospel Herald*, May 1961: "Camp, Peter B., son of Christian and Magdalena (Smith) Camp was born Oct. 7, 1870, near Roanoke, Ill.; died April 1, 1961, at the Bethel Deaconess Hospital, Newton, Kans.; aged 90 y. 5 m. 25 d. In 1897, he was married to Celia Gingerich, who died in 1936. In 1947, he was married to Fannie Neuenschwander Showalter, who survives. Preceding him in death were one daughter and one son who died in infancy, and two daughters, both of whom died in 1931. Also surviving are four grandchildren, three stepchildren, and a number of great-grandchildren and step-grandchildren. He was a member of the Hesston Church, where services were held April 4, in charge of Peter B. Wiebe and Maurice Yoder; and on April 6 at Ashley, Mich., Bethel Mennonite Church; interment, Ashley, Mich."

6. John J. Camp was born at Metamora Dec. 23, 1873, and died at Roanoke July 22, 1953. On Feb. 13, 1900 in Woodford County he married Anna Elizabeth Schertz. She was born at Roanoke, Woodford County Jan. 25 (headstone) or Feb. 25 (obituary), 1878, and died Jan. 6, 1952, a daughter of John Schertz and Elizabeth Schertz. They are buried in Hickory Point Cemetery at Metamora. *Gospel Herald*, August 1953: "Camp, John J., son of Christian and Magdalena (Smith) Camp, was born Dec. 23, 1873; passed away at his home near Roanoke, Ill., to coronary thrombosis. He was united in marriage to Anna Elizabeth Schertz, Roanoke, Ill., on Feb. 13, 1900. She preceded him in death Jan. 5, 1952. He is survived by one son (Ezra J., St. Paul, Minn.), four grandchildren, and two brothers (Sam, Washington, Il.; and Peter B., Hesston, Kans.). Three sisters and two brothers preceded him in death. In 1895 he passed the examination for a teacher's certificate for the public schools in Illinois. He attended Illinois State Normal University for four quarters and spent three years teaching. Following this he engaged in farming near Roanoke, Ill., and spent the remainder of his life there. He accepted Christ as his personal Saviour in his youth and united with the Metamora Mennonite Church, remaining faithful until death. He was one of the leaders in the movement to build a new church and was very much interested in the project until its completion. He served as church trustee, as a Sunday-school teacher, and also as treasurer of the building fund for the new building fund for the new church. He was a kind and devoted father and grandfather. His good Christian life was a inspiration to those who knew him. During his last year he found increased joy in the daily study of his *Bible*, and felt that his life was greatly enriched by God's Word. Funeral services were in charge of H. R. Schertz, assisted by Le Roy Kennel."
7. Samuel D. Camp was born at Metamora Jan. 6, 1878, and died at Washington Nov. 27, 1953. He is buried in Hickory Point Cemetery. *Gospel Herald*, December 1953: " Camp, Samuel D., son of the late Christian and Magdalena Smith Camp, was born near Metamora, Ill., Jan. 6, 1878; passed away Nov. 27, 1953, at the Washington Nursing Home, Washington, Ill., where he had been a patient for the past two years; aged 75 y. 10 m. 21 d. He accepted Christ in youth and united with the Metamora Mennonite Church, remaining a faithful member until called home. He is survived by a brother (Peter, Hesston, Kans.), five nephews and seven nieces. His parents, three brothers, and three sisters preceded him in death. Funeral services were held at the Metamora Mennonite Church in charge of H. R. Schertz, assisted by LeRoy Kennel."
8. Anna M. Camp was born at Metamora Oct. 2, 1881, and died at Washington Dec. 2, 1951. She is buried in Hickory Point Cemetery. *Gospel Herald*, February 1952: "Camp, Anna M., daughter of Christian and Magdalene (Smith) Camp, was born Oct. 2, 1881, on the Camp homestead near Metamora, Ill.; died after an extended illness Dec. 2, 1951, at the Washington Nursing Home; aged 70 y. 2 m. She united with the Metamora Mennonite Church in her youth, remaining a member until death. Surviving are three brothers (Peter B., Hesston, Kans.; John J., Roanoke, Ill.; and Samuel D., Metamora, Ill.), and many nieces, nephews, relatives, and friends. Her parents, two brothers, and three sisters preceded her in death. Funeral services were in charge of H. R. Schertz."

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 Christiane 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 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 Chamarandes, 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.[83] 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 Adams 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. See MOSER for background on Magdalena in her second marriage.

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 famer 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 Ohio 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

[83] She is also found in genealogy databases as Mary Magdalena Summers. We could not identify the original source.

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.
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 llinois 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 Kemph, 63, born in Illinois to parents from Alsace-Lorraine and Pennsylvania; Barbara, 61, born in Germany; Caleb, 26, Illinois; Lillian, 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 Kemph, a son of Kempf and Madeline Summers. Daniel and Barbara are buried in the Apostolic Church Cemetery at Kawkawlin, Michigan.

Oldest son **Joseph Kempf/Kamp/Camp** was born in Butler County June 16, 1838. He marrried 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 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 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.'

A transcribed military record at the Illinois State Archives describes him as Joseph Camp, 23. He enlisted at Havana, Mason County (38 miles southwest of Pekin on the Illinois River) Aug. 12, 1861. He mustered in at Camp Butler (east of Springfield) Aug. 16.

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.

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.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. Lydia Kamp was born circa 1874. She was living at Tolono in 1900.
5. 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."
6. Joseph Kamp was born circa 1881. He was living at Tolono in 1900.

Ruvenacht: Rouvenacht of Rhodes

Rufenacus was a Roman who built a villa in the southeast corner of the city of Bern. The estate properties three miles southeast of the city of Bern became the village of Rüfenacht. 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 Münsingen.

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 'Ruvenacht' in Woodford County.

Recall from ENGEL a footnote that mentions residents of Bischwald mill at Bistroff who were found in Catholic records. The earliest we found a Rouvenacht there was Jean Rouvenacht. He was born in Canton Bern and died at Bistroff Jan. 4, 1763, age 60. His wife Magdelaine Ringenberg died there Jan. 23, 1770, age 57. Both received sacraments and were buried in the cemetery at Bistroff. (On Aug. 31, 1756, Marie Magdelaine Ringenberg had received absolution; she was described as a member of the Calvinist Church). Was this Jean Rouvenacht the Johannes, born at Grosshochstetten May 11, 1704, a son of Niclaŭs Rŭffenacht and Elsbeth Ebersold? We know too little about them to reach conclusions.

Jean Rouvenacht was born circa 1731. Because 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 circa 1764, and died on the farm Neuve Grange at Trois-Fontaines, Marne Sept. 2, 1832. [84]

Circa 1792 he married widow Magdalena/Madeleine Engel. She was likely born on Kraftel farm at Gelucourt circa 1765, a daughter of Christian Engel and Magdalena Schertz, and died after 1830.

She was the widow of Jacob/Jacques Abresol, who was born circa 1758, and died at Rhodes March 10, 1788. When she married Hans/Jean she brought a daughter Madeleine Abresol.

— Madeleine Abresol was born at Rhodes Oct. 31, 1788, and died at Les Thons, Vosges March 1, 1859. On Aug. 25, 1810 at Herbéviller she married Christian Gerber. He was born at Remoncourt, Meurthe-et-Moselle Jan. 1, 1791, and died at Ligneville, Vosges July 22, 1841, a son of Christian Gerber and Marie Gerber. Minister Christian Engel (described as a 47-year-old resident of Lagarde) and Jean Rouvenacht (described as a 45-year-old laborer and stepfather of the bride) signed as witnesses.

Hans/Jean worked as a cultivator on Les Bachats farm at Rhodes, and later in life on the farm La Neuve Grange at Trois-Fontaines. Although some sources place their deaths much earlier, we found Hans/Jean and Magdalena/Madeleine 'present and consenting' at marriages of children in 1813, 1817, and 1830. Jean signed the civil entries 'Hans Rŭvenacht.'

TROIS-FONTAINES

Trois-Fontaines, Champagne-Ardenne [Ger. *Dreibrunnen*] is not to be confused with Troisfontaines, Moselle.

It grew around a Cistercian abbey established in 1118. In 1790 the abbey was dismantled and its wood and stones were sold off as building materials.

La Neuve Grange has existed since the 1200s. It is five miles southwest of Robert-Espagne, Meuse, another location where Engels established residence. From 1955 to 1965 it was the most important ammunition depot for American forces

[84] 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.

in France. When France pulled out of NATO in 1966, its structures were dismantled. Since then the fields have begun reforestation. The site can be located by following the Rue de la Neuve Grange in Trois-Fontaines.

Children of Hans Rŭvenacht/Jean Rouvenacht and Magdalena/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.
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 'Madelaine 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 of 1799, and died at Trois-Fontaines, Champagne-Ardenne Sept. 21, 1840. On May 26, 1817 at Nossoncourt, Vosges he married Madeleine Gerber (found as 'Guerbert'). She was born at Herbéviller, Moselle Jan. 10, 1800, and died at Chermisey, Vosges Feb. 8, 1853, a daughter of Pierre Gerber and Anne Abresol. Their children married Roggys, a Goldschmidt, and a Zender.
7. Anne Rouvenacht was born Jan. 14, 1808, and died at Rimaucourt, Haute-Marne Oct. 27, 1896. On Nov. 20, 1830 at Trois-Fontaines, Marne she married André Rédiger. He was born on Rinting farm at Bébing, Moselle Sept. 10, 1810, and died at Rimaucourt March 24, 1886, a son of Andre Rédiger and Anne Ringenberg. The parents of the bride were described as Jean Rouvenacht, 66, a cultivator on the farm La Neuve Grange at Trois-Fontaines, and Madelaine Aingle, 65. Witnesses included cousin Christian Engel, 67; and father-of-the groom Jean Rédiger, 80. This Christian Engel may have actually been a cousin, not of the bride, but of the bride's mother Magdalena/Madeleine Engel. He was born in 1765, a son of Jean Engel (occasionally found as Jean Pierre Engel) and his first wife Anne Rouvenacht. It does not seem probable that his mother Anne Rouvenacht could have been a sister to the bride's father Jean Rouvenacht.

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 Rédiger. Their civil marriage entry called them Christian Revenach and Anne Reydiquer. She was born on Rinting farm at Bébing Sept. 24, 1798, and died May 23, 1866, a daughter of Andreas Reŭtiger/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-Réderching 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 Bickenholtz April 9 or 19, 1844. Her civil birth entry called her 'Catherine Rubenacht.'
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 at Bining, Moselle July 13, 1818, and died at Bickenholtz Jan. 13, 1897, a son of Johan Kremer and Maria Anna Lang.
8. Christine Rouvenacht was born at Asswiller May 6, 1832.
9. Chrétien Rouvenacht was born at Asswiller June 4, 1833, and died the same day.
10. **Chrétien 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 Diane-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.[85] 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 Rowenacht, 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 Ruvenacht, 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 Ruvenacht 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 Ruvenacht 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 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 fo her family, but by perseverance and patience and perfect trust in the Giver of all good gifts, she had a comfortable home and enjoyed apeaceful old age, 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 then six years.
3. Christian H. Ruvenacht was born Feb. 18, 1844, and died at Panola April 26, 1925.[86] 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 Barbara's father John Engel. They appear on the 1880 census of 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

[85] The passenger list actually spelled the name of the ship 'Harriett Jessie.'
[86] His headstone says 81 years, two months, eight days.

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 minister 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 Metamora as farmer John Rubenauer, 32, born in Illinois to French parents; Lena, 31, born in Illinois to French parents; Leroy, 1, born in Illinois; and grandfather/retired farmer John Engel, 77, born in France. The 1920 census of Panola shows them as father-in-law, 72, and mother-in-law, 70, in the household of Charles Abbott and their daughter Laura. 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

Chrétien 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 June 8, 1835, and died at Gridley April 24, 1926, a daughter of Chrétien Risser and Anne Roggy. Their marriage application called them 'Christian Rubenache' and 'Catherine Riser.'

The 1870 census of Panole 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]; Cathern, 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.

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 estate at 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 harships 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. Internment 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 minister Joseph Stuckey. He was born March 5, 1863, and died Oct. 6, 1942. a son of John Baughman and Catherine Naffziger. 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 did not immigrate until 1869. 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 Rouvenach**, who was born at Longeville-les-St. Avold, Moselle Dec. 22, 1806, and died at Roanoke Sept. 2, 1887, 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.

They sailed from Le Havre via London on the *S.S. Cella*, and arrived at New York May 3, 1869. The passenger list shows baker Christophe Roufenach, 60, France; Marie Suisse, 65, France; and Marie Roufenach, 27, France; all three had the stated destination Peoria.

The 1880 census of Roanoke shows them living in the household of their daughter Mary and son-in-law Joseph Cender [Zehnder]. They appear as Crist Reisonock, 72, France, and Mary, 76, France. They lived next door to Joseph's sister Magdalena Cender and her husband Peter Rediger.[87]

Their children born at Guermange include:

1. Barbe/Barbara Rouvenach 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 Marguerite Suisse/Schweizer. They can be found on the 1880 census of Elm Grove as Andrew 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.

---

[87] Magdalena Cender Rediger's obituary said that she came to Illinois in May of 1855, settling at Metamora. She married Peter Rediger in August of 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.

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 Aebersold originated from the area around Lake Thun in Canton Bern. An *Aebi* was a wild boar, and an *Aebersold* was a place where they came out of the forest and into the open to wallow in mud. A few of its *Heimatorte* or legal places of origin for Swiss 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 Liechti.

Joseph Abresol was born circa 1753, and died at Rhodes Jan. 18, 1795. On April 30, 1776 at Rhodes he married Babi Würgler /Barbe Vercler. She was called Annagrateli/Annagrete Würgler when she was born at Bébing Feb. 28, 1757, a daughter of Rudolf Würgler and his first wife Barbe Engel. She died at Hattigny, Moselle Jan. 1, 1846.

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 Francaltroff May 24, 1780, and died at Imling in 1822, a son of Jean Kempf and Marie Blumel. Their son Joseph arrived at Spring Bay circa 1832.
3. **Jacob/Jacques Abresol** was born Nov. 12, 1781, and died at Rhodes Jan. 26, 1829.
4. Joseph Abresol was born March 1, 1783. On June 1, 1804 at Bistoff, Moselle he married Barbe Schertz. She was born at Berthelming Aug. 12, 1786, and died at Moussey, Moselle May 16, 1846, a daughter of Jean Schertz and Barbe Engel (Barbe Engel was an older sister to minister Christian Engel). Joseph and three of his children sailed from Le Havre on the Zurich, arriving at New York Nov. 11, 1846. The passenger list gives Joseph Abersol, 63; Barbaray, 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/Chrétien 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 marrried 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 maried Marie Oesch. She was born at Dalem, Moselle Nov. 28, 1818, a daughter of Joseph Oesch and Marie Nafziger.
3. Joseph Abresol was born Dec. 30, 1810, and died at Rhodes Sept. 22, 1820.
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 wa 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 AbresolAndrew Abersoll (born 1826, immigated 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. From January to the end of April 1854 the number of immigrants arriving at New York rose to 56,911.[88]

[88] The German periodical *Gazette Universal,* No. 177 of June 26, 1855. Of these, 27,233 were Germans. The article tried to make the point that emigration was slowing down in 1855; over the same period that total was only 29,476 (9,394 were Germans). The article cited prejudice against Germans in America as a cause. But this ignored a number of major factors for declining statistics: the surge in 1854 had been enormous, despite the threat of cholera; European governments had tightened restrictions to keep those eligible for military conscription from obtaining passports; and there were simply fewer vessels available to carry passengers because of the war.

'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 Anne/Anna 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 married John E. Claudin Oct. 8, 1868, at Gridley. He preceded her in death in 1933. Surviving are four sons and four daughters: Dave of California; Pete, Benjamin and Jacob Claudin, of Pontiac; Mrs. Mary Greider and Mrs. Emma Kuntz, of Peoria, and Mrs. Nettie Kuntz, Laura. There are 30 grandchildren. Funeral services were held at the family home at noon and at 12:30 at the Roanoke Township Apostolic Christian church, in charge of Rev. Yoder of Morton. Interment was in the church cemetery." They are buried in the Apostolic Christian Cemetery at Roanoke.
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, Friourg. 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 Abresol/Andrew Abersoll

André Abresol/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 Garber [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

Joseph Vercler's cousin, farmer Joseph Vercler of New Bremen, Lewis County, New York corresponded with Swiss theologian Samuel Heinrich Froelich (1803-1857). In 1847 Froelich sent Benedict Weyeneth (1819-1887) on a mission to American congregations. Weyeneth visited New Bremen and other locations before coming to Illinois.

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 Ilinois); 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 Neuenshwander (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 Cruger, Woodford County Dec. 22, 1861, and died in Michigan Dec. 256, 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 1874 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 Göerig. 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 Bachre, 21, a daughter of Jean Pacher and Catherine Giery [Göerig]. 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 Äbersohl; 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 mariage entry described him as a 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 Christiann 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 Abersol, 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 Äbersol.'

On Oct. 27, 1868 at Rhodes Jean/John married Katharina/Catherine Pelsy.

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.[89]

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 1901 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.

---

[89] 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.

Leman: Lehmann of La Broque

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. Its *Heimatorte* or legal places of origin for Swiss citizenship rights include Schlosswil and Worb (12 miles southeast of the city of Bern) and Langnau (now Langnau im Emmental), 12 miles east of Schlosswil and Worb.

Cultivator **Rŭdi Lehman** 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 of 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 widow Barbe Joder. She was born circa 1735. Her first husband Pierre Rŭbi/Roby had died at La Broque May 9, 1754 (see his footnote in ROPP).

Barbe died at La Broque Jan. 14, 1807. Her civil death entry created the following day described her as cultivator Barbe Joder, 72, a resident of the nearby hamlet *aux quevelles* [Les Quelles]; the widow of the deceased Roidi Lmann, and a daughter of Pierre Joder and Barbe Eichparque [Eichelberger?]. It was witnessed by cultivators Christiane Roby, 27, and Benoit Roby, 52, her grandson and son.

Children of Rŭdi 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 Vittrich/Wittrig. 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 [minister and elder Jacob Kŭpferschmidt], 65, a cultivator at Salm and friend of the bride; and Roidy Leiman [he signed 'Rŭdi Lehman'], a 67-year-old cultivator at Aux Guelles [another name for Les Quelles], a friend of the bride.
    a. A civil marriage entry at Cirey describes the groom as Roidy Leman, age 22 years, nine months, and eight days; born at Schirmeck, Vosges June 7, 1794. He was a son of the deceased Roidy Lémann, who had died at Angevillers, La Broque Sept. 27, 1793, and Anne Praun, a resident of Saussures [Salxures] who was consenting. The bride was Marie Sommer, age 24 years, three months, and 15 days; born at Cirey Nov. 29, 1792. She was a daughter of cultivator Christian Sommer, who was present and consenting, and the deceased Barbe Verly, who had died at Cirey May 7, 1806. Witnesses included father of the bride Christian Sommer, 46 of Cirey; maternal uncle of the bride and cultivator Christian Verly, 41; and maternal uncle of the bride and cultivator Joseph Mourer, 31, of Cirey.
2. Marie Lehmann was born at Sarrebourg after 1750, and died in a mill on the land adjoining Zufall castle (also called Hazard) 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. See ROTH for background on this couple.
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 Xtianne 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 Guelles [now Aux 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 Jodre. Witnesses included Jacob Beller, Jacob Kopferschmitte [Küpferschmidt], and Christian Karber [Gerber].
5. Jean/Hans Lehman was born circa 1765, and died at Les Quelles, La Broque Oct. 9, 1795. In 1787 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 Rŭdi Lehman and younger brother Joseph Lehman. On Marcy 7, 1797 at La Broque Anne remarried to Joseph Sommer. Their civil marriage entry described the groom as cultivator Joseph Sommer, 23,

a resident of aux Guelles, Bambois at Plaine; he was a son of cultivators Jean Sommer and Barbe Kisler of aux Guelles. The bride was cultivator Anne Sommer, widow of cultivator Jean Leimann. She was a resident of La Broque born at aux Guelles, and a daughter of Christian Sommer and Barbe Karbre, cultivators at aux Guelles. Witnesses included cultivator Jean Sommer, 52, a resident of Bambois and father of the groom; cultivator Christian Banzet, 33, a resident of Raon-sur-Plaine and second cousin of the groom; cultivator Pierre Roby, 35, a resident of aux Guevelles and brother-in-law of the groom; and cultivator Pierre Sommer, 21, a resident of Sélestat and brother of the bride.

6. Joseph Lehman 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 Lemann, 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. On Jan. 18, 1817 at Sélestat Elisabeth remarried to Jacob Wagler. Their civil marriage entry described the groom as laborer Jacques Wagner. He was born at Steckenhoff en Breisgau [the Steckenhof at Denzlingen, Baden] April 14, 1786, a son of the deceased Jacques Wagner and the deceased Barbe Griesser. The bride was Elisabeth Sommer, a resident of Sélestat who was born at Schirmeck April 17, 1773; a daughter of the deceased laborer Chrétien Sommer and the deceased Barbe Gerber. One witness was second cousin Joseph Sommer, 44. The groom signed Jacob Wagler, and the bride signed with an ‘x,’ indicating she was illiterate. They lived at Heidolsheim, Lower Alsace. Son Chrétien Lehmann, born circa 1811 and also a launderer, 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 Lehmann was born circa 1786, and died in 1811. On Oct. 14, 1805 at Hattigny she married Christian Roth. He was born at Chazelles-sur-Albe, Meurthe-et-Moselle in 1779, a son of Christian Roth and Anne Mosimann. Their civil marriage entry describes them as 'Christiane Rode' and 'Anne Laiman.' At the time of the marriage Christian was living at Domèvre-sur-Vezouse. Anne's mother signed her name 'Kätrinna Garbarin.' Witnesses included father-of-the-groom Cristianne Rode [Roth], 50, Chazelles; Jean Rode [Roth], 36; father-of-the-bride Christianne Laimann [Lehman], 46, of Risholz farm at Hattigny; and Pierre Suis [Suisse], 50, a friend of the bride from Blamont. Christian and Anne lived on Risholz farm at Hattigny, where they are found in other civil entries as 'Rodh.'
2. Christian Lehmann was born on Risholz farm at Hattigny April 7, 1794, and died at Gondrexange Jan. 7, 1835.
3. Barbe Lehmann was born on Risholz 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 Risholz farm at Hattigny in 1800, and died at Hattigny April 10, 1808.
5. **Joseph Lehmann** was born on Risholz farm at Hattigny Oct. 12, 1801.
6. Marie Lehmann was born on Risholz 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 Foulcrey farm at Haussonvile in 1804, a son of Pierre Schertz and Marie Hirschi of Buhl-Lorraine.

Joseph Lehmann was born on Risholz 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 Jacobine 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 Schertze, 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 Schertze' 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 seond 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 Illlinois (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 Schmitt/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. Elilzabeth 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 Frencesville, 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 maried 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.
7. 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 Nafziger; see UNZICKER, HUNSICKER/UNSICKER OF THE ROHRHOF). 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.
13. Henry Leman was born Dec. 2, 1879, and died at Francesville, Indiana Dec. 15, 1973. On Feb. 16, 1904 at Eureka, Woodford County he married Cordelia Gudeman. In 1920 they were living at Metamora, next door to his brother Joseph.
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.

Bachman: Bachmann of Richterswil

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 wherever German is spoken.

John Bachman of Danvers

Kenneth E. Baughman is a direct descendant of John Bachman and Anna Stecker/Staker, who were mentioned in 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 'forebearers' and a few 'orphan' lines - individuals who were not related to the remainder of the group.

According to the study, DNA findings prove that a Bachmann forebearer of Haplogroup R1B1 with distinctive Y-chromosome markers appeared circa 1359 in the mountain hamlet of Finstersee, Canton Zug. Finstersee is seven miles east of the northeast corner of Lake Zug [Ger. Zugersee]. Its northern boundary also touches Canton Zürich.

This forebearer's sons are found in the parishes of Richterswil and Wädenswil (less than three miles apart on the southwestern shore of Lake Zürich [Ger. Zürichsee]) and Hinwil (six miles inland from the northern shore). All three locations are in Canton Zürich.

Kenneth E. Baughman tested as a 100 percent match to the root Bachmann DNA from Richterswil. The tests found an identical match in Haplogroup R1b1 between and his ancestor, McLean County resident Johannes/Jean/John Bachman (1800-1881) who married Anna Stecker/Staker, and male descendants of Virginia settler Heinrich Bachmann, who was born in the Old Castle area of Richterswil, Canton Zurich in 1711.

Can we draw a line to connect a Bachmann in this general region to a present-day descendant? This has been possible with some other genealogies, because there have been records that could be linked into a chain of evidence.

In a perfect world the archives of the city of Zweibrücken might play a critical part in documenting this family. But many records were destroyed by allied bombing March 14, 1945, and buildings in surrounding villages were heavily damaged. Because of this it is difficult to estimate the true size of families; there is no way to know how many children died young, relocated after marriage, or emigrated. With so many pieces missing, it is often necessary to accept conclusions based on patterns of events and supposition.

Hans Jagi Bachmann (later found as Hans Jacob Bachmann) was baptized in the Protestant Reformed Church at Richterswil April 4, 1629. He may have died in 1704.

On Oct. 4, 1653 at Richterswil he married Regula Strickler. She was born circa 1629, and died at Richterswil Dec. 20, 1679.

Their son **Hans Heinrich Bachmann** was baptized at Richterswil in 1661. He was later known simply as Hans, and signed his own name 'hans bachman.'

A list of Anabaptists created at Richterswil March 16, 1679 described him as "…An Anabaptist, left for Markirch in Alsace the year after the alms roll was reported."

Recall from THE AMISH DIVISION that Heidolsheim and Ste. Marie-aux-Mines were in the County of Ribeaupierre [Ger. *Rappolstein*], administered by the House of Zweibrücken-Birkenfeld. Heidolsheim was also home to Jacob Amman 1693-95. Background on the village can be found in Pulitzer Prize winner J. Ross Baughman's *Apart from the World* (1997).

By 1692 he was a principal minister at Heidolsheim. He was considered one of the Reist faction of moderate Anabaptists or Mennonites. They made efforts to assimilate the customs of the mainstream population. They accepted *Halbtäufer* (halfway Anabaptists) and the aid of the *Treuherzige* (others who sympathized and gave aid). They wore clothing like their Protestant Reformed neighbors, and cut their beards short or wore none at all.

Minister Rudolf Hüsser, who was born at Richterswil Sept. 15, 1661, also became a Reist follower and influenced the Markirch valley community with letters from Mannheim (see HEISER).

As Bernese emigrants began to choose new affiliations after the Amish Division in 1693, many of the strict Anabaptists withdrew from Heidolsheim to live at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines in the valley of Markirch, 18 miles to the west. Other surnames from Richterswil found among those who became Amman or Reist followers in that area included Bär [North America Behr and Bear]; Egli [Fr. Egley]; Goldschmid [Fr. Goldschmitt, Ger. Goldschmidt]; Hüsser, Hŭsser, and Haŭser [later Heiser]; Hiestand; and Landis [later Landes].

Hans soon acted as elder for congregations at both Heidolsheim and Jebsheim, six miles to the south. See THE AMISH DIVISION for background on his participation in unsuccessful reconciliation efforts in 1700 and 1711.

In 1700 Hans drafted an 18-year contract proposal for a ruined manor and mill owned by the community. It was accepted, and his congregants moved in to renovate and resume operations. For unknown reasons they were turned out in 1702. Perhaps the new occupant, a man from Baden, decided to return to his first home.

In 1706 he sent a representative back to Switzerland to recruit new settlers who could maintain the mill and manor. In *Die Zürcher Taüfer 1525-1700* (2007), Hans Ulrich Pfister wrote, "In 1705 a circle of eight young people formed in Richterswil, where they came together to study baptismal literature. The local minister responded promptly with admonitions. When these failed, the young people were invited to see the district guard in Wädenswil and warned. Just a few months later, the boys fled to Heidolsheim in Alsace by accompanying an Anabaptist who was visiting Richterswil on his return trip. The remaining group subsequently met at irregular intervals when emigrants returned to Richterswil on visits, until finally in 1727 the last Anabaptist still living there had moved to Alsace. The authorities had followed their work with great attention. New ideas were not tolerated." By 1708 the mill was in full operation again, with Peter Augspurger as overseer.

On Feb. 26, 1711, Hans wrote a letter that was distributed to a number of ministers in the Pfalz and Switzerland. "On the 21st of January, the year 1711, these men [followers of Jacob Amman] came to us at Hessenheim [adjacent to Heidolsheim], named Ŭlli Ammen [Ŭli Amman, Jacob's brother], Hans Gerber, Hans Anken, Yost Yoder; from the Pfalz, Hans Gut, Hans Güngrich, Christen Zaŭg, Hans Kaŭfman and one other from the Upper Pfalz who was with them. These men made an offer to make peace with us. If we can hold with their doctrine on the *ban* and the washing of feet, then they will consider us their brethren. They do not want to force us to take up their opinions, but there should not be two peoples over these two issues. We responded, asking them how they could consider us brethren, since they hold us as a different people? They answered that we could give to each other what we can. We did not say 'yes' or 'no,' but that we would think about it, and get more advice about it. We heard that they allowed their people to follow our doctrine. This is the reason that we ask you for your advice. Hessenheim, 26 February 1711, Hans Bachman, Felix Hägi, Hans Yagi Schneider, Jacob Fretz, Hans Blum, Hans Müller."

Count Christian III of the House of Zweibrücken-Birkenfeld was administrator of the County of Ribeaupierre while stationed there as an officer in the French army.[90] Shortly before the expulsion of Anabaptists, Bachmann's name was listed on a public posting: "Estate holders among the Anabaptists of the County of Ribeaupierre who may not withdraw from the Province of Alsace before the Feast of St. George [April 23] of next year without bearing the great prejudice of the Margrave, the Prince of Birkenfeld, who is the lord of these lands." The eight names included "Hans Bachmann, holder of a farm at Heidolsheim" and "Christian Zimmerman, a miller at Ohnenheim." Zimmerman had opened his own mill March 13, 1694 as a place for Amman and Reist factions to meet and mediate their differences. In retrospect it appears the count only wanted to interview them to keep necessary businesses open, or offer a refuge on his properties in Pfalz-Zweibrücken.

The Anabaptist congregation at Heidolsheim finally disbanded after the French king Louis XIV decreed an expulsion order Aug. 8, 1712. A copy sent to Heidolsheim was addressed to "The Old Community of Anabaptists also known as Hans Bachman's Group at Markirch." Notarial records indicate that Bachmann arranged transportation for his own departure Jan. 20, 1713.

Hans relocated to Pfalz-Zweibrucken. There he leased the Heidelbingerhof, a property of Prince Christian III of Zweibrücken-Birkenfeld less than three miles east of the city of Zweibrücken. It was south of the Heckenaschbacherhof estate at Contwig (occupied by various families including Eby, Wÿss, Lehmann, Hauter, and Oesch), and two miles north of the Monbijou estate at Dietrichingen (leased by Hauters) and the Kirschbacherhof (leased by Stalters).

The family of Hans was one of less than a dozen that became permanent settlers at the invitation of the House of Zweibrücken-Birkenfeld at that time. *Apart from the World* says that Hans wrote a letter there circa 1726 that described having served the prince of Birkenfeld.

Recall that Hans was born circa 1661, thus likely married after 1681. It was customary for only married men to be ordained, and having children demonstrated stability. So we can perhaps assume that Hans had a child or children between 1681 and his ordination. Whether any of his children died soon after birth or much later cannot be ascertained.

---

[90] The count died in 1731, and his son came of age to govern in 1742. After that many more Amish Mennonites settled there, but leases for the large estates were already taken up by the earlier families.

1. **Uli Bachmann** was born before 1708 – perhaps as early as 1681.
2. The existence of an unidentified daughter is indicated by a letter. She would have been born before 1708, and perhaps as early as 1681. In 1726 Hans mentioned a son-in-law who would be suitable for residence in Zweibrücken when a property became available. It did not mention a son. But this would not have been necessary if his son was already provided for – perhaps sharing the lease or even owning the pastures of the Heidelbingerhof.

Uli Bachmann was born before 1708. This son of a Reist-faction minister would become a minister of Amish Mennonites. He and Jakob Steinmann (see STEINMANN for background) represented the Zweibrücken congregation at the first assembly of Amish Mennonite ministers at Essingen in 1759. [91]

Uli's son **Jacob Bachmann (senior)** was born before 1728. We can speculate that Uli remained on the Heidelbingerhof while Jacob farmed on the Rinkweilerhof at Hornbach. Hornbach is six miles south of the city of Zweibrücken, on the border of Germany and France. Recall from DETTWEILER that 1766 immigrant Nicholas Stoltzfus wrote that he was influenced to Anabaptism by the 'quiet manner of conduct' of Anabaptists on the Rinkweilerhof.

Recall from STEINMAN that *Das Hornbacher Gerichtsbuch von 1853 bis 1790* (2003) is a compilation of lease contracts at Hornbach compiled by Maria Besse, Thomas Besse, and Bernd Gölzer. On Page 107 it lists *Mennoniten* [Anabaptists] who had leases on Nov. 27, 1776. These included *Mennoniten in der Stadt und Schultheisserei* [in the city and at the school building]: Johannes Schrag on the *Hof* [main farm]; Joseph Schnebel, *Oberer Hof* [upper farm]; Jacob Steinmen, *Unterer Hof* [lower farm] with a son Jacob; Jacob Bachmann (senior) on the Rinkweilerhof; Jacob Bachmann (junior) on the Rinkweilerhof; and Johannes Dettweiler on the Rinkweiler Hof with his father Heinrich [he was married to a Barbara Bachmann], and Jacob who was a servant on the *Unterer Hof*.[92]

Knowing that the ministers who went to Essingen tended to be residents of this cluster of farms, the senior Jacob Bachmann is thought to have been the Jakob Bachmann who participated in the second assembly of ministers at Essingen in 1779. He accompanied Andreas Leyenberger and Jakob Dettweiler. In that year Leyenberger was living on the Kirschbacherhof, which he had first leased in 1740 with Daniel Ösch. Jakob Dettweiler had been living on the Ransbrunnerhof at Eppenbrunn, but before the year was over he purchased the expansive Stuppacherhof at Hornbach at great expense.

The Dutch *Naamlijst der tegenwoordig in dienst zijnde predikanten der Mennoniten in de Vereenigde Nederlanden* (1784) lists Jacob Dätweiler as elder and Johannes Steinmann and Jacob Bachmann as ministers of the Hirschberg-Kirschbach congregation, also known simply as the Zweibrücken congregation. This was also Jacob (senior).

Children of Jacob Bachman (senior) include:[93]

---

[91] Some sources suggest a key ancestor was Johannes Bachmann, who died in the city of Zweibrücken at the close of the 18th century. To the best of our knowledge, this idea originates solely from a Johannes Bachman known only from two civil death entries created at the city of Zweibrücken in 1799. Perhaps he initially attracted attention because he was the only elderly Bachmann found in those records.

He would have been born circa 1714 (based solely on the birth year of his wife). He married Anna. A civil entry for Anna's death was recorded in the city of Zweibrücken April 14, 1799; she had died there three days earlier. She was described as the 85-year-old wife of Johannes Bachmann. No Bachmanns witnessed the entry.

There was no indication that Anna was a widow at the time of her death. The register book only runs up to September of 1799, and the next register book is missing. We know that a book of entries starting in October of 1799 once existed, because a 10-year index created from it says that someone named Johannes Bachmann died Dec. 13, 1799. This may have been her elderly husband.

That is all. No children or parents named, nothing that might indicate a family relationship, no mention of when they arrived at Zweibrücken (any time from birth circa 1714 until 1799).

[92] The Rinkweilerhof estate was sold to investors in 1844. The following year it was subdivided.

[93]We looked at two 'wild card' Bachmann sisters. At first we assumed that Jacob (junior) and Suzanne had a brother who had two daughters. But there was also a non-Amish Bachmann family living on the Rinkweilerhof in the same time frame, and they must have stayed longer. The final verdict: there were too many Bachmanns in the vicinity of Hornbach to make an accurate identification.

— Anna Bachmann became the second wife of Christian Schwarzentraub. Their ceremony took place on the Hofgut Bubenrod (now Brennholz-Bubenrod, 148 miles northeast of Hornbach) Jan 7, 1810. It was documented at adjacent Königsberg (now a district of Biebertal). In 1855 a minister from Königsberg visited the Hofgut Bubenrod to deliver Christian's eulogy.

1. **Jacob Bachmann (junior)** was born before 1748.

- Suzanne Bachmann may belong here. She would have been about the same age as Jacob. After marrying Andreas/ André Schrag, she lived three miles to the west on the Wahlerhof at Mittelbach-Hengstbach. Although she died on the Wahlerhof circa 1779, her husband remarried the following year and moved south to Moselle. His children married into Dieuze Ponds families: Pelzeli [Bältzli and later Belsley], Schweitzer, Salzmann, and Neuhauser families. The Schrags in Pfalz-Zweibrucken and those in Moselle were related through Caspar Schrag of Bistroff. See SCHROCK, ANDREAS/ANDRÉ SCHRAG AND WOODFORD COUNTY.

Jacob Bachmann (junior) was born before 1748. Later, French record keepers would call him Jacques Bachman.

Before 1768 Jacob (junior) married Catherine Güngerich. She was likely born between 1739 and 1750, a daughter of Johannes 'Hans *der Jŭng*' Güngerich. See GINGERICH for background on her family.

Their first child was born at Hassel in 1768. Hassel (pronounced 'hazel') is 14 miles northwest of Hornbach.[94] The Bachmanns may have gone there simply because they favored a midwife (another child was delivered there in 1775). Or, Jacob may have learned the milling trade from Amish Mennonite Ulrich Siegel. Or, they simply resettled near the Siegels and remained for several years. Family passdown calls this location *die Alter Hof* – the old farm.

SIEGELS AT HASSEL

Ulrich Siegel (1745-1801) and Magdalena Stalter (circa 1734-1831), and then their children, operated a mill on a communal farm called the Hasselerhof until the 1830s.

The Siegels demonstrate the 'reach' of the Amish Mennonite community in Europe. Ulrich's sister Maria Siegel (circa 1740-1770) is thought to have married Isaac Hochstettler (1740-1817); see HOCHSTETTLER for background.

Ulrich and Magdalena's son **Johannes Siegel** (1776-1814) married Elisabeth Kempf (1779-1832), a daughter of Christian Kempf and Elisabeth Hochstettler.

Jacob Bachmann (junior) and Catherine Güngerich would have a son Johannes/Jean Bachmann. He would married Magdalena/Madeleine Nafziger. Magdalena/Madeleine was a sister to Christian Nafziger, who married Katharina/Catherine Schantz. Their children married children of Johannes Siegel and Elisabeth Kempf.

Jacob and Catherine's oldest son Jakob/Jacob Siegel (1808-1888) married Katharina/Catherine Nafziger. Their daughter Philippine Siegel (1811-1899) married Johannes Nafziger, also known as John D. Nofziger.

Later Joseph Nafziger (1807-1889), a son of Christian Nafziger and Katharina/Catherine Schantz, will be mentioned as a passenger on the *Erie*, accompanying Bachmanns and Stecker/Stakers from Le Havre to New York in 1838.

Between 1776 and 1780 the younger Jacob Bachmann and his wife Catherine Güngerich migrated to Lorentzen, Lower Alsace (21 miles southwest of Hornbach), though his name was still on a lease of the Rinkweilerhof (where his father lived) in 1776.

The move may have been spurred by the death of the elector Maximilian II Joseph, who had sponsored Amish Mennonites. He died childless of smallpox Dec. 30, 1777. This reduced the number of available estates. There was also a sharp rise in taxes to support the military in this time frame.

THE WAR OF THE BAVARIAN SUCCESSION

The elector was the last ruler of a German state from the 'small line' of Wittelsbachs (strictly father-to-son male-only succession). This left a vacuum and set off a scramble as royal families saw opportunity, and forged new alliances with politically-motivated marriages.

Eventually the claims of minor royalty were brushed aside, and a power struggle ensued between the Hapsburgs and the states of the Holy Roman Empire, with France straining to keep them in balance.

Altogether the royal houses could have raised an enormous number of troops. As it was, they brought up foot soldiers and cavalry that paraded and maneuvered in Silesia and Bohemia, but very rarely met. It became known as 'The War with No Battles.' Nevertheless typhus and diptheria spread by troops, the paralysis of trade routes, the destruction of crops, and the confiscation of food stuffs to feed soldiers may have caused over 20,000 deaths.

— Katharina Bachmann married Christian's brother Daniel Schwarztraub (documented at Königsberg Sept. or Dec. 25, 1811). Their civil marriage entry said she was from the Rinkweilerhof at Hornbach. See SCHWARZENTRAUB for background on this couple whose son Daniel Schwarztraub came to Tazewell County.

[94] In 1973 Hassel became an annex district in the southeast corner of the community of Sankt Ingbert.

The sides only sat down to serious negotiations after Catherine the Great upped the ante. She offered to provide Prussia with 50,000 Russian troops. The mock war that had begun in July of 1778 ended in compromise with the Treaty of Teschen May 13, 1779. The only material outcome was that a portion of land with only 120,000 residents changed hands.

The obvious fruitlessness of the war, and the disregard of royalists for the rights of citizens, contributed to the general public's disillusionment with royalty. Political discontent throughout Europe would be reflected in the French Revolution a decade later.

THE AMERICAN REVOLUTIONARY WAR

A number of Pfalz-Zweibrücken Anabaptists moved south to Moselle in the same time frame as the Bachmanns. For some, one factor may have been a loss of the manpower required to operate the large estates.

In 1779 the Count de Rochambeau was preparing his French Expeditionary Force to sail to North America to aid the American Continental Congress in its war of revolution. Altogether his French troops numbered 7,000. Because the House of Zweibrücken-Birkenfeld owned extensive lands, titles, and military ranks in France, they were obligated to provide troops to accompany them.

The Royal Regiment of *Deuxponts* [Zweibrücken] were commanded by Count Christian Forbach, a son of Duke Christian IV. His brother Philippe Guillaume (later Wilhelm) Forbach became his deputy commander. They took about 500 soldiers with them to join the Expeditionary Force. For the most part these had been day laborers recruited in and around the city of Zweibrücken. They were accompanied by an equal number from the Royal Alsace regiment.

Rochambeau sailed from Brest May 2, 1780. His 43 ships carried extra 1,000 passengers, including support personnel and some wives and children; as well as cows, sheep, and chickens.

They arrived at Newport, Rhode Island July 10, 1780. In the following year they participated in the turning point siege of Yorktown, Virginia. There Rochambeau actually commanded more troops than General George Washington. Lieutenant General Charles Cornwallis surrendered the British forces of the southern campaign Oct. 19, 1781.

Ironically, after returning to Europe both Forbach brothers became generals and led campaigns against France from 1794 until 1815.

Why would someone choose to live at tiny Lorentzen? Today it has fewer than 250 residents. There is no reason to believe that it was larger in the past.

Between one and two miles east-northeast of the village (on the road leading to Montbronn) is a well-maintained 14th century castle and farm called Waderhof. The castle is laid out in a rectangle that was once surrounded by moats. Three of its five towers are still standing. An adjoining mill was constructed in 1728 and operated until 1958.

We can imagine the Bachmanns operating the mill and perhaps an associated bakery to provide grain and bread for horses and employees at the nearby horse-breeding farm Le Haras. (See SCHERTZ, SCHERTZ OF SARRALBE for background on this location).

They were also joined at the mill by a Roggy family from Lembach, Lower Alsace. Recall from ROGGY, "…In about 1786 the [Roggy] family moved 36 miles west [from Lembach] to the castle estate Waderhof. Johannes/Jean Roggy (1758-1815), who wrote his own name 'Johannes Rogÿ, married Catherine Birki. See ROGGY for background on their family. A few of their children:

- Andreas/André married Elisabeth Hauter. Though she was born at nearby Asswiller, she was a daughter of the wealthy horse-breeder Johannes/Jean Hauter and his first wife Barbara/Barbe Oesch.
- Christian/Chrétien Roggy married Madeleine Oesch of Sarrebourg, Moselle, and then Catherine 'Kate' Engel of Lagarde, Moselle, a daughter of minister Christian Engel and his first wife Catherine Nafziger. They later went to Woodford County.
- Barbara/Barbe Roggy married Joseph Engel, a brother to Catherine. They also went to Woodford County.
- Anne/Anna Roggy married Chrétien/Christian Risser of Rahling, Moselle. They also went to Woodford County.

In 1787 the Dettweilers suffered financial reverses and had to give up the Stuppacherhof estate at Hornbach. They followed the path of the Bachmanns and others by migrating south to Dehlingen and Diemeringen (adjacent above and below Lorentzen). Their next generation also spread into Moselle.

It is thought that Jacob Bachmann (junior) died on the Waderhof at Lorentzen before the establishment of the *état civil* system of administrative record keeping in 1792.

Widow Catherine was still living at Lorentzen in 1798.

Children of Jacob Bachmann (junior) and Catherine Güngerich include:

1. Barbe Bachmann was born at Hassel circa 1768, and died at Lorentzen, Lower Alsace Nov. 28, 1836. Circa 1789 she married miller Andreas/André Schertz. He was born at Lorentzen, Lower Alsace in 1765, and died there Sept. 3 or 6,

1804, a son of Nicolas Schertz and Barbe Birki. When their son Andreas/André Schertz (junior) died at Lorentzen in 1830, his civil entry described his mother as Barbe Bachmann, 60, born on the Heidenbingerhof in the department of *Montonnerre*. There were obvious inaccuracies: Barbe's age was slightly different from what her own death entry would later indicate; Heidenbingerhof should have been the Heidelbingerhof; and Pfalz-Zweibrűcken was in the department called *Mont Tonnere* only during the French military occupation (many years after her birth.) Barbe's civil death entry described her as age 68, born at *Hasslen en Bavière* [Hassel], the widow of miller André Schertz.

2. **Johannes/Jean Bachman** was born circa 1772.
3. Jacob/Jacques Bachmann was born at Hassel March 4, 1775, and died at Bourdonnay June 27, 1836. On Feb. 2, 1804 at Hellocourt (annexed by Maizières-les-Vic in 1885) he married Barbara/Barbe Vercler. (The 10-year civil index called them Jacob Brachman and Barbe Wercler). She was born in the Sarreck mill at Oberstinzel May 3, 1780, and died at Bourdonnay June 7, 1834, a daughter of Joseph Würgler and Marie Abresol. Marriage witnesses included Christian Rupp, 47; Christian Belsley, 27 [32]; Joseph Werkler, 52; and minister Joseph Engel, 28 (a son of minister Christian Engel). Her siblings later spelled their surname Vercler, Verckler, Verkler, and Virkler (see VERCLER).
4. Christian/Cristophe Bachmann may have been born at Hassel circa 1776, and died on Marimont farm at Bourdonnay Feb. 17, 1809 (found in their 10-year civil index as Christiann Pachmann). On March 18, 1798 at Gelucourt, Moselle (10 miles west of Rhodes) he married Barbe Engel. She was born on Kraftel farm at Gelucourt, Moselle May 8 or 9, 1777, and died at Bourdonnay Feb. 26, 1856. Christian and Barbe's civil marriage entry said farmhand-laborer 'Christophe Bachmann,' 22, was born at Lorentzen Dec. 28, 1774, but had been working at Rhodes (22 miles southwest of Lorentzen) for two years. (His cousin Jean Güngerich and his wife Marie Muller lived at Rhodes). His parents were described as the deceased laborer Jacob Bachmann and Catherine Genricks, a resident of Lorentzen. Barbe was described as a 20-year-old, born on Kraftel farm at Gelucourt May 9, 1777, a daughter of the deceased Michel Engel and Margaret/Marguerite Würgler/Vercler of Kraftel farm. Cristophe Engle [Christian Engel], 32, from Jambrot farm at Chouse [Xures, a community adjacent to Lagarde, Moselle; he was a cousin of the bride, and later elder of the Partridge Creek meeting] and his brother-in-law Cristophe Nafsker [Christian Nafziger], described as a 30-year-old laborer from quetsier [Ketzing at Gondrexange], gave away the bride;[95] other witnesses included her uncle Joseph Vercler, 46, described as a laborer at Brocq, Maizières [Maizières-lès-Vic; he was married to Marie Abresol, as noted in VERCLER] and brother Joseph Engel, 21, farmhand and cultivator. — We question the accuracy of this marriage entry. If brother Jacob/Jacques was born at Hassel March 4, 1775, it is extremely unlikely that Christian/Christophe was born at Lorentzen Dec. 28, 1774. And age 22 would place his birth in 1776. We also note that their father was described as one of the leaseholders on the Rinkweilerhof at Hornbach in 1776, making it much more likely that a son would have been born at nearby Hassel. The children of Christian/Christophe Bachmann and Barbe Engel 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.
    - There may have been a son Christian Bachmann born at Gelucourt before 1801. This would account for a civil death entry for Christianne Pachmann created at Bourdonnay Dec. 29, 1827, and found in the 10-year civil index. We hope to view this entry in the near future. Records for Bourdonnay and Gelucourt are only available to us (as we write this in the summer of 2020) as entries in the 10-year civil index starting in 1803.
    b. Barbe Bachmann was born at Bourdonnay Dec. 21, 1801 (though no civil entry is found there). 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 (though no civil entry is found there), and died there Dec. 26, 1869. On Jan. 30, 1819 at Bourdonnay she married Christian Vercler. He was born at Bourdonnay Aug. 4, 1795, and died there Aug. 22, 1845, a son of Joseph Würgler and Marie Abresol. They lived on Marimont farm at Bourdonnay.
    d. Marie Bachmann was born at Bourdonnay Oct. 12, 1804. On July 16, 1834 at Bourdonnay she married Joseph Fraise. He was born at Maizières-les-Vic, Moselle circa 1804, a son of Joseph Fraise and Catherine Gangloff.
    e. Étienne Bachmann was born at Bourdonnay April 5, 1806, and died there April 10, 1806.
    f. Madeleine Bachman was born at Bourdonnay Nov. 26, 1808, and died at Lunéville, Meurthe-et-Moselle May 26, 1856. On Dec. 29, 1827 at Bourdonnay she married Joseph Nafziger (the 10-year civil index called him them Magdelaine Bachmann and Joseph Naxier). He was born on the castle estate Ketzing at Gondrexange Oct. 31, 1796, and died at Gondrexange Nov. 28, 1831, a son of Christian Nafziger and

[95] Minister Christian Engel was described not as a relative (he was a cousin to Barbe's father) but as a good friend of the couple.

Jacobine Schertz. One witness was Christian Vercler, 32, cultivator on Marimont at Bourdonnay. On April 21, 1842 at Bourdonnay she remarried to Joseph Kempf. He was born at Lorquin, and died at Lunéville April 29, 1868, a son of André Kempf and Madeleine Abresol.

5. Catherine Bachman/Bachmann was born at Lorentzen May 22, 1780. On March 11, 1800 at Lorentzen she married Joseph Engel. He was born at Gelucourt 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 'Margarite Vürckler'). See ENGEL for background on this couple who lived on Kraftel farm at Gelucourt, and then in Mattmuhl at Sarrebourg.

Oldest son **Johannes/Jean Bachman** was born circa 1772.

On June 28, 1798 at Puttelange, Moselle (15 miles northwest of Lorentzen) he married 20-year-old Magdalena/Madeleine Nafziger. She was born at Lorentzen in 1778, a daughter of Johannes/Jean Nafziger and Catherine Schertz (see NAFZIGER for background on this couple). She was a younger sister to the Christian Nafziger who married Katharina/Catherine Schantz.

Puttelange is now known as Puttelange-aux-Lacs, but is also occasionally found as Puttelange-lès-Farschviller (Puttelange by Farschviller, which is just above it, to differentiate it from a Puttelange by Thionville).

At the time of the Johannes/Jean was working as a cultivator at Lorentzen.

The couple lived at several locations in Moselle. An 1816 entry from Dalem described Johannes/Jean Bachman as a farmer from Dalem, but the 1821 marriage entry of his daughter Madelaine describes him as a resident of Niedervisse.

Recall that the Heidelbingerhof was initially leased in 1713. The family eventually purchased it, perhaps after its privatization in 1815. It was leased to others, or generated income from grazing rights without being further developed. Its pastures were needed for horses from the surrounding large estates. A legal notice crafted by a notary was published in the *Zweibrűcker Wochenblatt* Feb. 10, 1834. It announced an auction of meadows on the Heidelbingerhof on behalf of the children of Jacob Bachmann, to be held Feb. 18. [96] The living heirs would have been in their 60s: Barbe, Jacques, and possibly Johannes/Jean.

Their children born in Moselle include:

1. **Johannes/Jean/John Bachman** was born at Puttelange June 3, 1800 (he is listed in the 10-year civil index as Jacob Brachman). 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. Nicolas Bachmann was born at Heckenransbach in 1802. Heckenransbach was a hamlet that was annexed by Ernestviller in 1811; Ernestviller is adjacent to Puttelange. On Nov. 4, 1828 at Macheren (on the east side of St. Avold, Moselle) he married Elisabeth Schertz. She was born at Longeville-lès-St. Avold (on the west side of St. Avold) Nov. 23, 1799, a daughter of Jacob Schertz and Barbara Ummel.
3. Joseph Bachmann was born at Heckenransbach Jan. 1, 1805, and died at Trier, Germany (also known in English as Treves, the oldest city in Germany) Dec. 4, 1859. Trier is downstream (north) from Moselle on the Moselle River. According to French genealogist Jean François Lorentz, Joseph married Véronique Rocki in 1834. She was born in 1804, and died at Trier March 15, 1850, a daughter of Jean Rocki and Maria Bender. We have only seen Joseph's birth listed in the 10-year civil index, but have not seen the actual full entry, which we hope to view in the near future.
4. André Bachmann was born at Heckenransbach Dec. 28, 1808. Like Joseph, we have only seen his birth listed in the 10-year civil index, but have not seen the actual full entry.
5. Madelaine Bachman (twin) 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.
6. Marie Bachman (twin) was born at Dalem Jan. 3, 1813. She died first, at nine months of age, on Oct.7 or 26, 1813.
7. Pierre/Peter Bachmann was born at Dalem Jan. 11, 1816. On May 16, 1844 in the city of Zweibrücken he married Barbara Hauter. Their civil marriage entry said he was 28, born at Dalem Jan. 11, 1816, and described his parents as Johann Bachmann, 70, and Magdalena Nafzieger, 65. She was 27, born on the Freudenbergerhof at Ernstweiler May 7, 1817. She was a daughter of widow Barbara Hauter, 61 (her deceased husband Michel Gingerich is mentioned, but he was not the child's father)(see HAUTER). Signatures looked like pntnr bachmann, barbara haŭter, Güngerich, and georg guth. In exchange for permission to marry Barbara and live in Pfalz-Zweibrücken, Pierre/Peter agreed to attend the compulsory military training that was expected of German men. After marriage they lived on the

[96] Heidelbingerhof is still the name of a street in the city of Zweibrücken.

Freudenbergerhof at Ernstweiler, which was leased by his mother-in-law until her death in 1864. In 1870 it was purchased by two sons of Georg Guth.

8. Magdalena Bachman was born at Niedervisse April 27, 1821 (found as Madelaine Bachman), and died at Liessem, Germany (22 miles north of Trier) Dec. 21, 1891. In 1844 she married Johannes/Jean Nafziger. He was born at Maizeroy, Moselle May 7, 1818, and died at Liessem April 5, 1885, a son of Jean Nafziger and Barbara Oesch.

Johannes/Jean/John Bachman was born at Puttelange June 3, 1800, and died at Danvers, McLean County Oct. 10, 1881.

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. We can assume that Anna met her future husband through the minister of her congregation, Christian Gingerich/Güngerich. He and Johannes/Jean/John were cousins (once removed).

Descendant Ken Baughman has determined where they lived between their marriage in 1831 and emigration in 1838.

THE REHLINGERHOF

A son of Johannes/Jean/John and Anna was born March 2, 1833. Despite an obituary that says he was born at Sandburg, Germany, this reflects confusion over geography. Descendant Ken Baughman has determined that he was born on the Rehlingerhof in what is now the Trier-Saarburg administrative district [Ger. *Landkreis or Kreis*] in Rheinisch-Pfalz, a state of Germany.

On a modern map Rehlinger Hof is a road outlying the east side of the hamlet of Fisch and five miles west of the town of Saarburg (striding both sides of the Saar River).[97] It is in the Trier-Saarburg administrative district [Ger. *Landkreis or Kreis*] in Rheinisch-Pfalz, a state of Germany.

This location is only 40 miles north of St. Avold and Bistroff. (It is not to be confused with Rehlingen-Siersburg, which is about 23 miles north of St. Avold).

The system of feudalism came to an end in the area with its occupation by French soldiers in 1794. Monasteries were pillaged and their properties were secularized. Those lands were auctioned off not to the average or poor residents, but to those most able to pay. This displaced many peasants who had been tenants on church properties. And those able to purchase land at that time were often the male heads-of-families likely to be called away into service in Bonaparte's armies.

Circa 1800 the boundaries of the Rehlingerhof had grown to encompass 662 acres of fallow fields, 190 acres of meadows, and 600 acres of forest. Maintenance had been largely neglected during inheritance disputes. Although it held some ruined structures that had once stood in the nearby village of Rehlingen, they were mostly unuseable.

In 1829 the owner Franz Josef Alexander von Warsberg decided to sell. He brought in tenant-laborers to better define its boundaries, erect fences, tear down decaying structures, and generally prepare as much as possible for later cultivation.

In 1838 work gangs were hired to bring down as many trees as possible. In anticipation of a sale, an extensive beech grove was clearcut and sold to furniture makers. The following year the de Wendel family purchased everything at auction for 88,000 thalers.

From 1838 to 1853 the Rehlingerhof was occupied 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). They were sons of Christian Oesch and his first wife Barbara Zehr. Christian Oesch (born at Sultztal in 1781) was first married to Anna Wittrich of the Breitenhof at Grostenquin. He remarried to Margarete Sommer. In 1853 they relocated 130 miles southwest to St. Mihiel, Meuse. Daniel Oesch (born at Sultztal in 1795) was married to Marie Beller, a daughter of Pierre Beller and Barbara Hirschi of the Oderfang Mill. In 1843 they relocated 12 miles to the northwest to the Spittelhof at Flaxweiler, Luxembourg. According to Horst Gerlach's *My Kingdom is Not of this World* (2013) his was the first Amish Mennonite family to resettle in that country.

Relatives continued to occupy the estate as property managers after the Oesch brothers had moved away – at least until one of the last two living quarters was demolished in 1866. The other was taken down in 1870. The estate remained in the De Wendel family until 1927.

Presumably the Bachmanns moved onto the Rehlingerhof after marriage, as tenant-laborers, and departed before work gangs arrived to cut down and drag off trees.

We can speculate that they played matchmaker. From the Rehlingerhof they took Katharina Nafziger (daughter of Christian Nafziger and Katharina/Catherine Schantz, and a cousin to Johannes/Jean/John Bachman) with them on a visit to Hassel (60 miles to the southeast). Her civil marriage to Jakob Siegel was recorded at nearby

[97] Saarburg is not to be confused with Sarrebourg, Moselle. The Saar River in Germany and the Sarre River in France are the same; the one in France is the upper course. The Saar River merges into the Moselle River 10 miles north of Saarburg, and the Moselle River then merges into the Rhine River.

Sankt Ingbert Aug. 15, 1835. On their return trip they brought Katharina's younger sister Philippine Siegel. Her civil marriage to Johannes Nafziger (a brother to Katharina) was recorded at Weiskirchen Oct. 29, 1835.[98]

The Bachmanns sailed from Le Havre on the packet ship *Erie* with their two oldest children and Anne's widowed father Joseph Stecker (#1), arriving at New York May 25, 1838.[99] They were also accompanied by Joseph Nafziger, who had been living at Grevenmacher, Luxembourg (eight miles northwest of the Rehlingerhof) and Weiskirchen; he was another son of Christian Nafziger and Katharina/Catherine Schantz, and thus a cousin to Johannes/Jean/John.

Recall from STAKER the flawed passenger list:

Joh. Bachmann		*38*	John Bachman, husband of Anna (Stecker) Bachman.
Anna Bachmann		*36*	John's wife, Joseph's daughter.
Barbara	"	*9*	John and Anna's daughter; she later married Joseph Schertz.
Johann	"	*5*	John and Anna's son, he later married Catherine Nafziger.
Joseph Stecker		*75*	Joseph the father, actually 62 years of age.
Joseph Nafzigre		*33*	John Bachman's cousin Joseph Nafziger, actually 30 years of age. (See NAFZIGER for more on Joseph Nafziger)
Magdelina	"	*27*	Joseph Nafziger's wife Magdalena, actually 21 years of age.
Christian	"	*4*	Joseph and Magdelena's son

The *Erie* traveling party also brought young Percherons. Later in Illinois a federal census described Joseph Stecker/Staker, Anna's brother, as a 'stallion keeper,' suggesting the families employed the horses in their livery service in Butler County, and later as studs for breeding purposes.

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 his father-in-law 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 brother-in-law John Stecker/Staker (the group is listed with John's information).[100] His naturalization took place at Hamilton on Oct. 5, 1843; Christian Emeluth and Peter Salzman were witnesses.

While in Butler County 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."[101]

---

[98] Weiskirch was also known as Weisskirchen or its French name, Blanche-Église. It is 20 miles southeast of the Rehlingerhof; it is now in Saarland.

[99] The four-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.

[100] 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.

[101] 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).

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 [Troyer]. 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. According to most sources Barbe Bachmann/Barbara Bachman was born June 10, 1829, well before her parents' civil marriage, and died at Danvers, McLean County Aug. 3, 1908. Her birth year on her immigration passenger list and on censuses agrees with 1829. On Aug. 11, 1850 in Butler County she married Joseph Schertz. He was born at Sarrebourg, Moselle (verified from his civil birth entry because of a conflict with his *Pantagraph* obituary) June 18, 1827, and died at Danvers, McLean County May 23, 1914, a son of Joseph Schertz and Marie Lehmann. See SCHERTZ for background on this couple.
2. Jean Bachmann/Bachman/Baughman. The best evidence suggests that he was born on the Rehlingerhof March 2, 1833. He died at Manson, Iowa Nov. 6, 1914. On Jan. 4, 1859 he married Catherine Naffziger. She was born in Butler County Jan. 9, 1836, and died at Manson, Iowa Sept. 11, 1914, a daughter of minister Jacob Naffziger of Hochheim (now a district of Worms) and Barbara Krehbiel of Weitersweiler; her uncle (Jacob's brother) was minister 'Apostle Peter' Naffziger. The couple moved to Panola, 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 Nafziger 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 Noffziger 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/Fannie Bachman/Baughman was born in Butler County circa 1842, and died at Danvers, McLean County Oct. 13, 1919. On Nov. 2, 1865 in Butler County, Ohio she married Jacob C. Augspurger; 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, and died in California April 10, 1883. She married John R. Miller March 5, 1872. He was born in Butler County, Ohio Aug. 29, 1844, and died at Milford, Nebraska March 20, 1925. 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. *Herald of Truth*, May 1, 1883: "April 10th, in California of consumption, Lena Bachman Miller, aged 36 years, 8 months and one day. Born in Butler County, Ohio, and married to John R. Miller in 1872. She leaves a deeply bereaved husband and four children. The remains were brought to Danvers, Ill., where they were consigned to earth on the 18th of April, in the presence of many friends and relatives. Sister Miller was a faithful member of the Mennonite Church. Services were held in the English language by Preacher Langley and in the German language by Joseph Stuckey." She is buried in Park Lawn Cemetery at Danvers. John R. Miller moved to Fremont, Nebraska after her death. On May 12, 1885 he remarried to Elizabeth Reck. She was born Oct. 10, 1861, and died April 23, 1945. They are buried in Blue Mont Cemetery at Milford.

Woodford County Bachmann/Bachmans

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 Climont (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 [Ger. *Weilerthal*].

Some records of Anabaptist deaths were kept by Protestant Reformed ministers at the nearby village Urbeis (three miles southeast of Climont) 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 Hostetler/Hochstättler/Hochstettler and Anna Wagler. They also had descendants who migrated to Central Illinois. See HOCHSTETTLER. Other Anabaptist families found in the area included Bächer/Baecher/Becher, Hodler, Hommel [Ummel], Lörtsch, Müller, Räber/Raeber/Reber, Schlabach [Schlapbach], and Wälli. Hodler and Schlabach descendants also came to Central Illinois.

Some time in the 1720s **Jacob Bachmann**, his wife, and an infant son migrated from the Pfalz south to the area.

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 – and in this instance it was a grandson. 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 Hodler is signed 'Jacob Bachman.' Presumably this was Jacob's grandson, Johannes/Jean's 16-year-old son Jacob trying to be helpful.

Johannes/Jean Bachmann was born in the Pfalz circa 1721, and died after April of 1795.

Circa 1748 he married Marie Riser. Most documents simply called her Marie Riser or Risser, while the 1780 list called her Anne Marie Riser (this may only reflect the tendency of government scribes to convert Anne or Marie into Anne Marie in the Catholic-oriented nation). She was born at Le Hang, Bourg-Bruche circa 1730, and died at Chamont, Ste. Croix-aux-Mines, Upper Alsace April 26, 1795.

A Johannes/Jean Bachmann is found in Villé records created March 1, 1749. On that day Joanne Bachmann of the S*ecto Anabaptistarum* was named as a witness to the death of Elisabeth Binder of the S*ecte 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 described him as someone who had come there from the Palz as an infant with his parents. It described his wife and the length of their marriage, and listed their children: Jacques, 29; Barbe, 24; Jean, 20; Joseph, 18; Marie, 15; David, 12; Henri, 10; and Moise, age 8.

At the time Johannes/Jean held a lease on a property at Urbeis. He gave up one-twentieth of his produce to honor a seignorial arrangement with the landlord Truchess de Rheinfelden family of Ribeauvillé, and paid 96 pounds in annual taxes.

Their residence was the m*aison blanche* [white house], constructed in 1551. It was one of the oldest homes in the district of Villé. The farm there had given employment to Anabaptists since the late 1600s. The house is still standing and is considered an historic landmark.

One source says that Johannes/Jean and Marie resided at Ste. Croix-aux-Mines (below Urbeis, above Ste. Marie-aux-Mines) between 1782 and 1794, but we found Johannes's distinctive 'J.B.' initials on entries at Urbeis as late as 1787.

Marie died in the home of daughter Barbara and son-in-law Jean Raber at Chamont, Ste. Croix-aux-Mines April 26, 1795. Her civil death entry created the following day describes her as Marie Risser, 64, wife of Jean Pachmann, a farmer at Bruche. It was witnessed by her sons-in-law farmer-cultivator Jean Rabre, 46, a resident of Chamont, and weaver Christianne Ayman, 39, a resident of Petit Rombach.

Their children include:

1. Barbara Bachmann died as an infant at Urbeis in September of 1749. Her death was recorded in Catholic records at Villé. Her parents were described as *Joannis Bachmann et Marie Risserin, Anabaptistarum* from Urbeis. The entry was witnessed and signed by Jacob Lörsch and Heinrich Goldschmid. Johannes signed with an 'x.'
2. Jacob/Jacques Bachman was born at St. Dié-des-Vosges July 20, 1752, and died at Golbey, Vosges July 23, 1816. He was 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.[102] Circa 1769 he married Barbara Gerber.[103] She was born circa 1747, and 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, and son-in-law and cultivator Jean Schlappach, 26 (they signed 'Jacob Bachmann' and 'Johannes Schlabach'). In 1780 he was 29, she was 30, and they were living with his father. On Jan. 20, 1795 at Rombach-le-Franc, Upper Alsace (adjacent below Urbeis) he remarried to Marie Eymann. She was born at La Croix-aux-Mines, Vosges Oct. 15, 1754, and died at Golbey, Vosges April 20, 1820. Their civil marriage entry described the groom as Jacques Pachmand, *annébatiste*, age 44 years and six months; he was the widower of Barbe Coubry. His parents were Jean Pachmand and Marianne Riesel, residents of Selz [Saulxures?], Lower Alsace. The bride was Marie Aymand, 41, a resident of Lembach, Upper Alsace, and the widow of the deceased Christiannne Peindle [Chrétien Pintré had died at Lubine in March of 1792]. Her parents were Voilly Aymand [Ulrich Eymann] and Barbe Mosiman, residents of La Croix-aux-Mines. Witnesses included brother-in-law of the bride Jean Laubre, 45, a resident of Ste. Croix-aux-Mines, Lower Alsace; and brothers-of-the-bride Jean Aymand, 47, and Joseph Amand, 38, both residents of Lubine. The groom signed Jacob Bachmann. Jacob became stepfather to Barbe Pintré (she married Jean Bächler at Golbey Dec. 17, 1814) and Marie Pintré (she married Joseph Roupe at Golbey Jan. 12, 1815; see ROPP). His civil death entry describes him as cultivator Jacob Pasham, 77 [he was 64], originally of 'St. Diez'; and the widower of Elisabeth Celbrun [erroneous, since second wife Marie outlived him]. It was witnessed by son-in-law and cultivator Jean Bassier, 38, a resident of Golbey (he signed 'Hans Bächler'), and cultivator Joseph Roupe, 23, also a son-in-law. Children of Jacob/Jacques and his first wife Barbara Gerber include:
    a. Anna Bachmann was born at Urbeis circa 1766, and died there April 28, 1849, age 83. On Jan. 22, 1788 at Urbeis she married weaver and cultivator Johannes Schlabach/Jean Schlappach. He was born at Urbeis circa 1764, and died there Sept. 27, 1845, age 81. His civil death entry described him as the husband of Anne Pachmann. One witness was their son laborer André Schlabach, 26, who signed Andreas Schlabach.

---

[102] 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.

[103] On March 28, 1770 at Urbeis Johannes/Jean Bachmann witnessed the death entry of Elisabeth Gebbe [Gerber], the wife of Anabaptist Christian Hodler. They were described as Anabaptists from Winterberg.

b. Jacques/Jacob Bachmann was born at Urbeis Feb. 12, 1768. On Dec. 11, 1801 at Bourg-Bruche he married Elisabeth Diebold (later found as Tibold and Thiebaut). Their civil marriage entry described the groom as cultivator Jacque Bachmann, 33, born at Urbeis Feb. 12, 1789, a son of weaver Jacques Bachmann of St. Die and the deceased Marie Barbe Kerber. The bride was Elisabeth Diebold, 26, born at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines Sept. 28, 1775, a daughter of cultivator Jean Diebold and Catherine Kruger. Witnesses included cultivator Conrad Colschmitte of au Hang, 50; Pierre Zher of au Hang, 62; and cultivator Jacques Bacher of Saales, 44. They had a son Joseph at Bourg-Bruche (1802), then children at nearby Lubine, Vosges André (1805), Jacob (1808), Christian (1811), Jean (1816), and Anne (1820).

c. Joseph Bachmann was born at Saulxures April 3, 1788. On April 5, 1826 at Bourg-Bruche he married Catherine Schlabach. Their civil marriage entry described the groom as cultivator Joseph Pachmann, 38, born at Saulxures April 3, 1788, a son of the deceased Jacob Pachmann, who had died at Golbey Juoy 23, 1816, and the deceased Barbe Kerberin, who had died at Urbeis March 23, 1794. The bride was Catherine Schlapack, 30, born at Saulxures April 16, 1795, a daughter of the deceased Voilyr Chlapach, who had died at Petite Fossse July 20, 1817, and Elisabeth Chipache, who was present and consenting. The bride and groom signed with an 'x,' indicating they were illiterate. One witness was cultivator Andreas Bacher, 34.

— There may also have been infants who died in 1770 (David), 1771 (Joseph), 1776 (Joseph and Johannes), 1779 (Joseph), 1781 (unnamed), and 1787 (Johannes).[104]

3. Barbara Bachmann was born circa 1756. On June 9, 1776 at Urbeis she married Jean Räber. The Latin-language Protestant Reformed entry describes the groom as Joannas Rebber, son of *Cristani Rebber et Anna Adlerin conjugundo Anabaptistarum im Winterberg*. He was born at Climont/Weinbourg/Winterberg circa 1748, and died at Ste. Croix-aux-Mines Jan. 6, 1811, a son of Christian/Chrétien Räber and Marie Adam. The bride is described as Barbara Bachman, daughter of Joannis Bachman et Maria Riserin. The groom signed Johannes Räber. His death entry described Jean Rébre, 60, born at Urbeis, a son of the deceased Chretien Rébre, and husband of Barbe Pachmann, who died in his home. It was witnessed by weavers Chrétien Eyman, 55, and David Reck, 48.
4. Johannes/Jean Bachmann was born circa 1760. On Oct. 21, 1781 at Urbeis he married Maria Rebber [Räber]. The Latin-language Protestant Reformed record names his parents as *Joannis Bachman et Maria Rieserin in conjugum Anabaptistarum* [married Anabaptists]. Her parents were named as *Christian Rebber et defuncta Anna Addlerin, conjugum Anabaptistarum (*Christian/Chrétien Räber and Marie Adam).
5. Joseph Bachmann was born circa 1762. On June 25, 1787 at Urbeis he married Anne Schlappach. An entry appears in Protestant Reformed records there. She was born circa 1758, and died at Bisping, Moselle June 12, 1834, a daughter of Hans Schlabach (as he signed)/Jean Schlappach. They farmed at Bourg-Bruche. Their children were Jean (1786), Elisabeth, and Marie (1794).
6. Maria/Marie or Anne Marie Bachmann was born at Urbeis circa 1764, and died at Ste. Croix-aux-Mines, Upper Alsace Dec. 7, 1827. On Feb. 13, 1788 at Urbeis she married weaver Chrétien Eymann. He was born at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines circa 1755, and died at Ste. Croix-aux-Mines Jan. 15, 1832, a son of Nicolas Eymann and Véronique Hertig. Maria/Marie's death entry describes her as Marie Pachmann, 63, born at Urbeis, a daughter of the deceased Jean Pachmann and Marie Rice [Reiser].
7. David Bachmann was born circa 1768.
8. **Heinrich Bachmann/Henry Bachman** was born in 1769, and died in Woodford County before 1845.
9. Moise [Moses] Bachmann was born circa 1772.

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.

On April 10, 1796 at Boug-Bruche he married Elisabeth Ummel/Ommel. The civil register page with the details of their ceremony is missing. An entry at the end of the Republican Calendar year IV (1796) says only that Henry Pachmont had married on 21 Germinal. Elisabeth must have been at least seven months pregnant.

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 Rabre, 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:

[104] 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 Joannes.

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 (called Pierre Becher) 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.

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 Climont/Weinbourg/Winterberg) Nov. 22, 1795. It described him as Henry Pachmont, a 30-year-old cultivator living in the *maison blanche* at Urbeis. The same entry was also witnessed by his future second 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 *maison blanche* in Climont. 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 'Hennri Bachman,' but Barbe and her father signed with an 'x', indicating they were illiterate.

Joseph Alleman married Marie Raber at Lubine, Vosges Dec. 10, 1801. Witnesses included uncle-of-the-bride Jackob Pachemann [he signed jacob bachman], 51, a cultivator at St. Die; and uncle-of-the-bride Henry Pachemann, 36, a resident of Chatenoit. Châtenois, Lower Alsace is 14 miles east of Lubine.

A census of Mennonite families created April 24, 1809 lists Henry Bachman as the head of a six-resident household at Walscheid, Moselle.

Heinrich/Henry and Barbe later resided in the forester'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 Gurchen [Schürch]. 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, Lower Alsace Feb. 7, 1797.
3. **David Bachmann** was born at Bourg-Bruche, Lower Alsace Dec. 1, 1798.
4. Johannes/Jean Bachmann was born at Châtenois, Lower Alsace June 25, 1804, and died there Feb. 19, 1805. One witness on his civil birth entry was Joannes Raber, 50.
5. 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 Lafrimbolle, 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 Bacher. It was witnessed by her husband, 37-year-old Jacob Frank, who was described as a miller on Nantel, a farm at Stainville.
6. Madeleine's twin. The 10-year index of Walscheid civil records says that an unnamed female infant died shortly after birth Dec. 15, 1807.
7. Catherine Bachmann/Bachman was born at Walscheid 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.
8. Barbe/Barbara Bachmann was born at Walscheid 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.[105] 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 day laborer Marie Catherine Léhé, 60, widow of Jean Schirg [Schürch?]; 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 an 1836 census of Haberacker farm, Reinhardmunster. It listed shopkeeper André Bachman, 38; Elisabet Baer, 43; Elisabethe, 18; Catherine, 15; Joseph, 10; and grandfather and widower Henri Bachman, 80.

ANDRÉ BACHMANN/ANDREW BAUGHMAN

The oldest son of Heinrich/Henry and his second wife Barbe, **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 looked like Jean Schlabach and Henri Bachmann. He died at Roanoke, Woodford County Nov. 17, 1864.

On Jan. 2, 1818 at Reinhardsmunster he married Lisbethe/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 Bachmann and Barbe Becher. The bride was described as Lisbethe Behr [Bär], born at Dabo Aug. 9, 1792, a daughter of cultivator Chrétien Behr and Catherine Dellebach [Dellenbach], who had both died at Laschbach, Dabo. Witnesses included brother-of-the-bride and potter Lorent Behr, 28, of Dabo; and royal forester Antoine Dunckel, 54.

The *Platina* departed from Le Havre, and arrived at New York Aug. 28, 1839.[106] 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 Lisbethe/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 Vercler, indicating that they had already settled at Hanover/Metamora.

Heinrich/Henry became a minister and elder of the Partridge Creek meeting, and performed many marriages in Woodford County during the 1840s. However, we found no record of his 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 Lisbethe/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."[107]

---

[105] Before 1792 records for Reinhardmunster 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 folllow. 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.

[106] *Platina* is the Spanish diminutive form of *plata* or platinum. In metallurgy it is an alloy of platinum that enhances the shine of silver plate.

[107] 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 minister Christian Engel organized it with seven or eight families and became elder. Later ministers and elders 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."

Lisbethe/Elizabeth Behr 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.

Children of André Bachmann/Andrew Baughman and his first wife Lisbeth/Elizabeth Behr born at Reinhardsmunster include:

1. Elisabethe/Lisbeth Bachmann was born July 14, 1819. Her birth entry describes her parents as 23-year-old laborer André Bachmann and Lisbethe 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 Elisabethe Behr. She had an illegitimate child David Bachmann born in the home of her grandfather at Haberacker, Reinhardsmunster May 11, 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 KENNEL for more on this couple.
3. **Joseph Bachmann** was born Aug. 16, 1826, and died at Metamora Dec. 31, 1897.

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.[108] 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 Engle, 17, Illinois; John, 13, Illinois; Anna, 12; and Peter, 11.

As minister and 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 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. The *genealogy trails* website for the cemetery says that the person buried next to Anna was named Bachman, he died March 17, 1864, and he was age 69.

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:

— 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.
— 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.
— 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.
— 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 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 Fetty Berkey and Barbara Stiter. Valentine 'Felty' Birkey was actually the minister who performed the ceremony.

---

[108] 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.

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 Bauchman, 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, one 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. 29, 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. Nafziger (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 Nafziger 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 Church, of which she was a faithful and consistent member until death. On Jan. 11, 1869, she was united in marriage with John C. Nofsinger. To this union were born 10 children, seven of whom survive, (Peter W., Christian R., Joseph, John C., Benjamin E., Martha and Mrs. Sol Schertz). Her husband preceded her in death 36 years ago; also three daughters had gone on before; namely, Mrs. Emma Neuman, Mrs. Elizabeth Schertz and an infant daughter, Anna. Besides the surviving children she leaves fifteen grandchildren and four great-grandchildren, two sisters, three brothers, and a large circle of friends.... Funeral services were conducted on June 3 at the home by A. A. Schrock and at the Calvary Mennonite Church by H. R. Schertz assisted by A. L. Buzzard and Valentine Strubhar. Text, *Mark 13:35-37*. Interment in the Union Cemetery." They are buried in Union Cemetery as 'Nofsinger.'
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.
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." *Gospel Herald*, March 1940: "Bachman. Andrew J., son of Joseph and Barbra (Steider) Bachman, was born July 10, 1854, at Metamora, Ill., where he spent his boyhood days, moving to Roanoke Twp., in 1877, where he spent the remainder of his life. He united with the Metamora Mennonite Church in his youth, remaining faithful to the end. On March 4, 1879, he was united in marriage to Mary M. Garber. She preceded him in death about 24 years. To this union were born six sons and three daughters: Joseph (deceased), David of Roanoke, Anna Wahl, of Minnesota; Jacob of Loda, Peter of Roanoke, Bertha at home, Matilda of Low Point, William (deceased) and Andrew of Roanoke. He passed away at his home Feb. 27, 1940, after a brief illness due to infirmities of old age; aged 85 y. 7 m. 17 d. Besides the above named children, he leaves 61 grandchildren, 40 great-

grandchildren, also one brother (Peter Bachman, of Washington, Ill.), and two sisters (Mrs. Phoebe Gingrich of Metamora, and Mrs. Sarah Kennell of Roanoke, Ill.)."

4. Jakobina 'Bina' 'Phoebe' Bachman was born July 6, 1863, and died at Peoria July 4, 1940. On March 6, 1887 she married Jacob Gingrich. He was born Sept. 28, 1859, and died June 26, 1932. *Gospel Herald*, July 1940: "Gingrich. Phoebe, daughter of Joseph and Barbara (Steider) Bachman, was born July 6, 1863, near Metamora, Ill; died July 4, 1940, at the St. Francis Hospital, Peoria, Ill., following an illness of less than one week's duration; aged 76 y. 11 m. 28 d. In her youth she accepted Christ as her personal Saviour, and united with the Partridge Mennonite Church west of Metamora. She 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 of Cazenovia and Laura Imhoff of Washington). One son (Peter) died in infancy. In her home going she leaves to mourn her loss, besides her family, three grandchildren, one sister (Mrs. John Kennel of Roanoke), one brother (Peter Bachman of Washington), and other relatives and friends. Mother will be greatly missed in the home, church, and community. She was a kind and loving disposition, ever ready to lend a helping hand to those in need. Funeral services were held July 7 at the Metamora Mennonite Church in charge of Bro.Ezra B. Yordy and Ben Eash." They are buried in Hickory Point Cemetery at Metamora, where the joint headstone calls her 'Phoebe Bachman.'
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 sometime, 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." *Gospel Herald*, September 1938: "Joseph J. Bachman of Metamora, Ill., was born June 24, 1865; died Aug. 9, 1938; aged 73 y. 1 m. 15 d. He was united in marriage to Elizabeth Schlabach, who preceded him in death thirty years ago. To this union were born four sons and two daughters (John, Louisa, Emma, Silas, and Harry), all surviving to mourn his departure. He was preceded in death by one son (Edward) who passed to the glory world three years ago. He also leaves eighteen grandchildren, two brothers and two sisters (Andrew, Peter, Mrs. Jacob Gingrich, and Mrs. John Kennel). Three sisters preceded him in death (Mrs. John Nafsinger, Mrs. Joe Eash, and Mrs. Christ Schlabach). He was a faithful member of the Metamora Mennonite Church. He was also a kind and loving father who had an interest in the welfare of his family until the Lord called him home. He will be greatly missed by the family and many friends... Funeral services in charge of Bro. H. R. Schertz assisted by Bro. Leland Bachman."
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 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 E. 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. Ben Zoss, Solomon S., Edna - Mrs. Chris Zoss, and Amanda - 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. 10m. 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, III., 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."

DAVID BACHMANN

The second son of Heinrich/Henry and his second wife Barbe, **David Bachmann,** was born at Bourg-Bruche, Lower Alsace Dec. 1, 1798.

He married Anne/Anna Bächer, though no civil entry is found at Bourg-Bruche. She was born there Nov. 22, 1795, a daughter of Peter/Pierre Bächer/Baecher and Freni or Véronique Schürch, also found as Genivieve Cherche. Her civil birth entry described her as Anne Pach, and her parents as cultivator Petre Pache and Ginivieve Cherche of the Bruche mill. Witnesses included cultivator Henry Pachmont [Bachmann], 30, a resident of the *maison blanche* at Urbeis; and the newborn's sister Barbe Pach, 27, living at the Bruche mill. Peter and his daughter Barbe signed with an 'x,' indicating they were illiterate; one signature looked like Henri Bachamann.

Anne/Anna was the younger sister of David's stepmother. Perhaps this had something to do with their departure for Hesse, where their first four children were born in 1820, 1823 (died young), 1825, and 1827. In Hesse and Baden at this time the law required that children of Anabaptists be registered in a Catholic church.

Some Illinois census reports later said they were born in Hesse-Darmstadt. Technically, Hesse-Darmstadt only existed as a state of the Holy Roman Empire until 1806. Then it became *Das Großherzogtum Hessen und bei Rhein* - the Grand Duchy of Hesse and by Rhine.

It is probable that all four were born in the vicinity of Hochheim am Main in Hessen-Nassau on the Rhine River, eight miles southeast of the city of Wiesbaden, and 19 miles northwest of the city of Darmstadt – the location of at least two of the births. There commerce revolved around the wine trade.

Their fifth child was recorded in a Catholic baptism register at Mühlhausen, Wiesloch, Baden in 1830. Mühlhausen is only 12 miles south of the university town Heidelberg, and 15 miles from a boundary with the present state of Hesse. The entry specifically names the parents as David Bachmann and Anna Bächer.

All of this conflicts with a civil death entry created at Reinhardsmunster, Lower Alsace March 20, 1825. The deceased was called Davide Bachmann who was born at 'Brisch, St. Dieu, Vauge,' [Bourg-Bruche, St. Dié, Vosges]. His age was 26 years, three months. His last residence had been Haberacker [forest], *Maison* No. 116, Reinhardmunster. His parents were described as carriage driver/porter/valet Henry Bachmann and Barbe Baecher. His father Henry and brother André, ages 55 and 28, signed as witnesses to his death. Signatures looked like Heinrich Bachmann and Antereas Bachman. All three were described as valets/porters.

Was this misidentification a mistake by illiterate witnesses, or an intentional ruse? Was David in trouble with the law when he left for Hesse? Another possibility is that the deceased was actually Heinrich's brother, also named David, who was born in 1768. While there was a civil birth entry at Bourg-Bruche for the younger David who was now in Hesse, there would have been none for an uncle David born in 1768; this would have been a nuisance obstacle to an expedient burial in the town cemetery. Yet another possibility is that someone had been using David's state-issued work permit in his absence.

David died in 1830 (the birth year of his youngest child) or later, but before the emigration of his widow Anne/Anna and children in 1854.

Anne/Anna Bächer (now known as Bachmann or Bachman) and their children Andreas/Andrew, Magdalena, Jacob, and Peter immigrated in three parties. They all came to Central Illinois.

— The packet ship *Tuskina* sailed from Rotterdam to New York, arriving Sept. 21, 1846. The passenger list shows #148 Andreas Bachmann, 24; and farther down the same page, #166 Magdalena Bachmann, 18, Wurtemberg.
— 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 ship, arriving before November of 1854, brought stepmother Anne/Anna. She may have decided to emigrate only after the death of her husband.

In Illinois they would drop one 'n' to become Bachman.

The mother Anne/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 David Bachmann and Anna Bächer include:

1. Andreas Bachmann/Andrew Bachman was born in Hesse 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: "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 was meant to be 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 [Darmstadt]; 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 courthouse 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 her 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, Jake 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 Nafziger. 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; I 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 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 Woolley 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 Birky, 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 Roanoke Mennonite Cemetery." *Gospel Herald*, August 1968: "Studer. - Emma, daughter of Andrew and Catherine (Sutler) Bachman, was born near Roanoke, Ill., May 22, 1875; died at Eureka Hospital, July 14, 1968; aged 93 y. 1 m. 22 d. On Jan. 18, 1894, she was married to Chris Studer, who died in 1957. Surviving are three sons (Gilgian L., Clarence H., and Lloyd C.), two daughters (Mrs. Clarence Yordy and Mrs. Willard Martin), 12 grandchildren, and 14 great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by two infant sons, three brothers, and two sisters. She was a member of the Roanoke Church, where funeral services were held July 16, with her nephew, Chris Bachman, officiating."

2. Peter Bachmann was registered in a Catholic Church at Hochheim am Main, Wiesbaden, Hesse Aug. 29, 1823. The principals were identified as Petrus, Davidus Bachmann, and Annae Bacher. Peter died before Aug. 31, 1830.
3. Magdalena Bachmann/Bachman was registered in the same Catholic Church at Hochheim am Main Aug. 25, 1825. Her parents were identified as Davidis Bachmann and Annae Bacher. Her headstone gives the birth year 1826, the 1860 census suggests Darmstadt in 1828, and the 1870 census suggests Hesse-Darmstadt in 1829. She died at Peoria Dec. 10, 1888. On Nov. 5, 1848 in Woodford County she married Henri Dettweiler or Henry Detweiller (he signed his name 'Detweiller'). Their names appear on the marriage entry as Henry Detweiler and Madaline Baughman. 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.
4. Jakob Bachmann/Jacob Bachman was born in Hesse Dec. 6, 1827, and died at Minonk, Woodford County March 27, 1895. On Feb. 22, 1855 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 Bauchman, 31, Hesse-Darmstadt; Jacobina, 35, 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 Jakobina '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, 25, 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 census of Cazenovia as Joseph A. Bachman, 54, born in Illinois to parents from Germany and Switzerland; Lena, 44, born in Illinois; and her mother Lena [Nafziger] Schertz, 74, born in Ohio. *Gospel Herald*, October 1932: "Joseph A., oldest son of Jacob and Jacobena Bachman, was born Sept. 19, 1855; died Oct. 5, 1932; aged 77 y. 16 d. On Feb. 19, 1880, he was united in marriage to Elizabeth Birky who passed away May 21, 1900. To this union were born one son and one daughter. On Aug. 10, 1902, he was united in marriage to Lena Schertz who is left to mourn his departure; also one daughter (Mrs. Peter Neuhauser of Pompeii, Mich.), one son (Aaron Bachman of Pomroy, Ia.), 14 grandchildren, two brothers, two sisters, and a host of relatives and friends. His parents and two brothers preceded him in death. Early in life he united with the Mennonite Church and continued a faithful member until death. He was a devoted husband and father. He had been in poor health for some time, although he was up and around until he passed into final sleep at the home in Cazenovia, Ill. Funeral services were held at the Metamora Church conducted by Simon Litwiler of Delavan, Ill., and Ezra Yordy of Eureka, Ill. Text, *Isa. 38: 1*. Burial in Harmony Cemetery." *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, a daughter of Peter Yordy and Mary Birkey. *Gospel Herald*, February 1928: "Elizabeth, daughter of Peter and Mary Yordy, was born in Tazewell Co., Ill., Dec. 6, 1854; died at her home in Cazenovia, Ill., 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 Roanoke, 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 Chrétien 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 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." Henry was also remembered as the first automobile owner at Cazenovia.

e. Bartholomew 'Bart' Bachman was born May 13, 1862, and died of asthma at Cazenovia June 3, 1929. He married Mary Ann Speas. She was born in Switzerland May 20, 1881, and died at Washington, Tazewell County Sept. 11, 1970. She is found as a 19-year-old servant-housekeeper in the household of David H. Schertz on the 1900 census of Roanoke; it notes that she was born in Switzerland in May 1881. His death entry described him as a retired telephone operator. Bartholomew and Mary Ann 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.

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 Jacabena (Zook) Bachman, 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 Metamora), 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.

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, 1936; 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. Interment at the Harmony Cemetery."

5. Peter Bachmann/Bachman was registered in a Catholic church at Mühlhausen, Wiesloch, Baden Aug. 31, 1830, and died at Senachwine, Putnam County April 18, 1907. His birth entry identifies his parents as David Bachmann and Anna Bächer. 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 Cailer, 39, Berlin Russia; farm laborer Joseph Fredeneprings, 32, Bavaria; and Anna Eutsi, 14, Bavaria. They were listed immediately before the household of Henry Bachman, indicating they were next-door neighbors. The 1870 census of Senachwine has farmer Peter Bankman, 40, Bavaria; Magdalena, 36, Bavaria; Elizabeth, 13, Illinois; Mary, 11, Illinois; Jacob, 9, Illinois; Peter, 8, Illinois; Joseph, 4, Illinois; John, 1, Illinois; domestic servant Elizabeth Zirline, 16, Bavaria; farm hand John Wagoner, 26, Prussia; and farm hand August Wagoner, 21, Prussia. The 1880 census of Senachwine has farmer Peter Bachman Sr., 50, born in Baden to parents from 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 1890 plat map of Senachwine shows Peter Bachman as the owner of 990 acres in Sections, 3, 10, and 11. The 1900 census of Senachwine has farmer Joseph Bauchman, 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 Arnstead [Darmstadt?]. 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.[109] 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/Henry of Putnam County

Recall that the Bachman/Bachmann/Baughman database of Y-chromosome test results found identical matches in Haplogroup R1b1 between male descendants of Virginia settler Heinrich Bachmann, who was born in the Old Castle area of Richterswil, Canton Zurich in 1711, and McLean County resident Johannes/Jean/John Bachman (1800-1881) who married Anna Stecker/Staker.

There was also a near-identical match from the Virginia settler to a Putnam County resident.

Who was **Heinrich Bachmann/Henry Bachman**, Peter Bachman's next door neighbor at Senachwine, Putnam County in 1860?

Does he fit into Peter's family, perhaps as a cousin or cousin-once-removed? If so, he may have been a son or grandson of Johannes/Jean (born circa 1760) or David (born in 1768), or a son of Moise (born circa 1772). A traditional clue favors David born in 1768 – Heinrich/Henry named his first son Henry, and his second David.

He was born in Bavaria Sept. 29, 1810, and died at Senachwine Dec. 19, 1883. His headstone calls him Heinrich Bachman and gives the age count 72 years, four months, and 20 days.

According to a sketch of his son Henry (Jr.) in *The Biographical Record of Bureau, Marshall and Putnam Counties, Illinois* (1896), Henry (Sr.) immigrated from Germany in 1844, arrived at New Orleans, and traveled through St. Louis to Putnam County. He may have sailed from Bremen on the *Olbers*, and arrived at New Orleans Dec. 12, 1844; the passenger list shows Heinr. Bicmann, 35, last residence Mardorf.[110] There are several German Mardorfs. The intended one may have been a stop on Heinrich's emigration journey. It is located 52 miles to the south of Bremen, near the Weser River used by many immigrants to reach the port.

In 1851 he purchased 80 acres at Senachwine, Putnam County.

CHIEF SENACHWINE

Senachwine was born circa 1744. He became the war chief of the Potowatomi tribe until being superceded by Shabbona and Wabaunsee in 1814-15.

Implored by Black Hawk to join his campaign against Illinois settlers, Chief Senachwine of the Potowatomi spoke in a council at Tiskilwa in 1830. He strongly cautioned against joining in what became the Black Hawk War of 1832 (see the Appendix).

According to descendants, he said, "Resistance to the aggression of the whites is useless. War is wicked and must result in our ruin. Therefor let us submit to our fate; return not evil for evil, as this would offend the Great Spirit and bring ruin upon us."

The chief died in the summer of 1831 as he rode into his village, estimated to have been 300-500 wigwams. He was buried in a grave on a hill one-half mile to the north, at a place now called Mound Burial Ground. In 1937 the site was marked with a boulder and brass plaque by the Sons of the American Revolution, in a ceremony attended by 2,000 people.

---

[109] 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.

[110] There were five vessels called the *Olbers*, all christened after Bremen physician and astronomer Heinrich Wilhelm Mattias Olbers (1758-1840). The one that arrived in 1844 was launched at Bremen Oct. 1, 1838. Its name was changed after it ran aground and had repairs in 1848. During that span it sailed mainly to Noth American ports, often New Orleans.

Circa 1853 in Woodford County Heinrich/Henry married Anne/Anna Rediger (the county is the recollection of Henry Jr., though no marriage entry is found there). She was born July 3, 1828, and died in Putnam County Sept. 15, 1885. She had sailed from Le Havre on the *Athens*, and arrived at New Orleans May 13, 1853. The passenger list is given in REDIGER.

They appear on three successive Senachwine censuses. In 1860 we find farmer Henry Bachman, 50, Baden [perhaps because Peter Bachman in the household before him was from Baden]; Anna, 30, France; Henry, 5, Illinois; and David, 1, Illinois; with two farm laborers. The 1870 census has farmer Henry Bauhman, 59, Bavaria; Ann, 40, France; Henry, 15, Illinois; David, 11, Illinois; Mary, 9, Illinois; and two farm hands. In 1880 they are 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 also appears to say he was "*72 Jahr, 4 Monat, und 20 Tagen alt*."

Her headstone says she was "Anna, wife of Heinrich Bachman, died Sept. 15, 1885, age 57 yrs. [illegible] m. 12 d." 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 (Jr.) was born Oct. 5, 1854, and died at Princeton, Bureau County March 26, 1936. In the second half of 1880 (after the census) in Woodford County 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 'Katie' 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 of McLean County. The 1890 plat map of Senachwine shows Henry Bachman as the owner of 40 acres in Section 2, next door to his brother David. 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 Catherines 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. The 1890 plat map of Senachwine shows David Bachman as the owner of 260 acres in Sections 2 and 3.

— A barely legible headstone in Willow Springs Cemetery says that Mary Rinkenberger died in April of 1871, aged 13 years. The names on the bottom line were H. &. A. Bachmann. Presumably she was Mary, 9, found on the 1870 census. *The Biographical Record of Bureau, Marshall and Putnam Counties, Illinois* identifies the children of Heinrich/Henry and Anna as only the two sons.

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, or someone who harvests grain and binds it into shocks. The surname 'Graber', though almost as common, is entirely unrelated. In Switzerland, a *Graber* was a digger or engraver. In Tazewell County, the surname 'Garber' came to be used interchangeably with 'Gerber.'

For example, the Elm Grove Gerbers had their name spelled both ways on censuses: 'Garber' 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 'Guerbert' in French records. 'Garber' is often found as 'Garver' in American records.

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 Insviller, 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-Harprich, 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 Merviller, Meurthe-et-Moselle she married Jean Gerber. He was born at Cloquinhoff, Sarrelouis 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 Bouxières-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.

e. Christophe Gerber was born at Rhodes Feb. 16, 1801.
f. A child who lived one hour born at Rhodes Sept. 12, 1802.
g. Catherine Gerber was born at Rhodes Nov. 11, 1804, and died there Dec. 2, 1804. Death entry witnesses included father Joseph Gerber, 36, and his brother-in-law Jean Rouvenacht, 40.

On March 12, 1805 at Rhodes, Joseph remarried to Barbe Abresol, a daughter of Joseph Abresol and Christine Schertz. She died Oct. 28, 1844 at Kerprich-aux-Bois, Moselle. Their child was:

h. Catherine Gerber was born at Rhodes Jan. 12, 1806.

4. 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 Insviller 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 *Groton*, arriving at New York June 4, 1834. She is found listed after her son as John Guerber, 24; and Magdaline, 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/Gerber 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 *Groton* passenger list as Joseph Farni, 38, France; Catherine, 37; Marie, 16; Joseph, 17; John, 14; Pierre, 12; Magdaleine, 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 Brechbühl/Prachbull. Her first husband had been Christian Zehr (1784-1847). They are buried in the Old Amish/Zehr Cemetery at Croghan.
    b. Madeleine Guerber was born circa 1797, and died in Lewis County, New York after the 1880 census. On May 13, 1823 at Hoste-Haut she married Simon Hirschi/Hirsch/Hirschey.[111] He was born at Marienthal, Moselle Sept. 7, 1799, and died in Lewis County, New York between the 1865 and 1870 censuses. For background on this couple see the Appendix, HIRSCHY/HIRSCHEY.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. 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 Hirschy. 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.
8. Madeleine Gerber was born at Kreutzfeld April 4, 1775. On April 6, 1795 at Insviller she married Joseph Engel. He was born at Assenoncourt April 7, 1770, and died at Destry Dec. 28, 1823. At the time of the marriage, Joseph was a farmhand; his father was described as a miller at the mill at Gosselming, and his mother was deceased. Magdalena was described as a farmer and cultivator on the Roderhof at Insviller. 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 (these three all came from Vittersbourg); and the bride's oldest brother Jean Gerber, 25. Joseph and Madeleine lived on the Roderhof at Insviller; Gauchebach Mill at Destry; and Dalem (see ENGEL for a list of their children)
9. Peter/ Pierre Gerber was born at Kreutzfeld Feb. 4, 1780. When Pierre signed his father's death entry at Insviller 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-Ébersviller, Moselle Nov. 7, 1783 (according to her marriage entry), and died at Insviller March 14, 1809, a daughter of Christian Schertz and Madeleine Farni. Marriage announcements were posted at Altviller (the current residence of the bride) and Insviller (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 Insviller less than eight years. An entry for Barbe's death was created at Insviller 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 Insviller 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).

[111] The 10-year civil index lists the couple as Jean Hirsch and Magdelaine Guerber.

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, 24. 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, 1911 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."[112]

[112] The five children of Samuel and Magdalena included Otto Jacob Gerber, who married Fannie Staker (July 25, 1897-April 29, 1980), a daughter of Nicholas Staker [Jr.] and Jacobina Roth: "Gerber. - Otto J., son of the late Bishop Samuel and

3) 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.
4) Johannes/John Gerber was born in Montgomery Township Feb. 22, 1843, and died May 9, 1843. He is buried in Maurer Cemetery at Danvers.
5) 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 Ehresman 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."
6) 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.
7) 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.
8) 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.
9) 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.
10) 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.

c. Magdalena Gerber was born at Insviller Nov. 22, 1807, and died at Farnisville 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.[113] He was born on Vallerade farm at

---

Magdalene (Sears) Gerber, was born near Groveland, Ill., July 19, 1894; and died at his home in Tremont Tp., Nov. 8, 1934; aged 40 y. 3 m. 20 d. Death came in an unfruitful attempt to rescue his five-months-old daughter, Fern Esther, from their burning home. When a youth he accepted Christ as his Savior, being baptized at the Pleasant Grove Mennonite Church of which his father was bishop. He was a faithful and dependable member. He will be missed in the Sunday school and Church, as his seat was seldom vacant. On Thanksgiving Day, 1910, he was united in matrimony with Sister Fannie Staker, to which union the following children were born (who with the mother all survive him except the baby daughter): Fern Esther, who perished in his arms; Helen, Erma, Lena, Samuel, Betty, Wayne, Alice May, and Lila Marie. One brother (Menno, Groveland) and 3 sisters (Miss Rosa, Groveland; Mrs. Carl (Martha) Wubben, Danvers; and Mrs. Roy (Ruth) King of Eureka) survive him. He was a kind, faithful, and loving father, always interested in both the spiritual and physical welfare of his family. As a true father his absence will be keenly felt by his wife and children, but it is a comfort to know that "all things work together for good to them that love God" (*Rom. 8 :28*). Fern Esther, daughter of Otto and Fannie (Staker) Gerber, was born May 22, 1934, and perished with her father in their burning home on Nov. 8, 1934, at the age of five months and seventeen days. She was the youngest of nine children. Even though her stay here was short, she had endeared herself to her family by her bright, winning ways, always (it seemed) showing an exceptional love for her father who gave his life in an attempt to rescue her. Funeral services were held Nov. 11 at the home of Menno S. Gerber (a brother) in charge of the home ministers, Jonas Litwiller and Leland A. Bachman, and at the Pleasant Grove Mennonite Church in charge of H. R. Schertz assisted by Simon Litwiller. Burial in the cemetery adjoining. It was the largest gathering of friends and relatives ever to attend a funeral at the Pleasant Grove Mennonite Church."

[113] The marriage at Montigny was recorded as that of Joseph Guingrich and 'Madeleine Guerber.' Montigny was the home of Michel Mosimann and Suzanne/Susana Brechbühl, the parents of minister Michael Mosiman (see MOSIMAN).

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.'

10. 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 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.[114] 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 Bühl (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.[115] It also mentioned two sons, Christian and Peter, 19 and 17.

---

[114] 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.

[115] 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.[116]

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 Ringenberger 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 Niclaŭs 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 (Niclaŭs 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: [117]
    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. The 1870 census of Tremont shows farmer Peter Garber, 24, Ohio; Mary, 23, Illinois; Magdalena, 2, Illinois; Elias, six months, Illinois; and farm laborer John Eiman, 23, Germany. They 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/John 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,

[116] 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.

[117] Tazewell County did not keep birth records before 1878.

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 Garber.' They farmed at Gibson City.

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 Mennonites of Butler County, 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. Garber.' The *Grantor's General Index of Deeds* shows transactions where Christian and Peter 'Garber' 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.[118] 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.

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 Anabaptists*, 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, Ill. 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 July 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 Cillicothe 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 family 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

[118] 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.'

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.[119]

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 sawing, 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.

---

[119] 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.

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.

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 Garber's [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 Schwitzer 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 Ëyschachen 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 Gensbourg, 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 Güngerich 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, ad 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 Vallerade 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 Kupferschmit and Suzanne Eymann/Eiman.

3. Catherine Gerber (also found as Carbre) was born circa 1768, and died at Gondexange, 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 Gŭnden.
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 Paltz [Belsley]. Witnesses included Joseph 'Guingerick' [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.[120]

Nicholas and Magdalena departed Le Havre on the *Marcia Cleaves* 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 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 at Homburg an der Saar.
    b. Christian/Chrétien Gingerich was born Dec. 10, 1817. In 1836 he married Magdalena Stalter, who was born Oct. 17, 1817, a daughter of Jakob Stalter and Barbara Dettweiler of the Bickenaschbacherhof.
    c. Jacques Gingerich was born Dec. 15, 1819. He may have died as an infant; no more is known about him than his birth entry created at Kutzenhausen.
    d. Peter/Pierre Gingerich was born Jan. 17, 1824 [Kutzenhausen birth entry], and died at Washington Dec. 31, 1898. On Feb. 8, 1859 in Woodford County he married Catharine 'Katie' Nafzinger. They are buried with Gerbers in Union Cemetery as Peter Gingerich, born Dec. 17, 1825 (an error) and died Dec. 31, 1908 (another obvious error), and Catharine 'Katie' Nafzinger, born Dec. 1, 1836 and died May 27, 1914. Catharine was his cousin, a daughter of elder Jean/John Nafziger and Anne Marie Gerber. *Herald of Truth*, February 1899: "Pre. Peter Gingerich died at his home near Washington, Ill., Dec. 31st 1898, at the ripe old age of 73 years and 14 days. He was born Dec. 17th, 1825, in Niedersturzenhausen, Alsace, France. February 8th, 1859, he was joined in the holy bonds of wedlock to Sister Katherine Nafziger, who survives him. This union was not blessed with any children, but Bro. and Sister Gingerich adopted two sisters, twins, in their infancy. Deceased was laid to rest Jan. 2d, 1899, from the Union M. H. near which he had for a long time lived. Funeral services were conducted by Bish. John Smith from *2 Tim. 4:2,3*, Bish. Andrew Schrock from *2 Tim. 4:7,8*, and Pre. Peter Zimmerman from *Dan. 12:3*."
    e. Magdalena/Madeleine Gingerich was born Feb. 21, 1831. In 1852 she married Christian Stalter. He was born May 26, 1821, son of Jakob Stalter and Barbara Dettweiler of the Bickenaschbacherhof.
3. Elisabeth Gerber was born at Gensbourg Nov. 19, 1799. On Aug. 22, 1818 at Oberhaslach she married Joseph Baecher. He was born at Saales March 29, 1789, a son of laborer Joseph Baecher and Madeleine Göerig of Le Hang. Their civil marriage entry stated that he was a widower; his first wife had also been named Elisabeth Gerber. At the

[120] Though her surname has been found in Oberhaslach records as Bächerin, Bächrain, Bacharin, and Bachri.

time of the marriage he was living at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines. The entry was witnessed by Elisabeth's uncle Chrétien Gerber, a 49-year-old laborer at Salm; and brother Pierre Gerber, a 25-year-old laborer at Oberhaslach.

4. Catherine Gerber was born Feb. 18, 1802. Perhaps she died as an infant. No more is known about her than the birth entry made at Oberhaslach.
5. Anne Marie 'Anna' Gerber was born July 30, 1807, and died at Washington Feb. 26, 1885. On March 20, 1832 at St. Jean-Kourtzerode she married Jean/John Nafziger. He was born at Bourscheid Feb. 13, 1802, 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 Graber Naffziger, aged 77 years, 6 months and 27 days. She was born on the 30th of July, 1807, in Gensburg [Gensbourg], Alsace, France. She was married to John Nafziger on the 20th of March, 1832, in Burscheit [Bourscheid], 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 NAFZIGER, THE NAFZIGERS OF WASHINGTON.
6. Barbara Gerber was born December 1809. Perhaps she also died as an infant; no more 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. Their ceremony was performed by County Judge Middleton Tackaberry (the county register has her given name as Katharina). She was born at Bourscheid 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 Kutzenhausen 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. Their children were all born at Gensbourg, and the births were all recorded at nearby Oberhaslach. 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/Pierre 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.'
4. Johannes/Jean/John Gerber was born Jan. 30, 1823, and died Sept. 13, 1843.
5. Magdalena/Madléne 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 minister 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. Esh). 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 OESCH/ESCH 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, whith 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.
9. Jean Henrÿ/Henry Gerber was born May 15, 1837, died Sept. 13, 1857.

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, Christaine 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, France, 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; Jacob [Dellenbach], 20, 1 trunk; and Barbary Frey, 35, 7 trunks, 2 beds.

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 sometime, 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 Nafziger. She was born in Tazewell County June 18, 1848, and died at Garden City, Missouri Feb. 5, 1900, a daughter of Daniel Nafziger 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 Naffziger, 25. Lizzy 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 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 center) 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, Niklaŭs, 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.[121] 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.[122] 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,

---

[121] Children Emanuel and Anna erroneously gave the birthplaces of their parents as Switzerland and Pennsylvania on later census reports.

[122] 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.

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.[123]

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.

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.[124] 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. Eva's headstone says she was "Eva, wife of John 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/Mary 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. The *Grantors Index* says that on March 10, 1851 Samuel Garber paid Peter Litweiller $1800 for property in Section 13 of Township 20. 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 Gerber grouping of graves in Railroad Cemetery. On June 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 5, 1854 in Tazewell County he married Véronique/Frances 'Fanny' Schweitzer; the ceremony was performed by minister Andrew Ropp. She was born Aug. 6, 1832, and died March 7, 1912, a daughter of Johannes/Jean Suisse (John Schweitzer or Switzer at Morton) and Marie/Mary Engel. According to the *Grantors Index*, Emanuel paid Milton Frranks $650 for property in what became Elm Grove Oct. 12, 1850; then he paid Charles C. Cullen $400 for 160 acres in Elm Grove March 5, 1851; then $3,000 to William J. Tucker for land in Sections 8 and 24 March 30, 1853. 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 of 1825 to parents from Switzerland and Pennsylvania; and Fannie, born in Pennsylvania in August 1832 to French parents. They are buried in Glendale

[123] 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.

[124] The exact location of the Garber home is marked 'E. Garber' on the 1864 plat map, above that of 'J.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.

Cemetery, where she is found as 'Francis Sweitzer.' Walter Ropp: "About 1860, when Man Garber lived on the Sommer farm, Mr. Young had a field of corn down at the road.[125] 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!"

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).[126]
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 Naffziger. 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' Naffziger. 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/Magdelaine 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.

---

[125] 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.

[126] 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 with him. Sybilla personally led the defense of the city. On Oct. 2, 1187 she escaped to Tripoli. She led troops besieging the city of Acre for two years. On July 25, 1190 she died outside the city walls.

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 on the 1850 census, and as an 18-year-old from Ohio on 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 a resident of Elm Grove; age 23; 5 foot-4¾; 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.

Groveland Gerbers

On Aug. 7, 1838 in Tazewell County minister Christian Engel performed a marriage ceremony. The county register lists it as John Garber and Catharine Ower.

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 Garber, 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. The 1900 census of Thurman, Colorado shows them as stock raiser Joseph Gerber, 60, born in Illinois in November 1839 to French parents; Catherine, 50, born in Indiana in March 1850 to German parents. They were still living at Thurman in 1910.
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 Evengelical 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; Sophia, 35, born in Germany to German parents; John, 8, Illinois; William, 6, 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 French 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.[127] 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 Phillip 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.

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.

[127] Although town boundaries and names were were adopted or established in 1849, there was a village of Groveland before this date.

Bechler and Beckler: Variations of Bächler

In Canton Bern a *Bächler* was someone who lived by a brook [Ger. *Bach*]. *Heimatorte* of legal places of origin for Swiss citizenship rights associated with this surname include Erlenbach im Simmental (formerly Erlenbach, the birthplace of Jacob Amman) and Trub.[128]

Bavarian Becklers

Johannes or Johann Pechler [a French variation of Bächler] married Magdalena Birky.

Their son **Christian Beckler** was born in 1811 on the Wahlerhof, 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 Wahlerhof, see BIRKY/BIRKEY, THE BIG BIRKEYS.

In 1815 Johannes Pechler and Christian Eichelberger (see EICHELBERGER) co-leased Perlach castle [Ger. *Schloss Perlachsoed*] outlying Munich on its southeastern side.[129]

On July 1, 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.[130] 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 Jacobine Holly [or Ger. *Jakobina, Jakobea*], who was born on the Horterhof at Heiligenmoschel in the Pfalz (40 miles northwest of Annweiler) May 29, 1807, a daughter of Jakob Holly and Magdalena Unzicker.

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.[131] One page of the passenger list shows Bŭrk [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 Birkys were brothers and sisters later known in Tazewell County as the 'Little Red Birkys,' while the two Eigstis were sisters.

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.

---

[128] 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 Eggiwil (seven miles southwest of Trub). These entries may or may not be relevant to our searches.

[129] 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.

[130] A church dedicated to Saint John the Baptist in the 13th century still stands there.

[131] 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).

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.

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 Birkys' (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 Birkys) 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 landownership. 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.[132]

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 Magdalen, 22, Bavaria.

---

[132] 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.

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.

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.

On Aug. 3, 1881 in Peoria County Christian married again. The *Illinois Statewide Marriage Index* shows the marriage of Christian Bechler and Mrs. Catharine (Bir) Rickenbach. This was Katharina 'Katy' Bauer Berger Riggenbach, and Christian was her third husband (see BERGER for Christian Berger and Jacob Riggenbach).

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." Katy died May 19, 1891, and was buried near her second husband Jacob Riggenbach in Tennessee Point Cemetery (also known as Black Walnut Cemetery) at Tremont. Her headstone says, "Katy Riggenbach, 1825-1891."

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.[133]

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.[134] 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, Missisippi. 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.

---

[133] Christian Zimmerman is erroneously called 'Andy Zimmerman' on that census, the name of his older brother.

[134] 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.

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:

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 Birkey. 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 Chrétien Dettweiler and Marie Kupferschmidt. *Gospel Herald*, May 1950: '"Detweiler. Christian H., son of Christian and Mary Detweiler, was born in Gridley, Ill., Jan. 13, 1866; passed away at the hospital in Geneva, Nebr., 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 Shickley, Nebr.; and Mrs. Barbara Reeb, of Eureka, Ill.). On Oct. 16, 1902, he was united in marriage to Mary Birkey, 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 Birkys').

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 bacame 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:

3. Josephine Zeitler was born March 19, 1883, and died at Peoria April 5, 1977. She married Chris Endress. He was born in Germany Nov. 24, 1888, and died at La Prairie, Marshall County Jan. 28, 1943, a son of George Endress and Elizabeth Waldbeiser. *The Prairie Farmer's Directory of Tazewell County* (1917) shows them in Section 2 of Dillon with children Edward, Joseph, Clarence, and Phillip. They appear on the 1940 census of La Prairie as Chris Endress, 51, Germany; Josephine, 57, Illinois; Joseph, 25, Illinois; and David, 14, Illinois. They are buried in the Apostolic Christian Cemetery at Princeville.
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).

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.[135] 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 Fröliger/Freliger. He was born at Garrebourg May 3, 1765, a son of Jean Pierre Fröliger/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 Rŭpp. Their civil marriage entry describes the groom as Kristian Roupte, 25, a son of Andre Roupte and Barbe Rabre, who had died at Banbois. He was born at Banbois, Plaine, Vosges, and rsided at Herbeviller. (Christian Rŭpp 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 Henrydorft [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 residents of Neuville, 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 Jacob Bochler, 54, father of the bride and resident of Henrÿdorft. 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-

[135] 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 Rŭpp 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.

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.

- Andrés 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 diseases that afflicted both sides.[136] 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 Insviller, 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 Catherine Gingerich. She was a sister-in-law to Anne Engel. On April 5, 1785 at Insviller 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 Magdelaine 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 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. 14, 1817, where Anne was present and consenting. We hear secondhand that when widow Anne Marie Gerber died 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 Mètaires-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 Pechalert). She married Christian/Christ Mosimann. He was born Feb. 10, 1760,

---

[136] 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.

and died on La Charmille farm at St. Quirin March 17, 1812, a son of Christian/Christianne Mosimann and Gretel/Margueritte Liechti. See MOSIMAN for background on his family.

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 Marguerite Saltzmann. She was born circa 1764, and died at Haselbourg Feb. 10, 1814, age 50. They farmed at Haselbourg.
    a. Michel Bechler 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: Xtiane 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 marrried 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 Barbe Eiman. She was born at Lubine (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 st 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 Meÿerin.
    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 Nafzieger, 38, both cultivators. For a list of their children see OESCH/ESCH.

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 Bhler. 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 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 yers 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.[137]

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.[138]

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

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 Bechler, 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; amd Joseph, 13, Illinois.

---

[137] Our single source for the birth year 1789 and names of Michael's parents was the late minister/historian Steve Estes.

[138] The *Illinois Public Domain Land Sales Database* lists Michael Bachler.

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 202

1810 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

Peter Bächler/Pierre Bechler was born circa 1756, and died at Hattigny, Moselle March 13, 1827.

Circa 1777 he married Barbe Mosimann. She was born circa 1759, and died at Turquestein May 13, 1819, a daughter of Christian/Christianne Mosimann and Gretel/Margueritte Liechti. She was one of the extensive Mosimann/Mosiman family on la Charmille farm at St. Quirin (in what is now the department of Moselle), where their first child was born.

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 Neuviller-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-Vezouze 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 Mosimann, 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 Pintré. She was born at St. Die circa 1784, and died at Vézelise Dec. 21, 1867. Their civil marriage entry describes the groom as Jean Bahelaire, 36, a son of Anabaptist farm equipment operators Pierre Bahelaire and Elisabeth Mause of Maron, Meurthe, in the district of Nancy [Mâron, Meurthe-et-Moselle]. The bride was described as Barbe Pintré, 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 Pintré, 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 Rŭp and Barbe Reber; in the following year he would marry Barbe's sister Marie Pintré. Signatures included Hans Bächler, Jacob Bachmann, and Josephe Rŭb. Jean/Hans was described as a cultivator and resident of Golbey when he appeared as witness Jean Baziere (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 Pintré 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 Vandoeuvre-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 Pechler 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 Vandoeuvre-lès-Nancy on the day of his death. It described him as day laborer Pierre Péchler, 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 Péchler and Barbe Maussimann. Witnesses included his brother Nicolas Péchler, 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.[139]
4. Nicolas Bechler was born circa 1787, and died between 1849 and 1881. On July 22, 1818 at Fauconcourt, Vosges he married Anne Brechbiel. Their civil marriage entry described the groom as cultivator Nicolas Brechler, 29, a resident of Angomont (now in Meurthe-et-Moselle). He was born at 'Filicartez, Neuviller' [Fuellengarten, Dossenheim-sur-Zinsel] in Lower Alsace, a son of cultivator Pierre Bechler and Barbe Mosimann 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 [Brechbuhl], who was born at Chazelles Sept. 15, 1796, a resident of Fauconcourt [Vosges]. She was a daughter of the deceased farm equipment operator Christian Brechbiel, who had died at Chazelles Feb. 1, 1810, and Elizabeth Roup, who had died there April 20, 1807. One witness was cultivator Joseph Eymann, 49, maternal uncle of the bride, a resident of Fauconcourt. The groom signed 'Claüs Bechler.' Anne died at Vandoeuvre-lès-Nancy April 18, 1849. Nicolas remarried to Catherine Schertz. 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 Dossenheim 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 Risholz 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.
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 Néviller [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,

[139] Joseph Bechler was born at Fraquelfing, 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 Pierre 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; Magdeline 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.

Vandoeuvre [now Vandoeuvre-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 Jopseph 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 Lenchten, district of Saverne, a son of the deceased Pierre Bechler and Elisabeth Mouzimann, who in life had been cultivators on Risholz farm at Hattigny.[140] One witness was Christian Bechler 32, a shopkeeper at Vezelise; he signed 'Christem Bcheler.' 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 Lenchten.

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 'Rŭp.' It was originally derived from Rŭpp, 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. [141] 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 Adomènil, 28, a friend of the bride. Signatures read Andreas Bachler, Peter Bächler, Anna Rŭp, Madlen Brechbŭhl, 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 Salonnes, 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.[142] Their party appears on the passenger list as Andrew 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

---

[140] 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.

[141] This may only reflect confusion with the residence of brother Peter/Pierre.

[142] 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, third mate, and nine crewmen evacuated in the ship's small boat. They were picked up the next day by a passing ship. 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.

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-et-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 Salonnes. 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* Bachler' - C. Passielle also called Bachler.
3. The civil entry index of Rehainviller 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 Salonnes 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/BECKLER). 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 Salonnes 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. 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 Salonnes July 26, 1836 (her civil birth entry called her 'Elisabeth Beklere'), and died at Princeton, Bureau County in 1874. On April 26, 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 heaadstone 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 documentstion 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. Brtish troops were severely punished y 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 minister 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.

Simon and Christian 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 minstry 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 'Scharmi.' She died at Bourscheid, Moselle Oct. 31, 1797.

Marie was a daughter of Christian/Christianne Mosimann and Gretel/Margueritte 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.

Enries 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 Neuviller [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 Neuviller, Saverne, Lower Alsace, and a resident of Badonviller; a daughter of miller Michel Bächler of St. Mard and the deceased Marie Mosiman. 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 witnesses 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 Eÿmann. 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 Eyman, who had died June 10, 1819, and Marie Zehr, who had died Jan. 3, 1804.[143] 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 Eyman 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 Eÿmann. 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 Bechler and Marey Bretschi. She was born circa 1775, a daughter of Nicolas Bertschi and Susanne Letwiller of Bischwald mill at Bistroff, Moselle.[144]

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], Abersol, Blanck, Creabil [Krehbiel/Krayenbühl], Kupferschmidt, Nafziger, Neuhauser, Rediger, Ringenberg, Schrack [Schrag], Sommer, Stoquit [Stucki], and Suisse [from Schweizer, later Schweitzer].

---

[143] 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.

[144] 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 'Bertchy,' 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.

The family was living at St. Mard, Meurthe-et-Moselle 1812-13. The 1815 birth entry of son Joseph described them as residents of Mâron, 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-lês-Nancy (below the city f Nancy).

Marie died at Vandoeuvre-lês-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 Carbory [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 Carbory, Meurthe [Garrebourg, Moselle], a son of the deceased Michel Bechler and Marie Mosimann who resided at Carbory.

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 identifes him as Christianne Bechler.

■ 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 Ste. 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 Perklelere, 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.

6. **Christian Bächler/Bechler** was born at Imling, Moselle Jan. 18, 1801.

7. Catherine Bächler was born at Imling Oct. 28, 1802, and died there Aug. 23, 1804. Her civil birth entry named her parents as miller Michel Peckler and Marie Perchi of Imling. It was witnessed by cultivator Christianne Neuhauser, 40.

8. Susanne Bächler was born at Imling July 31, 1804, and died at Dompcevrin, Meuse Jan. 18, 1878. On June 12, 1828 at Vignot she married Jean Turck. He was born at Flavigny-sur-Moselle Oct. 5, 1806, and died at Commercy, Meuse Feb. 13, 1857, a son of Pierre Turck and Catherine Kennel. Their civil marriage entry described the groom as Jean Turck, a miller living at Lirey or Cirey, born at Stavigny, Meurthe Oct. 6, 1806 [perhaps meant to be Sampigny], a son of the deceased Pierre Turck 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 Becler 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 Eÿmann.

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 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 Domevre, 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].

10. Madeleine Bächler was born at Imling May 19, 1808.

11 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.

12. 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 identifes him as Christianne 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 Bechtler, 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 settled 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." [145] See MAURER for more on this couple who lived at Montgomery Township, Woodford County.
3. Barbe/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.
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.

---

[145] 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).

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. *naturel*] 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.'[146] Others sources say 'Nahinch' and 'Nalrinch' 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*.

The older two sons Joseph and Peter immigrated together via Le Havre and New York in 1836. Widow Elisabeth immigrated with her youngest son Christian via Le Havre and New Orleans in 1839. She died at New Orleans in 1843.

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 sometime 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 late 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. 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. [actually Flanagan]." 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 Miner, 10, Ohio. Only one household separated them from that of Peter's brother Christian. *Gospel Her*ald, December 1921: "Tena Yoder Beckler was

[146] Neunkirch is the German name for the village Neuenkirchen-lès-Sarreguemines, Moselle. However, no Bechler civil birth entries were found there.

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 sometime 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 Wenger), 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."

3. 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 minister/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.[147] 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 adventurous 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. Their civil marriage entry described the groom as weaver Joseph Bechler, 23, a resident of Bertrambois born at Bisping Dec. 3, 1810. He was a son of servant Elisabeth Bechler, 44, living at Hammer, Rahling. The bride was Catherine Sommer, 27, a resident of Tanconville born at Guindrimont, Bertambois Feb. 1, 1808. Her parents were farm quipment operator Joseph Sommer, 72, and Elisabethe Barbe Kerber, 73, residents of Bertrambois who were present and consenting. [Note that these ages match their 1836 passenger list].

[147] In 1892 Eicher's followers were admitted into the Middle District Mennonite Conference.

An added note says that Catherine brought an illegitimate daughter Marie Catherine to the marriage. Marie Catherine had been entered in birth records at Tanconville (adjacent to Bertrambois) April 5, 1831; the witness was cultivator Joseph Sommer, 69.

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 Joseph 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 Orendorff, 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 (adjacent to Bertrambois) 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 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 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. [148]

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, 91grandchildren 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 Farny is buried as 'Magdalena Erb' in Wood River Mennonite Cemetery. Her second husband Peter Erb is buried in East Fairview Cemetery at Milford.

[148] Wood River is approximately 100 miles west of Milford. The congregation at Wood River was established in 1904-05 by families from Milford.

Nafziger: Naffzger of Uetendorf

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.

It is possible that inspiration for the surname was drawn from the Napf, a 4,620-foot mountain eight miles northeast of Trub. It is the summit of the Napfgebiet region, overlooking the Emmental to the southwest on the border of Cantons Bern and Lucerne. Someone living on its slopes would be a Napfzger.

However, the earliest identified mention of this surname is found in documents 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. Baptism entries have been preserved since 1558.

In a Württemberg dialect a *Nafzger* was a sleeping person, and may also have described a drowsy or easy-going person.

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 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 a 46-year-old metal smith, she was 41. 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.'

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 Naffzher, 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. The entry appears to spell his name Napfftzger. 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 (margin)/Freni (text) 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.

2. Anni (margin)/Anna (text) 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 Güngerich at Steffisburg Jan. 16, 1691. He was a son of Michel Güngerich 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. By May 16, 1653 Claus/Niklaŭs Leuenberger and 16,000 volunteers 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 Ratsmanual*. 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 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 baptism witness. On Oct. 29, 1660 at Thierachern he married Margreth Rŭpp.
5. Mathÿs Naffzger was baptized April 30, 1637. On Jan. 25, 1658 at Thierachern he married Christina Schnÿder. Their marriage entry lists them as 'Matheÿs Naftzger Christina Schnid *von Ŭttendorf*.'
6. Melchior Naffzger was baptized May 26, 1639. On Dec. 1, 1673 at Thierachern he married Maria Haŭssener. 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. Ŭlli/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 Zŭtter.
10. **Christen Naffzger** (as his name was spelled on his baptism entry) was baptized March 22, 1649. On Nov. 23, 1672 at Thierachern he married Anna Schnÿder.
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 Naffzger was born at Uetendorf but baptized at Thierachern March 22, 1649. He died between 1686 and 1727, presumably at Uetendorf.

On Nov. 23, 1672 at Thierachern he married Anna Schnÿder. The entry spelled his name Christen Naftzger. She was baptized at Thierachern Oct. 25, 1657, and died at Uetendorf Jan. 30, 1734, a daughter of Fritz Schnider and Margreth Cathart.

A *Totenrodel* death register was kept by the church at Thierachern starting in 1728. Anna's entry described her as Anna Schneider, 80 [she was 76], elderly widow of Nafzler. She had died *beÿ der Linden zŭ Utendorff* [near the linden tree at Uetendorf].

Their children born at Uetendorf but baptized at Thierachern all had baptism entries that spelled their name Naphzger. They include:

1. Anna Naphzger was baptized June 29, 1673. She may have been the Anna Naphzger who married Maritz Pfister at Thierachern in July of 1690. He was the widower of Barbli Feller, who he had married at Thierachern in December of 1687.
2. **Christen Naphzger/Christian Nafziger** was baptized July 23, 1675.
3. Johannes Naphzger was baptized in June of 1677. On June 27, 1700 at Thierachern he married Anna Wŭhlschlager of Thun.
4. Bendicht Naphzger was baptized in February of 1680. A death entry created at Thierachern for Bendicht Nafzger March 13, 1738 gave his age as 56. He may have been the Bendicht Naphzer who married Maria Jenni at Thierachern March 3, 1698.
5. Melchior Naphzger was baptized in October of 1682. A death entry created at Thierachern for Melchior Nafzger March 7, 1738 said he was 68 and described him as a glass blower [Ger. *Glaser*] at Uetendorf. He married Barbara Ruchti, who was born in 1682, and died in 1746.
6. **Ŭlric Naphzger/Ŭlrich Nafziger** was baptized in February of 1686.

The two sons Christen/Christian (later of Birlenbach) and Ŭlrich (later of Essingen and Lancaster County) are thought to have left Canton Bern in 1705. They are generally described as the ancestors of all known Amish Mennonite Nafzigers.[149]

Because there were very few cross-marriages in future generations, their descendants can be categorized independently as a Birlenbach branch and an Essingen branch.

The modern Nafziger family owes a huge debt to the work of the late Hermann and Gertrud Guth. Having documentation of the Essingen branch already in hand (stemming from legal documents listing heirs during a Pennsylvania probate case), they were left to reconstruct the Birlenbach branch from fragments. They matter-of-factly explained how they often had to fill in gaps with conjecture, but were careful to point out the thought processes behind their conclusions.

Maintaining dozens of correspondences and logging many miles of weekend road travel, they created a coherent picture of the Nafziger family as it dispersed across Europe and North America. Their discoveries were published as a set of articles, each one building on the one before, finally culminating in *Amische Mennoniten in Deutschland* (1992) and an English version of their text, *Amish Mennonites in Germany* (1995).

A note on names: Jakob and Jakobina are German spellings of the French Jacques and Jacobine. It was not unusual to find French and German versions purposely blended. And in many instances, our spellings are given as they are found in Latinized *Evangelisch*/Lutheran entries. Thus Jacob and Jacobina are given, though the identified person may never have signed with those spellings.

THE BIRLENBACH BRANCH

Christen Naphzger/Christian Nafziger was born at Uetendorf but baptized at Thierachern Aug. 8, 1675, a son of Christen/Christian Naffzger and Anna Schnÿder.[150]

It is probable that he was the Christen Nephtzer from Uetendorf who married Margreth Dietrich from Leissigen at Thierachern April 20, 1699. Only one child of this couple is found in records at Thierachern. Magdalena was baptized Sept. 17, 1699, a daughter of Christen Naphtzer and Margrethe Dietrich (as the spellings are found on the baptism entry). Witnesses included Andreas Zimmerman, Madlena Pfister, and Anna Wÿss.

Christian was named as a leaseholder at Birlenbach in Lower Alsace (now Drachenbronn-Birlenbach) in 1708. He would have been 32 years of age. Presumably he and Margreth had arrived there with his brother Ŭlric/Ŭlrich, who would have been 21 years of age.

Birlenbach was an insignificant hamlet seven miles southwest of Wissembourg (on the present border of Lower Alsace and the Rhineland Palatinate). His descendants would later be found in the two villages Steinseltz and Riedseltz, within six miles on its east side. The ruined castle estate Fleckensteinerhof is 10 miles to the northwest, at Niederrödern, with the village of Lembach about midway between. One had to pass through out-of-the-way Wissembourg to reach Bärbelsteinerhof, the grounds of the ruined castle Berwartstein at Ehrlenbach bei Dahn in the Pfalz. By road it was a 16-mile journey.[151]

Christen/Christian and Margreth left Birlenbach in 1717, at the end of their nine-year lease.

Children of Christen Naffzger/Christian Nafziger and Margreth Dietrich include Magdalena (baptized in 1699), Christen or Christian (born circa 1705), Valentin/Velten (born 1708 or 1709), Johannes/Hans (born circa 1715), and Peter (born between 1713 and 1717).

CHILD #1 MAGDALENA of the Birlenbach Branch

We know nothing more about daughter Magdalena than what is found on her baptism entry created at Thierachern Sept. 17, 1699.

CHILD #2 CHRISTEN/CHRISTIAN of the Birlenbach Branch

---

[149] According to the online site of the State Archives of Bern, the surname of the family from Uetendorf in the Thierachern congregation was standardized as Nafzger by 1861.

[150] 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 Ŭttendorf* – the old judge of the church morals court from Uetendorf. It is doubtful that an Anabaptist living abroad would be described in this way.

[151] In 1972 Birlenbach was merged with Drachenbronn; together their present population is less than 900.

Christen Naffzger/Christian Nafziger was born circa 1705.

He married a woman from Waltembourg, Lorraine (now in Moselle).[152] Two of their three children were born at Waltembourg in 1727 and 1734.

In 1743 they moved to Speyer on the Rhine River, then moved again north to Hesse-Darmstadt until 1754. From 1777 they lived on the Willenbacherhof at Kutzenhausen, Lower Alsace. Christen/Christian was a participant at the assembly of Amish Mennonite ministers [Ger. *Diener Versammlung*] at Essingen in 1779.

Daughter Katharina Nafziger is only known to us from a relatively insignificant event, but it draws a connection between Christian of Birlenbach and Ŭlrich of Essingen. In 1777 Katharina went to the estate of her father's cousin Peter Nafziger (a son of Ŭlrich Nafziger and Maria Magdalena Gŭngerich) to deliver an illegitimate child in relative anonymity. The Rheinfelderhof is located at Wallerstädten, about a mile southwest of the town center of Gross-Gerau, and 10 miles west of the city of Darmstadt. Peter Nafziger, a son of Ŭlrich (the Essingen branch), first leased land there in 1771. An *Evangelisch* birth entry required by law named her father as Christian Nafziger of the Willenbacherhof.

The known descendants of Christen/Christian Nafziger in the Birlenbach branch are divided between the two sons born at Waltembourg, Christian (born circa 1727) and Johannes/Jean (born 1734).

—— Older brother **Christian Nafziger** was born at Waltembourg (later in the department of Moselle) circa 1727.

He married Catherine Sommer. She was born at Waltembourg circa 1734.

Christian became a minister and elder of the congregation at Struth, Lower Alsace (14 miles north of Waltembourg), where he is found in 1787. However, in old age they resided at 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.

Children of Christian Nafziger and Catherine Sommer born at Waltembourg include:

1. **Christian Nafziger** was born Jan. 20, 1779.
2. Catherine/Katharina Nafziger was born circa 1780. On Oct. 20, 1800 at Zweibrücken she married Jakob/Jacques Hauter. He was born circa 1781, and died on the Dorsterhof at Walschbronn Aug. 18, 1829.
3. Barbe Marie Nafziger was born Dec. 4, 1783, and died at Waltembourg May 21, 1845. On Nov. 22, 1803 at Bourscheid she married Jean Bechler. He was born at Ingviller, Moselle Nov. 24, 1779, and died at Waltemboug Dec. 17, 1813, a son of Christian Bechler and Madeleine Esch.
4. Jean Nafziger was born July 26, 1785, and died at Waltembourg March 1, 1813.
5. Magdalena/Madeleine Nafziger was born in 1792, and died at Waltembourg Sept. 19, 1824. On Sept. 3, 1813 at Waltembourg she married Christian Oesch. He was born on the Gentersbergerhof at Hanviller. Moselle in 1788, and died on the Dorsterhof at Walschbronn July 15, 1824, a son of Joseph Oesch and Madeleine Schertz.

Christian Nafziger was born at Waltembourg Jan. 20, 1779. He lived at Kourtzerode (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 Risholz farm at Hattigny, Moselle in 1787, and died at Washington, Tazewell County 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.

[152] Some sources identify his wife as Anna Bleur. This misconception springs from a marriage entry created at Thierachern Dec. 8, 1740 (much too late to have been this Christian's). It names Christen Nafzger of Ütendorf and Anna Blaüwerin of Gwatt.

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.' We suspect they are the couple Peter Nafziger and Elizabeth Brookman who were married in Tazewell County March 22, 1840; the ceremony was performed by minister John Nafziger. She was likely a Bachmann; the German word for brook is *Bach*. According to her headstone she was born Feb. 11 or 14, 1817, and died March 23, 1876. He is likely the 'Peter Neftseah' who purchased 80 acres in Section 33 of Township 27N Sept. 19, 1838. Township 27N later became Worth in Woodford County. In addition, the *Tazewell County Grantors Index* shows that on Oct. 12, 1840 Peter Noffsinger paid $200 to Isaac J. Sunderland for property in Section 22 of Township 27. The 1840 census of Tazewell County shows the household of Peter Noffsinger: one male 30-39 years of age; and one female 20-29. They may be the couple found on the 1850 census of District 56 (Woodford County) as farmer Peter Naufsinger, 40, France; and Barbary, 37, France. The 1860 census of Worth shows Peter Naffsinger, 53, France; and Elizabeth, 41, France. *Herald of Truth*, May 1876: "March 25th, near Metamora, Ill., Elizbeth 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 Gaugshe' [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. Christian Nafziger was born May 16, 1808, and died in 1881. On June 18, 1839 in Tazewell County he married Barbara Schertz; the ceremony was performed by minister John Nafziger. She was born between 1811 and 1820. 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 five. She 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.[153] 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 were likely all born in what is now Washington, Tazewell County. They include:
    a. Katharina/Catharine Nafziger was likely born in what is now Washington, Tazewell County May 28, 1840, and died at Chicago June 26, 1898. On Dec. 17, 1861 in Woodford County she married Valentine Nafziger. He was born at Gauersheim March 13, 1834, and died Jan. 28, 1919, a son of Valentine Nafziger and Anna Catharina Nafziger. *Herald of Truth*, August 1898: "At Chicago, June 26th, 1898, after undergoing a surgical operation, Katharine, wife of Valentine Naffziger, 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.

[153] 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.

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/Baughman 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.'
f. Peter Nafziger was born in November of 1845, and died the same month. He is buried in Union Cemetery.
g. Jacobine Nafziger was born in May of 1847, and died in October of 1848. She is buried in Union Cemetery.

4. Magdalena Nafziger was born Sept. 11, 1811. On Jan. 29, 1839 in Tazewell County she married Peter Güngerich/Gingery; the ceremony was performed by minister John Nafziger (the county register has Peter Ginerich and Maidlina Nofsinger). Peter was born Oct. 8, 1841, and died in Woodford County in 1853, a son of Johannes Güngerich/John Gingery and Magdalena 'Martha' Eckhardt. See GINGERICH for details including a list of their children. As a widow she remarried to James S. Lackey in McLean County Oct. 6, 1885.
5. Catherine Nafziger was born June 2, 1818, and died Oct. 3, 1876. On March 24, 1842 at Washington she married Christian Gerber. The ceremony was performed by County Judge Middleton Tackaberry (the county register spells her given name Katharina). He was born Feb. 3, 1815 (headstone count) or April 18, 1814, and died at Washington July 21, 1877, a son of Pierre Gerber and Magdalena Gingerich. We found her household next door to that of brother John on the 1850 census of Tazewell County: Christian Garber, 36; Christian, 33 (marked as female); Madaline, 7; Peter, 4; Joseph, 3; John, 1. The absence of Catherine may have had something to do with the death of her 6-year-old niece Barbara (daughter of brother Christian, another next-door neighbor; Christian's wife was also absent from her household). On the 1860 census of Washington they appear as Christian Gaber, 46, France; Catherine, 42, France; Martha, 17; Peter, 14; Joseph, 13; John, 11; Catharine, 9; Elizabeth, 7; Barbara, 5; and Christian, 6 months. They are buried in Union Cemetery at Washington.

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 *Marengo* with John's mother Catherine Maurer and Christian Esch.

The *Grantor's General Index Book One*, a record of county land transactions, says that on March 30, 1838 John Nofzer purchased five lots from John Broomfield and his wife. He paid $2,802.50. 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 a minister 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. They appear on the 1850 census of Tazewell County as John Noffziger, 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:

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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 Güngerich/Gingery and Magdalena Nafziger. They appear on the 1870 census of Washington as John

Naffsinger, 32, Illinois; Catherine, 28, Illinois; and four children born in Illinois. They are buried in Union Cemetery at Washington.

4. 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.
5. Magdalena 'Lena' Nafziger was born at Washington Sept. 22, 1841, and died Nov. 1, 1857. She is buried in Union Cemetery at Washington.
6. 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.
7. Joseph M. Nafziger was born at Washington Sept. 4, 1845, and died at Eureka Jan. 22, 1931. He may be the 1870 census of Washington entry for Joseph Naffziger, 25, Illinois; and Barbara, 23, France (this may have been his sister Elizabeth). He is buried in Union Cemetery at Washington.
8. 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 the 1, 1915; aged 68 y. 3 m. 13 d. She leaves husband, two sons, four daughters, two brothers, two sisters, thirteen grandchildren, 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 preceded 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.
9. Jakobina/Bena/Phoebe 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 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 by Andrew Werkler and Michael Kinsinger from *Is. 38:1* and *Jer. 31:3* in German and by Stephen Stahly and Simon Baechler in English from *Rev.14:14-16*."

—— **Johannes/Jean Nafziger** was the younger son of Christian Nafziger of the Birlenbach branch. He was born at Waltembourg in 1734, and died at Dalem, Moselle Dec. 20, 1812.

Circa 1770 he married Catherine Schertz, who was born at Arzviller, Moselle (three miles southwest of Waltembourg) Feb. 27, 1748, and died at Dalem Dec. 24, 1819, a daughter of Jacques Schertz and Barbe Zehr. They farmed at Puttelange, Rahling, Niedervisse, the Janauerhof at Lorentzen, Ernestviller, and Dalem.

His civil death entry described him as farmer Jean Nafziger, 78, a resident of Dalem and husband of Catherine Schertz. It was witnessed by farmer Joseph Engel, 52, and farmer Jean Bachman, 43, both sons-in-law.

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.

The children of Johannes/Jean Nafziger and Catherine Schertz married into 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 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 Hirchy. Witnesses included the bride's brother Joseph Hirchy, a 49-year-old farmer on La Ferme Rouge, Linstroff [Ger. *Linsdorf*, now part of Grostenquin]; 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 Madeleine Blank); and Jean Schertz, 38, miller in Bischwald mill at Bistroff.
    a. Nicolas Nafziger was born at Schmittviller, Moselle (adjacent to Rahling) Nov. 4, 1798, and died at Diesen July 19, 1874. On Feb. 16, 1830 at Porcelette he married Madeleine Neybour. She was born circa 1802, and died at Diesen May 11, 1888, a daughter of Jean Neybaur and Madeleine Stocki or Stockine.[154]
    b. Jean Nafziger/John B. Naffziger was born at Schmittviller Sept. 22, 1800, and died at Pettisville, Fulton County, Ohio March 14, 1882. On Feb. 27, 1826 he married Catherine Weisse/Mary Catherine Wyse. She was born at Porcelette Dec. 30, 1802, and died at Archbold, Fulton County Aug. 1, 1887, a daughter of Chrétien Weisz and Madeleine Springer. They lived at Niedervisse until 1835, then Porcelette. They sailed from Le Havre on the *Liancourt*, and arrived at New York June 17, 1847. The passenger list shows Johann Nafziger, 47, Bavaria; Catharine, 44; Christian, 21; Jean, 17; Marie, 14; Anna, 11; Catharine, 9; Madelaine, 2; Suzanne, 5; Barbara, six months; and Barbara Weis, 34. They settled near Pettisville, Fulton County. A crossing abutting the northwest corner of their farm gave Jean the nickname 'Railroad John.' *Herald of Truth*, April of 1882: "On the 14th of March, near Pettisville, Fulton Co., Ohio, of asthma, John Naffziger, aged 81 years, 10 months and 3 days. On the 27th of Feb., 1826, he was married in Europe, to Catharine Weis, with whom he lived 56 years and 15 days. Nine children were the fruits of this marriage, of whom eight are still living. They have 70 grandchildren, of whom 59 are yet alive, and 21 great-grandchildren, of whom 19 are still living. their entire progeny number 100 souls. May the Lord lead them all in the good way of eternal life." They are buried in Eckley Cemetery at German, Fulton County.
    c. Christian Nafziger was born at Schmittviller Nov. 6, 1801, and died at Diesen March 13, 1872. On Jan. 23, 1830 at Porcelette he married Barbe Neybour. She was born circa 1809, and died at Diesen Aug. 4, 1888, a daughter of Jean Neybaur and Madeleine Stocki or Stockine.
    d. Anne Nafziger was born at Schmittviller Aug. 23, 1804, and died before Nov. 1, 1808.
    e. Madeleine Nafziger was born at La Croix (now Creutzwald) June 8, 1806.[155] On Jan. 13, 1839 at Vittel, Vosges she married widower Jacob Gabriel Schŭrer. Their civil marriage entry described the groom as miller Jacob Gabriel Sheurer, 45, a miller at Étreval, Vézelise, Meurthe [now in Meurthe-et-Moselle]. He was born in Germany, a son of the deceased miller Jacob Shurer and the deceased Gertrude Vack. His first wife was Madeleine Blaise who had died at Entremont, Nancy. The bride was servant Madeleine Nafzeiger, 32, a resident of Vittel. She was born at Creutzwald-la-Croix, Moselle, a daughter of the deceased cultivator Jean Nafziger and the deceased Anne Blanck, who had both died at Niedervisse. Witnesses included Nicolas Mozer, 32, and Christophe

---

[154] *Neŭbaŭer* describes a new builder. **Johannes Neŭbaŭer** was born at Diemeringen, Lower Alsace circa 1695, and died there March 6, 1762. He married Anne or Angelica Schreiber. Their son **Jean Frédéric Neŭbaŭer** was born at Diemeringen, and died at Weislingen, Lower Alsace April 28, 1785. He married Maria Margaretha Schneider. They were the parents of **Jean Neybauer** (as he was found later in life), who was born at Weislingen circa 1778, and died at Diesen Sept. 7, 1837 (recorded at Porcelette). He married Madeleine Stocki or Stockine. She was born circa 1770, and died at Diesen Aug. 25, 1862. From 1811 to 1953 Diesen was administratively subordinate to adjacent Porcelette. Their children include:

1. Madeleine Neybour was born circa 1802, and died at Diesen May 11, 1888. She married Nicolas Nafziger.
2. Elisabeth Neybour was born at Porcelette June 27, 1807, and died there May 23, 1879. On Feb. 26, 1835 at Porcelette she married Jean Weiss. He was born at Porcelette Sept. 23, 1810, and died at Diesen June 14, 1873, a son of Christian/Christophe Weiss and Madeleine Springer.
3. Barbe Neybour was born circa 1809 and died at Diesen Aug. 4, 1888. She married Christian Nafziger.
4. Catherine Neybour was born at Diesen Oct. 28, 1813, and died there March 3, 1907. On July 17, 1843 at Porcelette she married Joseph Gasseur. He was born at Marthille, Moselle (now Marten) Feb. 22, 1815, a son of Christian/Christophe Gasser and Christine Hirschi/Hirschy.
5. Suzanne Neybour was born at Diesen March 11, 1816, and died there five days later.

[155] The Creutzwald was originally an area on the western side of the Warndt forest (that forest runs across the border into Germany). It held the hamlets La Croix, La Houve, and Wilhelmsbronn. In 1810 they were merged to form the municipality Creutzwald-la-Croix. But it was generally called Creutzwald, since the full name was redundant – a *Creuz* in German is a cross, and a *croix* in French is a cross – until the name was simplified in 1961.

Mozer, 28, described as cultivators and second cousins of the bride on her maternal side. Signatures looked like Gabriel Schŭrer, Nicolas Moser, and Christophe Moser.

f. Anne Nafziger was born at La Croix (now Creutzwald) Nov. 1, 1808, and died at Jarville [now Jarville-la-Malgrange, Meurthe-et-Moselle] after 1872. On Aug. 14, 1839 at Creutzwald she married widower Joseph Oesch. He was born circa 1785, and died at Jarville Nov. 22, 1865, a son of Christian Oesch and Barbara Zehr. His first wife had been Marie Nafziger. She was born at Dalem circa 1790, and died at Creutzwald Feb. 27, 1839, a daughter of Jean Nafziger and Catherine Schertz.

g. Joseph Nafziger was born at Creutzwald Nov. 25, 1810, and died at Neuville-lès-Vaucouleurs, Meuse Sept. 13, 1848. On Jan. 9, 1842 at Pierre-la-Treiche, Meurthe-et-Moselle he married Catherine Kennel. She was born at Guénestroff, Moselle Aug. 21, 1816, and died at Cussey, Meuse March 22, 1891, a daughter of Joseph Kennel and Anne Blaise [Blaser?]. Witnesses included Joseph Kennel, the father of the bride, and Joseph Kennel, 23, brother of the bride. On Feb. 9, 1850 at Neuville-lès-Vaucouleurs, Meuse she remarried to Joseph Hirschy. He was born at Rhodes April 22, 1817, and died at Chassey-Beupré, Meuse Dec. 25, 1896, a son of Joseph Hirschy and Catherine Blaser.

h. Barbe Nafziger was born at Creutzwald Dec. 2, 1812. On Oct. 31, 1846 at Nancy she married Nicolas Kremmer. Their civil marriage entry described the groom as day laborer Nicolas Kremmer, 26, a resident of Pulnoy, Nancy. He was born at Bliesbruck, Moselle Aug. 6, 1820, a son of elderly miller Jean Kremmer and Madeleine Műller, residents of Bouxières-aux-Chênes [in Meurthe-et-Moselle] who were present and consenting. The bride was dressmaker Barbara Nafziger, 33, a resident of Nancy. She was born at Creutzwald Dec. 2, 1812. Her father cultivator Jean Nafziger had died at Niedervisse Nov. 19, 1824, and her mother Anne Blanck had died there May 21, 1838. Witnesses included brothers-of-the-groom Christian Kremmer, 44, a dairyman [Fr. *laitier*] at Jarville, and cultivator Joseph Kremmer, 36; and sharecropper [Fr. *metayer*] Joseph Hieser, 43, a brother-in-law of the bride.

i. Marie Nafziger was born at Filstroff, Moselle (15 miles northwest of Creutzwald) Jan. 29, 1816. On Jan. 11, 1840 at Haboudange she married Joseph Hiser. He was born circa 1801, a son of Jean Hiser and Anne Maurer.

- Suzanne Nafziger may or may not belong here. She was born at Filstroff Oct. 31, 1817. We have seen the listing in the 10-year civil index, but not the actual entry which would identify her parents.

2. Katharina/Catherine Nafziger was born on the Janauerhof at Bining Dec. 4, 1776. She married Joseph Schertz, who was born on Leyvillerhoff at Eberviller-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 Jean Stecker/John 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, who married Anna Stecker/Staker (see BACHMAN).
4. Christian Nafziger was born at St. Avold March 20, 1779, and died on the Diessburgerhof in the district of Bitburg, Pfalz (above Trier near the border with Luxembourg) April 25, 1849. On March 28, 1804 at Puttelange he married Katharina/Cartherine Schanz. She was born circa 1782, and died in Fulton County, Ohio in 1866, a daughter of Peter Schanz and Magdalena Wagler. They farmed on the Froensbourgerhof at Lembach, Lower Alsace. During the Napoleonic Wars, Christian and Katharina/Catherine 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 (14 miles north of Lebach), and on the Reckeringhof at Grevenmacher, Luxembourg (22 miles northwest of Weiskirchen on the Moselle River, a border with Germany). Katharina/Catherine emigrated in 1849 or 1850, and died in the home of her son Jacob in Fulton County, Ohio in 1866. Their children include:

a. Joseph Nafziger was born on the Möttenhof 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 Porcelette, 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 (see STAKER for background). 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 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*."

b. Johannes Nafziger, also known as John D. Nofziger (as found on their obelisk headstone), was born on the Möttenhof near Lebach in the Saar region April 29, 1810, and died at Eckley, Fulton County, Ohio Oct. 27, 1889. On Oct. 29, 1835 at Weiskirchen (then in Prussia, now in Saarland, 14 miles north of Lebach) he married Philippine Siegel (found on their obelisk headstone as Philippena Nofziger). She was born in 1811, and died in 1899, a daughter of Johannes Siegel and Elisabeth Kempf. The 1860 census of German, Fulton County has farmer John D. Nofzeiger, 51, Germany; Jacobin, 50, Germany; farm laborer John, 23, Germany; Jacob, 20, Germany; Peter, 19, Germany; Catharine, 16, Germany; Jos., 14, Germany; Christian, 12, Germany; Elzibeth, 8, Ohio; and Jacobin, 6, Ohio; suggesting they immigrated between 1848 and 1852. The 1880 census of German, Fulton County has farmer John D. Nofziger, 71, crippled, Germany; Jacobin, 70, Germany; and Joseph, 31, works on farm, Ohio. They are buried in Eckley Cemetery.

c. Katharina/Catherine Nafziger was born on the Möttenhof near Lebach in the Saar region Oct. 17, 1812, and died in Fulton County Dec. 15, 1883. On Aug. 15, 1835 at St. Ingbert (20 miles southeast of Lebach) she married Jakob/Jacob Siegel. He was born at Hassel (near St. Ingbert) Dec. 4, 1808, and died in Fulton County Dec. 19, 1888, a son of Johannes Siegel and Elisabeth Kempf. They departed from Le Havre on the packet ship *Ville de Lyon*, and arrived at New York July 9, 1841. The passenger list has Peter Nalz [Nafziger], 22; a little later Jacob Siegel, 33; Catha. [Nafziger], 30; Peter, 3; Catha., 1; and Barbe Nafziger, 22 [Katharina/Catherine's sister]; a little later Fdch. Siegel, 21. This was the same voyage that carried Johannes/John Steiger and Magdalena Beck. In 1860 they were living next door to brother Johannes at German, Fulton County: farmer Jacob Siegel, 51, Germany; Catharine, 47, Germany; farm laborer Peter, 23, Germany; Jacob, 18, Ohio; ---n, 16, Ohio; Paul, 12, Ohio; Andrew, 11, Ohio; Lydia, 8, Ohio; and Elizbeth, 5, Ohio. They are buried in Johnson Cemetery at Burlington, Fulton County.

d. Magdalena Nafziger was born on the Möttenhof near Lebach in the Saar region Oct. 14, 1815, and died at Miami, Miami County, Indiana Oct. 22, 1902. In 1843 she married Jean/John Richer. He was born in Canton Bern May 14, 1815, and died in Miami County, Indiana Nov. 30, 1893, a son of Nicholas Richer and Maria Ulrich. He had sailed from Le Havre on the packet ship *Poland*, and arrived at New York April 14, 1840. The passenger list shows Jean Richer, 25; Maria, 49; and Cath., 31. The grouping listed immediately after theirs was the family of Jakob/Jacob Rupp and Magdalena Konig, who also went to German, Fulton County (see KING for background).[156] Jean/John and Magdalena are buried under a joint headstone in Courter Cemetery in Miami County, where she is called Magdalen Richer. *Herald of Truth*, February 1894: "Richer, John, was born in the Canton of Berne, Switzerland, May 4, 1815; died Nov. 30 1893, aged 78 years, 6 months and 26 days. He emigrated to America in 1840 and settled in Wayne Co., Ohio, where he united in marriage to Magdalena Nafziger in 1843, and with his mother, wife and three children he removed in 1848 to Miami Co., Ind., where his family increased to six children, five sons and one daughter. He settled on a farm near Peru where he brought up his family. His children were all married. He lived there in peace with all around him until the Master called him away. He was the father of six children, 30 grandchildren and four great grandchildren, 40 in all; six grandchildren preceded him. In early life he gave his heart to God and united with the Mennonite church, and all through his life he lived an honest, upright and conscientious Christian life. After moving to Indiana he worshipped with the churches represented in the community, there being no church of the Mennonites represented. He was liberal in his views, but never compromised his nonresistant principles, ever striving for the principles of the *Gospel*. He was particularly noted as a correspondent, as many can testify in different states, and with some degree of reluctance he laid his pen down, but though silent, yet it speaks. Many, no doubt, are the letters which he wrote that will be read, and reread for years to come, and may be the means, through God, of doing somebody some good, and helping some poor wanderers to turn their faces Zionward, or strengthening some feeble Christians and encouraging them to redouble their diligence, as the case might be, for with such motives his letters were always written. He came to his end in great peace. He remarked in the hearing of the writer shortly before his departure, "If I am to appear before God's righteousness I have nothing at all to plead but the atoning merits of Jesus." He said to his aged companion, "I commit you into God's care." Some of his last words were, "Oh God, into Thy hands I commit my

[156] On the same passenger list is And. Nofgiger, 45, someone we could not identify.

soul." Shortly before his departure he requested us to sing some of the beautiful songs of Zion. We sang, "Jesus, lover of my soul" and "Oh think of the home over there, etc. He remarked it was so precious, and soon he passed over the river to join loved ones gone before in the melodies of the redeemed on that celestial shore. He leaves an aged companion, children and grandchildren and a host of relatives and friends in different states to mourn their loss. Funeral occasion was improved from *Psa. 23:1-4*, by Pre. James Martin and Pre. Burton, United Brethren ministers at the home of deceased, to a large number of sympathizing friends. John C. Richer."

e. Peter Nafziger/Naftziger was born March 22, 1818, and died at Albany, Whiteside County, Illinois May 5, 1887. He departed from Le Havre on the packet ship *Ville de Lyon*, and arrived at New York July 9, 1841 (his obituary erroneously says he immigrated in 1836). He settled in Wayne County, Ohio. On April 5, 1843 in Wayne County he married Catherine Schrock. After the last of their six children was born, they relocated to Albany on the Mississippi River, where Peter became a Mennonite minister of the Small River Brethren Church. His headstone in Oak Ridge Cemetery at Albany calls him Rev. Peter Naftzger. *Herald of Truth*, May 1887: "On the 5th of May, at Albany, Ill., Pre. Peter Naftzger. He was born in Prussia on the 24th of April, 1818, and lived until 1836 with his parents, who were devout Christians. In that year he emigrated to America, which was then the land of promise to the European peasant, beginning the struggle of life at Smithville, Ohio. On the 5th of April, 1843, he married Catharine Shrock, who, with six children and sixteen grandchildren, survive him. He professed religion in early life and was a minister in the church until of late years, his bodily infirmities compelled him to retire from active duty. Bro. Naftzger died in the faith. He was a kind father, a loving husband, and a consistent Christian. He is now resting from his labors, and his works do follow him." Catherine is buried in the same cemetery as 'Catherine, wife of P. Naftzger, Aug. 6, 1820, Nov. 17, 1905.'

f. Jacob Nafziger was born July 26, 1820, and died at Pettisville, Fulton County, Ohio Aug. 15, 1895. He immigrated with his sister Susanna in 1846. He settled in Northern Indiana, where he married Maria Rufenacht. She was born Aug. 12, 1826, and died June 28, 1905. Their joint headstone in Aeschliman Cemetery at Pettisville calls them 'Jacob W. Nofziger' and 'Maria his wife.'

g. Barbara/Barbe Nafziger was born July 7, 1823, and died in McLean County Aug. 26, 1902. She departed from Le Havre on the packet ship *Ville de Lyon*, and arrived at New York July 9, 1841. In 1846 she married John Raber. He was born at Hagnau am Bodensee, Baden March 26, 1815, and died in McLean County April 12, 1891, a son of Christian Raber and Susanna Egle or Egli.[157] They are buried under a joint headstone in Waldo Cemetery at Flanagan, Livingston County as 'John Raber, died April 12, 1891, aged 76 yrs. & 13 d., Barbara his wife, died Aug. 26, 1902, aged 80 yrs. 1 m. 19 d.'

h. Susanna Nafziger (also found as Nofsinger) was born at Echternacht, Luxembourg Aug. 2, 1827, and died at Pettisville, Fulton County, Ohio March 21, 1917. She immigrated with her brother Jacob in 1846. On Feb. 22, 1848 in Lee County, Iowa she married Daniel Reber/Raber [Räber] (his headstone says Daniel Raber). He was born at Hagnau am Bodensee, Baden April 9, 1825 (his headstone says May 1, 1825), and died in Johnson County, Missouri Oct. 24, 1905, a son of Christian Raber and Susanna Egle or Egli; he is buried in Medford Cemetery (formerly Pleasant View) at Holden, Jefferson County, Missouri. He immigrated circa 1837. They are found on the 1860 and 1870 censuses of Tyler, Hickory County, Missouri as Raber. The 1900 census of Rose Hill Township, Missouri has them as farmer Daniel Raber, 75, born in Germany in May of 1825, immigrated in 1837; Susana, 72, born in Germany in August of 1827, immigrated in 1857; and son and farmer Sanuel, 29, born in Missouri in January of 1871 to German parents. *Gospel Herald*, November 1905: "In Johnson Co., Mo., Oct. 24, 1905, Bro. Raber, aged 80 Y., 5 M., 24 D. He was born in Baden, Germany, in 1825. At the age of twelve years he came with his parents to America, to Butler Co., Ohio. Later he went to Lee Co., Iowa, where he was married to Susanna Nafzinger. In 1858, with his family, he moved to Hickory Co., Mo., and in 1890, to Johnson Co., Mo. He was the father of twelve children, of whom eight survive, with his aged companion, and seven of them were present at the funeral. He also leaves 44 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren, who mourn the loss of a kind husband, father and grandfather. He suffered about two years with a sore foot, but bore it patiently and was always cheerful and willing to depart this life and be forever with the Lord in whom he trusted and whom he served. He was a member of the A. M. church and as

[157] The Rabers sailed from Le Havre on the packet ship *Utica*, and arrived at New York Aug. 1, 1837. They are found on the passenger list as farmer Cristian Raeber, 52, Germany; Juliane, 36; Johann, 22; Barbara, 17; Sabine, 15; Daniel, 12; Catherine, 9; Abraham, 8; Benedict, 6; Anna, 7; and Christian , 5. The next family group was Abraham Egle, 40 [Susanna's brother]; Elisabeth, 16; and Heinrich, 12. This was future minister Egly (1824-1890) who founded the Defenseless Mennonite Church of Berne, Indiana in 1865-66.

long as he was able he attended and took an active part in church and Sunday school. He was buried in the Pleasant View cemetery, Oct. 26th. Funeral services at the church were conducted by Benjamin Hartzler and Levi Miller. We believe he was at peace with all men and died in the hope of a glorious resurrection. Peace to his ashes." *Gospel Herald*, April 1917: "Susanna Raber, nee Nafziger, was born near Esterbach Prussia, Aug. 2, 1827; died March 21, 1917; aged 89 y. 7 m. 21 d. She with her brother Jacob emigrated to America in 1846, and located in Wayne Co., Ohio. She was converted to the Christian faith in her early youth and united with the Amish Mennonite Church, remaining faithful to the end. On Feb. 22, 1848, she united in matrimony with Daniel Raber. In the same year they moved to Lee Co., Iowa, where they experienced all the hardships of pioneer life. In 1858 they moved to Hickory Co., Mo. Here they suffered greatly during the Civil War, in addition to the privations of the pioneer life of that district. They again moved in the year 1890, this time making their home in Johnson Co., Mo., at which place the husband died on Oct. 14, 1905. After his death she made her home with her son Samuel W., until 1912 when she came east. She stayed part of the time with her son Daniel B., of Aurora, Ohio, and part of the time with her daughters Mrs. L. S. Nafziger of Goshen, Ind., and Mrs. Henry Rychener, of Pettisville, Ohio, at whose home she died. She leaves to mourn their loss five sons, two daughters, 46 grandchildren, 74 great-grandchildren, and a large number of friends and relatives. Besides her husband, three daughters, eight grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren have preceded her to the spirit world. Funeral services were conducted by E. L. Frey at the Pettisville Union Church, after which her remains were taken to Johnson Co., Mo., to be laid besides those of her husband."

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 Ernestviller (14 miles east of St. Avold) she married Joseph Engel. He was born on Bening Commune at Harprich (a farm and tile factory, also known as Bening-lès-Harprich) April 24, 1761, and died at Niedervisse Feb. 5, 1820, a son of Jean Engel (occasionally found as Jean Pierre Engel) and his first wife 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 "châ*teau 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.

CHILD #3 VALENTIN/VELTEN of the Birlenbach Branch

First, we should explain that in *Amish Mennonites in Germany* the Guths chose the name Valentin/Velten as a 'placeholder' for someone who has not been documented. After accumulating a mass of material from dozens of contributors, they found four presumed second generation Johannes Nafzigers born circa 1709, circa 1730, circa 1734, and between 1744 and 1757. With four sons of the same name, and names for only three fathers, they were forced to assume a fourth father from this branch. They proposed a Valentin/Velten Nafziger born circa 1707.

The birth year 1707 would have placed his birth at Uetendorf, and a baptism entry would have been created at adjacent Thierachern (assuming they left there shortly before they appeared at Birlenbach in 1708). But no entry if found. We can adjust the estimate slightly to either 1708 (the year they arrived at Birlenbach) or 1709 (21 years before the estimated birth year of their first child).

Thus we can presume that **Valentin/Velten Nafziger** was born at Birlenbach circa 1708-1709.

Based on the later distribution of their families, it is thought that Valentin/Velten and his brother Peter leased the ruined castle estate Fleckensteinerhof at Niederrödern after 1749. The Fleckenstein family was related to Pfalz-Zweibrücken Wittelsbachs.

Valentin/Velten later leased the Diefenbacherhof at Riedseltz, Lower Alsace, and his descendants could be found on Weidesheim farm at Kalhausen, Moselle.

Two of his children are known:

1. Peter/Pierre Nafziger was born on the Fleckensteinerhof at Niederrödern circa 1731, and died there May 3, 1807. He married Magdalena Schanz. She was born circa 1746, and died on the Fleckensteinerhof Oct. 14, 1807, a daughter of minister Michel Schanz and Magdalena Güngerich. Michel represented the Froensbourg congregation in the assembly of Amish Mennonite ministers at Essingen in 1779. Peter/Pierre's civil death entry identified his widow as Magdalena Schantz. It was witnessed by son and Fleckensteiner Hof lease holder [Ger. *Beständer*] Peter Nafzieger, 42, and son Valentin Nafzieger, 21. Her civil death entry identified her as

Madelaine Schanz, 61, the wife of Pierre Naffziger. The witness was stated to be son Pierre Naffziger, 45, a resident of the Fleckensteinerhof; but the signature looks like Valentin Nafziger. For background on her family see SHCHANTZ.

2. Barbara Nafziger married her cousin, widower Johannes Nafziger. He was a son of Peter Nafziger. His first wife had been Katharina Güngerich. For background on this couple see CHILD #5, PETER.

CHILD #4 JOHANNES/HANS of the Birlenbach Branch

Johannes/Hans Nafziger was born at Birlenbach circa 1715.

He married Anna Güngerich, a daughter of Hans 'Hans *der alte*' Güngerich and Barbara Krieg of the Froensbourgerhof at Lembach.

They lived at Niedersoultzbach, Lower Alsace [Ger. *Untersulzbach*], 29 miles southwest of Birlenbach. They later moved 15 miles farther west to Durstel, Lower Alsace, where the Steinbacherhof was leased by their three sons.

Their children include:

1. Christian Nafziger was born at Niedersoultzbach circa 1737, and died on the Ketzing estate at Gondrexange, Moselle July 28, 1807. Circa 1765 he married Magdalena Güngerich/Madeleine Gingerich. She was born circa 1745, and died circa 1791.
2. Magdalena/Madeleine Nafziger was born at Niedersoultzbach circa 1738. She married widower Chrétien/Christian Hochstettler, whose first wife had been Barbara/Barbe Nafziger (we could not identify her except to say that she died on the Lauterbacherhof at Gundershoffen, per the marriage entry of their son Christian). He was born in the Markirch Valley in 1737, and died on the Ingelshof (also called the Engelshof or Höllenhof) at Gumbrechtshoffen, Lower Alsace Feb. 4, 1811. They held leases on the Ingelshof and the Lauterbacherhof at various times. For background on this couple see HOCHSTETTLER.
3. Valentin Nafziger was born at Niedersoultzbach circa 1740, and died on the Schottenhof at Sarralbe, Moselle April 18, 1807. Circa 1774 he married Madeleine Murer.[158] She was born at St. Quirin (30 miles south of Sarralbe) circa 1749, and died at Sarralbe May 8 or 19, 1793. On Aug. 17, 1793 at Sarralbe he remarried to Susanne Sommer. The groom was described as *ana Baptiste* Valentin Naffziger, born at Sultzbach, Lower Alsace. He was the widower of Madelaine Mourer, and a resident of the Schottenhof. The bride was Susanne Sommer, born at St. Quirin, Lower Alsace. She was a daughter of the deceased André Sommer and Christinne Chertz of Leningen, Altroff, Dieuze, in the department of Meurthe. She died March 31, 1799. Children of Valentin Nafziger and his first wife Madeleine Murer include:
    a. Valentin Nafziger was born at Niedersoultzbach circa 1776, and died on the Schottenhof at Sarralbe, Moselle Feb. 21, 1793.
    b. Barbe Nafziger was born at Niedersoultzbach Aug. 5, 1777. Before 1806 she married miller Joseph Schertz. He was born at Lixheim, Moselle in 1786, and died at Keskastel Feb. 9, 1817, a son of miller Chrétien Schertz and Barbara Blanck. His civil death entry described him as Josephe Schertz, 31, husband of Barbara Nachtziger. It identified his parents. One witness was day laborer Pierre Keller, 32.
    c. Johannes/Jean Nafziger was born on the Steinbacherhof at Durstel Aug. 10, 1781, and died at Maizeroy, Moselle. Johannes/Jean came from Imsbach in the Pfalz (14 miles northeast of Kaiserslautern) to marry Barbara/Barbe Oesch at Hellering-le-Grand, Moselle March 9, 1809. She was born in 1789, and died in 1825, a daughter of Christian Oesch and Barbara Zehr. Imsbach was a tiny village surrounded by iron mines owned by the wealthy Geinanth family. Hellering-le-Grand became part of Hombourg-Haut after 1804. For background on their daughter Marie/Mary (the second wife of Joseph Rocke) in Tazewell County, McLean County, and Nebraska, see ROCKE.
    d. Madeleine Nafziger was born on the Steinbacherhof at Durstel Nov. 19, 1788, and died at Keskastel April 16, 1823. On June 16, 1814 at Keskastel she married Pierre Keller. Their civil entry described the groom as day laborer Pierre Keller, born at Valst Feb. 13, 1786, a son of the deceased day laborer Louis Keller (who had died March 15, 1789) and the deceased Anne Noé (who had died May 4, 1804). The bride Madeleine Nafzier was a resident of Keskastel. She was born on the Steinbacherhof at Asveiller Nov. 19, 1788, a daughter of the deceased farmer Valentin Nafzier, who died April 2, 1807. Her sponsor Joseph Schertz was present and consenting. Schertz was also a witness, described as a 40-year-old miller at Keskastel. Both bride and groom were illiterate, signing with an 'x.' They lived at Bischtroff-sur-Sarre (Pisdorf), Lower Alsace. On Nov. 25, 1823 at Keskastel Pierre remarried to Barbe Schrag. That civil entry described him as day

[158] Recall from MAURER that a *Mŭrer* or *Maurer* is a mason, stone fitter, or brick layer. This surname also appears in French records as Mourer.

laborer Pierre Keller, widower of Madeleine Nafzir. He was born at Valst, Meurthe, a son of the deceased weaver Louis Keller and the deceased Anne Jenni. Barbe Schrag was born at Hengstbach in 1786, a resident of Oberstinzel who was a daughter of the deceased André Schrag, a miller in the mill at Hengstbach, Bavaria; and the deceased Christine Bachmann, also of Hengstbach. Her sponsor Joseph Schertz was present and consenting. Witnesses included day laborer Jacques Fischer, 36; and Chrétien Schrag, 26, brother of the bride. Keller died at Keskastel May 4, 1854. His civil death entry said he was a son of the deceased day laborer George Keller, who had been a resident of Dieffenbach, Lower Alsace; and the deceased Barbe Cheny, who had been a resident of Keskastel. It was witnessed by his son Pierre/Peter Keller, 40.

e. Christian Nafziger was born on the Steinbacherhof at Durstel Sept. 2, 1796, and died at Croghan, New York July 20, 1871. On May 14, 1817 at Bistroff, Moselle he married Marie Jantzi. She was born at Bistroff April 4, 1796, and died at Croghan Nov. 8, 1875, a daughter of Christian Jantzi and Anna Farny. They departed from Le Havre on the bark *Statera*, and arrived at New York June 19, 1833. The passenger list shows farmer Christoph Nesfer, 41, France; Marie, 40; Madaline, 16; Catharine, 14; Babelt, 12; Marie, 10; Susanne, 8; Jean, 5; Babelt, 12; Frederic, 2; Babette, 46; Solote or Lolote, 26; Joseph, 21; and Madeleine, 22. For background see THE LEWIS COUNTY, NEW YORK SETTLEMENT in the Appendix.

4. Barbara/Barbe Nafziger was born at Niedersoultzbach circa 1744, and died at Keskastel Nov. 26, 1812. She married miller Joseph Schertz. Her civil death entry described her as Barbe Naffzier, aged 68 years and eight months; the wife of Joseph Schertz, 68. She was born at Sultzbach, Lower Alsace, a daughter of the deceased Jean Naffzier and the deceased Anne Genger. Joseph died at Keskastel Feb. 1, 1829. His civil death entry described him as Joseph Schertz, 87, the widower of Barbe Naffzern. He was born in the Kuppermühl [copper mill] at Hambach, a son of the deceased Nicolas Schertz, who was a miller in the Kuppermühl, and the deceased Barbe Birgin. He was a resident of Keskastel. One witness was his son Joseph Schertz, 49.
5. **Johannes Nafziger** was born circa 1748.

Johannes Nafziger was born at Niedersoultzbach, Lower Alsace circa 1748. Before 1775 he married Madeleine Güngerich on the Steinbacherhof at Durstel.

Their son **Johannes/Jean Nafziger** was born on the Steinbacherhof circa 1775.

On April 16, 1796 at Gros-Redérching, Moselle he married Catherine Guingerich/Gingerich. She was born on Brandelfing farm at Gros-Réderching 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 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-Réderching) 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-Redérching]. 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-Redérching 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?].[159] 'Joseph Naffziger' was naturalized at Madison, Upper Lee County, Iowa Oct. 12, 1860. They appear on the 1860, 1870, and 1880 censuses of Franklin, Lee County, Iowa; Agency Township, Osage County, Kansas; and Melvern, Osage County. Barbe died at Melvern April 16, 1874, and Joseph died there Feb. 8, 1882. They are buried in Melvern Cemetery.
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 or 'Iowa John Naffziger')** was born at Kalhausen, Moselle (six miles southwest of Gros- Redérching) April 1, 1813.
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. Naffziger, a son of Christian Nafziger and Maria Stalter.

Jean Nafziger (later known as John Naffziger or 'Iowa John Naffziger') was born at Kalhausen, Moselle April 1, 1813.

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 Nafsiger, 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. The 1870 census of Grove has farmer John Nafsingler, 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.

[159] The *Concordia* passenger list also shows Frini Jantzy, 18. We could not account for her.

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 of 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. John and Catharina came to Tazewell County only in the last years of their lives. 7

His family line was 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.

CHILD #5 PETER of the Birlenbach Branch

Peter Nafziger was born at Birlenbach or the Willenbacherhof at Kutzenhausen, Lower Alsace between 1713 and 1721.

In 1749, legal documents described him as a miller at the Langenmühle at Wissembourg. After 1749 Peter and his brother Valentin/Velten leased the ruined castle estate Fleckensteinerhof at Niederrödern.

—— The older of Peter's two sons was **Johannes Nafziger**.

He married Katharina Güngerich. She was a daughter of Christian Güngerich of the Pfalzhof and an unidentified first wife. Katharina died in 1752, and Johannes remarried to Barbara Nafziger. Barbara was his cousin, a daughter of Peter's brother Valentin/Velten.

Johannes leased properties at Riedseltz, Lower Alsace (four miles east of Birlenbach) from 1761 to 1772. From there he relocated to a mill at Steinseltz (two miles northwest of Riedseltz).

In 1775 he leased the Löhnbergerhof at Weilburg, Nassau (150 miles north of Steinseltz). They later lived on the Ludwigsburgerhof at Seelbach.

Children of Johannes Nafziger and his first wife Katharina Güngerich include:

1. Valentin Nafziger was born on the Fleckensteinerhof circa 1748, and died on the Hörderhof at Blessenbach Dec. 17, 1826. He married Elisabeth Nafziger of the Kammerhof at Leeheim, Hesse-Darmstadt. She was born at Windstein, Lower Alsace May 18, 1760, and died on the Hörderhof Dec. 12, 1825, a daughter of Christian Nafziger and Elisabeth Linder.
    a. Johannes Nafziger was born on the Ludwigsburgerhof June 24, 1781, and died on the Hörderhof at Blessenbach Jan. 9, 1825. He married Jakobina Schanz/Schantz, who was born in 1784 and died in 1813, a daughter of Caspar Schanz and his second wife Elisabeth Unzicker, who farmed on the Henriettenthal. Johannes leased the Hörderhof at Blessenbach (adjacent to Aumenau, eight miles west of the Schmitthof) sometime before 1812. According to Hermann Guth, children of Johannes Nafziger and his first wife Jakobina Schanz/Schantz include:
        1) Peter or Valentin Nafziger was born on the Schmitthof at Kröffelbach, and later became a leaseholder there.
        2) Elisabeth Nafziger was born on the Hörderhof at Blessenbach Oct. 29, 1812. She married Ludwig Menk, a school teacher at Salzburg, Hesse (27 miles northwest of Blessenbach).

    Johannes remarried to Jakobina Schwarzentraub of the Hofgut Bubenrod between Biebertal and Königsberg, Hesse; she was a daughter of Christian Schwarzentraub and his first wife Katharina Esch. Their children may include:
    - Barbara Nafziger was born on the Hörderhof at Blessenbach circa 1817, and died before 1900. She and her cousin Christian Nafziger sailed from Le Havre on the packet ship *Louis Philippe*, and arrived at New York July 27, 1840.[160] At the time the ship held records for the fastest transatlantic crossings by a packet ship; it made the voyage in 18 days or less on three occasions. Its passenger list, misspelled as 'Louis Phillipe,' shows Ch.ian Nafziger, 21; [the second name illegible, perhaps 'ch' again], 21; and Barbara, 22. In 1840 Barbara and Christian arrived in Butler County, Ohio; the following year she married Friederick/Frederick Nafziger there. He was born on the Ludwigsburgerhof at Seelbach (in the Westerwald, in Nassau) Feb. 2, 1818, and died at

[160] Louis Philippe was the last king of France 1830-1848.

Clinton Township, Rock County, Minnesota Dec. 26, 1908, a son of Peter Nafziger and Henriette Schönbeck. See his information for background on this couple.

- Katharina (headstone)/Catherine/Catharine Nafziger was born Aug. 24, 1819, and died April 21, 1909. The 1900 census said she immigrated in 1852. On Nov. 20, 1853 in McLean County 'Catherine Noffsinger' married Peter Donner (junior). He was born at Mainz Dec. 4, 1818, and died in McLean County Oct. 8, 1909, a son of Peter Danner/Donner and Barbara Naffziger (a sister of minister 'Apostle Peter Naffziger). For background on this couple see DONNER.

b. Barbara Nafziger was born on the Ludwigsburgerhof Dec. 22, 1784, and died on the Henriettenthalerhof at Wörsdorf above Idstein in 1844. She married Johannes Unzicker of Windhof on the east side of Weilburg, Nassau-Weilburg. He was born at Gräveneck Dec. 14, 1778, and died on the Henriettenthalerhof May 28, 1847, a son of Joseph Unzicker and Katharina Güngerich.

c. Christian Nafziger was born in 1794, and died unmarried in 1813.

d. Peter Nafziger [twin] was born and died in 1797, according to Guth. If so, he would have been a twin to Jakob/Jacob.

e. Jakob/Jacob Nafziger [twin] was born Nov. 23, 1797 (per headstone), and died at Little Mackinaw April 6, 1884. On Oct. 6, 1816 at Neuhausen, Worms he married Katharina Naffziger (found later as Catharina, Catharine, and Catherine). She was born on the Liebenauerhof (leased cloister grounds at Osthofen, five miles above Hochheim and Worms) Sept. 14, 1798 (per headstone), and died at Danvers Aug. 10, 1862; she is buried in Stout's Grove Cemetery at Danvers. She was a daughter of Magdalena Spring and her first husband Valentin Nafziger, and a sister to minister 'Apostle Peter' Naffziger. Guth estimated both of their birth years as 'circa 1786,' but this was conjecture in an area where many records were destroyed by bombing during World War II; he was unaware of a passenger list, Illinois censuses, and headstones. Jacob's older brother Johannes had leased the Hörderhof at Blessenbach (adjacent to Aumenau, eight miles west of the Schmitthof) sometime before 1812, and they stayed with him after marriage. Johannes died in 1825, and father Valentin in 1826, so that Johannes's widowed second wife Jakobina Schwartzentraub inherited the lease; this was taken up by Jacob in 1833. A local Blessenbach history site says the Counts Wied-Runkel leased the Hörderhof to Nafzigers and Schwarztraubs only until 1840. When they left the Hörderhof, it was assumed that all of this family must be emigrating. But the main family may have gone to Worms or Andernach; only a son Christian sailed with his cousin Barbara Nafziger in 1840. Christian remained in Ohio until 1843, then returned to Europe for his parents and siblings. This took almost a decade. The American ship *J.Z.* sailed from Antwerp, and arrived at New York Jan. 31, 1853. On the second page of that arrival passenger list is an immigrant travel group consisting of Jacob Nafftsiger, 50, Andernach; Jacob, 35, Andernach; Christian, 30, New York; August, 16, Andernach; Catharina, 49, Andernach; Eliza, 30, Andernach; Catharina, nine months, Andernach; Maria Eier, 17, Andernach; Eliza [Eier], 18, Andernach; Eliza [Eier], six months, Andernach; Magdalena Nafftsiger, 24, Andernach; Catharina, 17, Andernach; and Jettchen [a German diminutive form of Henriette], 18, Andernach. The names in family order:

Jacob Nafftsiger, 50 [should have been 55]
Catharina, 49 [his wife, should have been 54]
Christian, 30, New York [their son later called Christian P., Christian S., or Christian B. Nafziger, on his second transatlantic trip, should have been 34]
Eliza, 30 [their daughter married to Jacob, 35] with their own daughter Catharina, nine months [later called Elizabeth]
Magdalena, 24 [a daughter later called Helena/Helen, should have been 23]
Jettchen, 18 [a daughter later called Henrietta, should have been 19]
Catharina, 17 [should have been 24]
August, 16
Jacob Nafziger, 35 [husband of Eliza, 30]
Maria Eier, 17
Eliza [Eier], 18
Eliza [Eier], six months

The dozen mentions of Andernach on the passenger list are conspicuously excessive. In fact, the entry is so different from those around it that it draws attention. This may have been the purpose – to leave a lasting memory of a distraction that might put creditors off the track of their daughter and son-in-law. Though the larger family may have come from Andernach, daughter Eliza and her husband Jacob had departed from the Weilerhof at Wolfskehlen after going bankrupt there.

Wolfskehlen is 80 miles southeast of Andernach, and eight miles west of the city of Darmstadt.[161] They are found on the 1860 census of Danvers as farmer Jacob Noffsinger, 60, Prussia; Catherine, 58, Prussia; Henrietta [Jettchen on the passenger list], 22; Gustavus [August on the passenger list], 21; and Fred Myers, 25. Jacob is found as 'Jacob, 72, Prussia' on the 1870 census of Mackinaw. Others in the household were Frederick Nafziger, 51, Prussia; Barbara, 52, Prussia; farmer Frederick, 24, Ohio; Edward, 24, Ohio; Albert, 9, Ohio; Julius, 16, Illinois; Ida, 13, Illinois; and Edward Hostettler, 8, Illinois. This was Jacob with a grandson Edward in the household of his daughter and son-in-law. On the 1880 census of Little Mackinaw 'Jacob Nafziger, 83, father' is found in the household of his son August. Their next-door neighbors were farmer Jacob Nofziger, 52, Wurtemberg; Mary, 46, Bavaria; Daniel, 17, Illinois; Henry, 11, Illinois; Ernest, 8, Illinois; servant Minnie Gleiss, 22, Prussia; and laborer John Bolinger, 35, Bavaria; this was Jacob and his wife Maria Katharina Güngerich. Jacob died at Little Mackinaw; he is buried in Glenwood Cemetery at Mackinaw, also known as Old Minier Cemetery. His headstone says he was born Nov. 23, 1797, and died April 6, 1884. (The only other Nafziger burial there is a grandchild, a child of August and Helen who died Sept. 22, 1871). Their children include:

1) Christian Nafziger, also found as Christ S. Nafziger, as Christ P. Nafzinger, and then on his headstone as Christian B. Nafziger, was born on the Hörderhof at Blessenbach July 26, 1819, and died in McLean County Aug. 16, 1903 (headstone dates).[162] On March 25, 1854 in McLean County he married his fourth cousin (once removed) Catherine/Katherine (headstone)/Kate Nafziger. She was born in Württemberg Dec. 9, 1829, and died at Stanford, McLean County Feb. 2, 1898, a daughter of Jacob Nafziger and his second wife Elizabeth Rocke. *Portrait and Biographical Album of McLean County, Illinois* (1887): "Christian P. Nafziger, an excellent representative of the worthy German farming element of this region, is comfortably located in Allin Township, on Section 18, where he is carrying on the peaceful pursuit of agriculture, and by his upright and honest course in life has secured the respect and esteem of his fellow-citizens. Mr. Nafziger was born in Prussia, July 26, 1819, being the son of Jacob and Catherine (Nafziger) Nafziger, both natives of the German Empire; the father born in 1797, and the mother the following year. They [the parents] were married in their native country in about 1817, and remained there until 1853 when they set sail for the New World. After landing in New York City, they proceeded immediately westward to this state and county, where the father of our subject purchased eighty acres of fine farming land, upon which he resided until his death, which occurred in 1884. The mother had died previously in 1863, after they had become the parents of seven children, named as follows: Augustus, Eliza, Helen, Helena [she may have been a mistake; see the later note], Katie, Henrietta, and G.B. Christian P. of our sketch. They were most excellent and worthy people, members of the Mennonite Church, and trained their children to habits of industry and principles of honor. The subject of this history remained under the parental roof until he had attained his majority and in 1855 was united in marriage with Kate Nafziger, in McLean County, Illinois. He reached the United States in the spring of 1840 and first went to Butler County, Ohio, where he lived three years. He then returned to Germany, and after a sojourn of nine years in his native land, set out once more for America. Then Mr. Nafziger came to the Prairie State and this county, where he was married and where he purchased the farm upon which he now resides. Here he is engaged in general agriculture, and is devoting much time and attention to the breeding of graded stock. The eight children of our subject are as follows: Augustus married Miss Lizzie Ehrsmann, of Allin Township; Eliza became the wife of Christian Otto; Minnie married Arnold Unziger; Emila married a gentleman of the same name; Katie, Julia, Bertha and Ferdinand are at home with their parents.

---

[161] Andernach is near a bend in the Rhine River, only a few miles downstream (northwest) from the city of Koblenz. Amish Mennonite famers had first come across the river from Neuwied to the village of Andernach in 1827. They had leased portions of the Pönterhof and Kräherhof/Krayerhof, five miles west of the village. These estates became homes to members of the Schanz/Schantz family. The Krayerhof is now a well-maintained private residence on the Krayerstrasse. The Pönterhof and Pöntermühle were just above it; the Pönterbach [brook] runs north from the Krayerhof. Andernach is now in the district of Mayen-Koblenz, *Rheinpfalz* or Rhineland-Palatinate (midway between Mayen on the west and Koblenz to the southeast).

[162] 1860 census of Mosquito Grove (later Allin) = Christian Noffsinger; 1870 census of Allin = Christ S. Nafzinger; 1800 census of Allin = no middle initial; *Portrait and Biographical Album of McLean County* (1887) = Christian P. Nafziger; *Pantagraph* Feb. 3, 1898 = Christian P. Nafziger and C.P. Nafziger; 1900 census of Allin = no middle initial; and his headstone = Christian B. Nafziger.

The latter are members of the Mennonite Church, and our subject, politically, affiliates with the Democratic Party." The 1860 census of Mosquito Grove (later Allin) has farmer Christian Noffsinger, 30, Wurtenberg; Catherine, 36, Wurtenburg; Ferdinand, 4, Illinois; Eliza, 1, Illinois; domestic Barbara Ruckie, 24, Iowa; and laborer John Shaffer, 28, Saxony. The 1870 census of Allin (spelled Allen on that census) has farmer Christ S. Nafzinger, 51, Wurtemburg; Catherine, 42, Wurtemberg; William W., 12, Illinois; Eliza, 13, Illinois; Amelia, 12, Illinois; Catherine, 7, Illinois; Julia, 5, Illinois; Ferdinand, 14, works on farm, Illinois; Gustave, 10, Illinois; and farm hand Charles Hant, 27, Prussia. They can also be found on the 1880 census of Allin (spelled Allen on that census) as farmer Christian Nafziger, 60, Germany; Catharine, 50, Germany; Ferdinan, 24; Mina, 22; Liza, 21; Augustus, 20; Amelia, 18; Catharine, 17; Julia, 15; and Bertha, 7; all children born in Illinois. *Pantagraph*, Feb. 3, 1898: "Mrs. Catherine Nafziger, wife of Christian P. Nafziger, died at her home in Stanford at 7 a.m. yesterday morning. Her health had been failing for the past year and death was not unexpected. Mrs. Nafziger was born in Wurtenburg, Germany September 9, 1829, and came with her parents to the United States in 1847 and thence to McLean County. Her maiden name was Nafziger. She was married to C. P. Nafziger in 1855. She leaves a husband, two sons Ferdinand and August, six daughters, Mrs. Minnie Unzicker and Mrs. Amelia Unzicker, of Danvers; Mrs. Kate Habecker of Marcus, Illinois, Mrs. Julia Baurer, Mrs. Eliza Otto, living near Stanford, and Bertha at home, and two brothers C. P. Nafziger of Tonics, Illinois and Jacob Nafziger, of Gothenburg, Nebraska. Mrs. Nafziger was a member of the Mennonite Church. The funeral will be held at the old Mt. Pleasant Church, north of Stanford Friday at 11 o'clock and will be conducted by Rev. C. Geingerick in German and Rev. G. D. Willingam in English. The internment will be in the Mt. Pleasant cemetery." The 1900 census of Allin has landlord Christian Nafziger, 80, born in Germany in July of 1819, immigrated in 1853; Ferdinand, 43, born in Illinois in April of 1857; and Bertha, 25, born in Illinois in September of 1874.

2) Elizabeth/Eliza Nafziger was born on the Hörderhof at Blessenbach May 24, 1822 (per her obituary), and died at Danvers Sept. 21, 1908. Circa 1847 she married Jacob Nafziger. He was born on the Liebenauerhof at Osthofen June 26, 1817, and died at Dry Grove, McLean County April 18, 1899, a son of Johann Christian Nafziger and Elisabeth Fischer. Jacob and his brother Christian leased the Weilerhof at Wolfskehlen (eight miles west of the city of Darmstadt). Facing financial difficulties, Christian emigrated from Europe in 1846. Jacob married Elizabeth/Eliza in 1847, and they remained on the estate until 1849, when they went bankrupt. They may have been a couple who sailed from Le Havre on the *Brother Jonathan*, and arrived at New York June 6, 1854: farmer Jacob Nafzger, 36; and Elisabeth, 29; Switzerland. They settled at Bloomington soon after arrival. They are found on the 1860 census of Danvers as farmer Jacob Noffsinger, 40, Nassau; Elizabeth, 35, Nassau; Eliz., 9, Nassau; Ferdinand, 8, Illinois; Bettie, 6, Illinois; and Gustavus Noffsinger, four months, Illinois. Circa 1877 they purchased 200 acres at Dry Grove. In Illinois Jacob became Jacob W. Nafziger. The 1900 census of Danvers, McLean County shows Elisabeth Naffziger, a mother-in-law in the household of August Gingrich and Bertha. She was 78 years of age, born in Germany in May of 1822, and immigrated in 1853. According to a *Pantagraph* obituary published Sept. 22, 1908 calling her Elisabeth Naffziger, she was "…survived by fourteen grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. She has been faithful and consistent member of the Mennonite Church for many years. The funeral will be held at 3 p.m. today at the Presbyterian Church in Danvers. Rev. John Gingerich will preach in German and Rev W.W. Wilson will preach in English." They are buried in Park Lawn Cemetery at Danvers.

3) Katharina 'Katie' Nafziger was born on the Horderhof at Blessenbach Aug. 17, 1828 (headstone), and died at Danvers, McLean County July 3, 1911. (She is found on the 1853 passenger list as a 17-year-old, but should have been 24 years of age). On Feb. 14, 1857 in McLean County she married Christian Kennel. He was born on the Herfingerhof estate at Börrstadt in the Pfalz (at least one source says Weitersweiler, five miles to the northeast) Jan. 10, 1826, and died at Danvers, McLean County July 3, 1911, a son of Peter Kennel and Magdalena Holly. See KENNEL for background on this couple.

4) Helen Nafziger was born on the Hörderhof at Blessenbach circa 1829. She is found on the passenger list as Magdalena. On April 10, 1855 in McLean County she married Jacob Hostetler/Hostadtler (Hochstattler in the *Illinois Statewide Marriage Index*). He was born circa 1825, and died in McLean County Nov. 21, 1872; he is buried in Stout's

Grove Cemetery at Danvers. Helen is easily confused with Helena Nafziger, who was born in Hesse-Darmstadt Oct. 22, 1832, and died at Danvers Nov. 20, 1919, a daughter of Johann Christian Nafziger and Barbara Stahly.

5) Henrietta Nafziger was born on the Hörderhof at Blessenbach Feb. 17, 1833, and died May 26, 1904. On Oct. 1, 1860 in McLean County she married John Hochstetler/Hochstadtler. He was born Jan. 8, 1830, and died at Bloomington, McLean County Dec. 2, 1907. He immigrated in 1851, lived two years in Ohio, then lived in Tazewell County until 1876 before moving to McLean County. The 1870 census of Little Mackinaw has farmer John Hostetler, 40, Prussia; Henrietta, 36, Prussia; Albert, 8, Illinois; Theo, 6, Illinois; Julius, 3, Illinois; domestic servant Mary Klenk, 17, Illinois; and farm hand August Hostetler, 14, Illinois. The 1900 census of Dry Grove, McLean County has farmer John Hochstadler, 70, born in Germany in January of 1832, immigrated in 1851; Henrietta, 67, born in Germany in February of 1833, immigrated in 1853; and Katie, 29, born in Illinois in June of 1870. They are buried under a joint headstone in Evergreen Memorial Cemetery at Bloomington.

6) Augustus/August Nafziger was born at Koblenz (according to an *Evangelisch* record) Dec. 7, 1836, and died at Narka, Kansas Aug. 9, 1912. On Nov. 3, 1870 in Bureau County he married Helen Erismann. She was born at Schrecksbach, Hesse Jan. 16, 1843, and died at Narka Aug. 2, 1930, a daughter of Peter Ehrismann and Magdalena Stahly who immigrated in 1852 (See EHRESMAN). (Her sister Fredericka married Christian Nafziger; he was born in 1834, son of Johann Christian Nafziger and Barbara Stahly). She immigrated in 1852 and lived at Princeton, Bureau County. The 1880 census of Little Mackinaw shows their household as August Nafziger, 42, Prussia; Helen, 37, Hesse-Cassel; Alvin, 7, Illinois; Herbert, 5, Illinois; Augusta, 19, Illinois, and father Jacob Nafziger, 83, born in Prussia to parents from Prussia and Hesse-Cassel. The 1900 census of Albion, Republic County, Kansas has August Nafziger, 63, born in Germany in December of 1836, immigrated in 1853; Helen, 57, born in Germany in January of 1843, immigrated in 1852; and three children born in Illinois. They appear on the 1910 census of Albion has August Nafziger, 73, Germany; Helen, 67, Germany; and three grown children born in Illinois. August reported that he had come to America in 1853, and Helen in 1852. They are buried in Maple Grove Cemetery at Narka. Fredricka's 1911 will said that her sister Helen was living at Narka.

7) The description G.B. - *Gottes Belohnung* or 'God's reward' - meant that an infant had died. God's reward does not describe the child, but traditionally refers to eternal life.

2. Peter Nafziger was born on the Fleckensteinerhof circa 1748, and died on the Ludwigsburgerhof at Seelbach Nov. 3, 1813. In 1771 in Hochheim he married Katharina Nafziger. She was his cousin, a daughter of his father's brother Peter. They lived on the Ludwigsburgerhof at Seelbach in the Westerwald, and on the Obergladbacherhof at Runkel. Katharina died at Aumenau before 1796. After 1802 Peter remarried to Magdalena Schanz/Schantz. She was born on the Langenbergerhof at Pirmasens May 4, 1758, a daughter of Peter Schanz/Schantz and his first wife Magdalena Ullmann of the Hofgut Merenberg (Merenberg is adjacent on the west sides of Weilburg and Löhnburg). Two of the children from Peter's first marriage to Katharina Nafziger was:

   a. Peter Nafziger was born on the Ludwigsburgerhof at Seelbach (in the Westerwald, in Nassau) Dec. 14, 1783, and died at Aumenau Nov. 19, 1859. He married Henriette Schönbeck from the Trages estate at Hanau. She was born at Frankfurt am Main in 1789, and died at Aumenau Dec. 16, 1833, a daughter of Johannes Schönbeck and Elisabeth Holly. One of their children was:

      1) Friedrich/Frederick Nafziger was born on the Ludwigsburgerhof Feb. 2, 1818, and died at Clinton Township, Rock County, Minnesota Dec. 26, 1908. He immigrated in 1841. In Butler County, Ohio that year he married Barbara Nafziger. She was born on the Hörderhof at Blessenbach circa 1817, and died before 1900, a daughter of Johannes Nafziger and his second wife Jakobina Schwarzentraub. The 1850 census of Liberty, Butler County, Ohio shows farmer Frederick Knopsenger, 32, Germany; Barbara, 31, Germany; August, 9, Ohio; Frederick, 6, Ohio; Edward, 4, Ohio; and Elizabeth, 48, Germany. The 1860 census of Danvers, McLean County has farmer Fred Noffsinger, 44, Nassau; Barbara, 35, Nassau; Augustus, 19, Ohio; Fred, 16, Ohio; Edward, 14, Ohio; Henrietta, 12, Ohio; Albert, 8, Ohio; Julius, 6, Illinois; and Ida, 4, Illinois. Immediately before their entry is one for the resident also known as Jacob W. Nafziger: farmer Jacob Noffsinger, 40, Nassau; Elizabeth, 35, Nassau; Eliz., 9, Nassau; Ferdinand, 8, Illinois; Bettie, 6, Illinois; and Gustavus Noffsinger, four months, Illinois. An 1875 state census of Walnut, Kansas has farmer Frederick

Nafziger, 56, Germany; Barbery, 57, Germany; farmer Fred, 32, Ohio; patenter Edward, 28, Ohio; farmer Julius, 23, Illinois; Ida, 18, Illinois; and J.E. Hesteler, 13, Illinois. Two households removed on the same census page was Valentin Nafziger, 33, Illinois; Henrietta, 27, Ohio; Edwin, 7, Illinois; Ida, 5, Illinois; Otto, 3, Kansas; and Clara, 10 months, Kansas. This was their daughter Henrietta (born in Butler County June 12, 1848, died at Lawrenceville, Lawrence County March 27, 1924) and her husband Valentin Naffziger (born at Reinheim, Hesse March 12, 1842, died at Normal, McLean County May 11, 1827, a son of Johann Christian Nafziger and Barbara Stahly) who are buried in Park Lawn Cemetery at Danvers. The 1880 census of Walnut, Kansas has farmer Frederick Nafziger, 62, Prussia; Barbara, 63, Prussia; Edward, 33, Ohio; Julius, 27, Illinois; and nephew John Hochstadtler, 17, Illinois. Barbara Nofziger died Nov. 17, 1892, and is buried at Arrowsmith, McLean County. The 1900 census of Arrowsmith, McLean County has Frederick Nafziger, 81, born in Germany in December of 1818, immigrated in 1841; and Fred, 56, born in Ohio in May of 1844. The 1905 state census of Luverne, Rock County, Minnesota has Fredrick Nafziger, 86; and Fred Nafziger, 62. Frederick's death entry from Clinton Township (adjacent below Luverne) said that he would be buried at Ellsworth, Illinois; this was presumably Ellsworth in Dawson Township, McLean County.

b. Christian Nafziger married Magdalena Oswald. In 1825 they were farming on the Merzhausen farm at Rosenthal with Christian's sister Jakobine Nafziger and her husband Jakob Oswald. Rosenthal is adjacent to Gemünden and Wohra, two location identified with the Brenneman family. One of their children was:

1) Catharine Nafziger was born on the Merzhausen farm at Rosenthal circa Nov. 6, 1824 (headstone date), and died at Morton Jan. 22, 1861. She departed from Bremen on the *Copernicus* as a servant accompanying the Joseph Brenneman family, and arrived at New York June 19, 1852. The passenger list shows 'Cath. Nafziger, 26, Kämeln, destination Illinois.' Kemeln is a general description of an extensive area surrounding a 'camel's hump' bend in the Rhine River. On the north side is the city of Wiesbaden, on the south side is the city of Mainz. It may have been her point of departure; she would have obtained travel papers at Wiesbaden, the capital of the Duchy of Nassau. See BRENNEMAN for background on her traveling companions from Radenhausen, Kassel (a farm on the west side of Amöneburg, below Kirchhain, 17 miles south of Rosenthal) and the state-owned Offenthal estate at Sankt Goarshausen, Nassau-Weilburg (89 miles southwest of Amöneburg). On July 4, 1854 in Peoria County she married Jakob/Jacob Schwarzentraub (found on the *Illinois Statewide Marriage Index* as Jacob Schwartzenthraup and Catharine Nafziger). He was born in 1819, and died in 1887, a son of Johannes Schwarzentruber/John Schwarzentraub and Magdalena Schwarzentruber. See SCHWARZENTRAUB for background on this couple.

—— The younger of Peter's two sons was **Peter Nafziger**, born between 1734 and 1742. He went to Hochheim near Worms, in the landgraviate Hesse-Darmstadt (now in the German state of Rheinisch-Pfalz). Hochheim is now a district of the city of Worms; it should not be confused with Hochheim am Main, which is 30 miles to the north.

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. She was a daughter of Johannes Spring and Elisabetha, who leased the Rosenthalerhof at Kerzenheim (below Dreisen and Göllheim, with Mertesheim on its east side).[163]

[163] Johannes Spring and Elisabetha were the parents of three children who married Nafzigers. Katharina Spring married Johannes; Magdalena Spring married Valentine; and Peter Spring married Katharina.

After the death of Johannes, Elisabetha remarried to Jakob Stahly [Stähli]. Jakob was born at Enkenbach July 25, 1752, a son of Johann Jorg Stahly and Anna Magdalena Kinzinger.

On July 26, 1802 at Fränkisch-Crumbach Jakob remarried to the much younger Elisabeth Brenneman. She was born at Erzhausen or on the Braunshardt estate at Weiterstadt Dec. 9, 1776, a daughter of Nikolaus Brenneman and his second wife Magdalena Unzicker. They may have assumed the lease at Obertraisa, where they had five children 1807-1815. Jakob

For the sake of clarity, we have not mentioned Valentin's older brother known as Peter of Gauersheim (just as side branches of the Nafziger family that do not lead to Illinois have been ignored). We will return to him a little later, when his widow marries the second husband of his younger brother Valentin's widow. From this point things do not become simpler or clearer; a pencil and paper help to diagram relationships.

Valentin and Magdalena became tenant farmers on the Obertraisa estate (also found as Obertraysa) of the von Gemmingen family, 32 miles east of Hochheim in the Odenwald area.[164] 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 estate) at Fränkisch-Crumbach, Hesse-Darmstadt. The Urig/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') Sept. 13, 1800.

Children of Magdalena Spring and her first husband Valentin Nafziger include:

1. **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.
2. 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.
3. Elizabeth Naffziger was born on Obertraisa estate Jan. 19, 1793.
4. Barbara Naffziger was born on Obertraisa estate Dec. 14, 1794, and died in Woodford County Sept. 19, 1881. In 1815 on the Wolferhof at Neustadt im Odenwald, Hesse she married Peter Danner.
5. Johanna Naffziger was born on Obertraisa estate Dec. 11, 1796. According to Hermann Guth in *Amish Mennonites in Germany*, she also came to America.
6. 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 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 Krehbiel 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 shown on the passenger list as Jacob Naffziger, 32; Barbara, 34; Barbara, 7; Lise, 5; Magdalena, 3; and Peter, 1. *History of Tazewell County* (1879) says they spent six years in Ohio before coming to Illinois. '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 Sept. 8, 1838, the same day that Daniel Nafziger purchased land in the same section. The household is found on the 1850 census of District 56 (Woodford County) as farmer Jacob Naufsinger, 52, Germany; Barbaray, 52, Germany; laborer Peter, 21, Germany; John, 17, Germany; Jacobine, 14, Ohio; and Catharine, 14, Ohio; they were living next door to John Switzer [Suisse or Schweizer]. They are also found on the 1860 census of Worth. Widower Jacob is found as an 82-year-old in the home of his son Peter J. Naffziger on the 1880 census of Boynton. *Herald of Truth*, March 1888: "On the 5th of March, in Woodford county, Ill. of the infirmities of old age, Pre. Jacob Naffziger, aged 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 two sons and five daughters and many grandchildren. Funeral services by Christian Ropp, John P. Schmidt and Joseph Rediger, at the schoolhouse." *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." *Herald of Truth*, April 1876: "Feb. 10th, in Woodford Co., Ill., Sister Barbara Naffzinger, at the advanced age

---

accompanied Peter Naffziger's younger sister Magdalena Naffziger at her marriage to Johannes Kennel at Breunigweiler in 1808, signing the entry as a witness.

Jakob died on the Obertraisa estate July 26, 1822. Elisabeth died on the Albacherhof at Lich, Hesse May 3, 1851. They had two daughters who went to McLean County, and two sons who went to Bureau County (see EHRESMAN, BUREAU AND MCLEAN COUNTIES).

[164] The noble von Gemmingen family purchased the Obertraisa estate from the Rodenstein family in the mid-18th century. The Naffzigers may never have met a von Gemmingen; the family resided at Kraichgau and owned several scattered real estate holdings.

of 80 years, 4 months and 16 days, eight days previous to her death she attended meeting; her seat now is vacant, but she will occupy a seat in the heavenly mansions, to which she looked forward with an eye of faith. Services by Christian Rupp, and J. P. Schmitt, from *1 Cor. 15*." Their children include:

a. Barbara 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 R. Engel, 58, France; Barbara, 56, 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 Güngerich/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 minister 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 Madeleine/Magdalena 'Lena' Nafziger. She was born on the Rohrhof estate at Brühl, Baden Oct. 20, 1832, was baptized Oct. 23, and died May 4, 1906, daughter of Peter Nafziger and Katharina Hunsicker. They went from Woodford County to Boynton in 1871, and purchased 80 acres. They are found on the 1900 census of Boynton as Peter J. Naffziger, 70, born in Germany in August of 1829, immigrated in 1830 (*History of Tazewell County* says spring of 1831) ; Magdalena, 67, born in Germany in October of 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 *I 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 Naffziger (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/Jean/John Bachman and Anna Stecker/Staker. 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. He died at Manson, Iowa Nov. 6, 1914, a son of Johannes/Jean/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.

7. Katharina Naffziger was born on the Liebenauerhof (leased cloister grounds at Osthofen, five miles above Hochheim and Worms) Sept. 14, 1798 (per headstone), and died at Danvers Aug. 10, 1862. On Oct. 6, 1816 at Neuhausen, Worms she married Jacob Nafziger. He was born Nov. 23, 1797 (per headstone), and died at Little Mackinaw April 6, 1884, a son of Valentin Nafziger and Elisabeth Nafziger. Guth estimated her birth and that of her husband as 'circa 1786,' but this was conjecture in an area where many records were destroyed by bombing during World War II; he was unaware of a passenger list, censuses, and headstones. See Jacob's information given earlier 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. We will call him Valentin (#2) for the sake of clarity.

He was born at Lachen-Speyerdorf in the Pfalz in 1769, and died on the Elbisheimerhof at Göllheim (below Dreisen) in 1839.[165] He was a son of Peter Nafziger (born circa 1720, a son of Ŭlrich) and his third wife Elisabeth Ehrismann. His first wife had been Magdalena Fischer.

Children of Valentin (#2) and his first wife Magdalena Fischer include:

- The death of a female newborn was reported at Lachen-Speyerdorf Aug. 8, 1797. The father was named as Nafziger.

1. Peter Nafziger was born in 1800 (headstone and passenger list, though 1802 is 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 Valentin Nafziger and Magdalena Fischer, and hers as Peter Hunsicker and Magdalena Schwarzgruber [Schwartzentruber]. Both sets of parents farmed on the Rohrhof estate. They sailed from Bremen on the *Gaston*, arriving at New York July 19, 1848. The passenger list shows them as farmer Peter Nafziger, 47; Cath., 44; Jacob, 17; Madeline, 15; Elisabeth, 11; Valentin, 10; and Barb. Magd., 6. Peter and Katharina brought their family to Butler County the same year. They continued on to Tazewell County before the 1850 census, and purchased land at Boynton before the federal census. There they appear as Peter Nafzeger, 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. 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. They are buried in Mennonite Cemetery at Hopedale. 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 72 years, 9 months, and 21 days (yielding a birth date of Dec. 26, 1803). Their children include:
    a. 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; Henni, 10, Iowa; August, 5, California; Amelia, 4, California; and Colene, 1, California.
    b. Madeleine/Magdalena 'Lena' Nafziger was born on the Rohrhof estate Oct. 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.
    c. 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 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

[165] Lachen-Speyerdorf lost its status as a municipality June 7, 1969. It is now a district of Neustadt an der Weinstrasse.

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."

d. 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.

e. 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 Chritian 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, Illinois; farm worker Joseph Krebill, 20, Russia; and divorced sister-in-law Elizabeth Nafziger, 43, Germany. Joseph and Barbara are buried in Hopedale Mennonite Cemetery, where their joint headstone says she was born in July 1841 and spells her surname 'Naffziger.'

2. According to Hermann Guth in *Amish Mennonites in Germany*, Christian Nafziger was born on the Neuhof estate at Dirmstein (eight miles southwest of Worms) in 1802, and died at Gauersheim (12 miles northwest of Dirmstein) in 1826.

Thus Magdalena Spring brought seven children to the marriage; her new husband Valentin (#2) brought two sons. They would have two sons together, who were half-brothers to 'Apostle Peter':

1. Daniel Nafziger was born at Hochheim circa 1803. 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. Jutze, 25; John Schwartrabe, 24; and Jacob Gartner, 27. He was on his way to the German Block of Wilmot, Ontario, where his half-brother Peter was already living. A plat map of Wilmot 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."[166] 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 stepbrother to Daniel) purchased the southeast quarter of the same section. Township 27N would later become 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

[166] Schwartzentruber's letter was written to Jakobina Schwartzentruber, the widow of Peter Nafziger of the Hofgut Illbach at Reinheim, who died on the transatlantic crossing in 1827. She was living at Paradise, Lancaster County.

Naffsinger, 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 Naffzinger 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 Noffzinger, 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. Elizabeth Summer died at Washington Sept. 14, 1876. The 1880 census of Morton shows Daniel Noffsinger, 80, father-in-law, Bavaria, in the home of daughter Susan and son-in-law Joseph Eigsti. Daniel died at Morton March 24, 1886. Children of Daniel Nafziger and Elizabeth Summer include:

a. 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 Reherrey, Meurthe-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.

b. 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.

c. 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.

d. 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 6, 1869, who died Dec. 22, 1885. Six children were born to them: Mrs. Mary Good, of Rantoul; Ms. Pauline Schertz, of Manson, Iowa; and Simon E. Naffziger, of Goodfield; Ben Naffziger, of Bloomington; Christian and Rosina, deceased. Mr. Naffziger was married a second time to Emma Stauffer, March 17, 1887, at Tiskilwa, Ill. Four children were born to them, Alma and Homer, who are at home, and two children deceased. Mrs. Naffziger died Oct. 11, 1893. After his first marriage he lived several years at Hopedale, then moved to his farm southeast of Minker, where he remained thirty years. He retired and moved to Minier three years ago, where he has since made his home in the west part of town. The surviving children have the deep sympathy of the entire community." Joseph is buried as 'Joseph Naffziger' in Hopedale Mennonite Cemetery, alongside Emma.

e. Elizabeth Nafziger was born in Illinois circa 1846. On Nov. 19, 1864 in Woodford County she married John Rohman. (The Valentine Rohman family was living next door to Daniel and Elizabeth in 1865). They are found on the 1870 census of Spring Bay as farmer John Rohman, 48,

Bavaria; Lizzie, 37, Illinois; and six children born in Illinois. Her household is found on the 1880 census of Spring Bay as farmer John Rohman, 54, born in Germany to German parents; Lizzi, 34, born in Illinois to German parents; and four children born in Illinois.

f. Catherine Nafziger was born in Illinois June 18, 1848, and died at Garden City, Missouri Feb. 5, 1900. She is buried in Clearfork Cemetery there. On March 5, 1867 in Tazewell County she married Joseph Gerber/Garber. He was born in Woodford County May 25, 1843, and died at Kokomo, Indiana May 21, 1921, a son of Christian Gerber/Garber and Madeleine/Magdalena Dellenbach. He is buried in Mast Cemetery at Kokomo.

g. Jakobina/Phebe/Phoebe Nafziger was born at Washington, Tazewell County Dec. 3, 1852, and died at Garden City, Missouri Jan. 10, 1916. On April 3, 1870 in Tazewell County she married Christian Martin. He was born Aug. 24 or 25 (headstone), 1843, and died at Garden City, Missouri Aug. 16, 1907, a son of Christian/Christophe Martin and Marie/Mary Zehr. See MARTIN for more on this couple.

h. Christian Nafziger was born in Illinois in 1952. We could not follow him after the 1870 census.

2. Valentin/Valentine Naffziger was born at Hochheim April 1, 1805, and died at Deer Creek Feb. 16, 1880. On Nov. 18, 1830 at Gauersheim he married Anna Catharina Nafziger. She was born at Reinheim Sept. 23, 1806, and died in 1850, a daughter of Peter Nafziger and Jakobine Fischer. (The odd mixed French/German spellings of mother and daughter Jakobine and Anna Catharina may have been intentional). Widower Valentine and his children sailed from Le Havre on the packet ship *La Duchesse d'Orleans,* and arrived at New York July 8, 1850. The passenger list has farmer Valent. Naffziger, 44, Bavaria; Valentin, 14; Peter, 11; and on the next page farmer Christian Naffziger, 44, Bavaria. The last entry was meant to be youngest son Christian, who was 14 years of age. They went directly to Butler County, Ohio, where they remained for a year. From there they went to Washington, Tazewell County, where they rented a farm for five years. Valentine's younger half-sister Elizabeth Nafziger (she was born in 1811, a daughter of Elisabeth Beck) sailed in 1851, possibly bringing his daughter Elisabeth (born in 1838) with her. She took responsibility for the care of his children in Illinois. Circa 1856 Valentine purchased 80 acres at Deer Creek. This was sold, and another 160 acres and timberland were purchased. They can be found on the 1870 census of Deer Creek as Valentine Naffsinger, a 66-year-old farmer from Hesse; and Elizabeth, 55, from Hesse. Next door were farm laborer Christ Naffsinger, 30; Leana, 25, Illinois; Edward, 4, Illinois; and Valentin, 2, Illinois. 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. Children of Valentine Naffziger and Anna Catharina Nafziger born at Gauersheim include:

a. Valentine Nafziger was born March 13, 1834, and died Jan. 28, 1919. On Dec. 17, 1861 in Woodford County he married Katharina/Catherine Nafziger. She was born in Tazewell County May 28, 1840, and died at Chicago June 26, 1898, a daughter of Christian Nafziger [Jr.] of Bourscheid and Barbara Magdalena Schertz. *Herald of Truth*, August 1898: "At Chicago, June 26th, 1898, after undergoing a surgical operation, Katharine, wife of Valentine Naffziger, 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. Peter Nafziger was born July 2, 1835, and died in Tazewell County Nov. 2, 1909. On Feb. 19, 1863 in Woodford County he married Barbaray/Barbara Gingery. She was born at Partridge, Woodford County Oct. 8, 1841, and died Feb. 28, 1920, a daughter of Peter Güngerich/Gingery and Magdalena Nafziger. They are found on the 1870 census of Washington as Peter Naffsinger, 36, France; and Barbaray, 35, Germany; with children and farm labourer Moses Camp, 19, Illinois. They are found on the 1900 census of Deer Creek as farmer Petter Naffziger, 64, born in Germamy in July 1835 to German parents; Barbara, 58, born in Illinois in October 1841 to German parents (Alsace-Lorraine was occupied by Germany 1870-1918); and two children born in Illinois. By 1894 Peter had served a dozen years as school director, owned 500 acres, and had eight children. Peter and Barbara are buried in Hirstein Cemetery.

c. Christian Nafziger was born June 17, 1837, and died in Tazewell County Oct. 26, 1923. On Feb. 28, 1865 in Woodford County he married Magdalena Gingery. She was born at Partridge, Woodford County Feb. 18, 1844, and died in Tazewell County July 11, 1927, a daughter of Peter Güngerich/Gingery and Magdalena Nafziger. They are found next door to Peter and Barbara on the 1900 census of Deer Creek as farmer Christ Naffziger, 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. Elizabeth 'Lizzie' Nafziger was born Nov. 11, 1838, and died Oct. 30, 1883. She was not found on the *Duchesse d' Orleans* passenger list, but may have immigrated in 1851. On June 25, 1867 in Woodford County she married Peter F. Kinsinger. He was born at Congerville Dec. 13, 1839 (headstone date) or Dec. 17 (death entry), and died at Washington Jan. 25, 1921, a son of Michael Kinsinger and Magdalena Naffziger. Magdelena was a daughter of minister 'Apostle Peter' Naffziger and Barbara Beck. Thus Peter F. Kinsinger was Lizzie's cousin (once removed). They are found on the 1880 census of Morton as Peter Kinsinger, 40, servant; Lizzie, 35; with two children born in Illinois. She is buried in Hirstein Cemetery at Morton as 'Elisabeth, wife of Peter F. Kinzinger.' On Aug. 3, 1886 in Tazewell County Peter remarried to Paulina Wilhelmina Russe. She was born in 1851, and died in 1921. They were living at Washington in 1920. They are buried in Glendale Cemetery at Washington.

- *Portrait and Biographical Album of Tazewell and Mason Counties, Illinois* (1894) also mentions two children who died as infants. [167]
- *Portrait* also mentions Susan Nafziger, 'now deceased.' But this may only reflect confusion with a daughter of Daniel Nafziger and Elizabeth Summer who was born in Illinios in 1837, married Joseph Eigsti, and died at Morton in 1877.

Magdalena Spring died at Hochheim March 9, 1806, leaving her second husband to care for 11 children.

Valentin (#2) then remarried to Elisabeth Beck on the Wolferhof estate at Neustadt im Odenwald of Hesse. They had a daughter, who was a stepsister to 'Apostle Peter':

— Elizabeth Nafziger 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."

After Elizabeth Beck's death, Valentin (#2) married 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 thus an aunt to 'Apostle Peter' before she became his stepmother), and she died at Gauersheim in 1837.

Stepfather Valentin Nafziger (#2) died alone at Göllheim, after the deaths of four wives, and every one of his children and stepchildren from four marriages had died or emigrated.

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.[168] They farmed with the Amish Mennonite Fischer family on the Liebenauerhof, leased cloister grounds at Osthofen (five miles above Hochheim and Worms).[169]

---

[167] The *Portrait and Biographical Album of Tazewell and Mason Counties, Illinois* (1894) sketch described here was actually focused on Peter (1835). It accurately described his father as Valentin/Valentine (1805, though it says 1804)). But it is garbled because it describes his grandfather as if he were Jakob/Jacob Naffziger (1798) who married Barbara Krehbiel. Jakob/Jacob was not a grandfather to Peter (1835); he was a half-brother to his father, Valentin/Valentine (1805) and thus an uncle. The actual paternal grandparents of Peter (1835) were Valentin Nafziger (#2) and his second wife Magdalena Spring. Why make this point? It demonstrates that Nafziger genealogy was just as confusing to the Nafzigers and their biographers as it is to our readers.

[168] 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.

[169] 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 Ŭlrich Fischer of the Mechtersheimerhof (see EHRESMAN).

We have seen that that 'Apostle Peter' had parents Valentin Nafziger and Magdalena Spring, a stepfather Valentin Nafziger (#2), and two stepmothers Elisabeth Beck and Magdalena Müller. As the family expanded he and his natural siblings would spell their surnames with a characteristically-Hessian doubled ‘f’ to differentiate themselves from their stepbrothers Peter and Christian.

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.

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 Hopedale Mennonite Cemetery. 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 landgraviate 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 Magdalena 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. 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 saw better farmland and warmer weather. In February of 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."

The Liebenauerhof at Osthofen was first mentioned as a cloister (religious retreat) as early as 1309. It was secularized and sold to the May family in 1815. A 300-year-old half-timbered house there was renovated in 2010.

The property is now also called the Karl May Weingut. Their winery operation processes and stores wine from 34 acres of vineyards.

The area between Hochheim/Worms and the state of Nassau-Weilburg was 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 Katharina and brother-in-law Jakob Nafziger at Blessenbach (who later lived at Danvers).

Peter made his reputation as 'Apostle Peter' by visiting Amish Mennonite settlements 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.

The 1840 census of Liberty shows 'Peter Naufziger' living next door to son-in-law Daniel Otto.

In the September 1840 judicial term 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.

In Butler County Peter ministered with John Michael Kistler's assistance. Kistler had married Peter's daughter Elizabeth in Butler County Nov. 8, 1831.[170] The Kistlers may have resettled in Woodford County as early as 1838; they appear on the 1840 census of Danvers.[171]

The Naffzigers followed in 1844, and resettled at Congerville, Woodford County).

Kistler was active in the Hessian South Danvers congregation, but ran up against the conservative beliefs of minister/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 may have made a trip or two to New Orleans. The original source of this story appears to be W.H. Grubb's *History of the Mennonites of Butler County, Ohio,* where he wrote, "Being very fond of traveling, he made many trips to Kentucky and Illinois on horseback, and twice he walked to New Orleans to minister to a small congregation there." This seems improbable. It is true that New Orleans had a German colony, but no Amish Mennonite congregation until the arrival of minister Christopher Maurer in 1846. But from Woodford County, it would have been an 836-mile journey each way – at significant expense in time and money for a farmer with a family. Peter could have traveled downriver cheaply by flatboat, then returned by steamboat.

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 Valentine 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 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.

---

[170] 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.'

[171] Grubb erroneously wrote that Kistler served the Butler County congregation until 1842, when he moved to Illinois.

5. Barbara Naffziger was born at Hochheim May 27, 1820, and died at Bloomington, McLean County 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 were living at Liberty, Butler County in 1840; in 1850 they are found on the census of Liberty next door to Christian Holly and John Miller (later of Woodford County, see MILLER) as farmer Daniel Otto, 34, Germany; Barbara, 30, Germany; Phebe, 11, Ohio; John, 10, Ohio; Christian, 9, Ohio; Jacob, 7, Ohio; Catherine, 6, Ohio; Elizabeth, 3, Ohio; Lena, 2, Ohio; laborer Michael Otto, 64, Germany; and laborer Daniel Kengrnck, 21, Germany. They can also 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. *Herald of Truth*, February 1894: "On the 3d of Jan., 1894, in Bloomington, Ill., of kidney trouble, Daniel Otto, aged 77 y., 8 m., 18 d. He leaves his widow, whom he married in 1838, four sons, four daughters, 37 grandchildren, and 14 great grandchildren. He came to America in his 18th year. Buried Jan. 5th at Danvers. Funeral services by Peter Schantz, Chr. and John Gingerich."
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 ichelbach 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; Phobe 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.
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 Hopedale Mennonite Cemetery 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.

THE ESSINGEN BRANCH

Christen/Christian Naffzger and Anna Schnÿder had a son **Ŭlric Naphzger/Ŭlrich 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 Schnÿder).

It is thought that he went to Birlenbach, Lower Alsace with his older brother Christen/Christian in 1707 or 1708.

Circa 1711 he married Maria Magdalena Güngerich. She was born circa 1694, a daughter of Hans 'Hans *der alte*' Güngerich and Barbara Krieg of the Froensbourg estate at Lembach.

Ŭlrich and Johannes/Hans Jakob Ehrismann farmed the grounds below the ruins of Berwartstein Castle at Erlenbach bei Dahn in the Pfalz, 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, Ŭlrich and Johannes/Hans Jakob Ehrismann leased the Rodenhof (also found as Rothenhof) 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 Obere Hofgut at Essingen, another property of the Eusserthal Abbey 11 miles to the east.

After a dozen years at Essingen, Ŭlrich left his wife and children to depart for America. Presumably he had been expelled and shunned by their congregation, nullifying his Anabaptist marriage vows.

He sailed from Rotterdam through Cowes on the *Marlborough*, arriving at Philadelphia Sept. 23, 1741. The passenger list shows him as 'Ulrich Nafzer.'

Ŭlrich married again at New Holland, Lancaster County Aug. 12, 1746. Marie Catherine Bischof was a widow with two children, and they would have two children together. This second ceremony was performed by a Lutheran minister.

Ŭlrich died at Green Garden, Leacock Township, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania prior to June 11, 1754.

In 1754 "*Magdalena Naffzierin, Johannes Naffzier & Consts. Dei Mennoniten*" of Essingen received a 12-year lease lease for the Ober and Nieder Gut at Eusserthal, about 380 hectares. It was signed Magdalena Nafzier, Hanss Naffziger, and Veldten Güngerich. On Aug. 18, 1759 a revision was signed by Hans Nafziger, Veltin Güngrich, and Peter Nafziger. It took effect for nine years beginning in March of 1760.

Maria Magdalena's death entry was created at Essingen Nov. 11, 1759. It says that 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, Ŭlrich's European children declined to claim a share of his American estate. It named them as Johnnes/Hans, Peter, Christian, the deceased Steffen's children, and Anna. Barbara was also deceased, but her only child Jacob Schenck [Jr.] was supported by Johannes/Hans and did not make a claim. The American children were named as Johannes [later John] and Magdalena [later Mary Magdalena]. Another document mentioned that Ŭlrich had left Maria Magdalena their house at Essingen.

On March 22, 1770 the European children once again renounced any claim to the American property. It was signed by Johannes/Hans, Christian, Peter, Anna, and their cousin Velten [Valentin] as legal guardian of Steffen's children.

A deed dated April 6, 1771 put the Leacock house under the name of American son Johannes/John. It once again listed both the European and American heirs, and mentioned that widow Marie Catherine Bischof had remarried to Hieronimus Brobeck.

The six European children of Ŭlrich Nafziger and his first wife Maria Magdalena Güngerich include Johannes/Hans, Stefan/Steffen, Barbara; Christian; Anna; and Peter.

CHILD #1 JOHANNES/HANS of the Essingen Branch

Johannes/Hans Nafziger was born on the Bärbelsteinerhof at Erlenbach bei Dahn circa 1712. In a letter he wrote in 1787 or 1788 he gave his age as 75.

In 1781 he remarked that he had been in the service of the Lord for 50 years, and this has been misunderstood to mean that he was ordained as a minister while still an unmarried 19-year-old. More likely he meant that he had accepted adult baptism circa 1731.

He married Barbara Holli/Holly on the Bärbelsteinerhof Feb. 2, 1729; a Protestant Reformed record was kept at nearby Niederschlettenbach. She was baptized at Schwarzenegg, Canton Bern in 1708, a daughter of Bärbelsteinerhof leaseholder and minister Christian Holi/Holli/Holly (who performed their ceremony) and Magdalena Stagman. Her baptism entry shows the day and month cut off by a fold on the next-to-last entry in 1708; it describes her father as '*Christen Holly aus der Diessbach Kilchöri.*'

A civil record of Anabaptists mentions 'Joann Noffzieger' on the Mechtersheimerhof in 1738, 1739, and 1740. They next lived at Rüppurr below Karlsruhe, Baden. In 1754 they lived briefly with the Kurtz family on the Katharinentaler Hof at Pforzheim, Baden 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, 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 of marriage, baptism, and the ordination of ministers and deacons. The letter was widely copied and served as a ministers' manual.

Barbara Holli/Holly died at Essingen Dec. 15, 1789. A letter Johannes wrote in 1790 lamented the passing of his wife. He wrote that she had ‘departed from this life’ Dec. 15, 1789, age 76, and that they had lived together in marriage over 50 years. Johannes, who was roughly 82, had failed to notice that they had been married for 60 years.

Johannes/Hans died there after June 6, 1790 and before the close of 1791. For more on Johannes/Hans Nafziger including the complete translated texts of two of his letters to Christian Schowalder/Schowalter in America, see *Amish Mennonites in Germany*.

Children of Johannes/Hans Nafziger and Barbara Holli/Holly include:

1. Barbara Nafziger was born in 1739, and died at Essingen in 1829. She married her cousin Jakob Schenck [Jr.]. He was born circa 1737, a son of Jacob Schenck [Sr.] and Barbara Nafziger, who were also co-leasors of the Dalberg estate at Essingen with Johannes/Hans. In 1790 Johannes/Hans wrote that his son-in-law Jakob Schenck was living with him and farming his land for half of the income. Jacob was also chosen by lot to be ordained as a minister. Barbara remarried to Jakob Vetter or Vester.
2. An unidentified daughter married Christian Bürki of the Mechtersheimerhof estate near Speyer. He was born circa 1720, a son of Johannes/Hans Bürki and Barbara Güngerich. See BIRKY/BIRKEY for background on this couple.

3. Catharina Nafziger was born in 1752, and died at Essingen April 14, 1755.[172]
4. Elisabeth Nafziger died at Essingen Nov. 5, 1760.

Children of Johannes/Hans Nafziger and Barbara Holly DO NOT include Magdalena Nafziger. In *Amish Mennonites in Germany*, Johannes/Hans is given a daughter Magdalena on page 209. However, this seems to be confusion with Magdalena Güngerich, who married Johannes Albrecht of the Hermersbergerhof circa 1776. They went from there to Essingen in 1794. Magdalena Güngerich was a daughter of Valentin Güngerich and Anna Nafziger (a sister of Johannes/Hans Nafziger), as the Guths acknowledge on page 159. See ALBRECHT OF BUREAU COUNTY in the Appendix.

CHILD #2 STEFAN/STEFFEN of the Essingen Branch

Stefan/Steffen Nafziger was born circa 1715, likely on the Rodenhof at Annweiler.

On Jan. 23, 1742 he married Magdalena/Madeleine Güngerich. She was born circa 1715, a daughter of Christian Güngerich (born 1682) and an unidentified first wife.

On March 17, 1743 they went to Steinseltz, where they farmed with Magdalena/Madeleine's brother Christian Güngerich and his wife Jakobea/Jacobine Widmer.

Stefan/Steffen died at Steinseltz after fathering his last child, who was born in 1757, and died before March 22, 1760. On that day a probate document was created at Essingen for the American estate of his deceased father Ŭlric/Ŭlrich, and described Stefan/Steffen as deceased.

INSCRIPTIONS

The *Nafzger Heritage News*, Winter 1980, published a translation of an article by Erna Guth that was sent to them by Gerhard Nafziger of Stockdorf, Germany. It apparently described inscriptions, perhaps in a family *Bible*.

"Today January 23, 1742, Staffan Nafziger married Madleny and on March 17, 1743 we moved to Steinseltz, followed by the births of several children including Hannes, Christian, Valentin, Ammelie, Madleni. In each birth we included a short blessing."

This was the source we have used for Stefan's marriage date, the move date, Stefan's death estimate (it was earlier thought that he died circa 1755), attribution of the hitherto unknown Hannes as a son, and attribution of Valentin as a son.

It was thought that in 1756 Magdalena/Madeleine had remarried to Johannes Nafziger, a son of Valentin/Velten Nafziger (a son of Christian of Birlenbach), and they were the parents of Valentin born in 1757. But she would not have named a second child Valentin, and there was no mention that the first child or his father had died.

We also used this to confirm the birth order of the children, assuming that the writer followed typical German style of the period, listing the males first in order by age, then the females.

We assume Ammelie to be a misreading of the Swiss Anneli; Ammelie would ordinarily be taken as a misspelling of Amalie, but this name did not become popular in Hesse until much later (see the footnote in UNZICKER).

Children of Stefan/Steffen Nafziger and Magdalena/Madeleine Güngerich born at Steinseltz include:

1. Anneli/Anna Nafziger was born circa 1742.
2. Johannes/Hannes Nafziger was born before 1749.
3. Magdalena/Madleni Nafziger was born circa 1749.
4. **Christian Nafziger** was born circa 1749.
5. Valentin Nafziger was born Sept. 28, 1757, and died at Urbach, Moselle Sept. 25, 1827 (recorded at nearby Epping the following day). He married Anna Oesch/Esch. She was born on the Rauschenbourg estate at Ingwiller, Lower Alsace in 1763, and died on the farm property attached to Château Gentersberg [Ger. *Gendersbergerhof*] at Hanviller, Moselle Aug. 14, 1836, a daughter of Abraham Oesch and Anne/Anna Koch. Valentin and Anna lived on the Ingolshof at Niederbronn, the Hollenhof at Guntershofen, and at Hanviller. See OESCH/ESCH for background on her family.

Christian Nafziger was born at Steinseltz, Lower Alsace circa 1749.

He married Madlen/Madeleine Güngerich. She was born at Steinseltz circa 1736, a daughter of Christian Güngerich and Jakobea/Jacobine Widmer.

---

[172] Entries for Catharina and Elisabeth are found in the *Evangelische Kirschenbuch von Essingen, Bestand F-6, No. 82, Speyer* according to Raymond L. Noftsger's excellent article *Naffzger Families of the Palatinate and Pennsylvania*, published in *The Nafzinger Heritage News*, Vol. XIV, No. 3, Summer 1985. This publication was later called *The Nafzger Heritage News*.

In 1771 they were living on the Geilweilerhof estate near Siebeldingen in the Pfalz (on the road from the city of Landau out to Eusserthal and Annweiler). Their children born there were also entered into *Katholisch* records at Eusserthal in a portion for Anabaptist events. Their children registered at Eusserthal include:

1. Jakobea Nafziger was born Oct. 6, 1771. Her parents were described as Xtian Nafziger and Magdalena Gingerin. In 1804 at Sankt Johann, Saarbrücken she married Christian Eymann.
2. Christian Nafziger was born Dec. 27, 1773, according to a Eusserthal entry calling him Xtian Nafziger.
3. Johannes Nafziger was born June 21, 1775, but was recorded at Eusserthal as Joannes Nafziger.
4. **Christian Nafziger** was born Jan. 25, 1778.
5. Peter Nafziger was born Dec. 30, 1781.
6. Magdalena Nafziger was born Dec. 25, 1783.

Christian Nafziger was born on the Geilweilerhof estate near Siebeldingen Jan. 25, 1778, and died at Berlin, Ontario April 13, 1836.

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 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 prosper 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 Christiaan 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.

If the efforts of Christian Nafziger and Maria Stalter diverted Amish Mennonite Europeans who might otherwise have gone to Butler County or Central Illinois… where are their own Canadian descendants?

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 thought 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 it

was still meeting in homes (a meeting house was not erected until 1884 and became the Steinmann Mennonite Church); other ministers 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 her 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 Katherine. 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, German, Mennonite; Katherina, 36, German, Mennonite; and Martha, 11, U. Canada, Mennonite.
4. **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.'
5. Joseph Nafziger, also known as Joseph S. Naffziger, was born July 7, 1820, and died at Elkton, Hickory County, Missouri Aug. 18, 1891. Circa 1839 he left Ontario to live in Lowell County, New York, but returned after two years. On Dec. 2, 1841 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 Naffziger.' 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. Naffzigger, 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 Naffziger, 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.

His story is told in the Appendix, NEBRASKA JOHN NAFFZIGER.

CHILD #3 BARBARA of the Essingen Branch

Barbara Nafziger was born on the Rodenhof at Annweiler circa 1716, and died in 1746. Circa 1736 she married Jacob Schenk [Sr.]. They became co-leasors of the Dalberg estate at Essingen with Barbara's older brother Johannes/Hans Nafziger.

Their son Jacob Schenk [Jr.] married Katharina Nafziger, a daughter of Johannes/Hans Nafziger, who was also his cousin. He was later ordained as an Amish Mennonite minister.

CHILD #4 CHRISTIAN of the Essingen Branch

Christian Nafziger was born on the Rodenhof at Annweiler circa 1717, and died on the Kammerhof estate at Leeheim, Hesse-Darmstadt in 1782.[173]

He married Elisabeth Linder of Windstein, Lower Alsace.

They leased the Kammerhof estate at Leeheim, Hesse-Darmstadt. Its 700 *Morgen* or 1,400 acres were owned by the von Weitolshausen/ Schrautenbach family.

Christian gave the 'Cammerhof' as his address at the assembly of Amish Mennonite ministers at Essingen in 1779, which he attended with his younger brother Peter as representatives of Hesse-Darmstadt.

DARMSTADT

The city of Darmstadt was the seat of the Landgraviate of Hesse-Darmstadt [Ger. *Landgrafschaft Hessen-Darmstadt*], a state of the Holy Roman Empire. The landgrave had a vote in choosing new Holy Roman Emperors, and its leader also held the title Elector. The German states were reorganized into the Confederation of the Rhine in 1806, and Hesse-Darmstadt became a duchy, and Landgrave Louis X became a grand duke.

It provided a market for dairy products from the districts of Gross-Gerau, Leeheim, and Reinheim.

Darmstadt was rebuilt after World War II as a center for science and technology. It is now one of Europe's wealthiest cities.

The *Landgrafschaft Hessen-Kassel*, often called Hesse-Cassel, was located above Hessen-Darmstadt. It was a state of the Holy Roman Empire administered directly by the emperor, and did not have a vote in the selection of his successor. It became an electorate in 1815, though there was no longer a Holy Roman Emperor to elect. The two entities had forest, rivers, and rich mineral deposits. Because of this they had extremely fertile soil. Farmers were in constant discussion with their overseers over the issue of clearing and maintaining land, which conflicted with the recreational hunting habits of the upper classes.

Circa 1771 the landgrave issued a directive encouraging estate leases for Anabaptists. Nafzigers soon held nine-year leases on portions of land at three points surrounding the city of Darmstadt. They did not lease the entire estates, which were large and may have had several other tenants at the same time.

Children of Christian Nafziger and Elisabeth Linder include:

1. Christian Nafziger was born circa 1750. He married Katharina Nafziger, who was a daughter of Peter Nafziger and his first wife Maria Schenck (and thus his cousin). From 1778 to 1782 they were on the Kammerhof estate at Leeheim; they later went to Mertesheim, seven miles southeast of Dreisen in the Pfalz.
2. Johann Peter Nafziger was born circa 1755, and died by suicide in 1805. He married Anna Barbara Unzicker. She was born in Lower Alsace circa 1757, and died at Reinheim Feb. 6, 1797. They worked for or leased land at Ueberau from the von Pöllnitz family.[174] After his first wife's death Johann Peter remarried to widow Anna Elisabeth Danner, who had been married to his cousin Peter Nafziger (1766-1792), and returned to the Kammerhof estate until his death. Children of Johann Peter Nafziger and his first wife Anna Barbara Unzicker include:
    a. Peter (also found as Johann Peter) Nafziger was born on the Kammerhof at Leeheim Feb. 22, 1780, and died at Ueberau in 1813. At Hochheim in 1801 he married Jakobine Fischer. She was born on the Edenbornerhof estate at Kirchheimbolanden Dec. 14, 1783, a daughter of Christian Fischer and Margarete Hoff. Her first name may have intentionally blended the French Jacobine and the German Jakobina. Children registered at Reinheim include:
        1) Johann Christian Nafziger was registered Jan. 16, 1803, and died at Danvers, McLean County March 8, 1893. He married Barbara Stahly. She was born Jan. 22, 1805, and died at Danvers Feb. 19, 1898, a daughter of Jacob Stähli and Elizabeth Brenneman. Birth entries found at Reinheim include Elisabeth, May 16, 1827; and Peter who was born Aug. 16, 1826 and died Feb. 3, 1829. At least nine later births were registered at adjacent Ueberau. These included Peter, March 4, 1831; Magdalene, Oct. 21, 1832; Christian, June 7, 1834; Jacob, who was born Dec. 24, 1835 and died Oct. 3, 1838; Maria, Feb. 11, 1838; Jacob, Oct. 25, 1839; Valentin, March 12, 1842; Johannes, June

[173] Leeheim was a hamlet seven miles south of Wallerstädten, and 10 miles west of the city of Darmstadt. It is now part of Riedstadt, a town in the district of Gross-Gerau. Riestadt did not come into existence Jan. 1, 1977, when several smaller entities were merged for administrative purposes.

[174] Karl Ludwig Freiherr von Pöllnitz (1692-1775) served as a household manager to Frederick William I of Prussia. He was also a soldier and writer. His son Friedrich Karl Hans Bruno, Baron von Pöllnitz (1734-1801) was a chamberlain to Frederick. He came to America in 1782. He lived in Manhattan six years, then traded 21 acres there for for almost 3,000 acres in Marlboro County, South Carolina. He also published *Essay Upon Agriculture* and a number of articles on the issued of slavery in *The Gazette of the Unites States*.

14, 1844; and Babetta, Oct. 29, 1846. They sailed from Le Havre on the *Empire*, and arrived at New York Nov. 19, 1853. The passenger list shows Magdalene Naffziger, 25, Hesse; farmer Christian, 50, farmer; Barbara, 48; Helene, 20; Christian, 19; Jacob, 14; Valentin, 11; Johann, 9; Babette, 7; and Wilhelm, 6. They settled at Danvers, McLean County. *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 Staehly. 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 Stahle.

2) Peter Nafziger (twin) was registered Sept. 23, 1806, and died at Darmstadt in 1873. On Dec. 2, 1840 at Börrstadt in the Pfalz he married Jakobine Kennel. She was born on the Herfingerhof at Kircheimbolanden April 3, 1815, and died March 2, 1895, a daughter of Peter Kennel and Magdalena Holly.
3) Anna Catharina Nafziger (twin) was registered Sept. 23, 1806, and died in 1850. Just like her mother's first name, her first name may have intentionally blended the French Catherine and the German Katharina. On Nov. 18, 1830 at Gauersheim she married Valentin Nafziger. He was born at Gauersheim April 4, 1805, and died at Deer Creek Feb. 16, 1880, a son of Valentin Nafziger (who we have called Valentin #2) and Magdalena Spring. See his note for background on this couple.
4) Johann Valentin Nafziger was registered Aug. 21, 1808, and died at Ueberau in 1856. On March 15, 1846 he married Magdalena Imhof. She was born Sept. 18, 1825, a daughter of Johannes Imhof and Barbara Unsicker. Four of their sons came to America. As a 63-year-old widow, Magdalena sailed from Bremen on the *Aller*, and arrived at New York Aug. 3, 1889. She spent her last six years with her sons in Kansas, where she died Oct. 12, 1895. She is buried in Edgmand Cemetery at Columbus, Cherokee County, Kansas where her headstone calls her, "Magdalena, wife of Valentin Naffziger."
5) Barbara Nafziger was registered Feb. 13, 1811. On July 27, 1847 at Landscheid she married Hilarius Follmann in a Catholic ceremony. Her parents were recorded as Petri Naffziger and Jacobinae Fischerin.

b. Anna Katharina Nafziger was born on the Kammerhof at Leeheim in 1784, and died in 1823.
c. Johann Christian Nafziger was registered at Reinheim Jan. 14, 1787, and died on the Liebenauerhof in March of 1819. The Liebenauerhof was the leased cloister grounds at Osthofen (five miles above Hochheim and Worms). On Feb. 18, 1810 at Reinheim he married Elisabeth Fischer. She was born circa 1788, and died in McLean County in September of 1854, a daughter of Christian Fischer and Margarete Hoff of the Liebenauerhof. The entry names their parents as Peter Nafziger and Barbara Unzicker, and Christian Fischer and Magdalene Hoff. Widow Elisabeth Fischer departed from Le Havre on the *St. Nicolas*, and arrived at New York Jan. 9, 1851. The passenger list shows Elisab. Nafziger, 62, Hesse; Mag., 36 [actually 40]; Elisabetha, 10; and George Konrad, 26 [actually closer to 31; George later married Magdalena]. She soon joined her son Christian in Butler County (he had immigrated in 1846), and they came to Illinois in the spring of 1854 (a little after train links from Ohio to Central Illinois were completed). Elisabeth is buried in Stout's Grove Cemetery at Danvers, though no marker survives. Children of Johann Christian Nafziger and Elisabeth Fischer include:

1) Magdalena Nafziger was registered at Reinheim Dec. 7, 1810. She accompanied her widowed mother on the *St. Nicolas*, where the passenger list took four years off her age (or went off travel documents obtained four years earlier). She married George Konrad, who was later known as George W. Conrad. They are found on the 1880 census of Allin, McLean County as farmer George Coonrod, 60, Hesse-Darmstadt; Ellen, 61, Germany; sister-in-law Catharine Nafziger, 60, Germany, and two boarders. They are buried in Stout's Grove Cemetery at Danvers, where her headstone says she was born Dec. 12, 1810, and died Sept. 16, 1887. His headstone says he died May 11, 1887, aged 67 years.
2) Peter Nafziger was registered at Reinheim Oct. 19, 1812, and died there Nov. 21, 1812.
3) Catharina Nafziger was registered at Reinheim Nov. 2, 1813. See her sister Magdalena's note about the 1880 census of Allin. She was buried in Stout's Grove Cemetery at Danvers, where her headstone says she was born Nov. 15, 1813, and died

Nov. 23, 1880. This headstone is misinterpreted in the county cemetery book as saying 'Cayilaihana Nafziger.'

4) Elisabethe Nafziger was registered at Reinheim July 23, 1815, and died in Illinois June 9, 1893. She is buried as Eliza Naffziger in Stout's Grove Cemetery at Danvers. *Herald of Truth*, July 1893: "On the 9th of June, 1893, Eliza Naffziger, aged 77 years, 11 months and 14 days. She was born in Hesse Darmstadt, Germany. She leaves two brothers and many friends. Appropriate remarks were made at the burial by John Kinsinger, John Gingerich and Chr. Gingerich."

5) Jacob Nafziger was born on the Liebenauerhof at Osthofen June 26, 1817, and died at Dry Grove, McLean County April 17, 1899. Jacob and his brother Christian leased the Weilerhof estate at Wolfskehlen (eight miles west of the city of Darmstadt). Christian ran into financial difficulties and emigrated in 1846. In 1847 Jacob married Elizabeth/Eliza Nafziger. She was born on the Hörderhof at Blessenbach (per her obituary) May 24, 1822, and died at Danvers Sept. 21, 1908, a daughter of Jacob Nafziger and Katharina/Catharine Naffziger. They remained on the Weilerhof, but went bankrupt in 1849. They departed from Antwerp with her family on the *J.Z.*, and arrived at New York Jan. 31, 1853. (See the passenger list with the information on her father). They settled at Bloomington that year. Circa 1877 they purchased 200 acres at Dry Grove. In Illinois Jacob became Jacob W. Nafziger. The 1900 census of Danvers, McLean County shows Elisabeth as a mother-in-law in the household of August Gingrich and Bertha. She was 78 years of age, born in Germany in May of 1822, immigrated in 1853. According to her *Pantagraph* obituary Sept. 22, 1908, Elisabeth was "…survived by fourteen grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. She has been faithful and consistent member of the Mennonite Church for many years. The funeral will be held at 3 p.m. today at the Presbyterian Church in Danvers. Rev. John Gingerich will preach in German and Rev. W.W. Wilson will preach in English." They are buried in Park Lawn Cemetery at Danvers.

6) Christian Nafziger (later known as Christian W. Naffziger) was born on the Liebenauerhof at Osthofen May 28, 1819; his father had died two months earlier. Facing financial difficulties, Christian departed from London on the *Victoria*, and arrived at New York Sept. 18, 1846. The passenger list describes him as Christina Naffziger, 26. From New York he went to Butler County, Ohio, where he learned construction trades. On March 15, 1849 in Butler County he married Elizabeth Ehrismann. She was born circa 1823. They initially lived in Wayne Township, Butler County. The 1850 census shows them on the same page as Joseph Augspurger and his wife Magdalena Schlabach: Christian Knofsinger, 32, Germany; Elisabeth, 27, Germany; Hyram Shaffer, 23, Ohio; Margarette Pottenger, 19, Ohio; Hyram, 14, Ohio; and John Knofsenger, 11 months, Ohio. In the spring of 1854 (a little after train links from Ohio to Central Illinois were completed), Christian, his wife Elizabeth, and his mother Elisabeth relocated to Stanford, McLean County, perhaps to be near Christian's brother Jacob. Elisabeth Fischer died there in September of 1854; she is buried in Stout's Grove Cemetery at Danvers, where her broken and lichen-covered headstone says she was "Elisabeth Nafziger, *geborn* Fischer" [born Fischer]. The 1870 census of Allin has farmer Crist W. or M. Naffzinger, 52, Hesse; Elizabeth, 48, Hesse; John, 20, Ohio; Christian, 18, Ohio; Elizabeth, 16, Illinois; Westhoff, 14, Illinois; any, 12, Illinois; and William, 10, Illinois. *History of McLean County, Illinois* (1879): "Cristian W. Naffziger, dealer in lumber, coal, Whitehall tile, salt, lime, cement, etc., Stanford; was born in Hessen, Germany May 28, 1819; there he followed farming until he came to this country; the 22nd day of September, 1846, he landed in New York; he went to Butler Co., Ohio, and from there to McLean Co., Ill., in the spring of 1854; in the fall, he bought a farm of 160 acres in Allin Township, and now owns 120 acres; this is worked by his three oldest sons. He married Elizabeth Eresmann March 15, 1849; she was born in the same place in Germany in November, 1823, and came to this county with her parents in 1842; they have six children – John H., Christian F., Eliza M., Gustave A., Lena E., and Willie H. John H. married Elmira Naffziger; Eliza M. married Henry Linkert. Mr. Naffziger has been in his present business a little more than a year, and is the only one in like business here." The 1880 census of Stanford shows lumber dealer C.W. Nafziger, 61, Hessen D; Elizabeth, 56, Hesse Casel; Christian, 28, Ohio; and William, 19, Illinois. Elizabeth died Feb. 21, 1884. Her inscription calling her "Elizabeth, wife of C.W. Nafziger" says she was aged 50 years, two months. On the 1900 census of Allin Christian, living in the household of G.M. and Lena Wright (his son-in-law and daughter), is described as boarder Chris W.

Nafziger, 81, born in Germany in May of 1819, immigrated in 1846. Christian died April 5, 1901. He is buried as C.W. Nafziger in Mount Pleasant Cemetery at Stanford, McLean County.

d. Peter Nafziger was registered at Reinheim June 7, 1790.
e. Anna Magdalena Nafziger was registered at Reinheim June 29, 1792, and died there June 29, 1793.
f. Anna Elisabeth Nafziger was registered at Reinheim Sept. 24, 1794. She married Philipp Schneider of Kemel.

After his second marriage Johann Peter farmed on the Kammerhof estate at Leeheim until his suicide in 1805. Children of Johann Peter Nafziger and his second wife Anna Elisabeth Danner born at Leeheim include:

g. Johannes Nafziger was registered at Reinheim Feb. 12, 1798, and died June 17, 1822.
h. Johann Jakob Nafziger was registered at Reinheim April 18, 1799, and died there July 6, 1799.

3. Elisabeth Nafziger was born at Windstein, Lower Alsace May 18, 1760, and died on the Hörderhof at Blessenbach Dec. 12, 1825. She married Valentin Nafziger of the Birlenbach branch. He was born on the Fleckensteinerhof at Niederrödern in December of 1748, and died on the Hörderhof Dec. 17, 1826, a son of Johannes Nafziger and his first wife Katharina Güngerich.

CHILD #5 ANNA of the Essingen Branch

Anna Nafziger was born on the Rodenhof at Annweiler circa 1719. She married Valentin Güngerich. He was born circa 1721, a son of Christian Güngerich (born 1682) and an unidentified first wife.

CHILD #6 PETER of the Essingen Branch

Peter Nafziger was born on the Rodenhof at Annweiler circa 1720, and died at Lachen-Speyerdorf in the Pfalz in 1803. Lachen-Speyerdorf is below Dreisen and Göllheim in the Pfalz, with Mertesheim on its east side.

Peter's first wife was Maria Schenck. Their child was:

1. Catharina Nafziger was born circa 1749, and died at Dreisen in 1812. She married her cousin Christian Nafziger [Jr.], a son of Peter's older brother Christian Nafziger [Sr.] and Elisabeth Linder. From 1778 to 1782 they farmed on the Kammerhof at Leeheim with Christian Sr. Before 1812 they later went to Mertesheim, seven miles southeast of Dreisen.

Peter's second wife was Barbara (thought to be a Joder), who was born circa 1740, and died at Essingen in 1758, age 18.[175] Thus it is likely that he married an 18-year-old girl who was 20 years his junior, she had a child, and she died all in the same year. The child of Peter Nafziger and his second wife Barbara was:

2. **Johannes Nafziger** was born at Essingen in 1758.

Circa 1765 Peter married a third time to Elisabeth Ehrismann, a daughter of Johannes/Hans Jakob Ehrismann *der jünge* [the younger]. The close relationship between their two families is detailed in EHRESMAN.

Children of Peter and his third wife Elisabeth Ehrismann include:

3. Peter Nafziger was born in 1766, and died at Reinheim March 21, 1792. On March 6, 1787 at Reinheim he married Anna Elisabeth Danner. She was born circa 1768, a daughter of Caspar Danner and Barbara Rogy. They had their first child when he was 17, and she was 15. In a similar situation in Switzerland, a couple was obliged to meet with Protestant clergy; the clergy agreed to marry them if both would abstain from sex until the male was 21 years of age. Her family were forebearers of the Donners who came to Central Illinois (see DONNER). She remarried to her first husband's cousin Johann Peter Nafziger (circa 1755-1805), widower of Anna Barbara Unzicker. On May 19, 1805 Johann Peter hanged himself on a tree in Darmstadt-Eberstadt (10 miles west of Reinheim), leaving a suicide note that blamed sadness over a family dispute; his death was recorded at Reinheim. Anna Elisabeth Danner's children from this second marriage both died young: Johannes (1798-1822) and Johann Jakob (1799-1800). Children from her first marriage with Peter Nafziger, all born at Reinheim include:
    a. Johann Valentin Nafziger was born Sept. 12, 1783. His birth entry identifies his parents as Peter Nafziger and Anna. Note that they were not yet married; his father would have been 17, and his mother 15. On Dec. 12, 1822 at Höchst, Odenwald he married Catherine Scherf, a daughter of Conrad Schärff and Katharina Bender of Stick, Kurhessen. The entry named their fathers as Peter Nafziger and Conrad Scherf. One child is identified at Reinheim: Peter, Nov. 21, 1822, born little more than a week after the wedding. Later children were born at Frankfurt.

[175] We could not identify the original source of this identification, found in several sources.

b. Barbara Nafziger was born April 25, 1788. She married Joseph Rocke.
    1) The birth of Peter Rocke was registered at Reinheim Dec. 6, 1816.

c. Peter Nafziger was born June 7, 1790. The entry named his parents as Peter Nafziger and Barbara, and this was the only entry for such a couple. Was the 'Barbara' a simple mistake by the recorder? Perhaps there was confusion with Johann Peter Nafziger and Anna Barbara Unzicker, who could not have been the parents – they had a son Peter born in 1780, the husband of Jakobine Fischer. The confusion clears up when Peter marries and the entry names the groom's parents as Peter Nafzigger and Elizabeth Danner. Peter was lost at sea on a voyage to America in 1827.[176]

3. Valentin Nafziger was born at Lachen-Speyerdorf in 1769, and died on the Elbisheimerhof at nearby Göllheim in 1839. He married Magdalena Fischer, Magdalena Spring, Elisabeth Beck, and Magdalena Muller. His story has already been told in the background information for his stepson 'Apostle Peter' Naffziger.

In 1771 Peter married a fourth time to Barbara Ehrismann, who was also a daughter of Johannes/Hans Jakob Ehrismann *der jünge* [the younger].

By 1772 they were farming on the Rheinfelderhof, six miles north of his brother Christian on the Kammerhof at Leeheim. The Rheinfelderhof is located at Wallerstädten, about a mile southwest of the town center of Gross-Gerau, and 10 miles west of the city of Darmstadt. Peter, a son of Ŭlrich, first leased land there in 1771. In that year it was composed of 659 acres of fields and 443 acres of meadows and pastures. By 1791 it had added 180 more acres of fields and pastures, and 32 acres of gardens leased to residents of the community.

Children of Peter Nafziger and his fourth wife Barbara Ehrismann include:

4. Katharina Nafziger was born on the Rheinfelderhof Aug. 26, 1776. She married Peter Spring. He was born in 1771, a son of Johannes Spring and Elisabetha of the Rosenthalerhof at Kerzenheim in the Lower Pfalz. They lived on the Neuhof at Hattenheim (10 miles southwest of Wiesbaden, on the north side of the Rhine River).
5. Christian Nafziger was born on the Rheinfelderhof in 1779, and died on the Pfortenhof of Eberbach Cloister above Hattenheim in 1847. He married Anna Maria Unzicker, a daughter of Peter Unzicker and Katharina Holly. They farmed on the Neuhof at Hattenheim and on the Pfortenhof.

---

[176] On Dec. 14, 1818 at Reinheim Peter Nafziger (born June 7, 1790) married Jacobine Schwarzentruber. She was born in 1793. The marriage entry names their parents as Peter Nafzigger and Elizabeth Danner, and Johannes Schwartzentruber and Catharine Hollien [Holli or Holly]. Birth entries for six children are found at Reinheim: Daniel, Nov. 2, 1818; Elisabethe, Jan. 16, 1820; Magdalene, April 28, 1821; Marie, Dec. 30, 1822; Johannes, March 24, 1824; and Peter, Feb. 6, 1826.

Intending to emigrate to Wilmot, Ontario, they obtained a family passport at Darmstadt Feb. 27, 1827. The traveling party consisted of Peter, a pregnant Jacobine, and their children; Jacobine's brother Daniel Schwarzentruber (born in 1801); and her sister Katharina with her illegitimate son Caspar (born in 1809).

On June 25, 1827 a child Jakobina was born in the Netherlands, while the family was enroute to Amsterdam.

They boarded a ship at Amsterdam Sept. 1, 1827. An account in *Nafzger Heritage News* (Volume 19, Number Three, Fall 1990) identifies the ship as the *Henry Clay*. The *Henry Clay* was a Black Ball Line packet ship under Ezra Nye, a well-respected captain. It would have made the transatlantic transit comfortably in six or seven weeks. But no passenger list survives. [176]

Their five-year-old daughter Marie died Sept. 8. On Sept. 26 father Peter died as well.

The ship landed at Philadelphia. Caspar went ahead and found an Amish Mennonite congregation in Chester County. Those families sent a horse and wagon for the new widow and her children.

For the first three months Jacobine and her children Daniel, Elisabeth, Magdalena, Johannes, Peter, and Jakobina slept in the loft of the spring house of the Zook residence at East Whiteland, Chester County (the home at 10 Winding Way is still occupied). A spring house is a one-room structure erected over running ground water. It was also the place of a distillery.

From East Whiteland they went 34 miles west to Groffdale, Lancaster County. The 1850 census of Earl Township, Lancaster County shows Jacobina Nofzinger, 57, Germany; and Elisabeth, 28, Germany.

Jacobine died in the home of daughter Magdalena (Mrs. Moses Hartz) at Morgantown in 1860. Morgantown is now in Caernarvon, in Berks County on the border with Lancaster County, on the south side of the Pennsylvania Turnpike.

As years passed Jacobine's story was embellished along the *Pilgrim's Progress* mode of storytelling that was popularized by 19th century vanity publications. Three points are ignored. First, the *Henry Clay* was a well-kept packet ship, and the death of passengers soon after boarding did not suggest starvation or mistreatment. It generally indicated that they brought their health problems with them, often posing a hazard to other passengers. Second, details that describe popular minister and benefactor Christian Zook coming to her rescue in his spring wagon are fanciful; he had died a year earlier. And finally, the widow was not poor. She had the savings meant to purchase land in America. Her three-month stay in a loft appears distressful, but this was only where she and her children slept at night. They were doing what many new arrivals did in an age before telephones and e-mail: staying at the first place they came to long enough to establish correspondence with home (Europe), so that mail could be forwarded when a permanent address was obtained. An extensive collection of Jacobine's letters shows that she was greatly concerned about payments from land sales and an inheritance. By contemporary standards, she was comparatively affluent.

Johannes Nafziger was born at Essingen in 1758, and died on the Hofgut Illbach at Reinheim (20 miles southeast of Wallerstädten) in 1813.

On Feb. 25, 1777 on the Rheinfelderhof he married Katharina Springer. She was a daughter of Johannes Spring and Elisabetha of the Rosenthalerhof at Kerzenheim in the Lower Pfalz (adjacent below Göllheim and Dreisen). Johannes and Katharina became uncle-and-aunt to future minister 'Apostle Peter' Naffziger, whose mother was Katharina's sister Magdalena Spring.

In 1782 they went 22 miles east-southeast from the Rheinfelderhof to lease the Hofgut Illbach at Reinheim.

HOFGUT ILLBACH

Reinheim is 11 miles southeast of the city of Darmstadt. It is a township, and one of its municipalities is Ueberau. Only about one mile separates the center of Reinheim and the center of Ueberau.

Peter Nafziger went there after his nine-year lease on the Rheinfelderhof had expired. This may have been 1780, but the earliest Nafziger entry found in the registers of the Protestant [Ger. *Evangelisch*] churches dates from 1783.

The property at Reinheim was the Hofgut Illbach. Hofgut Illbach was never a community, but an estate within the boundaries of Reinheim. There was never an Illbach village or an Illbach church. This has been a confusing point for family researchers, who have confused it with a village Illbach found elsewhere.[177]

Children of Johannes Nafziger and Katharina Spring include:

1. Anna Magdalena Nafziger was born on the Rheinfelderhof circa 1780, and died on the Hofgut Illbach at Reinheim June 28, 1784, age two.
2. Johannes/Jean Nafziger was born on the Hofgut Illbach at Reinheim Oct. 29, 1784. On April 24, 1810 at Kaiserslautern he married Madelaine Maurer, a daughter of Samuel Maurer and Katharina Kinzinger of Mehlingen (seven miles northeast of Kaiserslautern).
3. Peter Nafziger (twin) was born on the Hofgut Illbach at Reinheim April 3, 1787.
4. Katharina Nafziger (twin) was born on the Hofgut Illbach at Reinheim April 3, 1787. On Dec. 17, 1809 at Reinheim she married Christian Bürcky. The entry described them as Catherine Nafziger, a daughter of Johannes Nafziger and Katharina Spring, and Christian Birkel, a son of Christian Birkel and Anna Koch. Though there are inaccuracies, it is recognizable. Christian was a son of Christian 'Christel' Bürcky/Bircki and Barbara/Barbe Koch of Bitche, Moselle. They became the parents of the 'Black Birkeys' of Tazewell County. See BIRKY/BIRKEY.
5. Barbara Nafziger was born at Reinheim April 1, 1789, and died there March 21, 1795, age 6.
6. Valentin Nafziger (twin) was born at Reinheim July 21, 1791. On Sept. 13, 1818 an entry was created at Reinheim for his marriage to Elisabeth Imhof, which took place at Trippstadt. She was born in 1801; the entry named only her father Christian Imhof. Her parents were actually Christian Imhof and Jakobina Kinzinger; Christian was born circa 1760, and was minister/elder of the Trippstadt/Höfstatten congregation. This family had three marriages with children of Johannes Bender and Maria Brenneman, who had arrived on *'A Two-Masted Brig'* in 1832. See the Appendix, BENDER AND PUTNAM COUNTY for background on this family. Ten children are identified by Reinheim entries:
    a. Magdalene Nafziger was born Aug. 6, 1819, and died June 12, 1820.
    b. Christian Nafziger (later Christian M. Nafziger) was born Feb. 5, 1821, and died at Allin, McLean County Sept. 21, 1872. He married Elizabeth Brenneman. She was born Sept. 29, 1814, and died at Allin March 27, 1876, a daughter of Christian Brenneman and Barbara Jotter. Birth entries for their children were created at Ginsweiler and Mosbach in the Pfalz. They sailed from London on the *American Eagle*, and arrived at New York Nov. 21, 1856. The passenger list shows farmer Christian Naffziger, 35, Germany; Elizabeth, 37; Katharina, 13; Eliza, 11; Christina, 9; Emilie, 4; August, 2; and infant Johann. The 1860 census of Deer Creek has farmer Christian Nafsinger, 39, Germany; Elizabeth, 38, Germany; Catharine, 17, Germany; Elizabeth, 15, Germany; Christian, 13, Germany; Amelia, 7, Germany; Augustus, 6, Germany; Harmon, 2, Illinois; and laborer Warner Blue, Illinois. On the 1870 census of Allin, McLean they appear as farmer Christ W. or M. Naffzinger, 49, Hesse; Elizabeth, 52, Hesse; Christian, 22, Byer [*Bayern* or Bavaria], works on farm; Melia, 17 or 11, Byern; August, 16, Byern, works on farm; and Harman, 12, Illinois, works on farm. A joint headstone in Mount Pleasant Cemetery at Stanford, McLean County is partially illegible (not worn, but in need of cleaning). It says "Christian M. Nafziger, died June 21, 1872," with an illegible line, then "Elizabeth Nafziger, died March 27, 1876, aged 60 yrs. 6 ms."

[177] The Rheinfelderhof and Hofgut Illbach are now privately-held scenic estates inviting equestrian visitors.

c. Peter Nafziger was born Oct. 30, 1822 or 1823, and died in LaSalle County, Illinois March 18, 1855. He and his sister Catherine were likely found on the 1850 census of Lemon, Butler County, Ohio in the household of David Monfort as laborer Peter Nafzager, 27, Germany; and Catherine Nafzager, 24, Germany. On Nov. 11, 1851 in Butler County, Ohio he married Jacobine (later Phoebe) Bender. She was born on the Schmitthof between Kraftsolms and Kröffelbach, Nassau-Weilburg (10 miles east of Weilburg) Aug. 18 or 19, 1824, and died in LaSalle County, Illinois Nov. 11, 1878. They are buried in Oakwood Cemetery at LaSalle, where she was called Phoebe Nafziger. Their markers no longer exist.
d. Catherine Nafziger was born Nov. 8, 1824.
e. Johannes Nafziger was born March 26, 1826. Circa 1853 he married Elise Bender. She was born on the Schmitthof Sept. 26, 1826, and died Nov. 9, 1908. He may have been the John Nofzeger from Hesse-Darmstadt who was naturalized at Hennepin, Putnam County April 29, 1856; one witness was Jacob Brenneman. They are found on the 1870 and 1880 censuses of Bureau, Bureau County as farmer John Naffsiger, 44, H. Darmstadt; Eliza, 43, H. Darmstadt; Mary, 16, Illinois; Lina, 13, Illinois; Hugo, 11, Illinois; Ottilie, 9, Illinois; and farm laborer Christian Tolsien, 50, Germany; and then farmer John Naffziger, 54, Hessen-Darmstadt; Eliza, 53, Hesse-Darmstadt; Mary, 25, Illinois; dress maker Lena, 23, Illinois; Hugo, 21, Illinois; Tillie, 17, Illinois; and farm laborer John Watson, 17, born in Illinois to parents from Ohio. In 1880 the households immediately after theirs were Schwartzentraub and Erismann.
f. Magdalene/Helen Nafziger was born Nov. 7, 1827, and died at Granville, Putnam County June 21, 1896. Circa 1852 in Butler County, Ohio she married Jacob Bender. He was born at Zwesten Oct. 17, 1820, and died in Putnam County, Illinois Dec. 20, 1904. The 1870 census of Granville has boots-shoemaker Jacob Bender, 49, Hesse Cassel; Helena, 42, Hesse Darmstadt; Lana, 13, Illinois; Elenora, 12, Illinois; Victor, 8, Illinois; and William Holly, 22, Ohio. The 1880 census of Granville has farmer Jacob Bender, 59, Germany; Helen, 52, Germany; teacher Ellen, 22 Illinois; and Victor, 18, Illinois. Jacob is found on the 1900 census of Granville described as a 79-year-old father-in-law born in Germany in November of 1820, who immigrated in 1838. They are buried in Granville Cemetery, where his headstone says he was born Nov. 20, 1820.
g. Jacob Nafziger was born April 19, 1829.
h. Elisabethe Nafziger was born Jan. 8, 1831.
i. Valentin Nafziger was born May 29, 1832.
j. Peter Nafziger was born May 5, 1834, and died May 17, 1834.

7. Anna Magdalena Nafziger (twin) was born and died at Reinheim July 21, 1791.
8. **Christian Nafziger** was born at Reinheim April 3, 1794.
9. Anna Elisabetha Nafziger was born at Reinheim June 26, 1797.
10. Jakobine Nafziger was born at Reinheim April 18, 1799.
11. **Jacob Nafziger** was born in Hesse-Darmstadt Aug. 15, 1800 (per headstone), and came to McLean County in 1847. One of the quirks of the Hessian legal requirements placed on Anabaptists is that if a child of *ein mennonitisches Paar* [an Anabaptist couple] was born outside the district where they resided or leased, a church registration in that district was not expected.[178]
12. **Magdalena Nafziger** was born between 1803 and 1806. Laner, 44, is found in Jacob's 'Nofzinger' household on the 1850 census of Stout's Grove, McLean County, The name that follows, 17-year-old Christopher, was her son later known as Christian J. 'C.J.' Nafziger. She would be found again on the 1870 census of Allin as Magdaline, 67, Hesse, 'lives with son' in the household of Christian J.

CHRISTIAN NAFZIGER

Christian Nafziger was born on the Hofgut Illbach at Reinheim April 3, 1794 (though his headstone says 1792), and died at Little Mackinaw March 29, 1873.

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 'Christel' Bürcky/Bircki and Barbara/Barbe Koch. See BIRKY/BIRKEY, THE BIG BIRKEYS for her background.

---

[178] It is often difficult to identify someone born in the German states during this period. For example, a woman marries and has children, and is then widowed. Or she adopts a child orphaned by war. She then remarries. If this had happened in France after 1792, all children she brought to the second marriage would have been noted on her wedding day on a standardized *état civil* marriage entry. If this happened in the German states, it was only required that an entry be created in a recognized church (Lutheran or Catholic) if the infant was a newborn. Requirements for content were not standardized. Thus many children brought to second or third marriages went unrecorded.

If that child was a male, before 18 he would be required to register at the local police station, to start the process for compulsory military training. Only at that point did he choose a permanent surname – either that of his natural father, or that of his stepfather. In France, duplicate copies of *état civil* record entries were sent to departmental archives for storage. In the German states, the police registration forms have not been preserved.

They worked on the grounds of the castle estate of the von Spreti family at Unterweilbach, near Dachau above Munich.[179]

Their 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; Madaleine, 28; Barbara, 20; Elisabeth, 12; Madalena, 31; and Joseph, 19.[180]

Veronica became the first person to be buried in what is now Hopedale Mennonite Cemetery. 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], 22. On the 1870 census of Little Mackinaw he appears in their household as 77-year-old 'Chris Noffsinger' from Hesse, whose profession is described as 'old gentleman.' He was buried beside Veronica.

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 at Neuberg an der Donau, 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 Hopedale Mennonite Cemetery.
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, 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 Hopedale Mennonite Cemetery.
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 found on 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 Hopedale Mennonite Cemetery.

---

[179] 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.

[180] The family immediately after the Nafzigers on the *Argo* passenger list was Heinrich Rocke, 45; Elisabeth, 42; Heinrich, 10; Frederick, 8; and Marie, 4. Heinrich/Henry Rocke was born Oct. 22, 1836, and died in Woodford County April 26, 1900. He is buried in Oakwood Cemetery at Metamora under a joint headstone with Mary E., who was born Feb. 26, 1842, and died Jan. 1, 1886. They married in Woodford County May 7, 1860. *The Past and Present of Woodford County* (1878): "Henry Rocke, farmer and stock raiser, Sect. 27, P.O. Metamora. …Born in Germany Oct. 22, 1836. When he was 12 years old, he came with his parents to this country; they spent one year in Tazewell County, and settled in Woodford County in 1849. He was married in May of 1860 to Miss Mary F. Victor of Worth Twp., who was born in Ohio Feb. 26, 1841. They had 10 children, five of whom are living – Joseph, August C., Frederick J., Eva L., and Rosie. Mr. Rocke owns 100 acres of land valued at $5,200; he served as school director for five years."

Christian Nafziger was born at Unterweilbach circa May 6, 1819 (headstone calculation), and died at Hopedale March 6, 1899.

He worked at Unterweilbach for nine years, and applied for 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). He rose to elder in 1860.

The 1860 census of Hopedale has farmer Christian Nofsinger, 50, Germany; Elizabeth, 30, Germany; Joseph, nine months, Illinois; John Ish, 4, Illinois; labourer Adam Pichie, 30, Germany; and Elizabeth Smick, 15, Germany.

In 1870: farmer Christian Noffsinger, 57, Bavaria; Elizabeth, 42, France; Joseph, 10, Illinois; Christian, 8, Illinois; Andrew, 6, Illinois; domestic Margaret Krege, 17, Prussia; and farm hand Christian Cpabenstein [Klopfenstein?], 21, Wurtemberg.

In 1876 Christian 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.

In 1880: farmer Christian Nafziger, 60, born in Bavaria to parents from Baden and Bavaria; Elisabeth, 52, France; Joseph, 20, Illinois; Christian, 18, Illinois; Andrw, 16, Illinois; and servant Barbara Miller, 33, France.

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, Ill., 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 1:21-23*, 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."

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, Ill., 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 Hopedale Mennonite Cemetery.

JACOB NAFZIGER

Jacob Nafziger was born in Hesse-Darmstadt Aug. 15, 1800 (headstone), and died at Danvers, McLean County May 19, 1881.

Jacob married two sisters named Rocke (pronounced Rocky, derived from Rogi). He married Veronika Rocke between 1821 and 1825. She died circa 1828, and he soon remarried to her younger sister Elizabeth/Eliza Rocke. She was born in Bavaria circa Aug. 25, 1811, and died at Stanford, McLean County Aug. 11, 1895 (per 'Eliza Nafziger' headstone count 83 years, 11 months, and 17 days). Her birth was first recorded with the spelling 'Elisabeth' in deference to the French occupation during the Napoleonic wars.

No passenger arrival list for these Nafzigers is found in the National Archives collection.

Portrait and Biographical Album of McLean County, Illinois (1887): "…Born in Hesse-Darmstadt Aug. 12, 1800. He came to America in the fall of 1847, and after landing in New York City, proceeded directly westward, staying in Peoria about a month, then came to this county, where he remained until his death, which occurred in May, 1882. Of the first marriage there was three children – Jacob, Christian P., and Veronica. The second marriage of Jacob Nafziger occurred in 1828, and of this union there were born Catherine, who married Christian Nafziger; Henry, our subject; Peter and Frederick, and Eliza, unmarried, and who lives in Danvers village." *The Biographical Record of McLean County, Illinois* (1899): "In 1847 he came to the United States, and coming direct to McLean County, he settled in Danvers township, where he purchased land and followed farming and stock-raising for some

twenty-five years, and then removed to the village of Danvers, where he lived a retired life until called from this world in 1881, at the age of eighty-one years. His wife survived him some years, dying in 1896."

The 1850 census of Stout's Grove shows a German family: farmer Jacob Nofzinger, 50, Germany; Eliza, 40, Germany; Jacob, 22; Henry, 18; Peter, 14; Frederick, 11; Catharine, 20; Eliza, 8; Laner, 44 [Jacob's younger sister Magdalena]; and Christopher, 17 [Magdalena's son].

Jacob owned an interest in a tavern-inn at Peoria. In 1860 it was being operated by their children. They are found on the 1860 census of First Ward, Peoria as hotel keeper Christian Nafziger, 38, Wurtemberg, Germany; Catherine, 30, Baden; Christian, 11, Illinois; Eliza, 9, Illinois; Frederick, 7, Illinois; Lena, 4, Illinois; Emily, 1, Illinois; servant Jacobina Eyer, 40, Baden Germany; barkeeper Peter Nafziger, 23, Wurtemberg; farmer Jacob, 32, Wurtemberg; Eliza, 17, Wurtemberg; and five others including a clerk, wagonmaster, saddler, teamster, and laborer.

Muddled and misspelled references to Württemberg in Illinois censuses often reflect confusion over European geography, either on the part of the census taker or the immigrant resident. But in this instance it seems plausible for the children of someone born in Hesse-Darmstadt. The Duchy of Württemberg existed from 1495 to 1805, when it became the Kingdom of Württemberg until 1918. As part of the present day German state of Baden-Württemberg, it projects as far north as the city of Mannheim, and borders the modern state of Hesse. The outer edge of the district of Mannheim reaches within 10 miles of Worms and Hochheim. The city of Darmstadt is 30 miles north of Mannheim.

Their son Jacob enlisted July 25, 1861, and served as a private in Company I, of the 8th Illinois Infantry Regiment during the Civil War. The birthplace he gave at his enlistment has been transcribed as Lasgan, Nassau, a place we could not identify. From 1806 to 1866 Nassau was a duchy, and took in land as far south as the district of Kirchheimbolanden. It is now simply a description of a region encompassing the Westerwald district of Rhineland-Palatinate, and the western part of the state of Hesse, Germany.

As 'Jacob Nofziger,' father Jacob purchased 80 acres of public land in Tazewell County for $8 per acre Jan. 24, 1866. The *Illinois Public Domain Land Sales Database* describes the purchase as Part E2NE in Section 12 of Township 23N (Little Mackinaw).

The 1870 census of Danvers has retired farmer Jacob Noftzinger, 70, Hesse-Darmstadt; Elizabeth, 58, Bayern; and Eliza, 26, Wordenberg. They were next-door neighbors to Daniel Schoenbeck.

The 1880 census of Danvers has Jacob Naffziger, 79, born in Hesse-Darmstadt to parents from France; Elizabeth, 68, born in Bavaria; and Eliza, 35, born in Wurtemberg to parents from Hesse-Darmstadt and Bavaria.

According to his last census report in 1880, Jacob's parents were born in France; but at age 79, he may not have been the one providing the information.

An 1891 plat map shows the 1866 land purchase as 240 acres owned by his son Henry Nafziger, with a residence belonging to Robert W. Nafziger. Their farm was on the east side of Little Mackinaw, on the border with Stanford, McLean County.

Jacob is buried in Park Lawn Cemetery at Danvers with the dates Aug. 15, 1800-May 19, 1881 barely visible on a very rough headstone.

Herald of Truth, September 1895: "On the 11th of August, 1895, in Stanford, McLean Co., Ill., of the infirmities of old age, Elisabeth [Elizabeth/Eliza Rocke] Naffziger, aged 83 years, 11 months and 17 days. She leaves two children, 14 grandchildren, and 38 great-grandchildren. She was born in Germany. Her remains were laid to rest in Danvers graveyard on the 13th. Funeral services in the German Lutheran church by Chr. Guengrich and Jno. Kinsinger in German and by Pre. Lawrence in English, assisted by Pre. Tilki and Joseph Stuckey." She is also buried in Park Lawn Cemetery as Eliza Nafziger.

Children of Jacob Nafziger and his first wife Veronika Rocke include:

- Veronica Nafziger may have died young or remained in Europe, if she existed at all. We found no record of her beyond the mention in *Portrait and Biographical Album.* Does this reflect confusion with the first wife?

1. Christian or later Christian P. Nafziger was born in Württemberg July 15, 1826, and died at Peru, LaSalle County March 21, 1911. He married Catherine Eyer. She was born on the Felsenbrunnerhof at Trulben, Pfalz April 2, 1828, and died at Peru July 26, 1912, a daughter of Johannes Eyer and Magdalena Stalter. The 1900 census says she immigrated in 1847. In 1850 he purchased 320 acres in Tazewell County. In 1859 he went to Peoria to run the tavern-inn. He was likely the Christian Naffziger from Darmstadt who was naturalized at Peoria Oct. 24, 1860; one witness was Daniel Gingrich. The following year he resettled at Allin, McLean County. The 1870 census of Allin, McLean County (called Mosquito Grove until 1867) shows 'Peoria C. Nafzinger,' 44, Wurtemburg; Catharine, 42, Baden; Christian, 21, Illinois; Eliza, 19, Illinois; Frederick, 17, Illinois; Lany, 15, Illinois; Authur, 9, Illinois; and Melia, 1, Illinois. The odd 'Peoria' name may have appeared because there was already a Christian Nafziger (1819-1906) next door at Allin, married to his half-sister. In 1875-76 he sold 1,040 acres from combined holdings in Tazewell and McLean Counties, then bought 120 acres close to Bloomington for $23,000. They appear on the 1880

census of Bloomington as C. P. Nafziger, 53; Catherine, 51, Baden; Frederic, 26, Illinois; Lena, 26, Illinois; Arthur, 18, Illinois; and Amelia, 10, Illinois. In the 1898 obituary of a sister, he was called Christian P. Nafziger 'of Tonics, Illinois' – presumably Tonica, LaSalle County. On the 1900 census of West Town, Chicago: storekeeper Christian Nafzieger, 73, born in Germany in July of 1826, immigrated in 1847; Catharina, 71, born in Germany in March of 1829, immigrated in 1847; teamster Arthur, 38, born in Illinois in January of 1862; bookkeeper Henry, 30, born in Illinois in May of 1870; clerk Christian, 23, born in Illinois in April of 1877; and Maria, 14, born in Illinois in May of 1886. They are also found in the household of daughter Lizzie Holly on the 1910 census of Peru, LaSalle County as Christian Nafzninger, 83, Germany, immigrated in 1847; and Cathrene, 82, Germany, immigrated in 1847. They are buried under a joint headstone in Peru City Cemetery as "C. P. Nafziger, 1826-1911, Catherine his wife, 1828-1912."

2. Jacob Nafziger was born at Württemberg (census) or in 'Lasgan,' Nassau (enlistment form) Sept. 23, 1827, and died at Gothenburg, Nebraska Feb. 14, 1908; he is buried in Gothenburg Cemetery. In 1858 he relocated to Peoria, where he worked in the family's inn-tavern. On July 21, 1861 an unseasoned Confederate force of 18,000 troops routed 18,000 Union soldiers in the First Battle of Bull Run (also known as the First Battle of Manassas). It was the largest and bloodiest battle in American history up to that point, and only 25 miles southwest of Washington, D.C. The following day President Lincoln signed a bill for the enlistment of 500,000 men for up to three years. Jacob enlisted in the army July 25, and mustered in at Cairo the same day. He appears on the *Illinois Civil War Muster and Descriptive Rolls* database as Jacob Nabenger, a resident of Peoria. At his enlistment he was described as age 31; 5-foot 9-inches; brown hair, blue eyes, dark complexion; a single farmer. Birthplace Lasgan, Nassau [was this Limburg an der Lahn, five miles west of Runkel?]. He served as a private in the Civil War Co. I, 8th Illinois Infantry. During his service his regiment participated in the Battle of Fort Henry, the Battle of Fort Donelson, the Battles of Shiloh, the Siege of Corinth, and the Vicksburg Campaign. He mustered out at Springfield July 30, 186ä4, having served three years. On April 2, 1868 in McLean County he married Maria Katharina Güngerich/Mary Katherine Gingerich. She was born in Bavaria March 30, 1836, and died while visiting relatives at Hamburg, Iowa Aug. 10, 1881; she is buried in Hamburg Cemetery. They are found on the 1880 census of Little Mackinaw as farmer Jacob Nofziger, 52, Wurtemberg; Mary, 46, Bavaria; David, 17, Illinois; Henry, 11, Illinois; Ernest, Illinois; servant Minnie Gleiss, 22, Prussia; and laborer John Bolinger, 35, Bavaria. They lived next door to August Nafziger, who was across the county line at Allin. Jacob is also found on a Grand Army of the Republic *Census of Union Volunteers* created at Grant and Elim Townships, Custer County, Nebraska (above Gothenburg) in 1890.

Children of Jacob Nafziger and his second wife Elizabeth/Eliza Rocke include:

3. Catherine/Katherine (headstone)/Kate Nafziger was born in Württemberg Dec. 9, 1829, and died at Stanford, McLean County Feb. 2, 1898. On March 25, 1854 in McLean County she married her fourth cousin (once removed) Christian/Christian S./Christian P./Christian B. Nafziger. He was born July 26, 1819, and died in McLean County Aug. 16, 1903, a son of Jacob Nafziger and Katharina/Catharine Nafziger. See his information given earlier for background on this couple.
4. Henry Nafziger was born in Württemberg Oct. 19, 1832, and died at Danvers June 3, 1897. On April 5, 1855 in McLean County he married Helena Nafziger. She was born in Hesse-Darmstadt Oct. 22, 1832, and died at Danvers Nov. 20, 1919, a daughter of Johann Christian Nafziger and Barbara Stahly. *Pantagraph*, June 3, 1897: "Mr. Henry Nafziger, of Danvers, died very suddenly at his home Thursday morning, of heart trouble. Mr. Nafziger was born in Wurtenburg, Germany, October 19, 1832. He came with his father's family to America in 1847, and settled in McLean County. Mr. Nafziger bought the farm from his father when he became of age and afterward bought many other farms in this part of Illinois, all of which he kept until his death. He was married to Miss Helen Nafziger in 1865 [1855], and to this union were born nine children. Three died while young, and the other six are still living in McLean and Tazewell counties. They are: Robert, John, Fred, Albert, Jacob and Emma, who married August Habecker. Mrs. Nafziger also survives her husband. He was a member of the Mennonite Church, and was respected by all who know him. No arrangements have yet been made for the funeral. Mr. Nafziger had been walking in his garden, and just after returning to the house he dropped dead." *Pantagraph*, Nov. 22, 1919: "Mrs. Helena Nafziger, widow of Henry Nafziger, a former prominent farmer at Danvers, died at her home Thursday. She was 87 years old. She was born in Hessen Darmstadt, Germany, October 22, 1832, and in 1853 came to America with her parents and settled near Danvers. She married Henry Nafziger in 1855. Her husband died twenty-two years ago. Mrs. Nafziger leaves five children: John, Fred, Albert and Jacob and Mrs. Emma Habecker. She also leaves two brothers, John of Carlock, and Valentine of Lawrenceville. The funeral will be held at the Presbyterian church at Danvers Sunday afternoon at 2:30." Henry and Helene are buried in Park Lawn Cemetery at Danvers.
5. Peter Nafziger was born in Württemberg circa 1836, according to the 1850 census. Peter died Dec. 3, 1862, and is buried in Stout's Grove Cemetery, where the dates and age count on his headstone are illegible.
6. Frederich Nafziger was born in Germany circa 1839, according to the 1850 census. He is buried in Stout's Grove Cemetery, where the dates and age count on his headstone are illegible.
7. Eliza Nafziger was born in Germany Nov. 21, 1844, and died Aug. 31, 1893. The 1880 census of Danvers shows her single, living with her parents. She is buried in Park Lawn Cemetery at Danvers, where her headstone describes her father as 'J. E. Nafziger.'

MAGDALENA NAFZIGER

Magdalena Nafziger was born between 1803 and 1806.

In the absence of a birth entry or passenger list, the earliest mention we found was her presence as 'Laner' on the 1850 census of Stout's Grove, in the household of her older brother Jacob: farmer Jacob Nofzinger, 50, Germany; Eliza, 40, Germany; Jacob, 22; Henry, 18; Peter, 14; Frederick, 11; Catharine, 20; Eliza, 8; Laner, 44; and Christopher, 17 [her son Christian]. She would be found again on the 1870 census of Allin as Magdaline, 67, Hesse, 'lives with son' in the household of her son.

Christian J. 'C.J.' Nafziger was born in Württemberg Oct. 23, 1833, and died in McLean County May 10, 1911. He consistently used the middle initial J., perhaps a tribute to his paternal grandfather Johannes. Though he led a relatively uneventful life, understanding his place in the family was necessary to clear up longstanding questions about Nafziger relationships in McLean County.

On Oct. 13, 1864 in Tazewell County Christian J. married Eliza Nafziger. Eliza was baptized as Elisabetha Nafziger at Mosbach, Hesse Dec. 10, 1844, and died at Minier Aug. 13, 1922, a daughter of Christian Nafziger and Elizabeth Brenneman (see NAFZIGER). Though she reported on the 1900 census that she immigrated in 1860, she actually sailed from London with her parents and arrived at New York on the *American Eagle* Nov. 21, 1856.

This couple is found on four successive Allin censuses. Allin is a township surrounding the village of Stanford; it is adjacent on the east side of Little Mackinaw, a township in Tazewell County surrounding the village of Minier.

In Section 18, Allin: farmer Christ J. Nafznger, 37, Wurtemberg; Eliza, 24, Hesse; Oscar Wm., 5, Illinois; Arthur, 4, Illinois; Amelia, 2, Illinois; Magdaline, 67, Hesse, 'lives with son'; and Jacob Lambert, 14, Illinois, farm hand.

UNTANGLING FIVE CHRISTIAN NAFZIGERS IN ALLIN COUNTY IN 1870

In 1870 three Christians lived on adjacent farms in Section 18 of Allin, McLean County, and are found on pages 14 and 15 of the census. They were all related to Jacob.

— Christian (1833-1911) was Jacob's nephew married to Eliza Nafziger. His household was just given. The 1874 plat map would show 'C. Nafziger' as the owner of an 80-acre parcel in the lower eastern quadrant of Section 18.

— Christian (1926-1911), Jacob's oldest son married to Catherine Eyer, took on the middle initial P. for the 1880 census of Bloomington; it was likely derived from having been called 'Peoria Christian.' The 1874 plat map would show 'C. Nafziger' on a 180-acre parcel in the upper eastern quadrant of Section 18.

— Christian (1819-1903) tried middle initials S., P., and B. He married Jacob's daughter Catherine Nafziger, his fourth cousin (once removed). The 1874 plat map would show them as 'C.P. Nafziger' on a 315-acre farm in the west half of Section 18.

Two more Christians are recorded on page 19.

At the bottom of page 18 we find farmer Crist W. or M. Naffzinger, 52, Hesse; Elizabeth [Ehrismann], 48, Hesse; John, 20, Ohio; Christian, 18, Ohio; Elizabeth, 16, Illinois; Westhoff, 14, Illinois; any, 12, Illinois; and William, 10, Illinois. This Christian (1819-1901) has already been mentioned as a son of Johann Christian Nafziger and Elisabeth Fischer.

In addition, we have already mentioned someone at the bottom of page 19: Christian M. Nafziger (1821-1872), a son of Valentine Nafziger and Elizabeth Imhof, husband of Elizabeth Brenneman, and nephew to Jacob. He is found as Crist W. or M. Naffzinger.

The 1880 census shows farmer C.J. Nafziger, 47, Germany; Eliza, 36, Germany; Oscar, 14, Illinois; Arthur, 12, Illinois; Edwin, 9, Illinois; Freda, 7, Illinois; and Albert, 5, Illinois.

The 1900 census has farmer Christian J. Naffziger, 66, born in Germany in October of 1833, immigrated in 1947; Eliza, 55, born in Germany in December of 1844, immigrated in 1860; farm laborer Albert, 25, born in Illinois in January of 1875; Laura, 16, born in Illinois in June of 1883; Elmer, 12, born in Illinois in August of 1887; and Willmer, 10, born in Illinois in March of 1889.

The 1910 census has farmer C.J. Nafziger, 76, Germany, immigrated in 1847; Eliza, 65, Germany, immigrated in 1855; Elmer, 22, Illinois; Wilmer, 21, Illinois; and Laura E., 26, Illinois.

Pantagraph, June 11, 1911: "Death of C. J. Nafziger. Well-Known Citizen of Near Stanford Expires After Short Illness – His Life History. Wednesday morning at six o'clock occurred the death of C. J. Nafziger of Stanford, his death being caused by heart disease and asthma. Mr. Nafziger had been sick all winter, but during the last few days was much improved. He has been able to be up a part of the time. On Wednesday morning he grew very ill and soon expired at his residence north of Stanford. Deceased was born in Wurtemberg, Germany, October 23, 1823. He came to this country in 1845. He was a member of the Mennonite Church since his early youth. Oct. 13, 1864, he was married to Miss Elizabeth

Nafziger, and to this union ten children were born, seven of whom are still living. They are as follows: Oscar, of Mackinaw; Edwin, Albert, Laura, Mrs. William Springer, Elmer, and Wilmer, all of Stanford. The funeral services will be held at the Presbyterian Church in Stanford on Friday afternoon at 2 o'clock. The interment will take place at Mount Pleasant cemetery."

The 1914 plat map of Allin shows 'C.J. Naffziger, 80, Res. E.C. Naffziger' in the lower right quadrant of Section 18, suggesting that Christian J.'s estate had not yet been probated. August Nafziger owned the 180 acres above it (August was a son of Christian Nafziger, 1819-1903, and Catherine Nafziger).

The 1920 census of Minier shows widow Eliza Nafziger, 75, Germany; Albert H., 43, Illinois; Laura G., 36, Illinois; and Elmer C., 32, Illinois. Eliza died at Minier Aug. 13, 1922.

Christian and Eliza are buried under a joint headstone in Mount Pleasant Cemetery at Stanford, McLean County as C.J. Naffziger and Eliza Naffziger. Their children born at Allin include:

1. Oscar William Nafziger was born at Minier Oct. 30, 1865, and died at Paxton, Ford County Dec. 7, 1936. On Jan. 5, 1893 in McLean County he married Wilamena 'Minnie' Malsch. She was born at Kassel, Germany Sept. 21, 1872, and died at Paxton May 14, 1945, a daughter of Jasper Malsch. They are buried in Glen Cemetery at Paxton.
2. Arthur Nafziger was born circa 1866, and died between 1880 and 1900.
3. Amelia Nafziger was born circa 1868, and died before 1880.
4. Edwin A. Nafziger was born at Stanford, Allin, McLean County Sept. 16, 1871, and died at Normal, McLean County Feb. 28, 1938. On Feb. 6, 1894 in Hamilton County, Nebraska he married Anna A. Feahl. She was born March 21, 1874, and died in 1914, a daughter of John Feahl and Barbara Stecker/Staker in her second marriage (her first husband had been Christian Schertz). Their civil marriage entry described him as Edwin A. Noffzinger. It gave the groom's age as 23, the bride's as 20; described the parents of the groom as Christian J. Noffzinger and Elizabeth; and described the parents of the bride as John Feahl and Barbara Stacker. The 1910 census of Allin has farmer Edwin Nafziger, 38, born in Illinois to German parents; Anna, 36, born in Illinois to a father from Germany and a mother from Ohio; Bessie, 15, Illinois; and Ruby, 11, Illinois. Edwin was still living there as a widower in 1920 and 1930. A joint Nafziger headstone in Mount Pleasant Cemetery at Stanford, McLean County describes "Anna A., 1874-1914," and "Edwin A., 1871-1938."
5. Freda H. Nafziger was born March 8, 1873, and died at Bloomington, McLean County Jan. 26, 1953. On Sept. 27, 1892 in McLean County she married William H. Springer. He was born in 1868, and died in 1953. They are buried in Mount Pleasant Cemetery.
6. Albert H. Nafziger was born Jan. 31, 1875, and died at Minier March 12, 1952. He is buried in Mount Pleasant Cemetery.
7. Laura E. Nafziger was born June 29, 1883, and died at Normal, McLean County Sept. 2, 1948. On May 10, 1920 in Cook County she married John H. Kruger. He was born in 1882, and died Oct. 18, 1971. They are buried in Park Hill Cemetery and Mausoleum at Bloomington, McLean County.
8. Elmer Nafziger was born Aug. 4, 1887, and died at Stanford, McLean County July 19, 1974.
9. Wilmer Nafziger was born March 15, 1889, and died May 12, 1949. On Aug. 2, 1914 at Wilmer H. Naffziger at St. Joseph, Michigan he married piano teacher Hazel Miller. At the time he was a theater manager. He is buried as Wilmer Naffziger in Grant Memorial Park at Marion, Indiana.
10 According to Christian J.'s obituary, one more child died young.

Nafzgers on the *Phoenix* and *Brotherhood*

THE PHOENIX, 1749

What do we make of three Nafzger/Nafsker passengers who sailed from Rotterdam via Cowes on the *Phoenix*, and arrived at Philadelphia Sept. 15, 1749?

Our only accounting of the passengers comes from an *Oath of Abjuration* list created at the Philadelphia town hall on the day of arrival. It is unusual because generally such a list would include only males 16 years of age and older. Joshua Maddox, Esquire at the Philadelphia courthouse: “The Foreigners whose names are underwritten, imported in the Ship Phoenix, John Mason, Master, from Rotterdam, but last from Cowes in England, did this day take the usual Qualifications to the government. 550 whole Freights, from Zweybrüchen, Hessen-Nassau, Württemberg, & Bayern-Pfalz.”

A few of the names of interest include (as spelled) Joseph Kauffman; Peter Kaufman; Christian Kauffman; Jacob Kauffmann; Michael Traxel; George Traxel; Bernard Traxel; Abraham Drachsel [Trachsel]; Dewald Steker [Stecker]; Petter Isch (Pfalzweyer, to Lancaster County) [Öesch]; Samuel Perquy; Jacob Widmer; Jacob Miller, Christian Miller; Peter Miller; Christen Fischer; Hans Strubhar; Christian Schowalder [Schowalter]; Martin Ritter; Jacob Seiler [Seiler]; Christian Staufer [Stauffer]; Benedict Leman [Lehmen]; Johannes Sumer; Christian Summer

[Sommer?]; Johannes Lans [Lantz]; Peter Crapy [Kreyenbühl or Kreibihl]; Abraham Kurtz and Christian Kurtz; Johannes Rupp and Jacob Rupp [Rŭpp]; Christian Hochstätter, a wife, and four children (of Herbitzheim, to York County); Nicklaus Hochstätter (Herbitzheim); Ulrich Hostetter; Ullrich Mischler and his wife Eleonora Magdalena Müller (Keskastel); Jacob Misseler; and Joseph Mischle.

The three most interesting entries are Matheis Nafzger, Rudolf Nafzger, and Peter Nafsker (Peter was illiterate and could not sign). 'Nafzger' is the spelling found in Thierachern church records for the village of Uetendorf.

We looked at all of the surnames – such as Fischer, Kurtz, Mischler, Rŭpp, and Schowalter – and initially thought it apparent that the three Nafzgers must have been sons of minister Johannes/Hans Nafziger, the oldest son of Ŭlric/Ŭlrich. He had lived at Rüppurr below Karlsruhe, Baden, and in 1754 lived briefly on the Katharinentaler Hof at Pforzheim, Baden, where he associated with all of those families.

See KURTZ in the Appendix to see why the presence of Amish Mennonite deacon Abraham Kurtz of the Katharinenthal among the *Phoenix* passengers – on one of his five transatlantic crossings – is a compelling link to Johannes/Hans Nafziger. He later lived at Earl Township and Salisbury Township, Lancaster County. Other *Phoenix* passengers were Christian Schowalter and Christian Fischer. Schowalter needs no introduction to those famiiar with *Amish Mennonites in Germany*; the Guths included the full text of a letter sent from Europe by Johannes/Hans Nafziger to Schowalter in Pennsylvania, written as late as 1790. He settled at Earl Township, Lancaster County. Fischer had lived on the Liebenauerhof at Osthofen; he resettled at Tilden Township, Berks County and Salisbury Township, Lancaster County.

But Johannes/Hans was not married until 1739, and then had only daughters. There must have been some other relationship.

With no idea of the place they were born, their birthdates, or their parentage, there was no starting point to begin a search. However, family passdown has at least provided hints. One belief is that they were baptized in the town of Thun, and merely associated with Amish Mennonites. Thun is adjacent to both Uetendorf and Thierachern. Recall that all baptism records there were lost in a fire Feb. 8, 1772. Those that have been preserved and posted online commence in 1793. It is possible, but not provable one way or another.

Another hint is that their father was named **Mathÿs Nafzger**. There was someone of that name born at Uetendorf and baptized at Thierachern July 20, 1710. His baptism entry names his parents as Melker Nafftzger and Elsbeth Wänger [found on later entries as Wenger]. Presumably he was the Mathÿs Naftzger of Ütendorf who married Judith Althaŭs of Langnau at Thierachern Oct. 25, 1731.

Melker Nafftzger was actually Melchior Naffzger; he was baptized at Thierachern March 10, 1661, and his death was entered there Dec. 2, 1740. He had married Elsbeth Wenger at Thierachern April 30, 1686.

In turn, the parents of Melchior were Mathÿs Naffzger and Christina Schnÿder. They had married at Thierachern Jan. 25, 1658. This Mathÿs was baptized at Thierachern April 30, 1637, a son of Melchior Naffzger and Eva Schmocker.

So… it is probable that the three 1749 immigrants were related to Johannes/Hans Nafziger, sharing Melchior Naffzger and Eva Schmocker on the paternal side of their lineage. Their father had been a second cousin to Johannes/Hans; they in turn were second cousins (once removed).

1. Rudolf Nafzger/Rudolph Nafziger was born circa 1731, and died in Washington County, Pennsylvania after the 1800 census. His first wife has not been identified. On March 9, 1753 Rudolph Nafftzger obtained a warrant for 100 acres at Manheim (then in Berks County, now in Lancaster County). On April 30, 1765 Rudolph Naffzer obtained a warrant for 100 acres at Monaghan, York County. In 1767 Rudy Naftziger purchased additional land in York County next to Christian Hochstattler. In 1769 Rudolph Nasseker purchased land in Frederick County, Maryland. He sold the first property in 1773. He remarried to Susanna Kerman, who was described as a widow when she married widower Rudolph Nappzinger in the Evangelical Lutheran Church at Hagerstown, Frederick County in June of 1784. She was the widow of Michael Kerman, a Dunker. In 1785 they sold their Maryland farm and moved to Washington County, Pennsylvania (in the southwest corner of the state, below Pittsburgh). Ruddy Nosenger and two others are found in a household on the 1790 census of Washington County. They are found again at East Bethlehem, Washington County in 1800, next door to John and Daniel Naffsinger. According to the Fall 1978 issue of *The Nafzger Heritage News*, their oldest son Matthias served in General Wayne's army.
2. Peter Nafzger was born circa 1729-32, and died at York, York County, Pennsylvania in 1783 or 1784. (York County is on the west side of Lancaster County, above the state line with Frederick County, Maryland). He married Sophronia Wise. She was born in Brothers Valley, Somerset County, Pennsylvania in 1729, and died in Richmond County, Virginia in October of 1808. In 1754 Peter Naftzger of Berwick Township, York County exchanged property with Jakob Wolff of Paradise Township. In 1760 Peter Naphsiger of York County purchased land at Rabbit Hill (now Church Hill), Frederick County, Maryland. His children went through the Cumberland Gap to Botetout County, Virginia.

3. **Matheis Nafzger** (also found as Mathias or Matthias Nafziger) was born in 1733, and died at Shartlesville, Berks County April 11, 1803.

Matheis Nafzger (also found as Mathias or Matthias Nafziger) was born in 1733, and died at Shartlesville, Berks County April 11, 1803.

He certainly married at least once (perhaps to Fronika Rupp), then remarried to Elizabeth Sollenberger. She was born circa 1744, and died at Upper Bern, Berks County in June of 1826.

On Oct. 26, 1751 Mathias Nafzger received a warrant for 200 acres at Tulpehocken, Lebanon County (later in Berks County); the warrant was returned (paid off) Feb. 19, 1762, at which time the land had been surveyed and determined to be 142 acres. He received warrants for 20- and 7-acre parcels in Bern Township July 21, 1770.

He is found on the 1790 census of Bern, Berks County as Math.w Nafziger, the head of a household with four males over 16 years of age, three males below, and five females.

He is buried near the gable end of his barn on the Naftzinger family homestead at Upper Bern, Berks County, next to a headstone that says Sollenberger. His brass cemetery plaque says "Matheis Nafzger, 7th CL Pvt., 3 NB, PA State Trps, Revolutionary War, 1733-1803." We wonder if this plaque is a mistake by an ambitious descendant, reflecting confusion with Rudolph's oldest son Matthias, who served in General 'Mad Anthony' Wayne's army.

THE BROTHERHOOD, 1750

Christen Nafzger and Anna Schnÿder had a son **Johannes Naphzger**, who was born at Uetendorf and baptized at Thierachern in June of 1677. Thus he was a brother to Christen/Christian and Ŭlric/Ŭlrich. A marriage entry at Thierachern records the June 27, 1700 marriage of Johanes Naphzer of Uetendorf and Anna Wŭhlschlager of Thun. They had a child **Hans Jacob Nafftzger** baptized at Thierachern, Canton Bern Oct. 20, 1709. That entry named his parents as Johannes Nafftzger and Anna Wŭhlenschlager. Thus the son Hans Jacob was a nephew to Christian/Christian and Ŭlric/Ŭlrich.

Hans Jacob sailed from Rotterdam via Cowes on the *Brotherhood*, and arrived at Philadelphia Nov. 2, 1750. He is found on the passenger list as Jacob Naftziger. Other male adult passengers included six adult Schowalter males, a Fisher, two Hollys, and a König.

In Pennsylvania he was most often known as Jacob Nafziger (also found as Nafzer, Nofzieger, Naffziger, and Naftziger). Family passdown describes him as someone born circa 1709.

He had married shortly before sailing from Rotterdam or soon after arriving in Philadelphia. His first child was born in 1751.

In Pennsylvania circa 1762 Jacob remarried to Anna Hershberger. She was born circa 1734, and died in Dauphin County before Dec. 22, 1806. She had sailed from Rotterdam on the *Charming Nancy* with her parents Christian Hershberger of Basel and Barbara Rŭpp of Signau, Canton Bern, and arrived at Philadelphia Oct. 8, 1837.[181]

On Feb. 13, 1755 Jacob Nofzieger obtained warrants for parcels of 100 and 50 acres at Derry, Lancaster County. In 1771 he is listed as having paid the penny tax in Lancaster County: 18 shillings on 150 acres, four horses, and four cattle.

In 1781 Jacob Naffziger, Jacob Kurtz, and deacon John Kurtz acted as witnesses to the writing of the will of minister Abraham Trachsel/Draxel, who had been a *Phoenix* passenger. This minister had been an Amish Mennonite who steered his congregation over to the Brethren after their initial meeting in Lancaster County in 1767 (at their first ministers conference in 1800 they became the United Brethren in Christ).

On April 4, 1782 Jacob wrote his own will. It provided for his wife Anna and children Joseph, Christian, Jacob, and Barbara. It also mentioned the heirs of Jacob Engle living in Europe, suggesting that this may have been the surname of his first wife. Witnesses were Jacob's 'trusty friends' Matthias Nofzieger and Peter Hersberger. This may not have been Mathias Nafziger who was born in 1733 and lived in Upper Berks County, but rather Matthias a son of Rudolf. 'Trusty friends' was a stock expression, and does not indicate a relationship or absence of one.

Jacob died at Londonderry, Lebanon County (the same location) in September of 1782 (per *Commemorative Biographical Encyclopedia of Dauphin County*, 1896), and is buried in Bindnagle Lutheran Cemetery at Palmyra, Lebanon County. Throughout his time in Pennsylvania, Jacob had associated almost entirely with families that arrived on the voyages of the *Phoenix* and *Brotherhood*. After his death his widow and children worshipped with a Brethren congregation.

[181] The misconception that Anna Hersberger married Abraham Miller of Somerset County persists in some databases.

Anna's estate was probated in Dauphin County Orphan's Court Dec. 22, 1806.

In the Fall 1981 issue of *The Nafzger Heritage News*, Ray Noftsger detailed birth dates found on the back flyleaf of a *Bible* owned by a descendant of John Noftsger living in Clinton County, Ohio. It is thought that they were made by Jacob Nafziger/Noftsger (Jr.), who was born in 1767. The information would have been provided by his mother Anna Hershberger, who did not know the exact birthdates of Jacob's children by his unidentified first wife.

Children of Jacob Nafzger and his first unidentified wife (perhaps an Engle or Engel) include:

1. Georg Nafziger was born in 1751, and died before 1797. His name was the only one on the *Bible* flyleaf that was crossed out.
2. Joseph Nafziger was born in 1753, and died at Annville before May 16, 1832. He received a land warrant for 12 acres at Londonderry in March of 1774. He received the family farm from his father in 1780. His wife was named Anna. In 1779 he was a member of the 8th Company, Lancaster Militia. He remained enrolled until July of 1794. He is found on the 1790 census of Dauphin County as Joseph Napsacker. His household held five males and six females. He is also found on each federal census through 1830 (in 1810 he was Joseph Knafsker of Londonderry, Dauphin County).

Children of Jacob Nafzger and his second wife Anna Hershberger include:

3. Barbara Nafziger was born Feb. 14, 1763 (mother Anna Hershberger). She was actually described on the *Bible* flyleaf as 'Kala.'
4. Christian Naftzger was born at Annville, Lebanon County April 7, 1765, and died there April 14, 1829. In 1786 he married Juliana Dorothea Huber; the ceremony was performed by minister John Caspar Stoever of Hill Church (Lutheran) at Annville, Lebanon County. She was born in Lancaster or Lebanon County Aug. 14, 1766, and died at Londonderry or Annville Oct. 27, 1853, a daughter of Hans Ulrich Huber and Elizabeth Huber. They are found on the 1790 census of Dauphin County as the household of Christian Napsacker, listed between Jacob and Joseph: one male over 16 years of age; two males below 16; and three females. On the 1810 census of Londonderry, Dauphin County the household is listed under Chr. Knafsker. They are buried in Bindnagle Lutheran Cemetery at Palmyra, Lebanon County.
5. Jacob Nafziger/Noftsger (Jr.) was born Sept. 26, 1767 (mother Anna Hershberger), and died in Brown County, Ohio in 1855. After his younger brother Joseph received the family farm at Londonderry from their father in 1780, he is found as a next-door neighbor under a variety of spellings. He married Magdalena Bowman, a daughter of Abraham Baumann/Bowman and Christina. On the 1790 census he is Jacob Napsacker. His household held one male over 16 years of age, and one female. In the fall of 1797 (during the Whiskey Rebellion) the militia and muster rolls for Lancaster and Dauphin Counties said he had moved away from the area. By 1812 Jacob and Magdalena were living in Ohio. The 1850 census shows two 83-year-old farmer Jacob Noftsigers as residents of Ohio: he is the one living at Lewis, Brown County in the household of son Henry Noftsiger, a 59-year-old farmer born in Pennsylvania. Descendants spell their surname Noftsger.
6. Freni Nafziger was born Feb. 18, 1771 (mother Anna Hershberger). She may have died before her father's will was created in 1782, or have been too young to be considered for mention.
7. Hans Nafziger was born Feb. 5, 177- [illegible](mother Anna Hershberger). He may have died before his father's will was created in 1782, or was too young to be considered for mention.

Beck of Neustadt im Odenwald

In the Bernese dialect a *Beck* is a person who bakes bread. *Heimatorte* or places of legal origin for Swiss citizenship rights for this surname include Rohrbach and Langnau im Emmental (formerly Langnau) in Canton Bern, and Hirzel in Canton Zurich.

However, it is not certain 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. Griesheim is adjacent on the west side of the city of Darmstadt.

Circa 1784 he married Katharina. She could not be further identified.

In 1788 Christian leased the Wolferhof 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 in January of 1821.[182] From 1822 to 1834 widow Barbara leased the Rimhornerhof at Rimhorn (below Neustadt im Odenwald) with her son Johannes.

Children of Christian Beck and his second wife Barbara Danner born on the Wolferhof 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 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 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 Stieger, 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 at Neustad 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

[182] According to an article in the March 28, 2013 edition of *Breuberg Stadt Anzeiger*, documents at Wertheim show that *Mennonit* Christian's lease on the Wolferhof ran through 1824.

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 Ilinois 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 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 Autobiogaphical 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.

   After Daniel the remaining children were born on the family farm in what is now Montgomery Township.
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 Sephens, 40, born in Illinois to parents from Ohio; Helen, 39, born in Illinois to a father from 'Darnstadt' [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 Hessa 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'). *Heimatorte* or legal places of origin for Swiss 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 Danner/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

Christian Danner was baptized at Langnau Feb. 7, 1647. On Jan. 24, 1673 he married Elsbeth Fischer, a daughter of Ŭlrich Fischer and Elisabeth Äschliman. Their children were baptized in the Protestant Reformed Church at Langnau 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. Habegger'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 Taüffer* (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."[183]

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 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 Germannshof*] 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. We have been unable to find a connection yet - but we hope to get a better look at Langnau 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.

---

[183] Ernst Müller served as minister of the Protestant Reformed Church at Langnau 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 Bewartstein 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 Niclaŭs/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 Mechtersheimerhof 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 Niclaŭs/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 Ŭlrich 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 encompossed 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 Elisabeth Danner may have been born circa 1768. See NAFZIGER for the story of her two marriages to Nafzigers, the suicide of her second husband, and her son Peter who died at sea on his way to America in 1827.
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.[184] 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.[185] Together they created an exemplary estate.

Between 1787 and 1790 Peter and Jacobea became the parents of **Peter Danner/Donner**, 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.[186] The whereabouts of the son Peter Danner from 1792 until his emigration have not been determined.[187]

Peter married Barbara Naffziger in 1815. She was born on the 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/Donner'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.

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 Mülhofen co-leaseholder Daniel Holly and his second wife Veronica Eyer, and had arrived at Baltimore on the Hessian Mennonite voyage of 1832.[188]

---

[184] We could not identify Jacobea's exact family connection. She may have been a hitherto unidentified illegitimate child born to an aunt of Peter Nafziger of Illbach (born 1766).

[185] Jakobine and Veronica Eyer were daughters of Benedict Eyer [Jr.]. After the death of Jakobine, Daniel married her younger sister.

[186] Langsdorf is now Lich-Langsdorf. The Hollys later farmed at nearby Bellersheim, now Hungen-Bellersheim.

[187] Pfalz-Zweibrücken was occupied by the French in 1793. On Nov. 4, 1797 Mühlhofen became part of the new French department of Mont Tonnérre. When French troops finally withdrew 17 years later the area was returned to the Wittelsbach family and the last Count Palatine of Zweibrücken, now known as King Maximilian I Joseph of Bavaria. The department ceased to exist under provisions of the Congress of Vienna in 1815, and Mühlhofen became part of the Rheinisch Pfalz of Bavaria.

[188] Johannes Holly was born at Mühlhofen Jan. 19, 1789. On Feb. 23, 1834 in Butler County he remarried to Magdalena Naffziger, a sister of 'Apostle Peter' Naffziger and widow of Johannes/John Kennel. It was his third marriage, her second. After his death in Butler County June 9, 1835 she resettled at Morton.

Daniel Holly was born near Bellersheim, Hesse-Darmstadt circa 1804. He moved away from Butler County after 1842. His household is found on the 1850 census of Miami, Mntgomery County, Ohio as Daniel Holly, 48; Catharine, 42; and eight children born in Ohio; then on the 1860 census of Osceola, Missouri. The 1870 census of Grand River, Missouri shows him as a 66-year-old widower from Hesse-Darmstadt. By 1880 he had returned to Butler County, where he is found at Middletown, Madison Township as a 76-year-old widower born in Germany.

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 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 Danners 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, Brennaman, 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." It also described the Donners as one of the first Hessian families to come to McLean County.

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; Barbary, 15, Ohio; and Fritz [Frederick], 13, Ohio. The 1860 census of Dry Grove has farmer Peter Donner, 65, Wurtemburg; Barbara, 60, Wurtemberg; Fred, 22, Wurtemberg; William Gilston, 68, Virginia; Sarah Guilston, 61, Virginia; and Samuel Slocum, 21, Illinois . They lived next door to Jacob Donner, 39, Wurtemburg and his family. 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 Danner/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 grandchildren, and twenty-five great-grandchildren to mourn their loss. Services were conducted by Joseph Stuckey. Text, *1 Cor. 15:55*."

Peter Danner/Donner and Barbara Naffziger are buried in Wilson Cemetery at Danvers. Their children include:

1. Peter Donner (junior) was born at Mainz Dec. 4, 1818, and died in McLean County Oct. 8, 1909. On Nov. 20, 1853 in McLean County he married Katharina/Catherine/Catharine Nafziger. The *Illinois Statewide Marriage Index* lists them as Peter Donner Jr. and Catharine Noffsinger. She was born Aug. 24, 1819, and died April 21, 1909 (headstone dates). Their household appears on the 1860 census of Dry Grove as Peter Darner, 40, Bavaria; Catherine, 16 [?], Bavaria; Mary, 5, Illinois; Susanna, 3; domestic Eliza Stalter, 23, Baden; farm laborer Fred Miller, 19, Baden; and farm laborer Anthony Sharp, 28, Saxony. The 1870 census of Dry Grove has 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. They were one address removed from Catharine's cousin Elisabeth/Eliza Nafziger (1822-1908) and her husband Jacob Nafziger (1817-1899). 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 are found as farmer Peter Donner, 81, born in Germany in December of 1818, married 48 years,

---

Their sister Katharina Holly immigrated in the same party. She was born in May 1794. In February 1815 she married Peter Holly, who was living at Florsheim, Hesse-Darmstadt. He is thought to have been born at Florsheim or Bellersheim Sept. 25, 1791. He is also thought to have been a second cousin to his wife (his parents were Christian Holly and Anna Hochstettler, and his grandfather Isaac Holly; her parents were Daniel Holly and Jakobine Eyer, and her grandfather Jacob Holly; they would have shared great-grandfather Christian Holi/Holli/Holly, the leaseholder/minister of the Bärbelsteinerhof). Peter purchased land Dec. 18, 1832, paying $3,500 for several land parcels including 214 acres in Lemon Township and 194 acres along the Greater Miami River. Grubb in *History of the Mennonites of Butler County, Ohio*: "He was one of the organizers of the Hessian congregation and was elected one of its ministers on May 10, 1835. In the year 1847 he was advanced to the office of bishop [elder], and served in this capacity until his death, which occurred in 1854." He died after a farming accident June 15, 1854.

A transcription of the 1832 passenger list from a *National Archives Quarterly Abstract* gives the ages of the three Holly male heads-of-household as Johannes, 44; Daniel, 28; and Peter, 40.

immigrated in 1846; Katherine, 80, born in Germany in August of 1819, married 48 years, immigrated in 1852; and daughter and dressmaker Elisabeth, 34, born in Illinois in September of 1864. On their daughter Susan's death certificate the birthplace of her father 'Peter Donnor' was described as 'Meins, Germany.' The birthplace of her mother 'Nafziger' was described as 'Coblen, Germany' [Koblenz]. Catharine could have been born there, or it may have been her departure point before emigrating. In 1822 the city had become the seat of government for the Prussian Rhine province, and travel papers were issued there.

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 minister 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 Sommer. 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 Barbaray, 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.[189]
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 Jhannas.
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 minister 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 Catherines 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, 1907, a son of Joseph Engel 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; Maggolina, 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.

[189] The German Mennonite Church later became the Pleasant View Mennonite Church.

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.'

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 Catherne 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 (Woodford and McLean Counties).

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 of Richen

A *Kistermacher* or *Kistler* is a chest maker. *Heimatorte* or legal places of origin for Swiss citizenship rights associated with this surname include Hasle and Affoltern in Canton Bern, and Aarberg in Canton Aargau. The most prominent Kistler in Swiss history was a master butcher.

MAYOR KISTLER OF BERN

In the 1460s Peter Kistler rose from a butcher's guild 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. In 1470 Peter rallied the professionals against the noble families, and unseated Niklaŭs von Scharnachthal to become mayor of the city.

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 Kistler's support dissolved. He was nudged out after less than a year in office, and died in 1480.

History books call the class dispute the *Berner Twingherrenstreit.*

This is a partial genealogy of someone who was an extreme example of the Amish Mennonite who became a 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 Michael Kistler was born at Richen, Baden March 8, 1810.[190] When he was given a Lutheran baptism March 11, his parents were described as linen weaver Jacob Kistler of Richen and Catharina Hirzler. Witnesses were master weaver Christoph Műller of Gemmingen and Christina Hermann, the wife of linen weaver Johannes Kistler of Mossbach.

Richen is a municipality in the Kraichgau, a hilly part of southwestern Germany. In 1971 and 1972 Richen and five other villages were administratively annexed by nearby Eppingen in the district of Heilbronn, Baden-Württemberg. See ROTH for a timeline of events in Baden.

Grubb's *History of the Mennonites of Butler County, Ohio* says John Michael Kistler 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 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.

---

[190] *History of the Mennonites of Butler County, Ohio* contributed three errors that persist. It said that 1) Kistler was born March 8, 1808; 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.

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 30-39 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 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 Nafzigers, 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 Naffziger 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 SWNW 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 minister/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 in 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 sometime 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 in 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.[191] 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.

---

[191] 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.

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, 9; 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 Naffziger. Their first minister was Michael Kistler. He remained only two years. After him came Christian Gingerig [Gingerich]. He has been here fourteen years. Their church edifice is 30x36 feet. It cost about $2,000. The nunber of communicants is 125."

As elder of the Hessian South Danvers congregation in 1862, John ordained ministers Christian Gingerich and Michael Kinsinger.

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 six 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, this 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 Vandoble, 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 Rŭh, 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.[192] She died there Dec. 16, 1881, and is buried in Union Grove Cemetery at Northboro, Page County.

Children of Johann Michael/John 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 minister 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.

[192] Elizabeth's home became part of Washington when that township was established in August 1882.

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 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 Uniontown, 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 Estelline Smith. On Dec. 31, 1919at Fort Scott he remarried to Alta Chloe Ralston Mangold. She was born at Uniontown, Kansas May 1, 1878, and died at Fort Scott Jan. 12, 1968, a daughter of Joseph Ralston and Louvincy Jane Ward. Her first husband was John Mangold. They are buried in Marion Cemetery at Redfield, Kansas.

Kennel: Von Känel of Aeschi and Reichenbach

In Canton Bern a *Känelthal* is a gulley created by water streaming down from the mountains after a spring snow melt. Someone named Von Känel may have lived near one.

Two *Heimatorte* or legal places of origin for Swiss citizenship rights associated with the surname are Aeschi bei Spiez and Reichenbach im Kandertal.

The village Aeschi sits on a ridge between the valley of the Kander River and the western shore of Lake Thun. Calling it Aeschi bei Spiez is a modern concession to tourism and the Swiss postal system.

The Catholic church of St. Peter was first mentioned in 1228; since 1528 it has served as a Protestant Reformed parish church for both Aeschi and adjacent Krattigen. In 1945 Julius Billeter studied its records to chronicle G*enealogy of the Von Känel Family of Aeschi, Canton Bern, Switzerland 1528-1936.* It begins with several families present in 1528, without determining their relationships.

Until 1957 Reichenbach im Kanderthal was known simply as Reichenbach or as Reichenbach bei Frutigen. It is less than three miles south of Aeschi, separated only by the hamlet Mülenen (administratively shared by the two municipalities). It is in the valley of the Kander River.

The State Archives of Canton Bern holds historic images of family blazons [Ger. *Wappenschilden*] for Von Känel:

- The first shield associated with both Aeschi and Rothenbach families was created circa 1584. The left side is blue with an image of a yellow drain pipe, the sort of clay half-pipe that was later used for irrigation in Illinois farm fields. The right side is blue with a yellow *fleur-de-lis* (stylized lilies). This indicates an origin in France. The symbol of the royal Bourbon dynasty was three golden *fleur-de-lis* on a blue field.
- Two versions of a second shield associated only with Rothenbach were registered in 1742 and 1751. They show three yellow stars above a yellow half-drain pipe on a red field. A blue, white, yellow, and green version with only two stars was registered in 1834. A red, white, and green version was registered in 1933.
- Another variation was registered for Frutigen (less than four miles southwest of Reichenbach) in 1834. From top to bottom a white star, a yellow drain pipe, and a white *fleur-de-lis* on a blue field.
- Wangenried (24 miles northeast of the city of Bern) had its own version registered in 1932. It shows a white six-pointed star in the upper right, a diagonal yellow drain pile, and a half-moon in the lower left on a blue field. A similar design was registered by Bargen (13 miles northwest of the city of Bern) in 1925, showing a face on the half-moon.

Kennel of Kirchheimbolanden

Niclaŭs Brönniman was baptized at Köniz (below the city of Bern) Feb. 6, 1698 (see BRENNEMAN for background). He may have spent some time in the Pfalz before settling in Baden-Durlach, where he married a widow. It is likely that this would taken place in the three years before they had their first child together, narrowing the possible time frame to 1732-35.

The widow had almost certainly accepted adult baptism. Religious tolerance agreements would not have permitted Niclaŭs to become a stepfather to the children of a Lutheran.

Daughter Maria married Ŭlrich Fischer, and they emigrated from Europe in 1752.[193]

MARIA KENNEL AND ULRICH FISCHER

On Feb. 8, 1750 Ŭlrich Fischer and Jacob Kurtz signed a contract for a nine-year lease on the Katharinentaler Hof above Pforzheim in Baden-Durlach. In 1752 the Fischers had a change of heart, and asked to be freed from their lease obligation. Ŭlrich and Maria sailed from Rotterdam on the *St. Andrew*, stopped over at Cowes, and arrived at Philadelphia Sept. 23, 1752.

By 1768 they owned 100 acres at Tulpehocken, Berks County. Their next-door neighbor on 145 acres was Ŭlrich's brother Jacob.

Ŭlrich and Maria farmed and continued to accumulate property. They had no children.

When Ulrich died in 1785, he left his entire estate to Maria. His will proposed a plan to parcel it out after her death.

---

[193] One online source says that Maria Kennel was born at Reichenbach May 19, 1727, but no birth entry is found there.

From *Berks County Will Abstracts 1781-1785*: "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 children [Jacob, Joannes, Barbara, and Catherine, children of Ulrich's deceased brother Jacob] and to [Ulrich's] wife's brother's children [those of Johannes/Hans Kennel and Anna Steiner] who live in Germany. The other 1/2 to my brother's child [executor Christian Fischer, son of Ulrich's brother Christian] and [his] wife's sister's child who live by us in this country. My brother's children [those of Christian Fischer] named Christian and Peter Fisher shall have £50 each and Magdalena Fisher married to one John Zugten [Zug] shall have £10 before division. Exrs: Brother's son above named, Christian Fisher, and friend Jacob Kurtz. Wits: Abraham Kurtz and Isaac Jotter. Translation."[194]

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, and can also be found in the late J. Virgil Miller's *Both Sides of the Ocean.*

Maria's brother Johannes/Hans was born before 1726 (his first child was born circa 1746). He is found under a number of spellings, and it is probable that he was almost illiterate. But it is also true that once many Von Känels left Switzerland, they dropped the 'Von.' Left with a surname that described an irrigation half-pipe, they opted for variations such as Kendel, Kentel, Kennel. We found Lutheran Kennel and Kendel families in both Baden-Durlach and Kirchheimbolanden.[195] He would later be known as **Johannes/Hans Kennel**.

No later than 1746 he married Anna Steiner.

On Feb. 8, 1750 Johannes/Hans signed 'Hanss Kendel' as a guarantor on a lease for the estate Katharinentaler Hof above Pforzheim in Baden-Durlach. Other signers included leaseholders Jacob Kŭrtz and Ulrich Fischer; guarantors Niclaŭs Brönniman (looks like 'Claŭss Brnd') and Peter Rothacker (looks like 'Pntnr Rotagnr'); and Johannes Nafziger (looks like 'Hanss Naftziger') signed on behalf of guarantors Benedict Eyer and his son Rudolf Eyer. The Katharinentaler Hof would be used for services, as a training ground for ministers, and as a place to stage travel parties for emigration.

Later in 1750 Niclaŭs Brönniman became leaseholder of the Karlshäuserhof estate at Dürrn, Baden-Durlach (now called Ölbronn-Dürrn), an adjunct to the Katharinentaler Hof. Johannes/Hans farmed with him, and was described as his stepson.

In the assembly of Amish Mennonite ministers at Essingen in 1759, the Baden-Durlach congregations had four representatives:

---

[194] This is a translation and abstract of the will from the county archives, and may not be accurate. It is puzzling why Ulrich's brother Christian's son Christian, who was executor, is mentioned twice: once to receive 50 pounds before the assets were divided, then to receive half of the remainder. Perhaps the son Christian had promised to work their farm until Maria's death.

The probate documents for Maria Fischer provide a picture of the four Fischer brothers:

1. Christian Fischer immigrated on the *Phoenix* in 1749, and married Magdalena Yoder. Their children were Veronica, Magdalena (married John Zug), Christian (Ulrich's executor), Peter, and Barbara. They lived at Salisbury, Lancaster County.
2. Benedict Fischer. In 1743 he and his wife Barbara Kauffman lived at Schatthausen, eight miles southeast of Heidelberg. From 1853 until at least 1868 they were on the Ochsenbacherhof at Wald Angelloch (now Waldangelloch), 18 miles southeast of Heidelberg. Benedict attended the assembly of Amish Mennonite ministers at Essingen in 1759. They did not emigrate from Europe, and he died before Ulrich. Their children include Jacob (married Fronika Krehbiel and lived on the Münsterhof), Peter, Magdalena, Elizabeth, Susanna (married David Holly and lived on the Münsterhof), and Barbara.
3. Ulrich Fischer's wife Maria Kennel was recently deceased.
4. Jacob Fischer, his wife Barbara Fischer, and two children immigrated with Christian in 1749. He lived next door to Ulrich in Tulpehocken, but died before him. Their children were Jacob, Joannes/John, Barbara, and Catharina.

[195] A recent blog tries to tie Anthoni Von Känel and Barbara Sÿber/Siber (later standardized as Sieber) to these questions. Anthoni was baptized at Reichenbach Sept. 6, 1640, a son of Gilgen Von Känel and Catarina Müller (they had married at Aeschi in December of 1634, the last entry of the year). Barbara was baptized Dec. 1, 1644, a daughter of Balti Siber and Salome Wittwer. They were married at Reichenbach Nov. 30, 1663, and had five children baptized there: Katharina (June 17, 1666); Caspar (Sept. 29, 1667); Elsbeth (Dec. 19, 1669); Verena (May 23, 1671); and Barbara (Nov. 16, 1673). There may have been some connection to a Lutheran Kendel family that lived on the Wäschbacherhof at Langmeil (seven miles southwest of Dreisen), but this is only a general guess. *Totenrodel* death registers were not kept until 1728. The register at Aeschi says that Barbara V. Känel, the wife [Latin: *uxor*] of Anthi V. Känel, died there Aug. 12, 1735. There is nothing to show that this couple ever left Canton Bern.

— Christian Oesch, a son of Josef Oesch and Barbara Eyer. Barbara Eyer was a daughter to Benedict and a sister to Rudolf who were guarantors in 1750. She was also a sister to Hans Jakob Eyer, the forebearer of Oyers in Central Illinois; see OYER.
— Peter Rothaker, a 1750 Katharinental guarantor and leaseholder on the Hohenwettersbach until 1754, when that lease was assumed by Hans Jakob Eyer.
— Benedict Fischer, the brother of Ulrich.
— Johannes/Hans Steiner. According to the late J. Virgil Miller, Steiner was married to a Christine, and they lived at Mauer (32 miles north of Dürrn). Was he closely related to Anna Steiner?

In 1764 Johannes/Hans and Anna relocated 63 miles northwest from Baden-Durlach to an estate in the district of Kirchheimbolanden.

THE MÜNSTERHOF ESTATE

This estate is located near the village of Dreisen, about midway between the cities of Kaiserslauthern 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. Johannes/Hans was described in the text as 'Hans Kentel.' He 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 Ŭlrich Fischer. 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.

In 1802 Johannes/Hans remarried to Magdalena Altemus. She was born circa 1744, and died at Dreisen Sept. 10, 1812, a daughter of Martin Altemus and Veronika Kurtz of the Mechtersheimerhof near Speyer.

He remained on the Münsterhof estate until his death in 1806.

In 1804 the children of Johannes/Hans Kennel and his first wife Anna Steiner were listed on a document created at Dreisen for the probate process of their aunt Maria Kennel.

The probate document stated that they were *"...alle Ackersleute, geburtig auf dem Mùnsterhof und alle wohnhaft aug gesagter Mùnsterhof..."* "...all farm people, born on the Münsterhof and all living on the Münsterhof." This is open to question, but it may have been expedient to give only one return address. Unfortunately the false impression that all of the children were born on the Münsterhof before 1764 has taken on a life of its own in online genealogies.

From 1798 to 1804 the Pfalz was part of the French Republic, which became the Napoleonic Empire. It was occupied by French troops until 1814. During the entire time it was in the department of Mont Tonnere [Ger. *Donnersberg*] and the canton of Winnweiler. It was a possession of Austria in 1815, but became part of Bavaria the following year.

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 Borrstadt and Breunigweiler to Dreisen. Weitersweiler is a mile northwest of Dreisen. Another nearby estate leased by Amish Mennonites was the Froschauerhof [Frog Meadow Farm] at Weierhof, on the eastern side of Dreisen. All are now located in Kirchheimbolanden, a district of the German state of Rheinisch-Pfalz.

Children of Johannes/Hans Kennel and his first wife Anna Steiner include:

1. **Peter Kennel** was born in 1746 (per the civil death entry of his brother-in-law Daniel Müller), and died on the Herfingerhof estate at Börrstadt May 20, 1819.
2. Anna Kennel was born in 1748, according to Guth. In 1770 she married Johannes Schenk. He was born circa 1745, a son of Christian Schenk and Barbara Imhof of Mehlingen. They farmed at Weitersweiler.
3. Vreni Kennel (found as Veronica or Veronika only on legal documents) was single in 1804.
4. Maria Kennel was born circa 1757, and died on the Herfingerhof estate at Börrstadt Oct. 19, 1847. She married widower Johannes Schwarzentruber of Breunigweiler. He was born at Herxheim circa 1741, and died at Börrstadt in 1810, a son of Johannes Schwartzentruber. His first wife was Elizabeth Imhof.
5. Elisabeth Kennel was born circa 1757, and died at Börrstadt Oct. 19, 1847. On the Hahnweilerhof at Börrstadt she married Jakob Jotter. He was born at Oggersheim (on the west side of Ludwigshafen) in 1744, and died on the Herfingerhof at Börrstadt Oct. 4, 1834, a son of Philipp Jotter and Katharina Schmutz.

6. Barbara Kennel was born in 1760, and died at Colgenstein before 1828. In 1780 she married Johannes Krehbiel. He was born at Friensheim, and died at Dirmstein in 1828 (Colgenstein is 10 miles east of Dreisen, Dirmstein is 13 miles east, and Friensheim is five miles below Dirmstein). The civil death entry of Johannes was recorded as Johannes Grebiel. He was aged 76 years and five months. It was witnessed by his son-in-law Peter Müller.
7. Rudolph Kennel was born on the Münsterhof in 1766, and died there in 1827. In August of 1808 at Dreisen he married widow Catherine/Katharina Güngerich. She was born at Horbach, Wilgartswiesen in June of 1764, a daughter of Georg Güngerich and Verena Joder. Her first husband had been Jakob Müller [Jr.], the oldest son of Jakob Müller and Elizabeth Schenck. Documents gathered before the ceremony state that Rudolph Kennel was a legitimate son of Jean Kennel; he was 42, having been born in 1766. Catherine/Katharina was born in June of 1764. Her parents were deceased, but had lived at Horbach, Wilgartswiesen. Her father had died before 1792, and her mother had died at Horbach in September of 1797. Witnesses included cultivator Jean Habecker of Höfstetten, Wilgartswiesen, 77; and cultivator Gaspard Rocke, 44. Rudolph and Katharina farmed at Breunigweiler.
8. Jakobina/Jacobina Kennel was born circa 1767, and died in 1853 (per J. Virgil Miller). She married Daniel Müller. He was born on the Münsterhof in 1767, and died on the Rosenthalerhof estate at Kerzenheim (below Dreisen) Jan. 27, 1811, a son of Jakob Müller and Elizabeth Schenck. They farmed on the Münsterhof, Froschauerhof, and Rosenthalerhof. Daniel's civil death entry described him as cultivator Daniel Müller, 44, born on the Münsterhof. He was the son of the deceased Jacques Müller and the deceased Anne Brenneman, and husband of Jacqueline Kennel; he had died in his home on the farm Rosenthal farm at Breunigweiler. One witness was Pierre Kennel, 64, cultivator on the Herfingerhof at Börrstadt. The original death entry may no longer exist, but was transcribed into Weitersweiler marriage records before the ceremony of their daughter Barbara and Peter Krehbiel in February of 1832. Jakobina/Jacobina was living at Eselsmühle, Enkenbach in 1844.

Peter Kennel was born circa 1746 (per the civil death entry of his brother-in-law Daniel Müller), and died on the Herfingerhof estate at Börrstadt May 20, 1819.

Circa 1775 he married Elisabeth/Lisette Müller. She was born at Mörzheim (40 miles south of Dreisen) in 1754, a daughter of Jakob Müller and Elisabeth Schenk. In 1793 they leased the Herfingerhof.

Elisabeth/Lisette died on the Herfingerhof June 8, 1803. Her civil death notice was signed by brother-in-law and day laborer Jean Schwarzentruber, 62, and cousin and farm hand Pierre Schwarzentruber, 27.

In 1803 Peter remarried to Elisabeth Eyer, a daughter of Rudolf Eyer and Veronika Kurtz of Remchingen, Baden. Remchingen is 62 miles southeast of Börrstadt.

Children of Peter Kennel and his first wife Elisabeth/Lisette Müller include:

1. Barbara/Elisabete Kennel was born circa 1776, and died at Weitersweiler July 3, 1809. She married Jean Krehbiel. He was born at Eisenberg circa 1759, and died in House No. 51 at Weitersweiler April 4, 1820, a son of Johannes Krehbiel and Fronika Altemus. Barbara's civil death entry described her as Elisabete Krehbiel, wife of Jean living at Weitersweiler, born Kennel and age 33, a daughter of Pierre Kennel and his wife Liesette. It was witnessed by Jean Krehbiel, husband of the deceased; and Jean Kennel, a friend living at Derysen [Dreisen]. Jean's civil death entry described him as someone born at Eisenberg, a 61-year-old plowman and widower of the deceased Elisabetha Kennel, and identified his parents; it was witnessed by Johannes Ŭnsicker, 33.
2. **Johannes Kennel** was born at Weitersweiler March 11, 1781, and died at Collinsville, Butler County, Ohio Aug. 27, 1831.
3. 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 behavior 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 Nafziger. He was born at Überau June 16, 1804, and died at Darmstadt in 1873, a son of Peter Nafziger and Jakobine 'Phoebe' 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.[196] 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

[196] 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 Bältzli/Belsleys and Dettweiler/Detweilers also sailed on this voyage, and perhaps Jean George Engel. See DETTWEILER for a discussion of this possibility.

Augspurger and Katharina Hauter. On April 7, 1859 he remarried to Jacobine Hauter. She was born June 1, 1835, and died in Butler County in 1922, a daughter of André/Andrew Hauter 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.

d. Daniel Kennel was born circa 1819, and died at Hiatville, Kansas June 9, 1901. He emigrated on the *Admiral*, arriving at New York July 17, 1850. The passenger list gave his age as 30. The *Grantors Index* says that on March 24, 1853 Daniel Kennel paid Wm. N. Mercer $1,000 for property in Section 18 of Township 25. He returned to Europe later that year. There he married Marie Güngerich. She was born Sept. 12, 1818, and died in 1886, a daughter of Jacob Güngerich and Katharina Otto. They initially lived at Braunfeltz, Prussia. They departed from Bremen on the *SS Bremen*, and arrived at New York June 15, 1871. The passenger list shows farmer Daniel Kennel, 52, Germany; Marie, 42; Emilie, 17; Herman, 14; Theodor, 12; Elise, 9; Anna, 4; and Daniel, nine months. Upon their return they lived briefly in Illinois. In 1880 they purchased 240 acres at Walnut, Kansas, where they appear on the 1880 census.

e. Magdalena 'Helena' Kennel was born Aug. 23, 1820, and died at Bloomington, McLean County Nov. 12, 1875. On Aug. 5, 1858 in McLean County she married John Otto. He was born at Erndte-Bruecke, Germany July 7, 1817, and died at Bloomington June 28, 1909, a son of Michael Otto and Katharina Bender. They appear on 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.

f. Peter Kennel was born Nov. 3, 1822, and died at Giessen, Germany April 21, 1904. On Feb. 27, 1856 he married Marie Güngerich. She was born at Grossen-Buseck near Giessen April 12, 1833, and died at Giessen Feb. 26, 1908, a daughter of Michael Güngerich and Elise Holly. Peter renewed his father's lease on the Herfingerhof estate, maintaining it from 1856 to 1872.

g. Katharina 'Katie' Kennel was born April 6, 1824, and died at Washington, Tazewell County July 12, 1909. On Oct. 14, 1849 she married Johannes/John Unzicker. He was born May 2, 1815, and died at Morton Oct. 23, 1888. They sailed from Le Havre on the *Radius* with her brother Killian and cousin Jacob/Jakob Kennel, and arrived at New Orleans Dec. 27, 1849. See UNZICKER, JOHANNES UNZICKER OF MORTON for more on this voyage.

h. Christian Kennel was born Jan. 10, 1826, and died at Danvers , McLean County July 3, 1911. On Feb. 14, 1857 in McLean County he married Katharina Nafziger. She was born on the Hörderhof at Blessenbach Aug. 17, 1828, and died at Danvers April 18, 1911, a daughter of Jakob/Jacob Nafziger and Katharina Naffziger. According to the 1900 census, he immigrated in 1848, and she immigrated in 1849; and the 1910 census has them both as 1852; however, she had departed from Antwerp on the *B.Z.*, and arrived at New York Jan. 31, 1853. The 1860 census of Dry Grove, McLean County has their household as Cristian Kennell, 34, Baden; Catharine, 27, Baden; Clara [later Emma], two months, Illinois; domestic Susan Ritterwaler, 21, Prussia; and laborer John Hirsch, 24, Bavaria. A few of the next households on that census were those of Daniel Otto, John Otto, Jacob Donner, and Peter Donner (senior). The 1870 census of Dry Grove has them as farmer Christ Kendell, 43, Baden; Catherine, 39, Nassau; Emma, 10, Illinois; John, 8 Illinois; George, 19, Wurtemberg; and servant Emma Hostettler, 13, Illinois.[197] They are found on the 1880 census of Dry Grove as farmer Christian Kennel, 54, born in Bavaria to parents from Bavaria and Hesse; Katharine, 51, born in Prussia to parents from Prussia and Bavaria; Emma, 20, Illinois; and farmhand John, 18, Illinois. The 1910 census of Danvers has Christian Kennel, 84, born in Germany and speaking German, immigrated in 1852; and Katie, 82, born in Germany and speaking English, immigrated in 1852. *Bloomington Weekly Pantagraph*, April 19, 1911: "Death came to Mrs.

---

[197] In 1870 they lived next to three households with Nafzigers:

— Christian Otto, 28, Ohio and his wife Eliza [Elizabeth Nafziger], 19, Prussia. They had been married as Christian D. Otto and Elizabeth Noffziger in McLean County Oct. 20, 1868. Christian was born in Butler County, Ohio Nov. 18, 1842, and died at Danvers Jan. 30, 1921. Despite 'Prussia' on the census, Elizabeth was born in McLean County circa 1851, and died there April 12, 1876, a daughter of Christian P. Nafziger and Catherine Eyer (and thus a niece to Katharina). On May 6, 1877 in McLean County Christian remarried to Barbara Otto. He was also known as Christian D. Otto.

— Daniel Otto, 54, Nassau, and his wife Barbaray [Barbara Naffziger], 50, Baden. She was born at Hochheim March 27, 1820, and died at Bloomington, McLean County Sept. 21, 1912, a daughter of 'Apostle Peter' Naffziger and Barbara Beck. For his background information see hers in NAFZIGER.

— Phalty Naffzinger, 28, Bavaria, with his wife Henrietta, 23, Ohio. They had been married as Valentine Naffziger and Henrietta Naffziger in McLean County Feb. 27, 1867. He was born at Reinheim, Hesse March 12, 1842, and died at Normal, McLean County May 22, 1927, a son of Johann Christian Naffziger and Barbara Stahly. She was born in Butler County, Ohio June 12, 1848, and died at Lawrenceville, Lawrence County March 27, 1924, a daughter of Friederich/Frederick Nafziger and Barbara Nafziger.

Christian Kennel on April 18, 1911 at her home in Danvers, Illinois. Katherine Nafziger was born in Nassau, Germany on August 17, 1828. In 1852 she came to America and was married to Christian Kennel. There were two children born to them, John and Emma. Emma Kennel died in 1902. She is survived by her husband Christian Kennel; one brother Arthur Nafziger of Kansas [Augustus/August Nafziger of Narka, Kansas]; and her son John Kennel of Freeport, Iowa, who along with his wife has been caring for his parents since Christmas. Mrs. Kennel was a member of the South Mennonite Church."[198] *Bloomington Weekly Pantagraph*, July 7, 1811: "The funeral of Christian Kennel was held Wednesday at 2 p. m. from the Presbyterian church in Danvers. Rev. John Gingerich and Rev. John Kinslnger officiated. Music was furnished by a mixed quartet. The pall bearers were J. V. Otto, C. D. Otto, W. S. Otto, L. Beyer, J. S. Augsporger and Arnold Unziker. Interment was in Park Lawn cemetery."

i. Barbara 'Babette' Kennel was born June 17, 1827, and died on the Ingweilerhof estate near Riepoltskirchen (20 miles west of Dreisen) June 23, 1916. In 1854 she married Jacob Schönbeck. He was born May 10, 1833, and died Nov. 1, 1908, a son of Daniel Schönbeck and Katharina Krehbiel.

j. Julius Kennel died as an infant.

k. A stillborn child.

l. Jacob Kennel died at age two.

m. Killian Kennel was born Aug. 10, 1832, and died at Hamburg, Iowa Nov. 15, 1923. 'Kilian' or 'Killian' was also becoming popular in Canton Bern as an equivalent of Gilgen. He sailed from Le Havre on the *Radius* (the passenger list names him 'Killian Killian'), and arrived at New Orleans Dec. 27, 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 1916, a daughter of John Iutzi and Elizabeth Schantz. They were in Tazewell County in 1854. By 1859 they had resettled at Olio, Woodford County. In 1864 they were in McLean County, where Killian served as a minister to the Hessian congregation until 1871. In that year they resettled at Hamburg, Iowa. Killian and Helen were divorced Oct. 19, 1882. On Feb. 8, 1883 Killian remarried to Eva Wagner. She was born June 19, 1849, and died at Hamburg May 16, 1933.

Johannes Kennel was born at Weitersweiler March 11, 1781, and died at Collinsville, Butler County, Ohio Aug. 27, 1831.

On Feb. 5, 1808 at Breunigweiler he married Magdalena Naffziger. She was born on the Obertraisa estate May 29, 1791, and died at Morton Feb. 13, 1873, a daughter of Valentin Nafziger and Magdalena Spring. The marriage announcements at Breunigweiler said that Magdalena had worked for relatives at Uebersheim (also known as the 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 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.[199] He was a son of Augustus De Peyster, who John Jacob Astor had

---

[198] The mention of 'one brother Arthur Nafziger of Kansas' may reflect confusion with Katharina Nafziger (born 1824), a passenger on the *B.Z.* in 1853; she had a brother Augustus/August at Narka, Kansas.

[199] 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.

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.[200]

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. [201]

The National Archives holds a passenger list for a second disembarkation at New York on Sunday, Dec. 21 (see PASSENGER LISTS in the Appendix). 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 Eppenbrunn 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.[202] 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

---

[200] More information on Damarin can be found in *History of Scioto County.*

[201] 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 released from a seven-week stay in a Baltimore jail and was relocating to Boston. There he slept on the floor of the publishing office of the Unitarian *Christian Examiner*, and traded typesetting labor for paper and ink. On Jan. 1, 1831, Garrison and a friend distributed the first issues of the anti-slavery newspaper *The Liberator* on Boston Common. Garrison founded the New England Anti-Slavery Society in 1832, and the American Anti-Slavery Society in 1833. His newspaper flourished for 34 years.

[202] 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.

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..."
>
> 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 purchased 170 acres in Butler County, but died at Trenton 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. Stuckey, 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 Bundesbote*, March 12, 1896 (translation): "On Feb. 29 numerous observers attended the funeral of the minister/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. 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. For background on this couple see OSWALD.
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 Oct. 14, 1822, and died June 16, 1902, a daughter of Christian Iutzi and Marie Sommer (they were passengers on the Hessian Mennonite voyage of 1832). 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 Morton March 22, 1909. In 1841 he went from Butler County to Tazewell County, worked a year, and then returned. 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 Paithe. By 1894 they owned 550 acres in Tazewell County and another 160 acres in Kansas. They are buried in Hirstein Cemetery at Morton.
7. 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 Offenthal 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.
8. Elisabeth Kennel was born Jan. 10, 1825, and died in 1829.
9. Christian Kennel was born in 1826, and died in 1829.
10. Johannah Kennel was born in 1829, and died the same year.

Jakob/Jacob Kennel was born on the Münsterhof at Dreisen Nov. 16, 1821, and died at Morton, Tazewell County 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/Catherine 'Katie' Garber; the ceremony was performed by minister Andrew Ropp. She was born in Monroe County, Ohio April 8, 1833, and died at Morton June 24, 1911, a daughter of John Garber and Eva Caroline Paithe.

They are found on the 1880 census of Morton as farmer Jacob Kennel, 59, Germany; Catherine, 47, born in Ohio to parents from Germany and Pennsylvania; George, 24; Amelia, 23; Kary, 17; Bertha, 15; Emma, 13; Thomas, 11; Johannes (daughter), 8; Lizzie, 7; Peter, 5; John, 2; and servant Daniel Augsberger, 40, born in Ohio to French parents; all children born in Illinois to parents from Germany and Ohio. The 1900 census of Washington has Jacob Kennel, 70, born in Germany in November 1821, immigrated in 1839; Catherine G. Kennel, 68, born in Ohio in 1833 to parents from Pennsylvania; Lena Kennel, 40, born in Ohio in July 1859 to parents from Germany and Ohio; and Katie Kennel, 37, born in Illinois in July 1862 to parents from Germany and Ohio.

Jakob/Jacob and Katharina are buried in Hirstein Cemetery at Morton.

Kennel of Diffembach-lès-Hellimer

Diffembach-lès-Hellimer, Moselle [Ger. Diefenbach bei Hellimer*] is 12 miles southeast of St. Avold. Hellimer is adjacent below it.*

Barst and Biding are seven miles north of Diffembach-lès-Hellimer. At present the city of Barst is composed of the villages of Barst and Marienthal, which have unattached land between them. The spelling 'Marienthal' was not formalized until 1869.

Jean Kennel was born at Diffembach-lès-Hellimer circa 1726, and died there before the implementation of the *état civil* system of administrative record-keeping in 1792.[203]

He was a farmer on properties owned by a Monsieur de Bouckenheimer.

Circa 1748 Jean married Barbe Kennel. She was born at Biding, Moselle March 19, 1727, and died at Diffembach-lès-Hellimer circa 1760, a daughter of Jean Kennel and Anne Rolle. Their children born at Diffembach-lès-Hellimer include:

1. **Christophe Kennel** was born circa 1749.
2. Barbe Kennel was born circa 1750, and died before Aug. 18, 1826. She married Jacques/Jacob Steinmann, who was born circa 1751. Though a number of sources say Barbe died at Wilmot, Ontario, Aug. 18, 1826 was the day a passenger list was composed for the arrival of the *Nimrod* at New York. It carried Jacques/Jacob, their son Christian, and his wife Veronika Eyer: farmer Christian Steinman, 35; Vr., 34; Jacob, 4; Christian, 2; and Jacob, 75. Christian had been born at Barst-Marienthal circa 1791. They settled at Wilmot, Ontario. For background see STEINMAN, CHRISTIAN STEINMAN OF WILMOT, and PASSENGER LISTS in the Appendix.

Before 1764 Jean remarried to Anne Schertz. She was born circa 1726, and died at Dieffembach-les-Hellimer Nov. 23, 1796. Her civil death entry described her as Anne Schertz, 70. It was witnessed by her 32-year-old son *annbaptise* cultivator Christiane Kennel, who signed 'Cristnll Kennnl.'

Their children include:

3. Christien Kennel was born circa 1762, and died at Thuilley-aux-Groseilles, Meurthe-et-Moselle Oct. 21, 1839. In 1782 he married Anne Hirschi. She was born at Bening-lès-St. Avold in 1756, and died at Blamont, Meurthe-et-Moselle Oct. 9, 1834. She may have been a daughter of Jean Michel Hirschi and Anne Rolle (see HIRSCHY/HIRSCHEY, PIERRE'S DESCENDANTS in the Appendix). Her civil death entry described her as Anna Hirschie, 78, born at Benning, the wife of elderly cultivator Christian Kennel. It was witnessed by their son who was described as miller Christiann Kennel, 41, but signed 'Cristel Kennel.' Christien was a miller on the Wenhecker Hof, a dairy farm that had been established to support the abbey of St. Avold (also found as *Cense du Venec*). It is in the lower quarter of St. Avold, near adjacent Valmont. His civil death entry described him as miller Christian Kennel, 77, a resident there and the widower of Anne Hirgi. His place of birth was not known, but he had lived at St. Avold. It was witnessed by his son miller Pierre Kennel, 40.
4. Barbe Kennel was born at Diffembach-lès-Hellimer circa 1764, and died at Bébing, Moselle March 6, 1837.
6. Anne Kennel was born at Diffembach-lès-Hellimer circa 1767, and died at St. Avold May 18, 1799.
7. Madeleine Kennel was born at Diffembach-lès-Hellimer circa 1768.
8. Jean Kennel was born at Marienthal, Moselle circa 1769, and died at Burlioncourt, Moselle June 30, 1837. He was a miller in the *Moulin de Cany* at Burlioncourt. Circa 1790 he married Barbe Schertz. She was born circa 1766, and died at Vic-sur-Seille, Moselle July 29, 1845.
9. Marie Kennel was born at Macheren, Moselle Feb. 15, 1770, and died on the Misselhof farm at Bébing Feb. 1, 1843. On Dec. 10, 1798 at Longeville-lès-St. Avold she married Jean Neuhauser. He was born on Alsing farm at Gosselming, Moselle Aug. 5, 1775, and died on Misselhof farm July 24, 1836.
10. Catherine Kennel was born circa 1772, and died at Houdemont, Meurthe-et-Moselle (below Nancy) March 21, 1823. Her civil death entry described her as Catherine Kenel, 50, the wife of Pierre Ture. She was a daughter of the deceased Jean Kenel and Anne Cherst, who had been cultivators at Dihbath [?]. It was witnessed by her widower who signed 'P.T.'

Christophe Kennel was born circa 1749. Some sources say he died at Barst, Moselle April 2, 1805, but we found no mention in their 10-year civil index. This information may have come from the marriage entry of a child.

Circa 1774 Christophe married Catherine Schertz. She was born circa 1755, and died at Barst March 14, 1795.

Their children born at Barst include:

---

[203] This Jean is easily confused with a Jean Kinnel who was born circa 1722, and died at Barst May 4, 1782. He was a tailor and stock raiser, and married Catherine Nossal. At least seven of their children born there have been identified by French genealogist Jean François Lorentz: Jean, Suzanne, Anna, Catherine, Anne Marie, Nicolas, and Catherine. Three died before six years.

1. Madeleine Kennel was born May 2, 1773, and died at Imling, Moselle Feb. 19, 1829. On July 15, 1813 at Imlins she married Christian Grabil [Krayenbühl]. Their civil marriage entry described the groom as mill hand Christian Grabil, 43, born at Rhodes March 12, 1770, a resident of Imling. He was the son of the deceased Jean Creabil, who had died at Neuville, Loquin 24 ventose 3, and Marie Velker, who was present and consenting. The birde was Magdelaine Kenel, 40, born at Barst May 2, 1773, a daughter of the deceased Christian Kennel and the deceased Catherine Schärtz, who had born been residents of Barst and died there. One witness was stock raiser Jean Kopferschmid, 22, a brother-in-law of the groom and resident of Xouaxange.
2. Christophe Kennel was born circa 1775, and died at Sotzeling, Moselle Jan. 26, 1807. He married Marie Spenler. She was born in 1781, and died at Sotzeling Dec. 6, 1815, a daughter of Peter Spenler and Marie Legere.
3. **Pierre Kennel** was born Oct. 18, 1775, and died at Vilsberg, Moselle April 26, 1836.
4. Anne Kennel was born Dec. 28, 1782, and died at Haboudange, Moselle Nov. 28, 1828. On May 29, 1802 at Altviller, Moselle she married Jean Sommer. He was born at Haboudange Dec. 25, 1779, and died there May 29, 1813, a son of Joseph Sommer and Madeleine Zwalter.

Pierre Kennel was born at Barst, Moselle Oct. 18, 1775, and died at Vilsberg, Moselle April 26, 1836. On July 12, 1802 at Harprich, Moselle he married Catherine Schertz. She was born at Romelfing, Moselle Aug. 10, 1775, and died at Vilsberg Sept. 28, 1831, a daughter of Pierre Schertz and Marie Schwendi.

Children of Pierre Kennel and his first wife Catherine Schertz include:

1. **Jean/John Kennel** was born at St. Avold, Moselle (12 miles north of Harprich) Aug. 5, 1803.

■ We suspect but cannot prove that Christian Kennel belongs in this family. He was born circa 1808, and died at Metamora circa 1892; we could not identify his burial place. He was thought to have been a veteran of the Franch army who immigrated in 1842. On June 9, 1844 in Woodford County he married Magdalena/Magdeleine Engel, the widow of Joseph Kempf/Kemp/Camp (see ENGEL and CAMP for background on her earlier life). According to county records the ceremony was performed by minister John Gentry. The application called them 'Christian Kennell' and 'Madaline Kemp.' Magdalena was born at Lagarde, Moselle Oct. 12, 1805, and died at Metamora Nov. 4, 1899, a daughter of Christian Engel and his second wife Barbe Brunner. On Dec. 23, 1834 at Spring Bay she had married Joseph Camp; the ceremony was performed by her father (the county register has them as Joseph Kemp and Madaline Engle). Joseph was born in 1805, and died before 1844 in the part of Tazewell County that became Woodford County, a son of Jean Kempf and Anne Abresol. They are found on the 1860 census of Worth: Christian Kennell, 53, France; Madeline, 55, France; and Peter, 15, Illinois. The 1865 state census of Worth has Christian Kannal as the head of a household with one male 50-59 years of age; one male 10-19; and one female 50-59. 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 Magdalen, 75, France. Magdalena is buried in Hickory Point Cemetery at Metamora as 'Magdalena, wife of Christian Kennel, born Oct. 12, 1805, died Nov. 4, 1899.'

   a. 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..." Magdalena is buried in Hickory Point Cemetery at Metamora as 'Magdalena, wife of Christian Kennel, born Oct. 12, 1805, died Nov. 4, 1899.'

2. Pierre/Peter Kennel was born at Assenoncourt, Moselle (19 miles southeast of Harprich) April 17, 1816 (the 10-year index of civil birth entries calls him 'Pierre Quenelle'), and died at Metamora Nov. 13, 1885. On Feb. 3, 1836, only a week after his brother Jean/John, he purchased two parcels of 80 acres apiece for $1.25 per acre in what became Worth Township. On Jan. 16, 1844 in Woodford County he married Catherine Bachmann/Baughman. She was born July 16, 1821, and died Jan. 3, 1871, a daughter of André Bachmann/Andrew Baughman and Lisbethe/Elizabeth Behr. Catherine brought to the marriage an illegitimate child David Bachmann born at Haberacker, Reinhardsmunster May 11, 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. Peter's headstone says he died Nov. 13, 1885, aged 68 or 69 Y. 6M. 28D. Catherine and Barbara's headstones both identify them as wives of Peter Kennel.

3. Joseph Kennel was born at Hattigny, Moselle (35 miles southeast of Harprich) July 2, 1819 (the 10-year civil index called him Joseph Kemel). His civil birth entry describes his parents as 44-year-old farm equipment operator Pierre Kennel and Catherine Chertz.

On April 4, 1833 at Vilsberg, Moselle Pierre remarried to Catherine Muller/Miller. She was born at Saarbrucken in March of 1793, and died at Réding, Moselle May 3, 1851.

Catherine remarried to André Schrag (found on their civil entry as Schrach) at Vilsberg May 11, 1843. He was born circa 1793, a son of André Schrag and Madeleine Zehr.

Pierre and Catherine had one child together:

4. André Kennel was born at Vilsberg Feb. 3, 1835.

Jean/John Kennel was born at St. Avold, Moselle Aug. 5, 1803 (despite a biographical sketch of his son that described him as an Alsatian born at Strasbourg, and a modern headstone saying he was born in September of 1803). He died at Worth, Woodford County Dec. 18, 1888 (despite the modern headstone saying November), and is buried in Roanoke Mennonite Cemetery.

John first went to Ohio, and then came 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 Virkler 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."

An inaccurate description in *Past and Present of Woodford County* (1878) says: "The father [John] of our subject [his son Peter] was born near Strasburg, in the German province of Alsace, which France ceded to Germany after the close of the Franco-Prussian war [actually St. Avold is 75 miles northwest of Strasbourg]. 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 land in what is now Worth Township. 80 acres and 67.50 acres cost $184.37, at $1.25 per acre. He purchased another 80 acres in Section 14 Oct. 15, 1840.

John married Marie/Schmitt/Mary Smith. She was born circa 1800, and died at Worth in May of 1871. We suspect she was a sister of Christian Schmitt/Smith, who was born at Zimming, Moselle Jan. 21, 1802, a son of Christian Schmitt and Barbe Guingerich. Zimming is a tiny village seven miles west of St. Avold. Christian's story is told in SMITH, THE SMITHS OF ZIMMING AND WORTH. A birth entry for her could not be found in records created at either Zimming or Bisping.

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.' An uninscribed part of his original wooden marker is embedded in his headstone. An attached brass marker says he was "John Kennell, Sept. 1803, Nov. 1888."

Their son **Peter Kennel/Kennell** was born in Tazewell County (in a part that would become Woodford County) July 3, 1838, and died July 28, 1915. He is buried in Roanoke Mennonite Cemetery as 'Peter Kennell.'

Some sources such as *Past and Present of Woodford County* (1878) erroneously assumed that Jean/John's son Peter was a son of his brother 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.

On April 8, 1857 in Woodford County he married Anne Madeleine/Anna/Annie Schertz. She was born at Vieux Lixheim, Moselle March 24, 1838, and died at Roanoke April 8, 1909, a daughter of Peter Schertz and his first wife Magdalena/Madeleine 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..."

Portrait and Autobiographical Album of Woodford County: "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, where her father bought a tract of timber land, and improved a good farm, on which he and his wife spent their remaining years." *Gospel Herald*, May 1909: "Kennel - Anna Magdalena, daughter of Peter Schertz was born March 24, 1838; died at her home near Roanoke, Ill., April 8, 1909 of dropsy of the heart; aged 71 y. 15 d. On April 8, 1857, she was united in marriage to Peter Kennel. She died on the 52nd anniversary of their wedding day. This union was blessed with six children, three sons and three daughters. Two daughters preceded her to the spirit world. She leaves her husband, three sons, one daughter, three half-brothers, two step-sisters, twenty-five grandchildren and six great grandchildren to mourn their loss. She was a member of the A. M. Church from youth, and apparently her chief delight was to help others. The last night of her life was spent in communion with her heavenly Father. Funeral services at the Roanoke Church, April 11, conducted in the German language by Bro. Peter Zimmerman from *Heb 4:9, 11*, and Bro Andrew Schrock from the last part of *II Kings 20:1*; and in English by Bro. Peter D. Schertz from *Luke 24:1-6,13*. Interment in cemetery nearby."

Oswald of Oberhofen

In Anabaptist history the surname Oswald is associated with Oberhofen on Lake Thun (also called Oberhofen am Thunersee), where the family owned vineyards. The early family is described in Julius Billeter's *Genealogical Record of the Oswald Family of Oberhofen-Hilterfingen, Canton Bern, Switzerland circa 1470-1911*. (Another family from Oberhofen was Freÿenberg, found in the Appendix).

Family events were registered in the Protestant Reformed Church at adjacent Hilterfingen. When we say that something happened at Hilterfingen, it may only mean that the record entry was made there. Excavations in 1973 showed that the church and bell tower stand over the ruins of previous structures from the 7th, 10th, and 14th centuries. Recall from ROPP that it was originally called *die Andreas Kirche*. When the church was Catholic, the patron saint of Hilterfingen was the fisherman-apostle Andreas [Andrew].

The Protestant Reformed movement supplanted Catholicism in Canton Bern in 1528. Gradually the church became better known as *die von Scharnachthal Kirche*, after a patron family that provided renovations. Its parish continued to include Oberhofen (down shore), Heiligenschwendi (inland), and Teuffenthal (farther inland). The very first page of the Protestant Reformed baptism register started in 1528 has an Oswald named as a witness; the first recorded family event, the baptism of an Oswald daughter, is found on page two.

On May 7, 1677 at Hilterfingen **Rŭdolft Oswald** married Verena Oswald.[204]

In 1655 the parents of 11-year-old Jacob Amman brought their family to Oberhofen from Erlenbach (now called Erlenbach im Simmental). On Aug. 2, 1679 Jacob Amman, now a 35-year-old tailor, sold his house to his 17-year-old brother Uli Amman for 1,300 pounds, to be paid in four annual installments.

On Nov. 11, 1679 Rŭdolft Oswald lent Uli Amman 500 pounds. The house became Uli's security on the loan.

About that time the district governor [Ger. *Staathalter*] of the parish of Hilterfingen Jacob Rŭpp wrote a letter to the central church morals court [Ger. *Chorgericht*] in the city of Bern. It said that Jacob Amman of Erlenbach had 'become infected with the Anabaptist sect.' A reply from Bern dated June 4, 1680 directed Rŭpp and Hilterfingen minister Nicolaŭs Engelhard to summon and confront Amman. If he was unrepentant, he should be escorted to the border of the canton and made to swear an oath not to return under penalty of flogging. After his departure his property could be confiscated.

Presumably Jacob Amman emigrated to Alsace one step before he could be arrested, because there is no further mention of him in official records until 1693. All or part of the 500 pounds had already passed from Uli to Jacob, who had lent out most of it before his departure (at least one of the recipients later joined him at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines). The Council of Bern could not confiscate the house; in the event that Uli followed Jacob at a later date (which he did) it would default to Rŭdolft as a legal creditor.

Children of Rŭdolft Oswald and Verena Oswald baptized at Hilterfingen include:

1. Peter Oswald was baptized Feb. 29, 1678. Witnessses included Christi Freÿenberg, Ulrich Ritschart the younger, and Anna Oswald. His death was recorded at Hilterfingen March 2, 1678.
2. **Rŭdolft/Rŭdolph Oswald** was baptized April 27, 1679. Witnesses included Michel Straŭb, Hans Freÿenberg, and Sara Marti.
3. Peter Oswald was baptized March 25, 1682. Witnesses included Hans Oswald, son of Christ; Hans Oswald, son of Uli; and Lena Winkler. His death was recorded at Hilterfingen July 27, 1683.
4. Verena Oswald was baptized May 25, 1684. Witnesses included Caspar Stäli, Christina Linder, and Johanna Straŭb.

Rŭdolft/Rŭdolph Oswald was baptized at Hilterfingen April 27, 1679.

In 1711 the Council of Bern forcibly exiled Anabaptist on two boats sent to the Netherlands. Natives of Oberhofen found on the passenger list of the *Neuenburger* included Pater Lehner, 34, and wife; Hans Fŭrer, 45, his wife Magdalena Kampf, a son, and four daughters; and Hans Baŭr/Bauer, 41.

---

[204] There was another Rudolft/Rudolf/Rudolph Oswald living at Oberhofen in this time frame. His family events were also entered at Hilterfingen. He married Anna Ritschart in late 1659; she died Aug. 18, 1661. He remarried to Barbara Oswald Jan. 13, 1662. On Feb. 20, 1693 his son of the same name married Anna Rŭpp. Both father and son were described as *Kilchmeier*. Recall from JACOB AMMAN OF ERLENBACH that a *Kilchenmeyer* was a person whose honesty was beyond reproach, who collected money for the church. In practice he often lived on the property and maintained it.

On Feb. 3, 1702 at Hilterfingen Rŭdolph Oswald of Oberhofen married Margreth Bütschi. Their children baptized at Hilterfingen include:

1. Madlena Oswald was baptized Dec. 25, 1702. Witnesses included Hans Frŭtiger, Barbara Oswald, and Madlena Ritschart.
2. Rüdolft Oswald was baptized Sept. 7, 1704. Witnesses included Jacob Ritschart the younger, Rŭdolf Oswald *der alte Kirchmeier*, and Doratha Oswald.
3. Margreth Oswald was baptized Sept. 10, 1706. Witnesses included Beat Eiers the younger, Madlena Ritschart, and Anna Äschenbach. She died before 1719.
4. Peter Oswald was baptized Feb. 26, 1708. Witnesses included [illegible] Steiner, Peter Bütschi, and Anna Oswald.
5. Ulli Oswald was baptized Jan. 25, 1711. Witnesses included Ulli Sÿler the younger, Ulli Oswald, and Barbara Ritschart.
6. **Jacob/Jakob Oswald** was baptized Dec. 8, 1713. Witnesses included Jacob Baŭr, Jacob Ritschart, and Verena Ritschart.
7. Hans Oswald was baptized April 12, 1716. Witnesses included minister Ulrich Sŭtermeister, district scribe Jacob Ritschart, and Doratha Ritschart.
8. Margreth Oswald was baptized Feb. 26, 1719. Witnesses included Hans Bütschi, Barbara Rŭpp, and Anna Äschenbach.

Jacob/Jakob Oswald (#1) was baptized at Hilterfingen Dec. 8, 1713.

Recall from GINGERICH that Christian Güngerich escaped from confinement at Schwarzenegg and with his wife Barbara Rŭbi and children went into exile in 1692.

His oldest son was also named Christian Güngerich. He was born at Heimberg and baptized at Steffisburg June 26, 1675, and died before 1731. Circa 1706 he married Anna Oswald. We could not identify her further to determine her relationship to Jacob/Jakob. She may well have been a cousin from Oberhofen – where four Anna Aswalds were baptized between 1679 and 1685.

After marriage Christian and Anna lived with his parents at Riedseltz, Lower Alsace. After 1708 they are found on the castle estate Fleckenstein at Niederrödern, in the northeastern corner of Lower Alsace. Then in 1713 they went 180 miles north to the Hülshof estate at Laasphe (now Bad Laasphe) in the County of Wittgenstein (in this instance meaning it was ruled by counts and countesses). There a lease was signed by the older Christian, the younger Christian, and a farmer from the area of Siegen (40 miles to the west) named Christian Schlabach.

It is likely they were recruited by agents for the Counts of Wittgenstein to travel 180 miles to a home. Their county was hilly and heavily forested. Between its ridges and river valleys, there was little level field to grow crops. They saw politically-neutral Swiss emigrant dairy farmers as ideal tenants.

By 1731 the younger Christian had died, leaving Anna a widow. At Laasphe she remarried to Hermann 'Mannus' Bender. Like Schlabach, he had come from the area of Siegen. Anna brought to the marriage three sons who kept the Güngerich surname: Christian, Michel, and Benedicht/Benedikt 'Benz.'

In the same year Hermann and Anna they leased and moved onto the Homrighausen estate at Berleburg (now Bad Burleburg), adjacent above Laasphe. Jacob/Jakob Oswald (#1) came from Canton Bern to rent land from them before 1837.

Raising cattle and other livestock in the forest proved to be much more difficult than it would have been in Canton Bern, because game was much more plentiful. Deer fed on the small tilled fields carved out of the forest. The needs of the leasors to hold them back, and the needs of minor officials to protect the hunting interests of the upper class, brought them into constant opposition. After a number of disputes with underlings of Count Casimir of Sayn-Wittgenstein-Berleburg, Bender protested too loudly. He was briefly confined. In his frustration he devised a covert plan to break his lease and resettle elsewhere.

According to Hermann Guth's *Amish Mennonites in Germany*, Bender corresponded with land administrators in the Principality of Waldeck to the north. They reached a general agreement for Anabaptists to lease isolated forest properties at Billinghausen, 83 miles north of Berleburg. Billinghausen would at best be called a hamlet; the present population is less than 2,000, though it is in Germany's most populous state.

The general agreement provided that Anabaptists could pay small fees to the ministers and schoolteachers there, and in exchange their freedom of worship would be protected. It also allowed for Anabaptist burials at Wrexen, 41 miles south of Billinghausen and 56 miles northeast of Berleburg. Thus the burying ground would serve as a central meeting location for all the Anabaptist families in the region, and many more properties would become available to them.

In mid-December of 1737 Hermann 'Mannus' Bender and Anna Oswald secretly departed from Berleburg with a train of wagons. They carried all their family members, servants, and possessions (see Hermann Guth's *Amish*

Mennonites in Germany for more on the dispute). Their party would have included Jacob/Jakob Oswald (#1), his wife, and at least one infant son.

They actually arrived at the customs station between the County of Wittgenstein and the Principality of Waldeck in late December of 1737. They stayed in the toll house until their agreement upon general principles was announced in a decree on New Year's Day of 1738. On Jan. 22 the first 12-year lease contract for the Billinghausen dairy farm was signed by Bender, his stepson Michel Güngerich, and Jakob Pfeil.

The broken lease on the abandoned Homrighausen estate was later reconciled with the owner, the Prince of Wittgenstein. Bender was allowed to see the lease through; although he remained at Billinghausen, he assigned his stepson Christian Güngerich to oversee it as estate manager, and sublet it to two sons of Christian Ohrendorf (see OHRENDORF, THE SPRING BAY BRANCH).

Children of Jacob/Jakob Oswald (#1) include:

1. **Jakob Oswald** (#2) was born on the Homrighausen estate at Berleburg circa 1735.
2. Christian Oswald was at Obergembeck (41 miles northeast of Bad Berleburg, 15 miles south of Wrexen) until 1786.

Jakob Oswald (#2) was born on the Homrighausen dairy farm at Berleburg circa 1735.

He married Katharina Güngerich. She was a daughter of Christian Güngerich, who was a son of Christian Güngerich and Barbara Oswald and stepson of Hermann Bender.

According to Guth, Jakob and Katharina were living with her father on the Billinghausen dairy farm in 1762. Christian Güngerich died there in 1768; Jakob died there in 1787.

Children of Jakob Oswald (#2) and Katharina Güngerich born on the Billinghausen dairy farm include:

1. Jakob Oswald (#3) was born circa 1758. He married Jakobine Nafziger, a daughter of Peter Nafziger and Katharina Nafziger of the Ludwigsburgerhof. After his father's death in 1787 he renewed the lease at Billinghausen. He was at Helmighausen in 1789, and the Kappeler mill on the Twiste River at Braunsen (13 miles southeast of Helmighausen) in 1807. Jakob is last found on Merzhausen farm at Rosenthal (32 miles east of Bad Burleburg, 36 miles south of Braunsen), where he died in 1829. Co-leaseholders on Merzhausen farm were Jakob's sister Magdalena Oswald married to Jakobine Nafziger's brother Christian. According to the Guths, Jakob's handwritten death entry said he was 77 years old, yielding a 1752 approximated birth year; it is far more likely that the handwriting said 71, yielding an approximated birth year of 1758.
2. **Johannes Oswald** was born circa 1765, and died before 1835.

Johannes Oswald was born circa 1765, and died before his widow emigrated from Europe in 1835.

Before 1797 he married Anna. She was born May 24, 1772 (per headstone count).

As widow she sailed from Bremen with her two oldest sons on the brig *Ulysses*, arriving at New York July 6, 1835. That passenger list holds farmer Christ Oswald, 33; Maria, 30; Anna, 63; Hanna, 10; and Jacob, 38; it states that the party came from Lich (a home to Brennemans and Güngeriches).[205]

She died in Tazewell County Oct. 19, 1853. She is buried in Hirstein Cemetery near the farm her son Johann/John Oswald shared with his wife Barbara Kennel. Her headstone clearly indicates that she was born May 24, 1772 – the count is 81 years, four months, and 25 days from Oct. 19, 1853 – which agrees with her age on the passenger list (63 in 1835). It also states that she was the wife of Johannes Oswald.

Her three youngest sons had come to America on the *Two-Masted Brig*, the Hessian Mennonite voyage of 1832 (see the passenger list in the Appendix). Its passenger list showed Johann Oswald, 24; Michael Oswald, 25; and Wilhelm Oswald, 20.

Thus a tentative list of the children of Johannes Oswald and Anna would include:

1. Jacob Oswald of the *Ulysses* voyage was born June 16, 1797, and died July 20, 1872 (headstone date). He is buried near his mother Anna and younger brother Johann/John and his wife Barbara Kennel in Hirstein Cemetery. He was living at Morton in 1850 and 1860. The 1860 census shows him as a 63-year-old German tenant in the household of

[205] There are obviously a number of connections between the Oswald, Brenneman, and Güngerich families. For example Christian Güngerich, a son of Anna Oswald and her first husband Christian Güngerich, was the maternal grandfather of Anna's late husband Johannes Oswald. He was also the paternal grandfather of Elise/Eliza Güngerich. She was born at Zwesten [16 miles northeast of Wohra] March 14, 1805. She was a daughter of Johannes Güngerich; he was born at Billinghausen circa 1743, and died at Goddelsheim in 1824. On Sept. 1, 1822 she married Michael Brenneman (1798-1886), a son of Jakob Brenneman and Anna Güngerich. They lived at Wohra, then on the Eichenhof at Rosenthal. They immigrated in 1852 and settled at Eden, LaSalle County. See BRENNEMAN for more on this couple.

Samuel Herstein. *Gospel Herald*, August 1872: "On the 21st of July, in 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."

2. Christian Oswald of the *Ulysses* voyage was born circa 1802. It is possible that he went from Ohio to Wilmot, Ontario and then to Hay Township, Huron County, Ontario; a trail can be pieced together despite a number of inconsistencies. The 1851 census of Hay Township shows Christian Oswald, 52, Germany, Methodist; Magdalene, United States, 44, Methodist; Catharine, Canada, 18; Barbara, 15, Canada; and Christian, 12, Canada. The 1871 census of Hay Township had Christian Oswald, 70, Germany, Ev. Association; Magdalene, 66, United States. St., Ev. Association; and Christ, 26, Ohio, Ev. Association. His death entry created at Hay Township described him as a German farmer who had died of old age Oct. 14, 1883, age 82. When his son Christian's marriage was announced in the local newspaper in 1877, it said that he was 36 years old, a son of Christian and Magdalene, and has come to Hay Townsip from Wilmot. Christian, Magdalene, and their son Christian are buried in Zurich United Church Cemetery in Huron County, where the father's headstone gives his age at death as 82 years and seven months – roughly February 14, 1802. Why would Christian (Sr.) have been in Wilmot? His cousin Barbara Oswald (1796-1852), a daughter of Jakob Oswald (#3), had been living there with her husband Michael Schwartzentruber (1796-1852) since 1824.[206]
3. Michael Oswald of the *Two-Masted Brig* voyage was born Aug. 14, 1808, died Aug. 12, 1846, and is buried in Schluniger Cemetery at Colerain, Hamilton County, Ohio. He married Verena/Frances Ramseyer in Butler County Dec. 13, 1836; minister Peter Naffziger performed the ceremony. The civil entry created March 1, 1837 called her 'Frances Ramsey.' She was a daughter of 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).
4. **Johann/John Oswald** of the *Two-Masted Brig* voyage was born at Detmold in the Principality of Lippe June 8, 1812 (per headstone).
5. Wilhelm Oswald of the *Two-Masted Brig* voyage was likely born between 1816 and 1820.

Johann/John Oswald was born at Detmold (six miles east of Billinghausen) in the Principality of Lippe, adjacent to the Grand Duchy of Hesse and Rhine June 8, 1812 (per headstone). 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. The Principality of Lippe was dissolved in 1918 and absorbed into the German state of North Rhine-Westphalia.

In 1832 Johann/John sailed from Bremen on the *Two-Masted Brig's* Hessian Mennonite voyage, arriving at Baltimore with two brothers. The passenger list described him as 'Johann Oswald, 24,' though he was actually only 19 years of age.

On Aug. 7, 1843 in Butler County he married Barbara Kennel. The ceremony was performed by minister Peter Naffziger, and a civil entry was created Oct. 4, 1843. Barbara was born on the Münsterhof at Dreisen, Kirchheimbolanden June 1, 1815, and died at Morton Dec. 3, 1892, a daughter of Johannes Kennel and Magdalena Nafziger in a family that immigrated on the *De Rham* in 1830 (see the passenger list in the Appendix).

In 1849 the couple brought two sons to a new home at Morton. They lived next door to abolitionist Uriah Crosby, and were almost certainly 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 (the oldest brother), 52, Germany, occupation 'none.'

According to the *Grantors Index*, John paid Robert Roberts $42 to purchase the property Sept. 20, 1852.

The family appears on the 1855 Illinois State Census; the 1860 census of Morton shows John Oswould, 48, Germany; Barbara, 45, Germany; John, 15, Ohio; Rudolph, 5, Illinois; Helena, 3, Illinois; and Henry Auxberger [Augsburger], 11, France. Jacob (the oldest brother) 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.

In 1870 the Morton household was farmer John Oswald, 58, Hesse-Darmstadt; Barbara, 54, Bavaria; John, 25, Ohio; Frederica, 18, Switzerland; Rudolph, 15, Illinois; Magdelena, 13, Illinois; farm laborer Henry Augburger, 20,

[206] The *Benienkarl* sailed from Bremen, and arrived at Philadelphia Aug. 9, 1823. The passenger list shows only six passengers: farmer Michael Schwartzentrober [Schwartzentruber], 46, Germany; Parbel [Barbara], 31; Christian, 7; Catharine, 5; Maria, 4; and Lena, nine weeks.

France; and farm laborer Henry Reeiden, 40, Prussia. 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 Washington Sept. 15, 1890. His headstone age was 78 years, three months, and seven days. 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. The 1880 census of Morton has farmer John Oswald, 35, born in Ohio to parents from Detmold; Fanny, 28, born in Switzerland to Swiss parents; William, 9; Daniel, 7; Joseph, 6; Clara, 5; and Mary, 2; all children born in Illinois to parents from Ohio and Switzerland. 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/Jacobine 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.